

our movie screens, television shows, music and video games.

Congress should fund scientific research on the relationship between popular culture and gun violence, while ensuring that parents have access to the information they need to make informed decisions about what their families watch, listen to, and play.

Here is what I think neither the President, the Congress, nor state and local governments should not do to reduce gun violence.

We Should Not Arm Teachers because they are not trained to handle weapons; this is not what they signed up for.

We Must Not Surrender to NRA even though the gun lobby has long enjoyed tremendous influence over congressional Republicans and some Democrats.

Persons who live in fear of gun violence and mass shootings at schools, theaters, places of worship and work, and public spaces are not afraid of the NRA.

What they are afraid of is an AR-15 in the hands of a mentally unstable person.

Americans are a can-do people; we do not bemoan our problems and accept terrible outcomes.

We act to solve them.

We have made our cars and trucks and roads safer and reduced traffic fatalities.

We have virtually eradicated polio, small pox, and other debilitating and life-threatening diseases.

We respond immediately to natural disasters caused by hurricanes, earthquakes, tornados, floods, and man-made disasters caused by acts of terrorism.

When it comes to reducing or preventing gun violence, we must summon that same spirit of American resolve and know-how and get the job done.

We can do it; after all, we are Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 208.

SRI LANKAN REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the Day of Remembrance for Sri Lankan communities around the world. Remembrance Day is generally observed on May 18 or May 19, to remember and mark the sacrifices made by all those who died, irrespective of their ethnicity, in Sri Lanka's civil war.

For many, who have family and loved ones in Sri Lanka, there is still not closure, because those they lost are not accounted for.

The Sri Lankan government has acknowledged the receipt of at least 65,000 complaints of such disappearances.

Independent assessments provided by the human rights community estimate that be-

tween 60,000 and 100,000 individuals have disappeared since 1980.

The victims included human rights workers, those providing humanitarian assistance, journalists, critics of the government, community leaders, and many others. Abductions and enforced disappearances have been perpetrated by state and non-state actors.

The Tamil people have been disproportionately impacted by these crimes, and their families deserve to know the truth. All of the families deserve closure.

Despite some action, the Sri Lankan government has still made limited progress and more needs to be done.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ROBERT AND MRS. RITA ROBBINS

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Robert and Mrs. Rita Robbins, who have dedicated their lives to caring for Kentuckians as surgeon and surgical nurse, respectively, at Hardin Memorial Hospital.

Dr. and Mrs. Robbins met when they were working together at Hardin Memorial Hospital, and fittingly were married in the hospital's chapel. They have become fixtures in the Hardin County community through their work at the hospital and beyond.

Dr. and Mrs. Robbins embody the definition of servant leadership, and I am proud to honor them.

MELANIE ALLEN

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Melanie Allen and her recent recognition of being named the 2018 Patriot League Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Ms. Allen, an extraordinary tennis player, is also a cadet at the United States Military Academy.

Melanie recently finished the season in West Point's No. 2 singles position where she had a record of 19-9 in singles matches and 21-3 in doubles matches, both of which boast as single-season personal bests. Not only is Melanie an excellent athlete, but she also holds a 3.65 GPA as a Psychology major.

I congratulate Melanie Allen on her recent recognition for, and her dedication to, both athletics and academics. I look forward to hearing of her successes in the armed forces and beyond in the years to come.

HONORING OFFICER FINBARR HARAN ON BEING NAMED OAK LAWN'S TOP COP OF 2018

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Finbarr Haran of the Oak Lawn

Police Department for being named the village's Top Cop of 2018. The Oak Lawn Lion's Club bestows this award on a distinguished member of the force after being nominated by his or her peers and selected by a committee of police department leaders.

Officer Haran serves the Oak Lawn community as one of the city's K-9 Officers alongside his partner Edo, a Belgian Malinois from the Czech Republic. Together, they have worked extensively with the Drug Enforcement Agency and have brought numerous criminals to justice. Over the years, the expansion of Oak Lawn's law enforcement agency has brought in the phenomenal men and women who now serve as the city's first responders. Officer Haran is shining example of the Oak Lawn Police Department and the officers that serve the Village of Oak Lawn.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Oak Lawn Police Officer Finbarr Haran. I congratulate him on his accomplishments and thank him for his service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mr. KINZINGER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for votes yesterday, May 21, 2018, due to a delayed flight. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 207; YEA on Roll Call No. 208; and YEA on Roll Call No. 209.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for Roll Call votes 207, 208, and 209 on Monday, May 21, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AZERBAIJAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Republic of Azerbaijan on the 100th Anniversary of its independence, which occurred on May 28, 1918. On the adoption of its Declaration of Independence, what was then known as the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, became the first secular parliamentary democracy in the Muslim world.

Since that time, Azerbaijan suffered an invasion by the Bolsheviks which led to the establishment of a Soviet government and ended with the forced incorporation of Azerbaijan into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). As the Soviet Union collapsed, the people of Azerbaijan readied themselves for