

national ag groups. I look forward to working with them, to working with the Agriculture Committee, to working with House leadership to move this concept forward.

We also have another option. USDA could do this administratively, and we continue to discuss with them the opportunity to get this success in that way.

INVESTING IN GUN VIOLENCE RESEARCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge action to end the public health crisis of gun violence.

Every day, nearly 100 people are killed in suicides, homicides, and accidents involving guns, but we have not invested nearly enough in preventing these deaths. Of the top 30 causes of death, 29 received more research funding than guns. But today, this body will vote to invest in gun violence research at the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health.

I recently visited the Centers for Disease Control Injury Center which is in my district. With this critical funding, they will learn how we can prevent gun tragedies. This investment is long overdue, and I was proud to lead my colleagues in asking for this funding.

We have the responsibility to pursue life-saving research, and today we vote to end gun violence.

As a survivor of gun violence, I could not be more proud of the measures that we have taken to save the countless numbers of lives that may be affected by gun violence in the future. The time has passed for my son. The time has passed for others like my son who was killed unnecessarily due to gun violence, but I am so grateful for this day.

I am so grateful for the funding for the research that will save many, many lives for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING HONDA MANUFACTURING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Honda Manufacturing of Indiana for reaching the milestone of 2 million vehicles built in Indiana. This accomplishment is a testament to Honda's commitment to Indiana, the Sixth District, and to Greensburg. It is also a testament to the strength and capabilities of our workforce in the Sixth District and across Indiana.

With employment of more than 2,500 Hoosiers and investment exceeding \$1 billion, Honda Manufacturing of Indiana now has the capacity to produce 250,000 vehicles a year. In 2018 alone, Honda purchased more than \$2.2 billion in parts from 51 suppliers located in Indiana.

On behalf of the people of Indiana's Sixth Congressional District, I want to congratulate Honda in Greensburg on achieving this incredible milestone.

RECOGNIZING HOOSIERS ATTENDING MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMIES

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Hoosiers who are answering the call to serve. The Sixth District of Indiana has an outstanding history in our Nation's Armed Forces.

Today, we take a minute to recognize a few young men and women from the Sixth District who are continuing that tradition of service.

This year, the Sixth District of Indiana will be sending 10 students to the military academies across the country.

Noah Algee of Columbus, Christian Hunt of Yorktown, Zachary Kuhn of Shelbyville, and Caroline Swenson of Columbus will be attending West Point Military Academy.

Finn Anderson of Columbus, Nathan Dickman of Richmond, and Sam Russell of Columbus will be attending the Naval Academy.

Sam Horak of Columbus, Michael McGaha of Hope, and Emma Smith of Columbus will be attending the Air Force Academy.

Congratulations to these 10 young Hoosiers who make all of us proud. I thank them for choosing a path of service to our country.

BIODIESEL TAX CREDIT HELPS HOOSIERS

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass the Biodiesel Tax Credit Extension Act of 2019 so that Hoosier biodiesel producers and farmers can operate with some certainty.

Biodiesel is a big market for soybeans in my district. Biodiesel companies and their employees are facing an uncertain future because the biodiesel tax incentive has been expired for 15 months.

The economic pressure is threatening the future of the industry, putting good-paying jobs and production of domestic fuel at stake. It is adding economic pressure to farmers, especially in our home State of Indiana, who are already being hit hard by unfavorable weather conditions.

If enacted, this bill will provide agriculture economy certainty and relief for 2018 and 2019. The fact that it has expired has put the brakes on the development of new biodiesel plants, and it has curtailed biodiesel production.

The biodiesel tax incentive helps Hoosier producers and farmers continue to invest in our future for growth, creating jobs and economic opportunity.

REINVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I want to reiterate my commitment to reinvesting in our infrastructure. As a businessman with experience in transporting goods, I understand the critical role of infrastructure in our economy.

We must put our partisan differences aside and explore every avenue to upgrade America's infrastructure. Of course, we must be transparent and de-

liberate. The plan must be cost effective with tangible returns on our investment.

In Indiana, we have a website where you can see the dollars being dedicated to infrastructure, and you can track each taxpayer-funded project, its progress towards completion, and we need to do this at the Federal level.

As the crossroads of America, the rest of the Nation can look to Indiana for guidance on how to get something done to upgrade America's crumbling infrastructure.

SUPPORTING PROUD VENEZUELAN PATRIOTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House approved an amendment I offered to the State-Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2020, and I wanted to take this opportunity to explain the amendment.

There is a humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, and it is man-made. In my view, the people of Venezuela will not prosper as long as the regime of Nicolas Maduro remains in power. The regime has proven itself to be cruel, incompetent, and anti-democratic. It is driving what was one of Latin America's most vibrant nations into the ground.

The United States cannot be passive. We must stand behind the proud Venezuelan patriots who are struggling to reclaim their country from the regime that is destroying it.

Like last year's bill, this year's State-Foreign Operations bill provides \$17.5 million for USAID and State Department programs to promote democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela. This funding is drawn from the nearly \$2.2 billion in economic support funds that the bill provides for countries around the world. That is good, but we can and we should do better.

Because the situation in Venezuela has significantly worsened in recent months, our amendment would increase the \$17.5 million for Venezuela by \$3 million for a total of \$20.5 million. This enhanced funding will be used for five main purposes in Venezuela: to defend human rights, strengthen civil society, improve governance, support independent media, and promote fair and transparent elections.

Currently, USAID programs in Venezuela are being conducted through several U.S.-based implementing partners who, in turn, work with over 35 Venezuelan subpartners. The respected organization, Freedom House, ranks Venezuela as not free. According to Freedom House, conditions have grown sharply worse in recent years due to the continued concentration of power in executive and harsher crackdowns on the opposition.

As a result, USAID programs to support human rights defenders in civil society groups are critical. U.S. support

enables these groups to document abuses by the regime and to keep the hope of democracy alive in an increasingly authoritarian country.

Venezuela is one of the most dangerous places in Latin America and the Caribbean to be a human rights defender. The Maduro regime is currently being investigated for crimes against humanity by the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Organization of American States has similarly denounced the regime's abuses. These men and women on the ground in Venezuela put their lives on the line to expose the regime's failings, and they need our support.

On the media front, the regime has arrested and abused journalists, both Venezuelan journalists and foreign journalists, operating in the country, including a prominent American journalist. Harassment from the government has led most independent radio, TV, and print outlets to close. Social media has, at times, been blocked, including during the recent uprisings against Maduro. USAID programs are critical to overcome government censorship and propaganda.

On the democracy front, Maduro was reelected in May of 2018 in a snap election that failed to meet minimum international standards and was widely condemned as illegitimate. The sooner that civil society and international actors can weigh in on how to improve the National Electoral Council and reform the electoral system more broadly, the sooner free and fair Presidential elections can be held.

This is the goal of the Guaido government. It is also the goal of the Lima Group which is composed of Latin American countries and Canada and which is seeking a just solution to the crisis in Venezuela. It is a goal that merits continued American support.

I am proud that my colleagues voted for this amendment. It is a vote for the people of Venezuela who have suffered so much under this terrible regime.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PATRICIA FINDER-STONE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable woman and a remarkable Wisconsinite, Patricia Finder-Stone. She was simply incredible: a wife, a mother, a grandmother, an educator, a veteran, and a community activist. Her life serves as an example of what it really means to be passionately involved in a community and committed to giving back.

During the Korean war, she left her nursing job in Chicago to serve her country in the Air Force where she proudly served at the Northeast Air Command in Greenland, and upon leaving the military, she married her husband, Mark, and raised their four children in northeast Wisconsin.

Pat then returned to school and received her bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin Green Bay and her master's from UW-Madison, graduating both times with honors.

She practiced nursing throughout her life and spread her passion for nursing to others by teaching at schools around Wisconsin including Bellin College of Nursing and Northeast Wisconsin Technical College. She was well known and incredibly involved in the healthcare community and was a proud recipient of both the American Cancer Society's St. George National Award and the NWTC Teacher of the Year Award.

Beyond her nursing career, Pat was an active community volunteer, sharing her time and talents to serve on the boards of multiple health advocacy groups in northeast Wisconsin.

She worked with both Democrat and Republican leadership in Wisconsin on a number of health policy issues, including educating the public on the negative effects of tobacco and improving care for the aging population.

She served as the president of the League of Women Voters of Greater Green Bay and sat on the state board of the League of Women Voters.

Pat's extraordinary life of service to her family, community, and country reminds us all of the importance of community engagement and civic responsibility. Pat's passing will be mourned for many across northeast Wisconsin, and her impact on our community will not soon be forgotten. But my hope is her life stands as a reminder of how important it is to be involved and how lucky we all are to be Americans.

There are a lot of people when you are a Member of Congress who come into your office. Some are angry with you, some are happy with you, but some really find a way past the political moment and find a way to touch your heart, and Pat was one of those people. My prayers and condolences go out to her family and to all the lives she has touched.

RECOGNIZING GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gun Violence Awareness Month and call upon the Senate to protect the lives of innocent Americans by passing commonsense gun reform measures that have already passed the House.

This past February, in my district in Aurora, Illinois, five innocent people were killed and six police officers injured when a person who shouldn't legally have had a gun opened fire in a workplace, trying to kill as many people as he could. And earlier this month, we witnessed another horrific shooting in Virginia Beach where 12 more innocent lives were taken.

These tragedies have become too common in America. The victims are

our family members, our friends, and our neighbors.

The House has already passed legislation that would, in fact, cure a fraction of this epidemic of gun violence, but the Senate refuses to act.

Commonsense gun reform is supported by an overwhelming majority of Americans, and Congress has a responsibility to protect innocent lives. Every American deserves the right to live their lives free from the fear of violence and without worry that their next trip to work, to school, or their place of worship may be their last.

Thoughts and prayers are not enough. We cannot wait for the next tragedy. The Senate must act now.

FUNDING FOR WAR AND THE WAR POWERS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we spent many hours in this Chamber talking about the amendments to the appropriations bill, this combination of several appropriations bills, that we will pass later this week.

What I would like to take a minute to talk about is an amendment I didn't offer because we got the material in the base text.

Our Constitution creates a tension between Article I and Article II when it comes to the power to wage war: the Commander in Chief on the one hand versus the authority of Congress to declare war on the other.

Thomas Jefferson determined that it was necessary to get the approval of Congress before he deployed Marines to the shores of Tripoli, our first non-declared war, our first intervention in the Middle East, and a precedent that should have been followed by subsequent Presidents.

But in fact, since the days of Jefferson, on many occasions, Presidents just sent our troops in without seeking authority from Congress. That is why in 1973, in the wake of the Vietnam war, this Congress passed the War Powers Act, also known as the War Powers Resolution. It provides that the President cannot deploy for more than 60 or 90 days without an authorization to use military force.

Now, that act of 1973 is not everything it should be because it did not encompass the idea of bombing without deploying troops for periods of 60 or 90 days. It is unclear, perhaps. It is in need of revision, perhaps, but it is the only legal restraint on a President committing us to war without any approval from this Congress.

But every Attorney General since the 1970s has advised Presidents that the War Powers Act isn't actually binding on them, that a President can send unlimited troops into battle for an unlimited period for any purpose. This is not what should be, and yet many constitutional scholars agree with these provisions, with this interpretation. That is