

□ 1015

We have passed H.R. 1112, the Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2019, which would close the Charleston loophole.

We have passed a bill that gives the CDC and the NIH \$25 million to study gun violence, the first of its kind in over 20 years.

I have even introduced a bill that would give loved ones and law enforcement more tools to keep guns away from those who are a danger to themselves or to others; tools that may have helped Mary save her brother, Ben's life.

With every unnecessary shooting, we continue to feel the weight of this injustice; and I personally know that sense of injustice.

When my son, Jordan, was killed, I found myself asking America, how could you allow this to happen to my child, my family, to my Jordan? And after Parkland, I knew that this country needed to stand up and to do something about it.

I knew that I had something that I had to do, and I knew that I needed to stand up for families like mine in Marietta, Georgia, who are terrified that their children will not come home from school, and they are terrified of being me.

So I made a promise to my community that I would act. And I promised that I would take all the love and the support and protection that I had given to my child and use it to serve the American people. I promised I would always be a mother on a mission to save the lives of children from across America, children like my son.

During this Gun Violence Survivors Week, I pray that we all remember that this is in our hands. Families like Mary's, children graduating from high school, communities in Charleston, in Columbine, in Parkland, in Sandy Hook, in Dayton, in El Paso, in Las Vegas, in the hundreds of places where shooters and shootings don't even make the news. Their lives are in our hands.

I thank my colleagues, and survivors, and volunteers, and advocates across this country for their tireless work to protect our families.

May God bless us all in this fight to save American lives.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF OFFICER ALAN MCCOLLUM

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

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor and to mourn the loss of one of Corpus Christi Police Department's finest, Officer Alan McCollum, who was tragically killed in the line of duty.

President Ronald Reagan once said: "There can be no more noble vocation than the protection of one's fellow citizens."

Officer McCollum was a compassionate, devoted, and admired public servant who dutifully worked to keep south Texas safe.

Before serving as a police officer, Officer McCollum served 21 years in the U.S. Army, earning the Bronze Star and numerous other accolades. Following the Army, his service to others continued by joining the Corpus Christi Police Department in 2013, where he was a valued member of the Honor Guard and SWAT team.

Last year, he once again demonstrated his willingness to sacrifice his own safety for others by helping push an overturned car back on its wheels after it had caught fire, saving the life of the driver.

On Saturday, Officer McCollum paid the ultimate price, sacrificing himself, while upholding the rule of law.

Scripture tells us that the Lord is near to the brokenhearted and those who are crushed in spirit. Right now, so many of us, in Texas, the Corpus Christi Police Department, and the family of Officer McCollum, are brokenhearted.

Our prayers are for his family and friends touched by this tragedy, and especially his wife of 12 years, Michelle, and his three daughters, Hannah, Carissa, and Lilianna, would feel the Lord near them during this difficult time. I extend my deepest condolences to them during this extremely difficult time.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF OFFICER MICHAEL LOVE

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, this week, I had the opportunity to visit Corpus Christi Police Officer Michael Love in the hospital as he recovers from injuries he sustained in the line of duty.

Over the weekend, he was conducting a routine traffic stop when his patrol vehicle was struck, pinning him down.

I had heard from many of his fellow officers of his optimistic and indomitable spirit, which I had the opportunity to witness firsthand when I visited him and his wife, Lauren, in the hospital. He told me that, despite everything he is going through, even knowing the months of recovery that lie ahead, he would still sign up to serve our community as a Corpus Christi police officer.

We cannot express our gratitude enough for his sacrifice and his bravery.

We must continue to pray for the safety of all our first responders, and support them as they protect us, as well as their families, who they hug a little bit tighter every day as they face the dangers that lie ahead.

We are thankful for the loving, brave, and patriotic man that is Officer Michael Love, and for those who serve with him.

#### GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me say that my heart hurts for my colleague and my sister, LUCY MCBATH, as she confronts on a daily basis the pain of our failure to act on sensible gun safety legislation.

I rise today, as many of my colleagues will, almost one year since the House took the steps to curb violence by passing H.R. 8, a bill that has yet to receive any consideration in the Senate.

We are in the middle of Gun Violence Survivors Week. Yet, despite survivors' calls for action; despite the calls of parents and friends who have lost loved ones to guns; despite the calls from our young people who just want to be safe in school; and despite our calls of the communities who want to be safe in their homes, we have yet to get H.R. 8, or any other gun violence bill considered in the Senate.

The paralysis around preventing gun violence is disgusting, and it is deadly. This story line that preventing people from buying assault weapons or stockpiling ammunition is somehow infringing upon their rights is deeply hurtful, and it is wrong thinking.

Including suicides by guns, there were 177 deaths on New Year's Day alone. There were three mass shootings, and the lives lost included three children between the ages of 12 and 17. That's just one day, the first day of this year. Yet, Republicans in the Senate continue to refuse to move any bill that might keep more families from getting that phone call.

There are so many options available to us. There is the baseline, bipartisan bill, like, H.R. 8, that we have already passed in the House. There are bills that would go even further, like my own Handgun Licensing and Registration Act of 2019, and the Stop Online Ammunition Sales Act of 2019.

One would require registration for handgun purchases, just like the government requires registration and basic standards for voting, operating a vehicle, even opening a business. It would ensure accountability and allow enforcement to identify threats.

The other places a very basic principle into law; that you shouldn't be able to stockpile bullets without ID or without law enforcement being aware.

Mr. Speaker, there are bills that would keep guns out of the hands of violent criminals, and bills that would push us to study gun violence as the health crisis it is. So far, none of these seem to be good enough for most of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, or the other side of the Capitol.

We are approaching a point from which we cannot return, where failure to act will normalize gun violence in our schools, in our neighborhoods, and in our society.

The survivors that we honor today, the families of those we have lost, and the countless Americans who wonder if they might be next deserve so much more from us.