

the President's State of the Union speech on national TV considered the proper decorum of the House?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will not give an advisory opinion. The House may address this matter in the format of 1-minute speeches.

□ 1815

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

(Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Madam Speaker, getting back to the business of the people, this week is National Gun Violence Survivors Week when we honor and remember the lives that we have lost to gun violence, those whom we have loved and miss terribly, people like my father, Guido Mucarsel; Jaime Guttenberg; De'Michael Dukes; Joaquin Oliver; Tel Orfanos; Jerry Wright; and all of their loved ones who now must live with the pain forever.

The sad reality is that 58 percent of Americans or someone they know has experienced gun violence in their lifetime. The number of gun violence survivors increases in each passing day, tragedy after tragedy. The mental and emotional toll on survivors is immense, and many people are thrust into financial hardship.

These are experiences that no one chooses to endure. We must not only remember those who have died but also those who have survived and do all we can to help them in their never-ending journey toward healing.

To all of those who are remembering a loved one this week, we stand with you.

REMEMBERING BONNIE DUVALL

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Ms. Bonnie Duvall, who passed away on January 18 at the age of 61 after a brave battle with cancer.

Ms. Duvall was known to many as the first lady of American agriculture. She was married to Mr. Zippy Duvall, the president of the American Farm Bureau, and enjoyed accompanying him to Farm Bureau events across the country. She was also the loving mother of one of my former staff members, Zellie, who was with me on my first day here at the Capitol.

Throughout her life, her dedication to the farming community made a lasting impact on agriculture in southeast Georgia, and there is no doubt that she is leaving it in a better place than she found it.

On her own farm, she used her business expertise gained at the University of Georgia to keep the books. She was

named the 1982 National Young Farmer and Rancher of the Year, and she was a consistent member of the Greene County Farm Bureau Women's Committee.

Most importantly, she was an overall inspiring and genuine person who will always be remembered for her optimistic attitude. Ms. Duvall is going to be deeply missed throughout the agriculture community.

Zellie, Zippy, and the entire Duvall family are in my thoughts and prayers.

DEFEND AMERICAN HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

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

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in defense of the American healthcare system.

Last week, the administration proposed a new demonstration program that would allow States to apply for block grants. These would permit States to slash funding for their Medicaid programs, reduce protections for beneficiaries, and restrict eligibility standards. A recent study by George Washington University found that these changes would also result in community health centers treating 5 million fewer patients over the next 4 years.

This is unacceptable. Federal law already gives Medicaid flexibility to change from State to State. These proposed block grants are nothing more than cuts to funding for the program.

Today, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for a resolution condemning these proposed changes as what they are: attacks on our healthcare system and those with pre-existing conditions.

HONORING RONNIE SPRINKLE

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sheriff Ronnie Sprinkle, who began his service as the sheriff of Botetourt County nearly two decades ago. When Ronnie was just 6 months, his father was elected as Botetourt County sheriff and held the position for 30 years, retiring in 1991. Eight years later, the junior Sprinkle followed in his dad's footsteps and was elected to the same post, which he held until retirement last month.

Save the 8 years between his father's retirement and Ronnie's election, 2020 will mark the first time since the heart of the Vietnam war that a Sprinkle has not led the Botetourt Sheriff's Office.

I want to thank Sheriff Ronnie for his years of service to our community and congratulate him on all he has accomplished during his tenure. His tireless work to secure funding for a new public safety building and jail will not be forgotten.

The risks and responsibilities that come with being a law enforcement of-

ficer are many, and I want to express my sincere gratitude to Ronnie Sprinkle for his unwavering commitment to Botetourt County and all our men and women in blue.

PASS COMPREHENSIVE GUN REFORM

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in recognition of National Gun Violence Survivors Week.

Last month, with the leadership of my House colleagues and Senator ELIZABETH WARREN, I was proud to introduce the Gun Violence Prevention and Community Safety Act, the most comprehensive piece of gun reform legislation this Chamber has ever seen.

We will mandate universal background checks, which will help keep guns out of the hands of those who should not have them. We will crack down on gun trafficking. And we will hold the gun industry accountable for putting profits over the safety of the American people.

I promise today to fight so that not one more American is burdened with living as a gun violence survivor because of irresponsible, outdated, and morally bankrupt Federal gun policies.

BRI FOLDS GOES PRO

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

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor a talented young lady from my district.

Bri Folds, a Lakeland Christian and Auburn grad, was drafted in the fourth round of the 2020 National Woman's Soccer League draft by the North Carolina Courage.

Ms. Folds is the first player from Polk County to be drafted by the National Women's Soccer League. Folds was a two-time Lakeland Ledger Player of the Year, with 173 goals and 155 assists while at Lakeland Christian. She finished her college career ranked seventh all-time at Auburn in assists, eighth in goals, and tied for fifth in game-winning goals with nine.

I am extraordinarily proud of her dedication and drive. It is important that our community continues to invest in future generations to produce stars and leaders like Ms. Folds. Players like her will influence young girls for years to come.

I encourage all of District 15 to join me in cheering on Bri Folds when the 2020 NWSL season begins in March.

REPEAL PREFUND MANDATE ON USPS

(Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2382, the USPS Fairness Act, which passed today with large bipartisan and union support. I was proud to lead this bill with my friends and colleagues, Chairman PETER DEFAZIO and Representatives BRIAN FITZPATRICK and TOM REED.

The USPS Fairness Act will repeal the mandate for the United States Postal Service to prefund future retiree health benefits. No other government agency or private business is plagued with a mandate like this. Since 2006, the prefunding mandate has wreaked havoc on USPS's finances, costing the agency \$5.4 billion each year.

I represent one of the most rural districts in the Nation, and in southern New Mexico, post offices and postal workers are an integral part of our communities, connecting businesses to customers, pharmacies to patients, and families to friends spread across our vast country.

Congress created this prefunding crisis, so I am pleased the House of Representatives took the first step to solve it. I ask that the Senate take the next step with us.

HONORING CHIEF DANIEL SPIEGEL

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Chief Daniel Spiegel on his retirement from the Wildwood Fire Department.

Daniel spent 28 faithful years with the fire department, where he had served as chief since 2016. Daniel has the distinct honor of holding every rank in the fire department. Daniel's father also served as fire chief in Wildwood, the second-ever father-son chief in the department's history.

Daniel served in the New Jersey Task Force 1 Urban Research and Rescue and responded to the September 11 terrorist attacks, searching for survivors. He was the team leader for the Cape May County Regional Urban Search and Rescue Team, which serves all of Cape May County.

Danny was always focused on training. He trained thousands of firefighters in our entire region.

He is planning to spend more time with his wife, daughter, and two stepsons in retirement.

I thank Daniel for his service; his community thanks him for his service; and his country thanks him for his service.

Daniel, may God bless you. You are truly one of our heroes.

FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, our emerging Nation sought to be a

bright light for democracy and the rule of law. This afternoon, I sat in the Senate Chamber and watched the Senate one by one announce the words guilty or not guilty: Article I, guilty 48, not guilty 52; Article II, guilty 47, not guilty 53.

I believe the presentation of the Judiciary, Oversight, Intelligence, and Foreign Affairs Committees was brilliantly presented.

I wondered whether there would be one moment for a profile in courage, one understanding that the norm of this Nation cannot tolerate what the Framers were most frightened about, which was the constitutional crime of abuse of power or having a sovereign nation interfere with our elections. Yet, there was one in Article I that made it bipartisan in the guilt, but no one in Article II.

Simply stated, now what is the answer? That this Nation no longer loves its democracy; does not stand by the rule of law; and, therefore, the person who remains in office is a king?

I believe, Madam Speaker, that we must raise the Constitution and fight for justice.

DECORUM AND MAINTAINING CIVILITY IN THE HOUSE

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

Mr. PALMER. Madam Speaker, I rise to note, in regard to the assertion of the majority leader that the act of destroying the House copy of President Trump's State of the Union speech was speech protected under the First Amendment, I rise to assert that not all speech protected under the First Amendment is allowable under the rules of the House.

Moreover, the act of destroying the House's copy of the State of the Union Address diminishes the decorum that is critical to maintaining the civility that is expected of every Member, including and especially the Speaker.

TAKE ACTION FOR GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, during National Gun Violence Survivors Week, I rise to recognize my State of the Union guest, Mary Miller-Strobel, from my hometown of Berkeley, Michigan.

After her brother, Ben, was honorably discharged from the military, Mary grew concerned that Ben was at risk of self-harm. Mary and her father drove to every gun store in their small town, begging them not to sell Ben a gun. But they had no legal recourse to block a store from selling Ben the gun that would end his life. Ben died by suicide soon thereafter.

Had Mary been able to seek an extreme risk protection order, Ben might still be alive today.

Mary is now a Moms Demand Action leader and has turned her tragedy into a triumphant story of fighting to prevent other families from suffering this tremendous and preventable loss.

The House has passed commonsense gun violence legislation, and we will pass red flag legislation, too. Now, we need the Senate to act, for Mary and Ben, and for so many others.

□ 1830

SUPPORT OF U.S. POSTAL SERVICE FAIRNESS ACT

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2382, or the U.S. Postal Service Fairness Act up for a vote today.

Madam Speaker, 13 years ago, the Postal Service was saddled by this body when we required it—not with my support—to prefund its retirement benefits. Unfortunately, this prevented the Postal Service from addressing critical equipment modernization needs. Thankfully, this legislation allows us to correct this misguided requirement.

The post office is a constitutionally mandated institution. A sense of community is sustained every time the mailwoman or mailman delivers a letter, increasing connectivity in rural and urban districts alike. The Postal Service delivers close to 190 million pieces of mail every single day and is a testament to American ingenuity. Indeed, postal workers are the best ambassadors, receiving an overwhelmingly high public approval rating of 74 percent.

While we work to ensure the post office's financial health, we must also continue to increase innovation, such as through modernizing postal services. For example, creative initiatives could increase access to basic functions in post offices and underserved communities.

I thank my friend, Representative PETER DEFAZIO, for his true leadership on this bill, and urge all my colleagues to support its passage, and thank those who did.

PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, a crucial piece of legislation that we will take up tomorrow on the floor of this House. It is so important that