

The images we saw that day will live with us forever. And for those who were at the school that day when these horrific events unfolded, or who lost loved ones as a result, the pain and sadness they feel today is just as real as it was 20 years ago.

As time goes on, the memories of those we lost that day will never be forgotten. They were sons and daughters, sisters and brothers, friends and loved ones.

Each with their own story to tell. Each with their own goals and ambitions. And each with their own group of loved ones who still miss them terribly.

Cassie Bernall, who was 17 years old, was a dedicated member of her church youth group and wanted to eventually be a doctor.

Steven Curnow, at age 14, was a talented soccer player and avid Star Wars fan who had hoped to one day pilot an F-16 fighter jet.

Corey DePooter, age 17, loved fishing, and was working at a local golf course to earn enough money to one day buy his own boat.

Kelly Fleming, age 16, was a skilled writer who loved to read and dreamed of one day re-creating her own stories for others to read.

Matthew Kechter, age 16, was a straight-A student, who was on his way to becoming a starting lineman on the school's football team.

Daniel Mauser, age 15, was also a straight-A student and a valued member of the school's cross-country and debate teams.

Danny Rohrbough, age 15, would save all the money he earned working at his family's business to buy Christmas presents for his loved ones at the end of the year.

William "Dave" Sanders, age 47, was a beloved teacher and coach, who sacrificed his own safety that day to help more than 100 students flee to safety.

Rachel Scott, age 17, was an inspiring writer and actress who had written her diary before the attack about the importance of reaching out to those who are being picked on by others.

Isaiah Shoels, age 18, was a budding keyboardist who had dreamed of following in his father's footsteps by becoming a record producer.

John Tomlin, age 16, loved spending time with his church youth group, and planned on serving in our nation's armed forces after graduation.

Lauren Townsend, age 18, loved animals, and when she wasn't leading the girls varsity volleyball team, you could find her working after school at the local animal shelter.

Kyle Velasquez, age 16, loved ice cream and always wore a big smile. He, too, had hoped to enlist in the military one day, just like his father.

The shooting that took place at Columbine 20 years ago this weekend was, at the time, the deadliest high-school mass shooting in our nation's history; and it would likely have been much worse had it not been for the bravery shown by all those who responded to the scene that day.

The selflessness and courage many of our first responders exhibited that day, in the face of such grave danger, saved countless lives. And, while it may have been 20 years ago, we are still extremely grateful for their efforts.

We're also thankful for all those who helped our community come together in the wake of a tragedy.

People like Columbine's principal, Frank DeAngelis, whose outstanding leadership

helped students, teachers and parents, alike, overcome a tragedy.

I'll never forget watching Frank lead hundreds of students back to campus for the first time, just four months after the shooting. They were all wearing t-shirts with the words "We are Columbine" written across the front.

We are Columbine. It was just three little words—but the message it sent was as powerful as any I've ever seen.

Sadly, in the 20 years since the tragic events that unfolded at Columbine that day, we have seen similar tragedies play out again and again across this country.

We can and must do more to protect our communities from the threat of gun violence.

As hundreds of friends and neighbors come together in Columbine on Saturday to honor those who were lost as a result of this tragedy, I hope we, as a nation, can also come together and recommit ourselves to enacting the commonsense solutions that we all know are needed to better protect the ones we love.

Because, as those students said 20 years ago: We are Columbine. We are all Columbine.

And we all have a responsibility to act to ensure that another tragic shooting—such as the one we saw at Columbine—never happens again.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE MARIJUANA IN FEDERALLY ASSISTED HOUSING PARITY ACT

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 18, 2019*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Marijuana in Federally Assisted Housing Parity Act. My bill would permit the use of marijuana in federally assisted housing, including public housing and Section 8 housing, in compliance with the marijuana laws of the state where the property is located.

Individuals living in federally assisted housing should not be denied admission, or fear eviction, for using a legal product. Adult use and/or medical marijuana is currently legal in 33 states and the District of Columbia, and over 90 percent of Americans support legalized medical marijuana. Under current federal law, the users of drugs that are illegal under federal law, including marijuana, are prohibited from being admitted into federally assisted housing. Moreover, federal law allows landlords to evict residents of federally assisted housing for drug use. Even the Food and Drug Administration has recently supported approving certain medication made from cannabis, including Eipdiolex, which would be administered as a syrup. Eipdiolex is used to treat children who suffer from seizures. Notably, the drug does not contain tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the psychoactive component in cannabis.

For the last several years, Congress has prohibited the Department of Justice (DOJ) from using federal funds to prevent jurisdictions from implementing their medical marijuana laws. This bill would similarly allow individuals to use marijuana in federally assisted housing in compliance with the state's marijuana laws.

Under my bill, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) must also develop

regulations that restrict smoking marijuana in federally assisted housing in the same manner and to the same locations as the Secretary restricts smoking tobacco in federally assisted public housing.

HUD, like DOJ, should not be allowed to enforce federal marijuana laws where states have taken action to legalize marijuana. The Marijuana in Federally Assisted Housing Parity Act states that a person may not be denied federally assisted housing based on the use of marijuana in compliance with the marijuana laws of the state where the property is located.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF KIM FRANKSON, JESS JOHNSON, AND LAURIE ORTEL OF ASHLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

#### HON. BEN CLINE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 18, 2019*

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise alongside Rep. MICHAEL BURGESS and Rep. VAN TAYLOR to honor Kim Frankson, Jess Johnson, and Laurie Ortel of Ashley Elementary School in the Frisco Independent School District. At the end of last year, these North Texas school administrators used quick thinking and teamwork to help save a life 1,200 miles away.

In December 2018, Ashley Elementary School principal Kim Frankson, assistant principal Laurie Ortel, and counselor Jess Johnson received a concerning message from a student via the STOPit app, an online platform designed to allow students and parents to send anonymous reports of bullying to school officials.

The North Texas educators soon discovered that the student was in Waynesboro, Virginia—more than 1,000 miles from Frisco—and sprang into action. As Laurie Ortel said in an interview with the Dallas Morning News: "We didn't know her, but in that moment, she became ours."

In spite of the distance, Jess Johnson began communicating with the student, who was threatening suicide, on the STOPit app. At the same time, Kim Frankson and Laurie Ortel attempted to contact the Waynesboro Police Department and administrators at the student's school, which already had closed for winter break. Thanks to the efforts of the North Texas teachers, local authorities in Virginia were able to locate the endangered teenager and provide lifesaving assistance.

Thankfully, the student's message for help reached the right people.

On February 14, 2019, the Dallas Morning News published an article telling their story. In recognition of their lifesaving efforts, Kim Frankson, Laurie Ortel, and Jess Johnson were honored at the Frisco ISD board meeting on April 8, 2019. They were presented the inaugural Helping Hands Life Saver Award from the makers of the STOPit mobile app, and have received well-earned praise from Americans in North Texas, Virginia, and around the country.

As Members of Congress representing Frisco, Texas and Waynesboro, Virginia, we extend our sincere gratitude to these North