

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND
LEGACY OF NAOMI LAUTER

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of my dear friend Naomi Lauter, who died on December 4, in her beloved San Francisco.

Naomi lived her life in the spirit of “world repair,” “tikkun olam,” dedicated to making the world a better place by fighting for values, ideas, and issues we all hold most dear.

Born and raised in San Francisco, Naomi attended Lowell High School, UC Berkeley, and San Francisco State University.

Her parents, Rose and Louis Ets-Hokin, were prominent leaders in the San Francisco Jewish community. Their activism, particularly that of her mother, who brought food, entertainment, and joy to America’s service-members in San Francisco during World War II, inspired Naomi’s own commitment to the causes of equality and justice.

Naomi’s political activism began in the 1950s in the civil rights and labor movements, most prominently by working with Cesar Chavez and the Farmworkers.

Her grassroots organizing and mobilizing helped in the fight to end segregation and to expand access to quality education for all.

Her commitment to upholding the dignity of every person knew no bounds.

Naomi and her husband of 61 years, Bob, were fierce supporters of Israel and worked tirelessly to strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship. Naomi was a pillar of the San Francisco Jewish community, where she was dedicated to forging connections between young Jewish Americans and the State of Israel.

Her leadership in spearheading the San Francisco Holocaust Memorial and training generations of volunteers around the country will benefit the Jewish community for years to come.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I say that many political and civic leaders depended on Naomi’s wise counsel, and with her passing, they have lost a dear friend. We will all profoundly miss her warmth and wonderful leadership.

Above all, Naomi was passionate about her family; her husband, Bob; her four beautiful children, David Jonathan, Sarah, and Sam; and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Our families were close neighbors and remain good friends. The Pelosi family was welcomed to many Shabbat and Passover Seder dinners with the Lauter family, and they joined us for Christmas. We celebrated together, just as we organized and worked together.

May it bring comfort to the Lauter family that so many share their sorrow at the passing of this much beloved and inspiring woman.

POVERTY IN SUBURBAN
COMMUNITIES IS ON THE RISE

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, when one thinks of poverty, it is likely they envision poverty in an urban or maybe a rural setting; and it may come as a surprise, but poverty in suburban communities is on the rise.

In fact, the number of people living in poverty outside of the Twin Cities’ urban core in Minnesota increased 93 percent between 2000 and 2015.

The suburbs are often thought of as places of comfort, if not wealth. However, when considering suburban areas, it is estimated there are more than 187,000 people in poverty in the Twin Cities.

Organizations within our community, like People Reaching Out to People, PROP; the Lakewinds Food Co-op; Southwest News Media; and Chanhassen DECA students, Mark Self, Brian Taylor, and Alex Walther, are shedding light on the issues of suburban poverty and making a difference.

Mr. Speaker, the holiday season that we are in now is a time to come together and think about others who may need a little extra help and generosity. It is the perfect time to start helping neighbors and friends in our communities who are struggling. Awareness is just the first step. Taking action should follow.

DENOUNCING CONCEALED CARRY
RECIPROCITY

(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, New Jersey has one of the ten lowest firearm death rates in the country. That is because the people of my State have set the bar high for public safety.

The bill my Republican colleagues just passed would undermine the will of the people and make New Jersey less safe.

Mr. Speaker, in New Jersey, gun owners who want to carry a concealed weapon in public must meet stringent public safety requirements and have a really good reason to carry a concealed weapon loaded while in public.

The people of my State can feel secure because they know that the people licensed to carry these guns in public are carrying their guns safely and responsibly.

Mr. Speaker, the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act is the peak of Federal overreach. It is a special interest bill from the NRA that will overturn laws and undermine the safety of the State of New Jersey. Today’s vote was bad for New Jersey and bad for our Nation.

□ 1700

WATER FOR THE WORLD

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when we turn on the tap, clean water flows out and we hardly even think about it. The same thing happens when we turn on the shower or flush the toilet. But for a lot of the world, this just isn’t true.

According to the USAID, over 700 million people lack dependable access to clean water. But it is not just water. One in three people don’t have access to a toilet. Many don’t know the basic hygiene practices. As a result, over 800 children a day die.

However, progress has been made. The Water for the World Act that Representative BLUMENAUER and I authored in the 113th Congress made great strides to guarantee safe water, sanitation, and hygiene to everyone.

But there is still work to be done. Eighty percent of the countries receiving aid report that water issues remain. The poor still lack water and sanitation. With our God-given resources, we have an obligation and a privilege to make sure people receive the basic of life: clean water.

And that is just the way it is.

CONCEALED CARRY

(Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, next week is the fifth anniversary of the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Just over 2 months ago, a mass shooter took the lives of 58 at a concert in Las Vegas; and 31 days ago, Sutherland Springs, Texas, was changed forever.

But just minutes ago, my Republican colleagues memorialized those deaths by passing a bill that would increase the risk of this happening in communities like yours and mine. To pass a bill written by the NRA at the expense of the safety and security of residents and law enforcement is an absolute disgrace.

To allow people, including those with dangerous histories, to carry hidden, loaded guns anywhere across the country is simply shameful.

First, by stripping healthcare and now this, it seems that the Republican agenda is fostering death over life.

SUPPORTING CONCEALED CARRY

(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 support H.R. 38, the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017, which passed the House with a bipartisan vote a few moments ago.

As the Representative of a district with a large number of law-abiding