

In 1955, Congress found those words when it extended the “In God We Trust” to be included on our currency, and in 1956, Congress found them when it adopted “In God We Trust” as the official motto of the United States.

Today, as we see a divided Nation, a nation polarized in almost every area, today as we witness a nation facing crisis and challenge in a magnitude we have not seen in many years, as we search for the right words, let us hope we find them once again in the simple but powerful phrase, “In God We Trust.”

So today, we celebrate the anniversary of this motto and pray for God’s continued blessing on our land.

□ 1215

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

(Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, there have been 231 mass shootings in 193 days so far in 2016. That is more than one per day. We are all directly affected by this gun violence epidemic in this country. In my own State and community, we have in fact seen a dramatic increase in this violence.

We cannot passively accept that the epidemic of gun violence kills as many people as car accidents every year. And while the mass shootings in this country have in fact become commonplace, I cannot continue to bear witness to the totality of human suffering that this is causing: the mothers and fathers who have lost children, the children who have lost parents, thousands who have lost loved ones, and all those who will in fact endure a lifetime of pain and suffering.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I joined all my Democratic colleagues in an unprecedented sit-in to urge Republican leadership to allow us to vote on legislation to close glaring problems in our Nation’s background check system, including a loophole that has allowed 2,000 individuals on the FBI’s terrorist watch list to successfully purchase a firearm since 2004.

Americans have a constitutional right to live without fear of gun violence in our communities.

TREATMENT BEFORE TRAGEDY

(Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, over the past several years, I have met with thousands of families of those suffering with severe mental illness. These conversations led to my introduction of the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act.

Last Wednesday, the House of Representatives passed this legislation

with a near unanimous vote of 422–2. This historic vote closed a tragic chapter in our Nation’s treatment of serious mental illness and welcomed a new dawn of help and hope. We have overwhelmingly chosen to deliver treatment before tragedy.

I now hope our colleagues in the Senate take up the next chapter and pass H.R. 2646. The current chaotic patchwork of antiquated Federal programs and laws make it impossible for those with serious mental illness to get meaningful care. My bill eliminates wasteful and effective programs and directs money where it is needed most. It is endorsed by over 50 professional organizations and over 60 newspapers.

We cannot let these families down. Lives are depending on it. We must continue to work this bill all the way to the President’s desk for signature.

ORLANDO SHOOTING 1-MONTH ANNIVERSARY

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, 1 month ago, 49 innocent individuals were mowed down and killed and 53 more were injured. Yet today, the Chamber’s business is still not focused on making our open spaces safer and passing safe gun measures to help protect our people.

It has been 1 month after the worst killing in United States history since 9/11, and we still have not taken up commonsense gun safety measures to protect our citizens. Instead, it is business as usual: another bill to impede a woman’s right to choose, another appropriations bill that will undermine the Clean Water Act.

As Members of Congress, we have to respond and answer to the American people that we represent—and they are asking for action. Enough is enough. The human rights and civil rights issue of our time is to protect our churches, our movie theaters, and our open spaces from mass murders by guns.

Let’s have a vote, Mr. Speaker. Let’s take back our streets and make the Nation safer.

CUBAN AIRPORT SECURITY

(Mr. KATKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my concerns about the Obama administration’s plans to restore regular air service to Cuba.

Just 2 weeks ago, I was scheduled to go on a congressional delegation to Cuba to examine the security measures at Cuba’s 10 international airports to ensure the safety and security of Americans flying to Cuba. This trip was necessitated by stonewalling tactics used by administration officials when asked about security at Cuba’s airports during a recent Transportation Security Subcommittee hearing.

However, the Cuban Government denied my visa as well as visas of every single member of the delegation. Because of that, I have serious concerns, as do my colleagues, about the capabilities of Cuba’s airport screening equipment and procedures, how Cuban airport workers are vetted, whether or not Federal air marshals will even be allowed to fly missions on American planes to and from Cuba, and many other questions.

As the chairman of the Transportation Security Subcommittee, I believe it is my duty to do everything in my power to secure the security of the traveling American public, and I take that seriously. That is why I have introduced H.R. 5728, legislation to stop the administration from moving forward with flights to Cuba until these security concerns are adequately addressed. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

(Mr. GRAYSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I represent Orlando, the site of the worst mass shooting in the history of the United States: 49 dead in a matter of just minutes. So far, there has been no action by this body to address any grievances.

For instance, we have no action on PETER KING’s bill, the no fly, no buy terrorist gun bill. We have no action on PETER KING’s second bill, H.R. 1217. We have no action on DAVID CICILLINE’s bill to reinstate the assault weapons ban, H.R. 4269; no action on SHEILA JACKSON LEE’s bill, H.R. 4316; no action on the second bill that she introduced, H.R. 5470; no action on MIKE THOMPSON’s recently introduced bill, H.R. 5504; no action on my own bill to reinstate the assault weapons ban; no action even to show our respect for the dead by passing H. Res. 789, stalled in this body for a month.

I don’t think we should be doing anything unless we are going to do something about making the American people safe again. Therefore, I move to adjourn in respect of Stanley Almodovar, one of the victims, and the remainder.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WESTMORELAND). The question is on the motion to adjourn offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 0, nays 377,