

IN MEMORY OF DEPUTY LOCKLEAR

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Scotland County, North Carolina, Deputy Alexis "Thunder Eagle" Locklear, who was killed in the line of duty last Thursday while rushing to the aid of a fellow officer.

Deputy Locklear was just 23 years old and had only been on the force for 10 months, yet those who knew him best said he died doing what he loved.

My friend, Scotland County Sheriff Ralph Kersey, said that Deputy Locklear made friends everywhere he went. Sheriff Kersey said: "He wanted to be a law enforcement officer, and he chose the Scotland County Sheriff's Office. It did not take a long time spending with Thunder to know that he would fit right in with this family."

Deputy Locklear leaves behind a 4-year-old daughter as well as his parents, grandparents, and six sisters.

Last week, Scotland County lost a hero, but a hero remembered never dies in our hearts. Please join me in offering condolences to the Locklear family, Sheriff Kersey, and the Scotland County Sheriff's Office.

ELECTION SECURITY

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, the threat of foreign interference in our elections is real. Our intelligence chiefs are sounding the alarm that Russia views the 2018 election as a target for additional interference. And finally, yesterday, President Trump at last acknowledged Russian meddling and vowed to guard against it, saying: "We won't allow that to happen."

But, Mr. Speaker, actions speak louder than words, and time and time again, this administration has proven unwilling to confront this threat. We learned this week that the State Department is not using any of the resources they have been given to counter election interference. U.S. Cyber Command Chief Admiral Mike Rogers said the President has not granted him authority to disrupt Russian hacking operations. And we are still waiting on the administration to impose sanctions on Russia passed by an overwhelming bipartisan majority in this Congress.

This isn't a future concern. Americans voted in Texas primaries yesterday, and they are already heading to the polls in my State, Illinois, where early voting began on Monday.

I urge the administration to get serious about this threat and support funding for the Election Assistance Commission and resources for State election officials on the front lines of this

battle. This is not a partisan issue. It is about protecting our democracy and ensuring the integrity of every American's vote.

VETERANS AFFAIRS EMPLOYEES SPENDING 100 PERCENT OF THEIR TIME ON UNION ACTIVITIES

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I came to the floor today to speak about my cotton farmers, but my heart is heavy after a conversation with our veterans—our VFW, to be exact—about this issue of union time, union activities on the taxpayer dime.

There was a GAO report a year ago that said there were hundreds of VA employees spending 100 percent of their time on union activity, not the job they were hired to do, not in service to our veterans who wait in line to get healthcare, who sometimes get sicker and sometimes even die.

The law says that the only way to do official time is it must be administered in a way that is reasonable, necessary, and in the public's best interests. Somebody spending 100 percent of their time on anything other than what they were hired to do, and especially in service to our veterans, is not reasonable; it is not necessary, and it certainly isn't in the best interests of the American people. It is outrageous.

SUPPORTING HMONG VETERANS WHO FOUGHT DURING THE VIETNAM WAR

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call for the support of the Hmong Veterans' Service Recognition Act.

This bipartisan legislation extends veterans' burial benefits to Hmong and Laotian-American veterans who fought in the United States Armed Forces during the Vietnam war. These brave men and women risked their lives fighting alongside American servicemen and -women as soldiers in the Special Guerrilla Units, otherwise known as SGUs.

The SGUs were covertly trained by the CIA during the Vietnam war and then led into direct combat support for American forces, yet they have never been recognized for their service, which is why I introduced the legislation with Congressman PAUL COOK, himself a decorated Vietnam veteran, who was a colonel in the United States Army and knows their story well.

There are only an estimated 5,000 Hmong veterans still alive today, with thousands of them in the San Joaquin Valley that I represent.

We extended this honor to Filipino soldiers years ago. I ask that we honor these courageous individuals with their choice of being laid to rest next to

their brothers in arms. It is the right thing to do.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, as Congress fails to advance commonsense gun safety legislation, I would like to share a letter from a young constituent of mine, Bella, from Skokie, Illinois.

Bella recently had a lockdown at her school. She writes: "While my peers and I crowded in the corner of my classroom, my mind instantly thought about the rise in school shootings in 2018. I thought, 'Am I going to be part of that statistic?'. . . This lockdown made me realize that something like that could happen to anyone anywhere. Please do something."

Well, Bella, we have solutions that are supported by an overwhelming majority of Americans: banning assault weapons, passing comprehensive background checks.

Students and parents around the country are telling us to do something. It is time, now, for Congress to listen.

□ 1215

YOUNG VOICES ON GUN VIOLENCE

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share excerpts from a letter I received from a 15-year-old in my district of San Diego. It shows the impact the Parkland, Florida, school shooting is having on our young people.

This young person writes: "I have never been in a school shooting nor do I know anyone who has, yet I feel every time I think about it or have a dream about it, I experience it."

"I'm only 15 years old, why am I terrified to go to places I used to love because someone could shoot me?"

"Why is it so easy to buy and make guns in this country?"

"Why can nobody seem to do the right thing and put a stop to this?"

"Why does nobody pay attention to the kids in this country who have never been in a shooting but live in constant fear and do not feel safe?"

"I am asking you to do something about the gun policies in this country so people stop dying and younger generations of people can feel safe."

"Put us first, not guns."

Mr. Speaker, what is the Chair's answer to this young voice?

MEDICARE FOR ALL

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today and the people