

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation tomorrow and to continue our work to ensure safer neighborhoods across America.

TRAGIC FLOODING

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight concerned about residents of my district dealing with flooding that claimed one life there and has damaged roads and private property throughout the region. The loss of life during this recent flooding is tragic, and my family and I continue to pray for everyone affected back home.

One group of people deserves to be recognized for the work they do in times of crisis, and they are our first responders and other emergency personnel. When the rest of us are seeking shelter from the storm, the men and women who make up our fire and police departments, rescue crews, and emergency communications professionals are going to work to coordinate a rapid response that will save lives and help limit property damage.

It is appropriate that during these times of disaster we continue to pray for those who are suffering and show appreciation for those who work so hard to protect us.

Madam Speaker, I ask that all my House colleagues join me in doing that.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I am here to tell a story about gun violence that spans multiple generations, and it started in my hometown of Camden, a city in New Jersey.

A tragic event happened in Camden in 1949. Howard Unruh shot and killed 13 people. This event is now considered the first modern mass shooting in our country's history.

During those horrific events that unfolded, a 12-year-old boy hid in the closet as his mother and father were slaughtered. His name was Charles Cohen, and nearly 70 years later in a school in Parkland, Florida, his own granddaughter, Carly Novell, hid in a closet, just like her grandfather did. Carly is with us today to see how true democracy works.

I will end with Carly's words. She said: "This pain shouldn't be generational."

She is right. It shouldn't have happened, and we must do more for our children, for our grandchildren, and for everyone in our communities.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

(Mr. SMUCKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, as you know, this month is Black History Month, and I am taking some time to remember African Americans who have made a difference in the community where I live.

I rise today to honor one of my community's civil rights and community leaders, Mr. Nelson Polite, Sr., of Lancaster. Mr. Polite was one of the early leaders in the civil rights movement in Lancaster in the 1960s. He was a fierce advocate who worked hard to change the unjust policies of segregation.

Mr. Polite devoted his life to the ideals of fairness and justice for everyone, regardless of their skin color. He organized protests against Whites-only admittance at Rocky Springs pool and followed in the footsteps of his father, who helped found the Lancaster NAACP.

Mr. Polite led by example and represented the goodness of our community. He was active in his church and worked to ensure that residents had job opportunities, housing, and overall quality of life.

He served as a Lancaster councilman for 12 years. This month, Black History Month, marks 3 years since he passed away, but the evidence of the change that he fought for is evident in our community. I was proud to count him as a personal friend, and it is my honor to remember him today and, this month, highlight the work that he did.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mrs. HAYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for two bills that the House will consider this week: H.R. 8 and H.R. 1112. These bills are the first comprehensive gun violence prevention bills to be considered in the House since the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act was signed into law in 1994.

Far too often innocent lives are claimed due to gun violence. Nearly 40,000 people die of gun-related injuries per year.

While mass shootings often dominate the headlines, we cannot continue to turn a blind eye to the gun violence happening on a daily basis in cities all over the country and even my own hometown of Waterbury, Connecticut. I have lived in a neighborhood where the sound of gunshots in the distance was as normal as hearing church bells, and, as a teacher and a mother, I have seen firsthand how the fear of violence affects our children.

For far too long, Congress has failed our communities by remaining silent on this issue. America is ready for commonsense background check legislation. I owe it to my community, I owe it to my State, and I owe it to the people of Newtown, Connecticut. That is why I look forward to casting my vote in support of H.R. 8 and H.R. 1112.

THE STORY OF MICHAEL COHEN

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

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I guess tomorrow we will find out if there is anyone that Michael Cohen hasn't lied to. We already know he lied to Congress. We already know he lied to law enforcement, lied to the IRS, lied to three banks, and he is going to prison for his lies. So I guess it will be relevant for us to determine: Does he lie to his own family? Does he lie to his financiers? Does he lie to his financiers who are members of his family?

It will be one heck of an inquiry for us because this is someone who has tangled such a web of lies that he is not to be believed. I think it is entirely appropriate for any Member of this body to challenge the truthfulness, veracity, and character of people who have a history of lying and have a future that undoubtedly contains nothing but lies. That is the story of Michael Cohen.

We will see it play out tomorrow, and I for one can't wait to get to the bottom of things and can't wait to get to the truth.

HIGH-SPEED RAIL IN CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, California's high-speed rail system has broken promise after promise and made false claim after false claim.

I want to commend President Trump for working to pull back the \$928 million that is still authorized, that could be reachable, and turn this money into something that could be useful for more Americans or even for more Californians.

Now, we also need to send a bill to the State of California for \$2.5 billion for the money they wasted for a project that has not fulfilled what was required in the proposition the people passed by 52 percent to 48 percent. The price has more than tripled since then.

We need to focus on doing the transportation projects in the country that would actually help move people in a fashion that they can use.

Governor Newsom was right there with his State of the State speech the other day. I know he knows different.

Let's go ahead and put a stop to this project, put the money back into fixing our highway system or our levee system or our water system in the State of California and not send the bill to the other 49 States of this country that, in good faith, initially sent that as part of the stimulus package. Let's put it into good, solid projects.

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BORDER SECURITY

(Mr. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1