

RECOGNIZING JOE FRACCOLA

(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 recognize Mr. Joe Fraccola of New Hartford, New York, my hometown.

Joe was drafted into the United States Army in 1968, serving in the Vietnam war. On June 7, 1969, Joe was injured during an enemy rocket attack, earning the Purple Heart medal.

After returning home from Vietnam, Joe worked for the United States Postal Service and became active in veterans advocacy in central New York, serving as the commander of Central New York Chapter 490 Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Under Joe's leadership, the chapter has visited wounded soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines at Walter Reed; supported military honors at funerals and events; assisted in honor flights to the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., and helped to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Vietnam.

Joe is also active in the Vietnam Veterans of America and supports our local Gold Star Mothers.

Our community owes Joe our gratitude for his service and sacrifice for this country and for all he has done to support veterans and their families after his service.

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of November as National Adoption Month in honor of the 111,000 children waiting to be adopted from the foster care system.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Foster Youth Caucus, I strongly believe that every child deserves a forever family. The love and stability that a family provides leads to far better outcomes for youth of all ages, and we must work to ensure that we have this support system.

But adoption does take a toll on families, both financially and emotionally. They need assistance, and the adoption tax credit provides them with up to \$13,570 in tax refunds for adoption expenses. I am truly disturbed, Mr. Speaker, that Republicans have introduced a tax bill that would eliminate the adoption tax credit.

During National Adoption Month, I call on my colleagues to support adopted children and families by rejecting this misguided measure.

Mr. Speaker, we need to make sure that adoptions are affordable, that they are possible, and that, long-term, they are successful, and the adoption tax credit does exactly that.

VOTING RIGHTS

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago today, the United States held an election for President.

Going into that election, there were 251 million Americans old enough to vote, but only 139 million people actually voted. That means that just 55.3 percent of the voting-age population took part in the selection of the person to fill our Nation's highest office.

Mr. Speaker, we should break down barriers to voting, not build them. We should make registering to vote easier, not harder. We should ensure elections are competitive, not guaranteed.

Mr. Speaker, we must restore the Voting Rights Act. We must restore voting rights for people who have served their prison sentences. We must end partisan gerrymandering. We must protect the sanctity of our elections. We must do this before the next Federal election.

IT IS ALL ABOUT GUNS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, there are so many things that the American people have to deal with, and I think you have heard many of us offer our sympathy and concern for the tragedy that happened in my State, and, clearly, one more thing that we don't want to deal with, the shooting of those people of faith praying on their day of worship, which is what happened in Texas on Sunday.

So, today, I am introducing H.R. 4268, the Gun Safety Not Sorry Act of 2017, that addresses a 7-day waiting period for purchases or sales of semiautomatic firearms, silencers, armor-piercing ammunition, or large capacity ammunition magazines for purchase or transfer.

And let me respond to those who offered mental health. The data shows that Americans have more mental health problems than do people in other countries with fewer mass shootings. But it shows that it is estimated that only 4 percent of American gun deaths could be attributed to mental health issues.

Let's not keep giving excuses or blaming people with mental health issues. I can assure you that is not the problem. As the article in the New York Times says, it is all about guns—guns, guns, guns.

I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 4268.

OPPOSE DISASTROUS RYAN-MCCONNELL TAX PLAN

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Ryan-McConnell tax plan that puts the interests of wealthy

elites and corporations ahead of the needs of the American people.

This bill tears away protections for Americans with student loans and Americans who choose to adopt children. It strips support for individuals with unexpected health challenges, even those whose homes have burned down.

Under this plan, some 8 million American families will see their taxes go up almost immediately, and millions more will face tax increases in the future.

All this is done while giving permanent tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires and increasing the deficit by trillions of dollars. This puts America's social safety net and our economic future in deep jeopardy.

This is not the type of tax relief the American middle class and working poor need—or deserve—right now.

Mr. Speaker, I urge every one of my colleagues to put the needs of the American people first and oppose the very disastrous Ryan-McConnell tax plan.

CONGRATULATING THE HOUSTON ASTROS

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

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my colleague, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, and the Houston Astros for winning the 2017 Major League Baseball World Series. The Astros finally earned history this season by winning their first World Series title.

But they weren't the only ones to earn something by beating my Los Angeles Dodgers. Congresswoman JACKSON LEE also earned some of LA's iconic Philippe's French dip sandwiches as part of our friendly wager.

We may be on opposing teams when it comes to baseball, but we both play for the blue team here in Congress, and I look forward to working with her to fight for working men and women across the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I couldn't have had a wager with a greater Member of Congress. I love his orange tie. I love him looking at this sign: Beat LA.

All of those players—LA Dodgers and the Houston Astros—had great character and great sportsmanship.

I love the sandwiches. Let's do it again. Let's see them in 2018 in the World Series.

Go Astros.

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Houston: Houston strong, and Houston proud.

LET'S LEARN FROM KANSAS, NOT BECOME KANSAS 2.0

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1