

As Congress considers ways to address the deadly gun violence that is plaguing too many of our communities, one of the central themes and solutions to consider are ways to increase resources and training available to community members themselves to help prevent or de-escalate conflict that can help break the deadly cycle that violence has in our communities.

There is no question that stronger gun laws are an important part of efforts to prevent gun violence. I again urge Senator MCCONNELL to take up the bills the House has already passed that would help strengthen background checks, a move which is broadly supported by the American public, and to close the Charleston loophole that allows gun sales to go through if not completed within three days.

But just as critical is the need to develop and strengthen community wide resources and tools that can help prevent violence, including gun violence, in the first place. One such way is to increase support so that a broader range of individuals in communities can learn conflict prevention and de-escalation and violence interruption strategies that can help prevent situations from turning violent while helping to connect individuals to community supports.

Now more than ever we need to explore all the ways to end this epidemic of violence. A study published in the October 2019 issue of Health Affairs shows that the rate at which Americans died from firearm injuries increased sharply starting in 2015. And while high profile mass shootings make up a small portion of these incidences, the vast majority are from the daily violence that too many of our communities continue to endure.

According to that study, the United States saw a 14 percent rise in the rate of gun-related deaths of all kinds from 2015 to 2017 compared with the rate from 1999 to 2014.

Like other cities around the country, the city of Milwaukee has experienced multiple forms of violence that have caused significant injury and trauma for individuals, families, and neighborhoods. From 2010 to 2016, there has been a 76 percent increase in firearm-related homicide victims, a 38 percent increase in nonfatal shooting victims, and a 43 percent increase in combined victims.

During this time of crisis with violence happening around the country, we need to focus on how all elements of our society, government and the communities themselves, can work to help end violence.

We need to invest in policies and programs that could literally save lives. Communities standing together can make a difference.

I applaud the organizations that have come together to sponsor this week and help make our communities safer including Black Women for Positive Change, the National Black Nurses Association, Moms Demand Action and others.

In addition, governors in Wisconsin, Colorado, Michigan, and Virginia have all issued proclamations recognizing this week.

HONORING ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Rockland Community College as the in-

stitution begins a year-long celebration of its 60th anniversary this month.

Six decades ago, a group of community leaders boldly transformed an old almshouse and 27 acres of farm land into an institution of higher education. Since then, Rockland Community College has provided quality, affordable education to students of all ages and been an important resource to the residents of the Lower Hudson Valley.

The institution's motto—"to learn, to search, to serve"—has guided students in their academic journeys ensuring they are supported every step of the way. With more than 500 full and part-time faculty members, support and one-on-one help is readily available to all students.

Madam Speaker, I urge my fellow Members of Congress to join me in expressing congratulations and thanks to both former and current Rockland Community College administrators, Board members, faculty, staff and students for making and keeping the college such a vibrant part of our community for 60 years.

RECOGNIZING HISTORIC DOWNTOWN DELAWARE, OHIO FOR THEIR DESIGNATION OF "GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD" BY THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION

HON. TROY BALDERSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Mr. BALDERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Delaware, Ohio as they are recognized by the American Planning Association as one of America's "Great Neighborhoods."

The American Planning Association introduced the first of its annual "Great Places" list in 2007 as a way to acknowledge the ingenuity and precision of city planners, city members, and local organizations around the country. The American Planning Association strives to expose the importance of city planners and their impact on communities.

Chosen from a pool of 200 nominees, Downtown Delaware became one of four neighborhoods around the country to receive this prestigious title. Throughout the nomination process, Downtown Delaware stood out for its outstanding revitalization and attention to the city's history. This impressive balance between historical preservation and innovative expansion can be credited to the city planners, business owners, workers, and community members of Historic Downtown Delaware that dedicated their time to improving their city.

The historic downtown area remains as one of Delaware's defining elements. Rooted in 200 years of history, Downtown Delaware's charm and antiquity have withstood the test of time. This achievement showcases both the beauty of this historic community as well as the thorough planning that went into the creation of Downtown Delaware. Downtown Delaware's revival has been decades in the making and Delaware's nomination as one of America's Great Neighborhoods is the honor this city and its dedicated citizens deserve.

Downtown Delaware's established history, set alongside up-and-coming innovations and improvements, creates for a one-of-a-kind city found in the heart of Ohio. The efforts of

Downtown Delaware's city planners and the community as a whole set high standards for cities all over America. As the city of Delaware celebrates its new title with the community on Thursday, October 17th, I cannot express how honored I am to serve the committed people of Delaware as their efforts resulted in this national recognition.

HONORING MR. LUIS LAURO LONGORIA

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Luis Lauro Longoria, a marine, a father, and a leader.

Mr. Longoria was born in La Grulla, Texas, on June 5, 1950, before he moved to Longview, Texas. In Longview, Luis attended Hart High School and graduated alongside a high school class of 32 students. After high school, Luis made the selfless and honorable decision to enlist in the military—at only 18 years old.

Mr. Luis Lauro Longoria chose to enlist in the United States Marine Corps in 1968, where he became a M60 Machine Gunner and a Recon Marine. Mr. Longoria honorably served in the Vietnam War and was stationed at Marine Quang Tri Province DMZ, Vietnam. While enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, Mr. Longoria served this country for four years of his early life, experiencing many aspects of military life.

Mr. Luis Lauro Longoria was decorated with two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star Medal for the injuries he sustained and courage he showed during his time in Vietnam. Everything we hold dear as a community, state, and country is owed to the brave sacrifice of service members like Mr. Longoria. I know that his legacy will inspire future generations to honorably serve our fellow man.

Mr. Longoria later returned to the United States where he met and married his wife, Olivia Longoria. Luis and Olivia have now been married for over 40 years and are the proud parents to their two sons, Luis Longoria II and Oly Longoria.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Luis Lauro Longoria fought to defend the values of the United States during the Vietnam War. He sacrificed his body, not once, but twice to accomplish the missions he was tasked with. He serves as both a light in our community and a leader. It is an honor to represent a dedicated and selfless individual who has greatly impacted the future of the United States and our beloved community. I wish Mr. Longoria the best in his future endeavors. I yield back the balance of my time.

RECOGNIZING STATESVILLE BRICK COMPANY FOR 128 YEARS OF BUSINESS

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Statesville Brick Company for 128 years of business.