

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAHOOD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING RABBI SETH FRISCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome Rabbi Seth Frisch, who delivered today's opening prayer to the people's House.

Since his ordination in 1986, at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York, Rabbi Frisch has been a source of comfort and counsel to Jews around the world. In his current posting as rabbi and teacher of the New Shul of Philadelphia, Rabbi Frisch helps serve as a guide for those who want to learn more about what it means to be Jewish in a safe and supporting setting.

In a way, today's opening prayer was a homecoming for Rabbi Frisch, who previously served as a legislative assistant to the chairman of the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

I pray that we will all heed his words today, that out of many, we are one Nation. Let us strive to put our divisions behind us and realize our dream of a country indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of National Gun Violence Survivors Week, a time when we

remember the tragic and life-altering impact of the gun violence epidemic that continues to affect thousands of families across the country.

Every year, 36,000 Americans are killed by gun violence and 100,000 Americans are injured. In my city alone, an average of 765 people die of gun violence every year.

Too many families have been touched by this violence. Too many young people go to school afraid. Too many Americans live in fear.

Last night, the President's State of the Union only mentioned firearms once. And instead of presenting a plan, it defended the NRA.

We owe it to every survivor and to everyone who has been touched by gun violence to do more than hold a moment of science or post a hashtag on Twitter. We owe the American people real action.

PUNXSUTAWNEY PHIL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank one of the most productive, job-producing constituents in my district, Punxsutawney Phil.

Over the weekend, Punxsutawney Phil delivered us some good news: He predicted an early spring for the second year in a row.

But that is not the only good news. Groundhog Day draws tens of thousands of tourists to Jefferson County each year, which boosts revenue at local restaurants, hotels, and other small businesses.

Last week, activists claimed that Punxsutawney Phil should be replaced by an animatronic groundhog powered by artificial intelligence.

Well, I believe in creating jobs, not eliminating them. And Punxsutawney Phil is no exception. I will always stand up for the hardworking men, women, and rodents in the 15th District of Pennsylvania.

In all seriousness, Groundhog Day brings together people of all different backgrounds, and this fun family celebration reminds us of the importance of tradition. It is not only an economic stimulus in the district, but it is also a great source of pride.

GUN VIOLENCE IS AN EPIDEMIC

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, today, I rise because there is an epidemic in our country. One hundred Americans die every day from gun violence. We are 25 times more likely to die from guns than people who live in comparable nations.

Gun violence is personal to me. When I was a young boy, my sister took her

life with my father's revolver. In 2014, my community was devastated by the Isla Vista shooting that killed six people and left 14 injured.

I rise because there are commonsense solutions to curb this violent trend. One of those is my bipartisan Extreme Risk Protection Order Act of 2019, which will help ensure people who have demonstrated that they are at risk of hurting themselves or others temporarily don't have access to guns. The bill passed out of the committee. I now ask the House to bring this legislation to the floor.

The House has already sent two bipartisan background check bills to the Senate; yet, Senate Majority Leader McConnell has not acted. There is no excuse.

I will continue to rise until we end this epidemic.

HIGHLIGHTING IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING THE SECOND AMENDMENT

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

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance of protecting the Second Amendment to the Constitution.

In my district, Commissioners in Davidson, Davie, Iredell, and Rowan Counties in North Carolina recently passed resolutions that simply affirm the Second Amendment rights of their residents and declare that these counties will never participate in the infringement of those rights through unconstitutional gun control.

Anti-gun politicians in neighboring Virginia and other States are trying to undermine and overturn the Second Amendment. That is why these measures in my State are both necessary and timely.

I commend these counties, and I remain fully committed to defending the rights of responsible, law-abiding gun owners.

Madam Speaker, it is a people problem, not a device problem.

GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

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

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, it pains me to stand before you today and recognize Gun Violence Survivors Week. As a Nation, we grieve for all the lives lost senselessly and all those who must live in the wake of these acts of horror.

This week alone, we have seen another school devastated by gun violence, another community uncertain how to move forward.

Our country is faced with a growing epidemic, and it is our responsibility as lawmakers to take action to protect our communities.