

failed to pass any meaningful reform to school safety or firearm regulations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the house not to forget that at the core of this discussion is the fact that the lives of children like Ms. Bilston are impacted every day by gun violence. It is with great pride that I include in the RECORD the powerful words of Ms. Bilston.

ROSA BILSTON, AGE 11—SPEECH ON GUN VIOLENCE

Today I would like to talk about gun violence. A few months ago, 17 people were killed at Parkland school in Florida. Then, a few weeks ago, 10 people were killed in a shooting in a Texas school.

Hearing about this was very hard for me because my family is from Texas. It shook me to know that children were killed in a place I feel so close to.

When I was in Kindergarten, there was a shooting in Sandy Hook, Connecticut. Many children died. This was told to me at the time, but I didn't remember it for a long while. We were just about to leave for Germany, and our minds were focused on leaving the country.

I remembered it again after the Parkland shooting and at first I found it appalling that two shootings could be so close together in our country.

But then I realized there were lots more school shootings in America. In fact, this year, there have been 22 school shootings. And this spring, a friend of mine lost her friend in Guilford. He was handling a gun. It wasn't a school shooting but he was still killed by a gun. This was appalling to me and to my friend.

I'm talking about guns today for two reasons. The first is that children should be aware of this, because it is happening to children.

The second is that I strongly believe President Trump should ban assault weapons. These kill lots of people very quickly. I would also like to see more background checks: at present people who are mentally troubled are able to own war weapons which are made to kill mass numbers of people. These should not be owned by anyone other than people in the army.

I personally do not believe that anyone should own a gun, but I understand that others do not have this view. My grandmother in England has a gun. I definitely believe, and I think others can agree with this, that the conditions here for gun owning should be the same as they are for my grandmother. Her gun is kept in a locked cabinet, away from ammunition. The police check this every year, and every year she completes paperwork to prove that she is still healthy. I believe this should be the norm here too.

The way I think we should change policy is by protesting. Over the past years it has been the grown-ups who have been saying that things are not okay. Congress has not changed anything. The government has not changed anything. Obama tried to ban assault rifles during his presidency but Congress said no. So now grown-ups have tried everything they can. Congress must hear a new voice. That is the voice of children, our friends and our neighbors and classmates. It should not just be those with personal connections to those who've died, it should be all those who see something here is wrong.

If the new generation doesn't step up to the plate, nothing will happen. As Dr. Martin Luther King said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." We must not be silent. Thank you.

HONORING ROSETTA SEXTON

## HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2018

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Rosetta Sexton, a valued, respected and devoted member of my staff. After over twenty-one years of service to the constituents of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, Mrs. Sexton will be retiring from her role as Senior Outreach Coordinator with the U.S. House of Representatives.

Rosetta, one of 5 children born in Chicago, Illinois to Joe and Rose Ferazzo, attended St. Angela Grade School. She attended Notre Dame High School for Girls located on the northwest side of the City of Chicago. When she was 15, she met the love of her life, John Sexton. They married in 1972 and together raised their family. John and Rosetta were very active in the 36th Ward Regular Democratic Organization working with Alderman William J.P. Banks and State Senator James DeLeo. In 2001, when John was diagnosed with throat cancer, Rosetta remained by his side offering immeasurable love and support and living up to her designation as the rock of their family. Since her husband's death in 2004, she continues to provide the same warmth and strength to her family.

Rosetta would be the first to tell you that her family is her first priority; they are the loves of her life. Her family includes her daughter, Laurie Moran and her husband, Joseph, and their children, Jack and Alyssa; her son, John Jr., and her daughter Diana Bowler, her husband, Matt, and their children, Blake, Brooklyn, Brynn, and their fourth child due in July. I am pleased that her retirement will offer her the opportunity to spend more quality time with those closest to her.

I invite my colleagues, my staff, and my constituents to join me in thanking her for her unrelenting dedication to the people of Illinois' Fifth District. I thank her for her invaluable service, professionalism and friendship and wish her well in all future endeavors.

## TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY ZAC BUTTERCASE

## HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Deputy Zac Buttercase of Sidney, Iowa on his selection as the 2018 Iowa American Legion Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Zac is a Deputy with the Fremont County Sheriff's Department. The Williams-Jobe-Gibson American Legion Post No. 128 nominated Deputy Buttercase for this Award.

Deputy Buttercase has been with the Fremont County Sheriff's Department since 2014. He is a K-9 handler with his canine partner, Judge. Deputy Buttercase is a veteran of the Iowa National Guard and has served deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Deputy Zac Buttercase for his selection for

this award. Zac has made a difference by helping and serving others. It is with great honor that I recognize him today. I know that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in honoring his accomplishments. I thank him for his service to the Fremont County and to his country and I wish him all the best in all his future endeavors.

## IN RECOGNITION OF ROGER MATTES, JR., GOVERNOR OF ROTARY DISTRICT 7410

## HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2018

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Roger Mattes, Jr., who will become governor of Rotary District 7410 on Sunday, July 1. District 7410 covers forty-three Rotary clubs in ten counties in Northeastern Pennsylvania and serves over a thousand members. Roger joined Rotary International in 1985. Since then, he has served the organization in many capacities, including as president of his local chapter and on the Board of Directors. He is a graduate of Rotary Leadership Institute and a recipient of Rotary's Paul Harris Fellowship Award.

Roger is a 1976 graduate of Valley Forge Military Academy. He attended DePauw University, graduating in 1980 with a Bachelor's degree in English. He went on to obtain his G.R.I. from the Pennsylvania Realtors Institute. In 1991, Roger received his Juris Doctor from Drake University Law School in Des Moines, Iowa.

Roger has been practicing law for over twenty years and is president of Mattes & Mattes, P.C. in Scranton. He is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. District Court Middle District of Pennsylvania, among others. His outstanding work as an attorney has earned him several awards, including the American Lawyer's Distinguished Service Citation and the Winner's Circle Award.

It is an honor to recognize Roger Mattes as he assumes the role of governor for Rotary District 7410. His achievements are significant, and his service to the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania is immeasurable. May he continue his commitment to community service, and I wish him all the best.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MARKUP

## HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2018

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today we held a markup on various important measures. I'd like to express support of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Democracy and Accountability Act, H.R. 6207, of which I am the proud sponsor, along with our lead Democratic cosponsor, my good friend and ranking member of our subcommittee, Rep. KAREN BASS.