

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Murray, Kentucky, home of Murray State University, for its recent distinction as one of the top 50 safest college towns in America. Murray is a beacon of educational excellence and is an invaluable asset to the First Congressional District of Kentucky.

Through analysis of violent crime rates across the Nation, SafeWise, a safety-focused consumer research firm, found that Murray exhibited exceptionally low crime rates. This finding further highlights an already notable community in my district.

I applaud the work Murray has done to achieve this recognition and commend Murray State University on the collegial environment it has developed for its more than 8,000 students. When students come to Murray State, they not only join the academic community, but they also become citizens of the entire Murray family.

Once again, I congratulate the residents and leaders of Murray on this award and urge them to continue their tradition of excellence.

GUN VIOLENCE PROTECTION AND ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

(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, the shooting in Santa Clarita yesterday marks the 365th mass shooting this year. At least one of those shootings rocked my own community.

Today is exactly 9 months since the senseless workplace shooting in Aurora, Illinois, that took the lives of Trevor Wehner, Clayton Parks, Russell Beyer, Vicente Juarez, and Josh Pinkard. Some of the heroic police officers who responded to that shooting just returned to full duty this week.

This does not have to be the norm. This year, the House passed bipartisan legislation that would save lives by implementing universal background checks for every gun purchased. The Senate needs to pass it and to send it to the President.

And we should do more still. I support legislation that would prevent gun violence by: one, committing Federal funds to study it for the public health crisis that it is; two, keeping guns out of the hands of known domestic abusers; and, three, just this week, I cosponsored the Assault Weapons Ban of 2019, because weapons of war do not belong in our neighborhoods.

These are commonsense policies that would save countless lives: children's lives, first responders' lives, our own neighbors' lives.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT JOSEPH RICHARD III

(Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Joseph Richard III, a Louisiana native who gave his life fighting for our country during a third tour in Iraq in his 5 years of U.S. military service.

Sergeant Richard was deeply devoted to his family and his country. He was a loving husband, son, brother, and uncle who dedicated much of his life to ensuring his loved ones—and every single one of us—were able to enjoy the many freedoms we too often take for granted.

Sergeant Richard was the recipient of 12 distinguished service medals, including the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

He made the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefield fighting against one of our Nation's fiercest enemies, and, for that, he will never be forgotten.

In fact, his parents, Joe and Elaine Richard, were both here in D.C. with us last week to memorialize forever their son's sacrifice in the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project.

I take this moment to extend my sincerest and deepest appreciation to them and the countless others whose lives were blessed by Sergeant Richard. No one understands the true life of freedom more deeply.

I pray that God's grace continues to comfort them, and I thank them for their service and sacrifices over the many years. We know our soldiers don't serve alone.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard, thank you for raising a hero. We will also work hard here in Congress to honor your sacrifice and the sacrifices all of our soldiers make.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, over 7 million American men, women, and children depend on insulin to keep themselves alive; but, between 2012 and 2016, the price of insulin nearly doubled, forcing many of these Americans to ration this lifesaving drug.

It is unacceptable.

What we hear over and over again from big pharmaceutical companies is that these price hikes are necessary to pay for new research. But insulin isn't new. The first patent for insulin came out in 1923—almost 100 years ago.

The simple truth is that the drug companies keep hiking their prices on us because they can get away with it. As a result, Americans are made to suffer and make impossible sacrifices while the same drugs get sold in foreign countries for much cheaper.

That is why I am proud to support the Lower Drug Costs Now Act, smart legislation which would allow Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices for American citizens.

TAMAQUA FOOTBALL AND PENN STATE SCHUYLKILL CROSS-COUNTRY

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

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize several impressive athletic accomplishments that have recently taken place in Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District.

Last Friday night, Tamaqua football made history as they secured their first-ever district championship. After coming close to winning the championship for the past several seasons, I applaud the team's resilience and grit.

But football isn't the only sport to talk about in the Ninth Congressional District these days. For the third consecutive year, Penn State Schuylkill women's cross-country team took home the conference title at the Pennsylvania State University Athletic Conference Championships. This is the first time Penn State Schuylkill has achieved a three-peat. They are truly a sports dynasty.

Congratulations to both Sam Bonner, head football coach at Tamaqua High School, and Joe Muldowney, head cross-country coach at Penn State Schuylkill, for leading their teams to victory.

Perseverance and dedication are defining characteristics of Pennsylvanians. I am incredibly proud of the Tamaqua football and Penn State Schuylkill women's cross-country teams for these accomplishments.

And always, I am very honored to represent the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District.

SANTA CLARITA

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

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address yet another tragic school shooting. Yesterday, a gunman killed two students and wounded three others in Santa Clarita, California.

While we continue to gather the facts and pray for everyone in that California community, we must also continue to fight for action on gun violence.

It has been 261 days since the House passed the Bipartisan Background Checks Act. That bill is buried in MITCH MCCONNELL's legislative graveyard. In that time, at least 320 mass shootings have occurred.

While I don't expect Senate Republicans to agree with every word of every bill that we pass here in the House, I do expect them to do their job. They need to hold hearings. They need to have a vote.

The American people deserve better.