

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the remarkable achievements of the Kennewick American Youth baseball team, the reigning U.S. champions.

The Kennewick American team won the United States Division of the Cal Ripken World Series Tournament to become the U.S. champions. They then finished second in the world, competing against the best young baseball talent from around the world. Kennewick's own Simeon Howard was named the MVP of the U.S. side of the tournament, while setting a tournament record for hits.

With the support of their families and local community, Kennewick American concluded its season with an impressive 36 and 5 record, while becoming the first team from the Pacific Northwest to ever reach the championship game. This is an incredible achievement for the State of Washington as well as the Pacific Northwest.

I am proud to represent these young men in Congress. I congratulate the players and their coach, Bryan Knapik, on their tremendous success and look forward to following their run next season.

#### HEAR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, after Orlando, the largest mass shooting in our history, Democrats focused the Congress and the country on the urgent need to expand background checks. Many jurisdictions, including the Nation's Capital, have strong gun safety laws, but they are countermanded daily by congressional failure to pass national legislation to keep criminals from bringing guns from neighboring jurisdictions.

Eighty-one percent of the American people support background checks before purchase of a deadly weapon. They want Congress to check the recent spike in gun violence nationwide. They want us to pass H.R. 1217, our bipartisan background check bill. Hear the American people.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT ROBERT HESS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lieutenant Robert Hess, a resident of Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, in the Pennsylvania Fifth Congressional District. Lieutenant Hess was recently chosen by the Military Chaplains Association to receive its Distinguished Service Award, which annually recognizes excellent chaplains in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Veterans Affairs, and Civil Air Patrol.

Lieutenant Hess was born in Lock Haven and joined the Navy after graduating from Lock Haven High School in 1990. As a member of the Navy, he has traveled extensively during his service, including time spent in Spain, France, England, Slovenia, Germany, Greece, and the Netherlands. He is currently attached to the Destroyer Squadron, DESRON 60.

Lieutenant Hess also spent several years as a civilian pastor before being recalled to Active Duty after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, which, of course, occurred 15 years ago this Sunday.

As an Army dad, I have the deepest respect for our servicemen and -women, including those such as Lieutenant Hess, who work every day to counsel, teach, and minister to the spiritual needs of those servicemembers.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE VICTIMS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I love my country, and I rise today to pay tribute to those who lost their lives on 9/11. It has been a very painful thing for those of us who love our country.

But notwithstanding all of the pain that I and the many others endure, it is not the same pain as those who have loved ones who made a transition on that day. So today I rise in honor of those who made the transition, those who went forward when others were running away.

I salute those who are willing to stand and secure this country. I salute the police officers. I salute the military. I thank them for their service.

I also want to honor those who lost their lives, and I have great sympathy for those who survived and the family members.

I ask for a moment of silent prayer. Mr. Speaker, I know that there are still people who are willing to go into harm's way to make the ultimate sacrifice so that we can have a better quality of life in the freest country in the world.

#### CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHASTA LIVESTOCK AUCTION

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Shasta Livestock Auction, located in Cottonwood, California, which was opened in 1966 by Ellington Peek and his wife, Betty, and family.

Ellington is well known in California agriculture. He was named Tehama County's first Cattleman of the Year, California Livestock Man of the Year,

and an inductee into the Cowboy Hall of Fame.

In May, the Shasta Historical Society presented a program commemorating the auction yard, and while it tells a lot about the business, it also focuses on the person Ellington is that has made him so successful—an honest, hardworking man who represents the epitome of the American story.

Around the time Ellington Peek began buying and selling cattle at his yard, the industry started experiencing a lot of ups and downs in the market, forcing many ranchers out of the business. Refusing to give up, he took his business on the road, busing prospective buyers and sellers to different ranches and showing available cattle up on a slide show for purchase.

Later, this innovative model that was such a success ultimately led him to the business of video auction, starting the Western Video Market, with one of the first auctions selling over 25,000 head of cattle.

This innovation and vision not only gave California and Western cattlemen access to a national marketplace, but entirely changed the market. Today, it is a very viable and strong and thriving enterprise, the Shasta Livestock Auction, with the video market.

So I just want to say thank you to the Peeks; and also remembering their son they lost a few years ago, Andy, and what that means to that family operation and what it means, this anniversary of the 50th, to all of us in northern California.

#### CONGRATULATING UNITED LAUNCH ALLIANCE FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SPACE LAUNCH

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the men and women of United Launch Alliance on another successful space launch on Thursday. United Launch Alliance, or ULA, is headquartered in Centennial, Colorado, and has provided assured access to space since 2006.

ULA's most recent launch propelled NASA's OSIRIS-REx into space. The payload will travel to a near-Earth asteroid called Bennu, map the chemical elements on the asteroid's surface, and then return a sample to Earth in 2023.

This launch marks ULA's 11th consecutive successful space launch. This amazing success record is a testament to the hard work of ULA's dedicated team of professionals.

Congratulations on a job well done.

#### NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

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