

We learn from the past so together we can build a better future for all citizens. As we proclaim February as National African American History Month, let us celebrate their lives, understand their adversity, and lead by their examples.

COMBATING GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a great sense of urgency.

Every day it seems as if there is another news story about a shooting in a school, a movie theater, a synagogue, or on a city block. We have lost far too many lives due to gun violence.

From my own community, I celebrate the life of Olivia Marchand from Westford, whose mother, Jody, endured years of domestic abuse. In 2010, she survived her husband's brutal attack but lost her beautiful Olivia when her husband shot and killed her and then killed himself.

This tragedy devastated our whole community. As a mother, this loss still fills me with grief and anger.

Today, Jody keeps her daughter's memory alive, educates women on domestic violence, and fights for tougher gun laws. We must answer America's call for action on gun violence, not the gun lobby's call to maintain the status quo.

Yesterday, we passed universal background check legislation, a necessary first step to tackle gun violence in America. I urge my colleagues to continue voting for these critical reforms.

OPOSING EXTREME PRIORITIES

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

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise here this morning to speak out against the extreme priorities of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. With so many pressing issues facing the 116th Congress, I find it appalling that H.R. 1 has been reserved for legislation that completely undermines the democratic framework of our country.

Simply put, this bill is nothing more than a thinly veiled power grab through more government, more regulation, and political speech repression. To call this legislation the For the People Act is borderline ludicrous.

H.R. 1 would eliminate States' authority to set voting qualifications, restore voting rights of convicted felons even if it contradicts State or local policy, outlaw voter verification, and force taxpayers to subsidize anonymous donations even if it is for a candidate they do not support.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. H.R. 1 is not for the people but, rather, an attempt to expand power to Federal

bureaucrats and unelected Federal judges, undercutting the will of everyday citizens and the Constitution.

This is not reform. This is a shameless attempt to keep one party in power, and the American people deserve better.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, everyone deserves to feel safe in their community, whether they are at work, at home, at school, or at church.

Less than 2 weeks ago, five people, four of whom were my constituents, left their homes for work at the Henry Pratt Company in Aurora, Illinois, and never returned. Their lives were taken by a horrific act of gun violence. I am committed to honoring the lives of victims of gun violence through action.

H.R. 1112 is a commonsense and bipartisan bill that will help address a deficiency in background check laws by allowing law enforcement to conduct a thorough background check. I am proud to cosponsor an amendment that will help ensure this legislation improves the safety of victims of domestic violence, domestic abuse, dating partner violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Yesterday was the first time in more than two decades that the U.S. House of Representatives passed a major gun safety bill, and today we have an opportunity to take a further step. H.R. 1112 will help save innocent lives, and I look forward to working on commonsense legislation that balances protecting our gun rights and ensuring the safety of our community.

RECOGNIZING MIKE LONG

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

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the chairman of the Conservative Party of New York and my good friend, Mike Long, who has stepped down from this position after decades of service.

Mike Long was born in Brooklyn, New York, and raised in southern Queens. In 1959, Mike Long dropped out of the 12th grade to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. He felt strongly that his duty was to our country.

That commitment to sacrifice and service above self is a common thread throughout Chairman Long's life. He served on the New York City Council for a term representing Brooklyn, and he stepped up to become chairman of the Conservative Party, a position he held for 30 years, which is a testament to his character, commitment, work ethic, and determination to stand up for his principles.

He is a lifelong advocate for limited government, economic freedom and op-

portunity, constitutional liberties, and improving the lives of everyday, hard-working New Yorkers. He is one of the rare political leaders in New York who has earned deep respect from both his political allies and his political opponents.

I am proud to count him as a true friend, and I want to thank him, his wife, Eileen, and his family for his lifetime of service to New York State and the United States of America.

CONGRATULATING POLICE CHIEF LYN WOOLFORD, AMERICA'S FAVORITE CROSSING GUARD

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

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Police Chief Lyn Woolford of the Ashland, Missouri, Police Department for being voted America's Favorite Crossing Guard.

Chief Woolford was recently selected the winner of a contest sponsored by Safe Kids Worldwide, a nonprofit organization that works on behalf of families and communities to keep children safe from injuries. As a result of this competition, the Ashland School District will receive \$10,000 to improve pedestrian safety.

Chief Woolford can be seen every schoolday guarding intersections near Ashland's schools to make sure that children get across the road safely, and the children—many of whom, along with their parents, voted for him online—love him.

It is not unusual to see Chief Woolford wearing colorful hats and outfits as he guides the children safely across the road. It might be a bright chicken hat or a multicolored parrot hat. No matter the hat, the mission is the same: to brighten the children's day and to see that they get to school safely.

Through his actions, the children have a community role model and a beloved friend in their local police department. Ashland Police Chief Lyn Woolford epitomizes the service of our law enforcement officials and deserves our thanks and appreciation.

Congratulations, Chief Woolford. You truly are making a difference.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF RITA SMITH-WADE-EL

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, today, during Black History Month, I rise to celebrate Rita Smith-Wade-El, a leader in my community of Lancaster. Rita passed away last month, but her impact will be felt in our community forever.

She was a fierce leader on social justice issues and racial equality in our community. Her life can best be described as a life of service and a life of compassion. She served as a lector, eucharistic minister, and social justice