

Hospital and seeing 194 victims who had been shot or injured.

Since October 1, I have come to the House floor 58 times to honor each of the victims and to share their stories. For the last 9 months, my colleagues have listened to 58 separate speeches, and have looked at the pictures of the 58 victims. These stories have been met with silence by the majority.

Since October 1, members of the Nevada delegation have asked to, at least, hold a hearing on bump stocks, the device that contributed to the massive carnage in Las Vegas. Our letters have been met with silence by the majority.

Since October 1, Democrats, and a few Republicans, have introduced no less than 30 bills to combat gun violence in our country, yet these bills have been met with silence by the majority.

Since October 1, there have been more mass shootings in the U.S., including at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas; at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida; and at the Capital Gazette in Annapolis, Maryland. These mass shootings have been met with silence by the majority.

At what point are my colleagues in Congress going to stop being silent?

At what point are they going to say: We have to do something; we have to take action?

The United States is in the middle of a gun epidemic. Every day, 96 Americans, Mr. Speaker, are killed by gun violence. Americans are 25 times more likely to be murdered with a gun than people in other developed countries.

Americans can no longer feel safe at churches, concerts, movie theaters, work, military bases, nightclubs, restaurants, shopping malls, grocery stores, baseball fields, congressional baseball fields, and, even worse, our children are no longer safe at school.

Since 2009, there have been 288 school shootings in the U.S. Today, little kids are afraid to wear light-up shoes to school because a gunman could see them when they have to hide for their life.

From the time of the mass shooting at Sandy Hook to the mass shooting at Parkland, the House of Representatives has held more than 40 moments of silence related to gun violence. However, in that same time, the majority refuses to consider any real piece of legislation, hold any hearings, or take any action that could reduce this gun violence epidemic.

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And despite bipartisan support in this body to ban bump stocks, implement universal background checks, limit high-capacity magazines, or ban assault weapons, my colleagues say that nothing can be done to prevent gun violence in America. If that is true, why is the United States the only developed country that has this problem?

The truth is we can do something. We can take action. My Republican col-

leagues can put the American gun lobby first and the NRA and gun manufacturers, but the American people come first. We have to listen to the American people. We can pass bipartisan and commonsense solutions to prevent more shootings and to save more lives.

To my fellow Nevadans and Americans, I want you to know that, despite these roadblocks, we will keep fighting. Every day there are people here in Congress working tirelessly to make our country safer. Every day we are moved by your rallying cries and your stories; and every day, we will fight to end the gun violence epidemic in the United States.

#### MEMORIALIZING THE HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, BLACKSBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, July 25, 2018, in our Nation's Capitol to formally memorialize the history of the First Baptist Church located in Blacksburg, South Carolina.

First Baptist Church of Blacksburg was originally called the Berea Baptist Church, organized over 146 years ago, on December 4, 1876. The original structure was located near the corner of Highway 29 and Mountain Street, near the old Berea cemetery. This building was used as a church, schoolhouse, and community meeting hall. The first people to be baptized in the original building were Mrs. Sally Little and Mattie Bridges.

The first mention of building a new church facility was the years 1906 through 1909, under the pastorate of the Reverend B.L. Hoke. A committee was formed to search for land to build the new church.

During the pastorate of Reverend C.W. Payseur, property located on the corner of Cherokee and Rutherford Streets was purchased from Mr. D.D. Gaston for \$500; and in the spring of 1912, construction began on the new building. The records indicate that W.A. Blalock and A.M. Bridges broke the first dirt, and D.A. Gold placed the first brick, with Miss Emma Cornwell placing the first mortar for the bricks.

The first service in the new church facility was held over 105 years ago in June 1913, and the name of the church was officially changed from the Berea Baptist Church to the First Baptist Church of Blacksburg. The first person to be baptized in the new building was Mr. Ben Ramseur.

In 1922, over 96 years ago, a house and 6 acres of land owned by Mr. Tracy Hardin was donated for the purposes of building a church parsonage, and in June of 1929, the church began construction on the first Sunday school rooms at a cost of \$2,300.

The property behind the existing educational building as it sits today was

purchased during the years between 1941 and 1950, and a new building fund was started. The church broke ground on the new building at a cost of \$87,500; and on Sunday, June 24, 1956, which was over 62 years ago, the church celebrated homecoming, with "Dinner on the Grounds" in the new social hall downstairs.

On June 11, 1961, all debt was paid off and a note burning service was held to celebrate this accomplishment.

On July 5, 1962, the church voted to begin construction on the present sanctuary to replace the old one which, at the time, had been destroyed. The committee overseeing the construction was comprised of 10 members representing each of the resident families.

The new sanctuary was completed in 1963 at a total cost of \$74,735, and the debt was paid off on May 2, 1979.

The building of the new parsonage located at 108 Lenzer Circle began in the 1970s and was completed in February of 1972. The debt was paid off, and the official burning service was held on February 23, 1975, to celebrate this accomplishment of paying off the debt.

In October of 1976, the church voted to sell the old parsonage and purchase the entire land located inside Lenzer Circle for a future recreational facility.

On December 1, 1993, the church purchased the property and buildings immediately next to the existing church sanctuary at a cost of \$35,000, with the debt paid in full on January 16, 1998.

The next major renovation and building came in 1995, where the church reaffirmed the idea of seeking to build a recreational facility beside the existing church sanctuary; and in June of 1996, the old grocery store known as the Sara Wilkins property was demolished to make way for the new construction.

In 1997, renovations and repairs were made to the existing educational building and exterior of the sanctuary, along with a new Allen organ for the sanctuary.

The construction of the new Family Life Center began in August of 1999, for a total cost of \$520,000, with the church only borrowing \$60,000. The building was completed and the dedication held in May of 2000, and the remaining debt was paid off in 2001.

In July of 2001, the church purchased the old library building located behind the existing sanctuary and education building where the church offices exist today.

The last renovations to the present sanctuary were renovated in 2014.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to memorialize the 142-year history of the First Baptist Church of Blacksburg, which was organized on December 4, 1876, as we worship today in 2018, with the core mission being, then and now, service to Jesus Christ and the faithful teachings of the Christian Gospel.

WITHOUT THE RUSSIANS, TRUMP  
WOULDN'T HAVE WON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from