

CONGRATULATING REMEDIOS DIAZ OLIVER

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Remedios Diaz Oliver, a prominent member of our south Florida community, on her retirement from All American Containers.

Remedios is a powerhouse. Along with her husband, Fausto, she established All American Containers, a multimillion-dollar business, a bottling company in Miami that serves corporations worldwide. Her son, Fausto, Jr.; her daughter, Rosie; and her grandchildren, Jackie and Fausto III, also work in the family business.

Like me, Remedios was forced to flee the Castro regime in communist Cuba, and she has been an unstoppable commitment of force for the island's freedom.

Remedios has been a trusted adviser to Presidents, to Senators, and to Members of Congress on the issue of her native homeland. And her advocacy in charitable events is second to none.

Remedios has been a leader in the American Cancer Society, raising funds and awareness to assist those stricken with this terrible disease.

While Remedios may be retiring from All American Containers, she is not retiring from our community, and I look forward to her next endeavor.

I love you so much, my friend. Te quiero mucho, amiga mia. Thank you. Felicidades to Remedios.

□ 1930

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, although many in my constituency are still recovering from Hurricane Harvey—and I wear a “Houston Strong” pin—we are working on getting housing rebuilt and seniors back in their homes, I can tell you that, throughout my district, as I was there this past week, they spoke in quiet tones about Douglas, the high school, and the tragedy in Florida.

And none of them seemed to agree—and, in particular, young men, who I will talk about in the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order on guns. None of them seemed to agree to arming teachers. All of them had ideas about gun violence and handguns, as well as weapons of war. And I believe the young people should be listened to, and we should not leave until we do constructive, sensible gun safety legislation, and it should be done now.

I ask the American people to rise up and speak in tones of nonpartisanship, bipartisanship, to save and secure our children and our teachers.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR SANDRA STOQUERT

(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 Major Sandra Stoquert of Camden, New York, an outstanding member of our community. Major Stoquert recently took command of the 109th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing, based out of Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia, New York.

Major Stoquert joined the New York Air National Guard in 1996, after serving in both the Army and the Navy Reserves. In 2004, she was commissioned as an officer and since then has served in Iraq at Balad Air Base and was deployed to New Orleans in 2005, to assist in the response to Hurricane Katrina.

Since returning to upstate New York, Major Stoquert has remained active in the community. In 2013, she was named the public affairs officer for the 174th Attack Wing based out of Syracuse, New York. She served as a school counselor at Adirondack Central School District in Boonville, New York, as well as on the board for the Central New York Veteran's Outreach Center in Utica.

I would like to take this time to thank Major Stoquert for her years of service to our country and community. She is an inspiration to all and a wonderful community leader.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CLEAN DRINKING WATER

(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, America loses 7 billion gallons of clean drinking water every single day through broken pipes and leaking pipes. Flowing through those pipes, water, yes, but also dollars, tax dollars, to purify the water and treat it. Eighty-six percent of our households depend on public drinking water, and these systems are failing. I have seen my share of corroded pipes and broken pumps over the years. I have seen communities and businesses suffer from a water main break, which happens 700 times a day across America.

Last week, I visited systems in Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Rensselaer, East Greenbush, and Castleton-on-Hudson in my district. I visited that legendary baby food maker, Beech-Nut, in Montgomery County, New York, which requires 275,000 gallons of water per day.

The message is clear: we must invest in our public water systems to protect our public health and to support our local businesses. We have a bipartisan bill, H.R. 3387, that has passed through committee and now awaits a vote by the full House. It would deliver critical

funding to State and local governments to get this big job started.

Whether you are a Republican, Democrat, or Independent, every life and every job depends on access to safe drinking water. This is the kind of infrastructure plan we need. Let's get this job done.

HONORING THE LIFE OF STACEE ETCHEBER

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Stacey Etcheber. She attended the Route 91 festival in Las Vegas on October 1.

I would like to read a poem written for Stacey by a friend:

I am strong, and I am blessed because the strength of the animal beneath me multiplies my own strength, so I am able to stand and support my family and friends.

I am joyful, and I am blessed because the gentle wind that rushes by my face as I rid with abandon spreads my smile and my joy far and wide.

I am loyal, and I am blessed because the loyalty of a horse transcends words, embraces my soul, and flows out to encompass everything in my world.

I am filled with love, and I am blessed because the trusting love between human and horse is a love that radiates from my heart and settles protectively on those who join me in my journey.

I am a cowgirl, and the blessings of partnering with a horse are reflected in the strength, the joy, the loyalty, and the love that I am able to share with everyone whose path crosses mine.

I am blessed to be a cowgirl.

RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF GWEN YORK

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the legacy of Gwen York, who dedicated her life to advancing the goals of the Transport Workers Union and the Texas AFL-CIO.

Gwen was born December 27, 1956. Soon after her birthday, she located to Garland, which is just outside of Dallas, where she would spend much of her life. She graduated from South Garland High School and attended the University of Texas at Austin and later went on to join Southwest Airlines in 1980. It was a job that she loved dearly and put everything into.

She later returned to school and graduated from the National Labor College in 2006. And for the past 10 years, Gwen continued her passion for making sure that people could have a good life, particularly those at the Transport Workers Union. She was loyal and dedicated. She was everybody's advocate and friend.

I checked my last text to Gwen, and it was trying to get her to advocate for me and give me some advice on something. She was just that type of person.