MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR VETERANS

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

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Mental Health Services for All Veterans Act.

Last week, on May 18, just before noon, a man in his car did a U-turn in Times Square, New York, and mowed down 23 people, killing a young woman. This man is obviously mentally ill. This man is also a Navy veteran. He comes from every day in America, roughly 22 veterans commit suicide. In fact, according to a study by the GAO, 60 percent of troops who have been discharged for misconduct in recent years suffered from a mental illness.

It is simply too difficult for many veterans in this country to receive mental health counseling, and we need to make mental health counseling available for every single veteran in this country, regardless of whether they were in the National Guard, in the Reserves, or in Active Duty.

It is obvious when someone loses a limb or is injured traumatically in war to identify that their injury is service related. But for veterans who go home at night and are alone by themselves suffering with a mental illness, too many are suffering alone, and it is not easy to identify these problems—especially when they are in crisis—to show up at a counseling center or to show up at a VA and demonstrate that their injury, their mental illness, is service related.

We need to change this in this country. We need to make mental health services available for every single veteran in this country, regardless of their status and regardless of their income, in every single circumstance.

VA SCHEDULING

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the passage of the Veterans Administration Scheduling Accountability Act.

Veterans have waited months, and some have waited years, to have their claims addressed. This bill will hold every VA accountable. We need to make mental health counseling available for any single veteran in this country, regardless of whether they were in the National Guard, the Reserves, or in Active Duty.

We need to change this in this country. We need to make mental health counseling available for every single veteran in this country, regardless of their status and regardless of their income, in every single circumstance.

NATIONAL ASTHMA AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, May is Asthma Awareness Month. As co-chair of the House Asthma and Allergy Caucus, I would like to talk about what we can do for our constituents living with asthma.

About 24 million Americans have asthma, and more than one-quarter are children. Asthma costs our health system more than $56 billion every year, along with billions lost in lost productivity.

In New York, where more than one and a half million live with asthma, we are all too familiar with these staggering costs which come on top of a heartbreaking human toll: about 3,600 Americans die every year because of asthma.

I have asked appropriators to fund the CDC's National Asthma Control Program which helps States monitor and treat asthma at $230 million. This program has brought down asthma-related costs by billions and literally saves lives.

Since the program's inception, deaths from asthma episodes have fallen nearly one-quarter. So this works. It is money well spent, and we can't afford not to have it.

In honor of Asthma Awareness Month, I implore my colleagues to support this program and bring Americans living with asthma much-needed relief.

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNIVERSITY WITHOUT WALLS

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 45th anniversary of the University of Massachusetts Amherst University Without Walls, one of the best and most highly regarded adult bachelor's degree completion programs in the nation.

Founded in 1971, UWW provides nontraditional students with access to the resources of our best universities. It has developed into a national leader in adult education, having graduated nearly 4,300 students, including basketball legend, Julius Erving.

One of the first programs in the Nation to offer an innovative blend of online and classroom learning, UWW provides adults education to students, including many veterans who are unable to complete a traditional college degree due to financial constraints, family obligations, or personal hardship.

The key to success is the incredible team of UMass Amherst faculty and staff who have dedicated their lives to teaching and supporting adult students as they balance family, community, and academic responsibilities.

I wish to personally thank all of the faculty, staff, and UWW students for their dedication to excellence.

SEXUAL ASSAULT IN CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Nolan Bruder's younger sister believed that she could trust her big brother. So when this 19-year-old brother offered her marijuana, "dabs" and the opportunity to get high, she accepted, trusting him. But with Nolan's pushing, she became so stoned that she no longer recognized the man in front of her, that it was her older brother.

Taking advantage of her drugged state, he sexually assaulted his own 16-year-old sister. This is repugnant, Mr. Speaker.

On May 17, Nolan was sentenced for rape of an intoxicated person. The sentence? A mere 240 days in prison and