

We cannot afford another moment of silence, because silence kills. What we need is a moment of action to save the American people from killing themselves with American guns and American bullets.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD this list of moments of silence observed in the House since the Newtown shooting. It is compiled by the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force. There are 43 of them, moments of silence, and nothing done to save the American people from the gun lobby and the NRA.

MOMENTS OF SILENCE OBSERVED ON THE HOUSE FLOOR RELATED TO GUN VIOLENCE

December 14, 2012—May 21, 2018

Date, Topic of Moment of Silence.  
 12/17/12, Moment of Silence in Memory of Victims of Connecticut Shooting.  
 2/27/13, Chardon 1-Year Anniversary.  
 3/6/13, Honoring the Lives of Sergeant Lorán “Butch” Baker and Detective Elizabeth Butler.  
 7/19/13, Aurora Remembrance.  
 7/24/13, Moment of Silence in Memory of Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson.  
 9/17/13, Moment of Silence in Tribute to the 12 Navy Yard Shooting Victims.  
 1/8/14, Moment of Silence on Anniversary of Shooting Victims in Tucson, Arizona.  
 4/3/14, Moment of Silence and Prayer for the Fort Hood Shooting Victims, their Families, and the Community.  
 5/28/14, Moment of Silence in Memory of the Victims of the Santa Barbara, California, Tragedy.  
 6/9/14, Moment of Silence to Honor the Victims of the June 8, 2014, Las Vegas Shooting.  
 6/10/14, Moment of Silence for Victims of Reynolds High School Shooting.  
 7/22/14, Domestic Violence.  
 7/24/14, Moment of Silence in Memory of Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson.  
 7/30/14, Moment of Silence for Victims of Clackamas Mall Shooting.  
 11/20/14, Moment of Silence for the Victims at Marysville-Pilchuck High School.  
 1/8/15, Moment of Silence on Tucson Shootings’ 4-Year Anniversary.  
 5/12/15, Moment of Silence In Honor of Officers Liquori Tate and Benjamin Deen of Hattiesburg, Mississippi.  
 6/23/15, Moment of Silence For Victims of Shooting at Emanuel AME Church, Charleston, South Carolina.  
 7/21/15, Moment of Silence For Servicemembers Killed in Chattanooga, Tennessee.  
 7/27/15, Moment of Silence for Lafayette Shooting Victims.  
 9/8/2015, Moment of Prayer for Allison Parker and Adam Ward (Roanoke).  
 9/10/15, Moment of Silence Honoring Deputy Darren Goforth, Harris County Sheriffs Office.  
 10/6/2015, Moment of Silence Honoring Victims of Umpqua Community College Tragedy.  
 12/2/2015, Moment of Silence Honoring Victims of Colorado Springs Shooting.  
 12/16/2015, Moment of Silence Honoring Victims of the San Bernardino Terrorist Act.  
 1/8/2016, Moment of Silence Remembering the Fifth Anniversary of the Shooting in Arizona.  
 2/23/2016, Moment of Silence For the Victims of Kalamazoo Shootings.  
 3/1/2016, Moment of Silence for the Victims of Kansas Shootings.  
 6/14/2016, Moment of Silence for the Victims of the Orlando Shooting.  
 7/8/2016, Moment of Silence for the Victims of the Dallas Shooting.

1/5/2017, Moment of Silence to Commemorate Sixth Anniversary of Shooting in Tucson.

1/9/2017, Moment of Silence for Law Enforcement Officer Killed on Law Enforcement Officer Day (\*includes same shooting).

1/9/2017, Moment of Silence in Recognition of Victims of the Two Most Recent Tragedies in Ft Lauderdale and Orlando (\*includes same shooting).

1/9/2017, Moment of Silence Honoring Law Enforcement Officers Killed in Orlando (\*includes same shooting).

2/27/2017, Moment of Silence in Remembrance of Kansas Shooting Victims.

4/5/2017, Moment of Silence Remembering Virginia Tech Victims.

7/18/2017, Moment of Silence Honoring Officer Miosotis Familia and State Trooper Joel Davis.

7/24/2017, Moment of Silence in Memory of Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson.

10/2/2017, Moment of Silence in Memory of the Victims of the Attack in Las Vegas.

11/6/2017, Moment of Silence in Memory of the Victims of the Attack in Sutherland Springs, TX.

1/8/2018, Moment of Silence Commemorating Seventh Anniversary of the Shooting in Tucson, Arizona.

1/29/2018, Moment of Silence Honoring Marshall County High School Shooting Victims.

2/26/2018, Moment of Silence Honoring Those Killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

3/13/2018, Moment of Silence for the Three Victims of Gun Violence at the Veterans Home of California-Yountville.

4/25/2018, Moment of Silence for Fallen Gilchrest Law Enforcement Officers.

4/26/2018, Moment of Silence for the Victims and Hero of Waffle House Mass Shooting.

LET US REMEMBER THE FALLEN THIS MEMORIAL DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, many of us in this House will attend Memorial Day ceremonies over the weekend. I actually had four over this past weekend. I was privileged and honored to be there as we honor those who have died in the service of this great Nation to defend our rights and our liberties.

Observed on the last Monday of May, Memorial Day is one of America’s most solemn occasions. The traditional Memorial Day dates back to 1864, in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, not too far from my home in Centre County, Pennsylvania’s Fifth Congressional District, as the birthplace of Memorial Day. Three ladies decorated the graves of fallen Civil War soldiers, and the custom has continued every year since then.

Boalsburg still puts on a traditional Memorial Day celebration complete with a parade, a community walk to the cemetery, speeches, military enactments, and much more.

On Memorial Day, communities across the country will pay tribute to our fallen veterans who never returned home. Many of us will gather with family members and friends and neighbors as we keep those we lost in our hearts.

So as we raise the Stars and Stripes, as we lay wreaths at monuments, memorials, and cemeteries, let us remember that our freedom is thanks to those who died and served in sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day weekend also marks the ninth year that the National Endowment of the Arts and Blue Star Families begins Blue Star Museums. This program provides free admission to our Nation’s Active-Duty military personnel this summer from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend of 2018.

This is an initiative of the National Endowment of the Arts in collaboration with Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 museums nationwide, including children’s museums, fine art museums, history and science museums, zoos, and nature centers.

Blue Star Museums are one way our Nation’s museums can express appreciation to our military for their service and share with them America’s cultural treasures. Blue Star Museums also provide a way for military families to feel connected to their community, especially for those families that have recently relocated through a change of station.

Blue Star Families build communities that support military families by connecting research and data to programs and solutions, including career development tools, local community events for families, and caregiver support. Since 2009, Blue Star Families have engaged tens of thousands of volunteers and served more than 1.5 million military family members.

Mr. Speaker, Blue Star Families will be celebrating with every American this weekend as we commemorate Memorial Day in honor of so many who are no longer with us. May God bless them, and may God bless the United States of America.

I WILL NOT GO ALONG TO GET ALONG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, once again I rise as a person who loves this country. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a person who refuses to go along to get along. I rise as a person who will speak truth to power and truth about power.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, because in our country, our children are being murdered in schools. Our children are prognosticating that eventually it will come to the school that they happen to attend. Our children are concerned about their safety in what should be one of the safest places for them on Earth: the schools that they attend.

I rise, Mr. Speaker, because there are parents who have sent their children to school and never have had them to come home again. I rise because these parents are suffering, because our Nation is suffering. There is great pain within the population.

People of goodwill understand that we must do more than have moments of silence, words of prayer, expressions of condolences. People expect those of us who have been elected to the Congress of the United States of America to do what they sent us here to do, that is, have legislation brought to the floor, allow for some debate, and then take a vote. It is expected that we would vote on the legislation that is pending.

We have more than 100 pieces of legislation dealing with gun safety pending before the House, and it is not being acted upon.

I rise to ask, Mr. Speaker, that you bring this legislation to the floor of the House of Representatives so that the people can express their voices, can express their concerns, can take their positions by and through their legitimately elected Representatives. It is time, Mr. Speaker, for you to act, for you to bring the legislation to the floor so that we may vote on it.

If there is someone who truly believes that the solution to this violence, to this killing, to these murders, if there is someone who believes that the solution is a good guy with a gun, put that solution into legislation, Mr. Speaker, and let's vote on whether the solution is a good guy with a gun.

Mr. Speaker, I will not go along to get along.

Mr. Speaker, you have indicated that you won't be returning to Congress. Well, Mr. Speaker, if you are not going to do your job, if you are not going to bring legislation to the floor—by the way, all of it, not Democratic legislation, not Republican legislation. This is not about Democrats; it is not about Republicans. This is about our children, who are being murdered in schools.

If you are not going to bring that legislation to the floor, you ought to just step aside. This is bigger than you. It is bigger than all of us. It is about our children and how they are being murdered in schools. It is time to take the courage that has been embedded within your soul and your constitution and bring that legislation to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I speak truth to power. I speak truth about power. There is a problem. Mr. Speaker, you are the problem.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF OFFICER LANCE WHITAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Officer Lance Whitaker, who was killed in the early morning hours on May 15, 2018, while responding to a police call for service.

Officer Whitaker began his law enforcement career with the Atlantic

Beach Police Department in Florida. He then joined the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and has since served the city of Jacksonville faithfully for 17 years.

Officer Whitaker was known among his fellow officers for his kind heart, and he had a very contagious smile. It was clear to those around him that he loved his job and he believed in what he was doing.

Outside of work, Officer Whitaker was known as a proud father and family man. He is survived by his 14-year-old son, Cade Whitaker.

Just 3 weeks ago, I attended the rededication of the Fallen Officers Memorial Wall in Jacksonville, where we had the chance to remember and celebrate the lives of 61 men who have died protecting our city. Tragically, another name now must be added to that wall.

Today, I join the northeast Florida community to mourn the loss of Officer Whitaker. His service to the First Coast will never be forgotten, and my thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all of the JSO family, and I thank them for their sacrifice on behalf of a grateful city.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said: "The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you lived and lived well."

Officer Whitaker lived well. He did his job honorably and compassionately. He dedicated his life to his community, and he made a difference in the lives of many. Officer Whitaker lived his life well.

#### RECOGNIZING RIVER CITY SCIENCE ACADEMY FOR OUTSTANDING SUCCESS

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate River City Science Academy of Jacksonville, Florida, for winning the State championship in the Science Olympiad and for their excellent representation in the national competition that took place in Fort Collins, Colorado, on May 19, 2018. This remarkable achievement was the first time a school from Duval County has won the State competition, and I couldn't be more proud of the students, teachers, and parents who came together to achieve this outstanding victory.

My district is home to some of the brightest students in the country, and the academic excellence of the River City Science Academy is just more proof of the robust STEM programs that we facilitate back home.

STEM education is so important in a highly competitive, technologically driven economy, and I am thankful for the educators who dedicate their lives to training the next scientists, mathematicians, and engineers.

Congratulations once again to the River City Science Academy for leading the way, and I look forward to hearing of their many successes in the years to come.

#### TRIBUTE TO COACH CHARLES BERRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a legend in Arkansas high school basketball.

Charles Berry, one of the State's most successful coaches, is retiring this year after 57 years on the court. He is an Arkansas native, grew up in Huntsville, served in the United States Air Force, and returned home to begin a remarkable career as a teacher and coach, the last 50 years at his alma mater, Huntsville High School, in the gymnasium that now bears his name.

The numbers speak for themselves: 1,367 career wins; 14 conference championships; six regional championships; two State titles, two times as a runner-up. He is a six-time Arkansas All-Star coach, and in 2007 was named the National Coach of the Year in girls basketball. His 2016 induction into the Arkansas High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame was automatic.

His legacy as a coach is understood, but he is more than a coach. Charlie is a respected and dedicated mentor, educator, and person. He is simply one of the best.

Thank you, Charlie, for your many years of service to your community, and happy retirement, my friend.

#### RECOGNIZING BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, FIREFIGHTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize approximately 60 firefighters in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who recently graduated from the national certification program. These brave men and women satisfactorily completed the Firefighter One training program offered by the Bucks County Public Safety Training Center.

I would like to commend these firefighters for the work they do to protect and serve our community, selflessly putting their lives on the line on a regular basis.

Recently, Firefighter Tim Pristatskiy of the Trevoise Fire Company ran into a burning house in Lower Southampton to look for victims. With the compromised structure of the house, the second floor collapsed and Tim fell through. Despite the odds, Tim suffered no injuries, thankfully, and he is back serving on the force.

Mr. Speaker, it is crucial that we honor our firefighters, like Tim, for the brave work they do in protecting the lives of our loved ones and our own. We truly owe them a debt of gratitude.

□ 1030

#### RECOGNIZING BOB DUAME

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a resident of