

own State, in a namesake scholarship program at Oklahoma City University, a corridor on the northeast side of Oklahoma City, a classroom at the University of Central Oklahoma, by the designation of the Oklahoma City Public Schools District building as The Clara Luper Center, and naming the African American studies department at the University of Oklahoma after her.

As a lifelong Oklahoman and representative of the Fifth Congressional District, and as an American, I recognize how we are beneficiaries of Clara Luper's efforts to create a more just and equitable place to live. I cannot and will not take that history and impact for granted.

Although we have come so far because of her sacrifices and the sacrifices of other heroes during the civil rights era, there is so much work to be done. Even with the number of accolades given to her, the best way we can honor Ms. Luper is to uphold her legacy through commitment to justice and equality in the policies that we propose.

She knew that democracy is not a spectator sport. It is our duty as a Congress and as Americans to make good on the constitutional promise of establishing justice and ensuring domestic tranquility, so we must continue to work for an inclusive, equitable place for everyone to live and feel safe, as well as to build an economy where every American has the opportunity to thrive.

Thank you to the sit-inners, and thank you to Clara Luper for your resilience and for giving us the torch to carry.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 26 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Father Philip G. Salois, American Legion National Chaplain, North Smithfield, Rhode Island, offered the following prayer:

Dear Lord, we beseech You to pour forth Your grace and blessings on all who gather to do the work that the people of America elected them to do.

We pray for peace and harmony when we disagree. We pray for the strength and will to work out our differences and to come up with the best solutions that will benefit society as a whole.

Watch over and protect the men and women in uniform, and safeguard them from all harm. And we pray You to bring them home safely to their families and friends.

We especially remember those who are held prisoner in foreign lands, those missing in action, as we continue to seek them out and bring them home to their loved ones.

We make this prayer in Your name.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING FATHER PHILIP G. SALOIS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Father Philip Salois, who delivered today's opening prayer.

Father Phil is a native of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, and now lives in North Smithfield, Rhode Island, a community that I am proud to represent today in Congress.

He served our country in uniform during the Vietnam war as a combat infantryman and earned the Silver Star for his valor.

After his service to our country, Father Phil felt called to service in another capacity. He was ordained into the priesthood on June 10, 1984.

A few years later, Father Phil joined the Veterans Administration in Boston, where he served as chief of the chaplain service from 1993 to 2005.

Today, he continues to minister to veterans in Rhode Island and all across America. We owe all of our service-members and their families an incredible debt of gratitude.

The men and women of the United States Armed Forces represent our country's most important values of service, honor, courage, and sacrifice. This is especially true of Father Phil, who represents the very best of our country and my home State of Rhode Island.

I thank him for his service to our country and for being here today to

offer the beautiful opening prayer. We are truly honored by his presence.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. BROWNLEY of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, President Trump falsely declared that there was a national emergency occurring at our southern border.

The real emergency that he should be focusing on is the devastating gun violence epidemic that has torn communities apart across our country, including my own, where we are still mourning the loss of 12 precious lives at the Borderline Bar & Grill in Thousand Oaks, California.

This week, the House will vote on the first major gun safety legislation in decades. While there is no single answer that will stop all gun violence, H.R. 8 and H.R. 1112 are commonsense, bipartisan steps to strengthen our background check system to keep deadly firearms out of the hands of those we agree should not have them.

If the President is serious about addressing national emergencies, he should join us in supporting these bills.

CONGRATULATING MEP

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program at the National Institute of Standards and Technology is celebrating 30 years of success. I am grateful to recognize the achievement of MEP in South Carolina.

Senator Fritz Hollings of South Carolina introduced the legislation that led to the creation of the program. It later was renamed in his honor.

The MEP has served over 26,000 companies. It has earned support in Congress for assisting small- to mid-sized manufacturers.

I am grateful that the South Carolina MEP has generated almost \$380 million in new investment and created 1,361 jobs. It generated almost \$2.7 billion in statewide economic impact.

In the Second Congressional District, it helped to create and retain 989 jobs last year and brought in over \$30 million in new investment.

I commend these employers for creating jobs in South Carolina and nationwide.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. DEAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, for decades, lobbyists have stifled our national conversation about gun violence and Congress has refused to act.

Since Parkland, Thousand Oaks, and so many others, new voices have broken through. Student activists have marched, organized—alongside moms—and insisted that we take their safety seriously.

This week we do just that, by passing H.R. 8 and H.R. 1112. This will be a sea change.

And it shouldn't be controversial. Mr. Speaker, 97 percent of Americans support background checks—that is Democrats and Republicans—including 94 percent of gun-owning households.

Six years ago, I was there when the Pennsylvania House Judiciary Committee held its first hearing on background checks.

In her courageous testimony, Sandy Hook mother Francine Wheeler described losing her son Ben. She said:

When this happens to you—when my child was murdered, I no longer have the fear to stand up and to say what is right and what I believe.

And then Francine asked a crucial question:

If we all agree dangerous individuals shouldn't have guns, then shouldn't we at least take the most basic steps to make sure they don't?

I look forward to the passage of these bills.

RECOGNIZING DELEGATES OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR LEARNING DISABILITIES

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very impressive group of individuals visiting the Capitol this week.

Delegates of the National Center for Learning Disabilities have traveled from all over the country to advocate for themselves and their peers.

When it comes to learning, each of us must deal with our own unique challenges. These young people face some particularly difficult obstacles, including dyslexia and dysgraphia, which interfere with the brain's ability to interpret information.

But they have not let these obstacles prevent them from doing great things. They have persevered, working hard, not just for their own success but for the future success of others.

By traveling to Washington to share their stories and discuss opportunities for governmental and societal change, these young adults have demonstrated deep commitment to the community of those who have learning disabilities.

I admire their dedication and hope to use my role as co-chair of the Congressional Dyslexia Caucus to help them in these efforts. May they be encouraged to keep up their great work.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. WEXTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, several years ago, I had a conversation with one of my constituents that I think about often.

She told me about when she sent her 5-year-old son off to his first week of kindergarten in the Loudoun County Public Schools. He came home from school one day, and he told her: Mommy, we had an emergency drill today. My place to hide is behind the backpacks.

Like a backpack is going to stop a round from an AR-15.

And she decided right then and there that we need to do better for our kids and that she needed to do something. Her way of doing something was to start the Loudoun chapter of Moms Demand Action.

Now she and millions more like her have sent us here to do something about gun violence.

We may not be able to stop every school shooting, every act of gun violence, but shouldn't we at least try to stop some? Because if we won't do that we shouldn't be here.

Today, for the first time in decades, the United States Congress will vote on meaningful gun violence prevention legislation. We will vote on and pass H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019, and I will proudly vote "yes" because these checks will save lives.

HONORING OLYMPIC CHAMPION BARNEY EWELL

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Black History Month to honor an Olympic champion and truly one of the greatest athletes my district has ever produced: Mr. Henry Norwood, otherwise known as "Barney," Ewell.

Mr. Ewell was born into poverty and grew up in Lancaster. He attended McCaskey High School and later went on to attend Penn State. He served his country for 4 years, from 1941 to 1945, during World War II.

He became known as the fastest man in the world after he broke the world record for the 50-yard dash in 1940. He went on to win one gold and two silver medals at the 1948 Olympics in London.

I know people who still recall cheering on the streets in Lancaster City after Barney Ewell returned from London, having won the medals for our country and for our community.

Mr. Ewell was an inspiration to Lancaster City, and it is an honor to highlight his story today.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. SHALALA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHALALA. Mr. Speaker, in June 2016, a gunman opened fire in the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, killing 49 people, including Jerry Wright, a Miami Heat fan who loved to dance.

Jerry Wright's parents, Fred and Maria, know that their son's death was preventable but, more than that, that it was not unusual.

Nearly 40,000 people die because of guns every year, and that is why Fred and Maria lead the local Moms Demand Action group in my district. I am so proud to learn from them and work with them on commonsense gun safety in Miami-Dade and around the country.

By mandating universal background checks for every gun sale, we can be a step closer to ensuring that, when our children go to school, to concerts, to movie theaters, to clubs, they do so safely, they do so without worrying that this dance might be their last.

Fred and Maria Wright aren't asking for an overhaul of the Second Amendment; they are just asking for the adoption of commonsense solutions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join us in preventing firearms from falling into the wrong hands by supporting H.R. 8.

EMERGENCY DECLARATION

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

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support President Trump's declaration of a national emergency at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Sophisticated cartels—some of the most dangerous criminals and terrorist organizations in the world—are partnering with foreign adversaries, including Cuba, Venezuela, Iran, and China smuggling drugs, as well as human beings, into our country.

Mexican cartels produce or distribute the most heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, and methamphetamine here, killing tens of thousands of Americans annually.

My constituents are suffering from the opioid epidemic.

MS-13 and other violent gangs have infiltrated recent migrant caravans; however, the equivalent of a migrant caravan crosses the border almost weekly.

These forces are destabilizing and deadly to people on both sides, particularly for the less fortunate among us.

Under legal authority Congress has granted the executive branch—which Barack Obama also used to combat cartels and illegal immigration—the President, the power to declare a national emergency to fund construction of the new border barriers at dangerous weak points.

As a fiscal conservative, constitutionalist, and strong advocate for the