

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE
SURVIVORS WEEK

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, this week we honor the second National Gun Violence Survivors Week.

I rise today to lift the voices of survivors who live with the impact of gun violence each and every day.

Every year, over 36,000 Americans are killed in acts of gun violence and approximately 73,330 more are shot and injured.

Every day in America, one hundred people die and hundreds more are wounded by gun violence. Even more are threatened or witness gun violence.

America's gun death rate is 11 times greater than that of other developed countries.

This is why House Democrats have passed commonsense legislation like H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Check Act, and H.R. 1112, the Enhanced Background Check Act, to help End Gun Violence to keep our communities safe. Yet Leader MCCONNELL continues to block a vote on this crucial step forward.

This is SHAMEFUL.

The American people deserve ACTION. Not political gamesmanship.

We must stop the bloodshed and the tears. Our children and our communities deserve more than just thoughts and prayers—they deserve action.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. McHENRY. Madam Speaker, due to traveling with President Trump to North Carolina, I was unable to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call No. 52; Yea on Roll Call No. 53; and Nay on Roll Call No. 54.

HILLSBORO CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce, the City of Hillsboro, and Washington County on the 125th anniversary of the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce. The City of Hillsboro has grown from its agrarian roots to emerge as an economic engine in the State of Oregon.

Since the Hillsboro Chamber was founded in 1895, it has worked tirelessly with local business and community leaders to bring greater opportunities to the people of Hillsboro. When the Southern Pacific Railroad arrived, the ability to export wheat, hops, berries, onions, and dairy helped expand a commercial district in the community that eventu-

ally led to the formation of the Chamber. The Chamber emerged as an advocate for farmers and community members and, over time, the economic prospects of a once sleepy agrarian town expanded. During the Great Depression, the Hillsboro Chamber committed itself to unifying the community in difficult financial times, helping to lift spirits with celebrations such as Happy Days, Hillsboro Bargain Days, and the Harvest Festival. The Chamber also helped the local economy survive by partnering with the City of Hillsboro to administer funds that were used to employ workers to expand runways at the airport, build a post office and hospital, and improve a municipal water system. These early investments in infrastructure have helped make Hillsboro and the surrounding region a hub for the semiconductor and high technology industry. Silicon Forest, as it is known today, will continue to lead the way in development of new technologies and innovative thinking.

Even with the expansion of the economy and growth of modern industry, the Chamber has continued to support small business owners and community members, making sure they have the opportunity to participate in the growing economy. In 1995, The Hillsboro Chamber created the School to Career Program, which has developed an important workforce pipeline to connect high school students from schools throughout Washington County to career opportunities in their communities. By connecting employers to educators and community leaders, the Hillsboro Chamber is also at the forefront of rethinking post-secondary opportunities for its community members.

The 125th anniversary of the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce is a testament to how a collaborative commitment between multiple stakeholders makes a community better for everyone. Although Hillsboro and the surrounding region look very different now, the spirit of collaboration and seeking opportunity in Hillsboro remains the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mrs. ROBY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Thursday, February 6 and Friday, February 7. Had I been present I would have voted as follows: NAY on Roll Call No. 38; NAY on Roll Call No. 39; NAY on Roll Call No. 40; NAY on Roll Call No. 41; YEA on Roll Call No. 42; YEA on Roll Call No. 43; NAY on Roll Call No. 44; YEA on Roll Call No. 45; YEA on Roll Call No. 46; YEA on Roll Call No. 47; NAY on Roll Call No. 48; YEA on Roll Call No. 49; NAY on Roll Call No. 50; NAY on Roll Call No. 51; NAY on Roll Call No. 52; YEA on Roll Call No. 53; and NAY on Roll Call No. 54.

RECOGNIZING LAUREL WALSH

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Laurel Walsh

of Greenville, North Carolina. For more than 35 years, she has been the first face people would see at St. Peter Catholic School. She answered the phone, led tours, maintained enrollment records, helped handle billing, and also served as school nurse. For 20 years she even served as athletic director. Not only that, but for all those jobs, and for all those years she never once brought home a paycheck. Although a few people in leadership were aware, most in the St. Peter family thought Mrs. Walsh was a paid employee. Her secret was safe until about two months ago when the school established an endowment in her honor. In announcing the creation of the Laurel Walsh Fund, school officials revealed that this longtime employee was, in fact, a volunteer.

Teacher Joe Hughes who has worked with Walsh for three decades said: "She's just so kind to everyone. She's just a fine person, just a good example of what a human being should be, what Christ called us to be."

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring this incredible volunteer, but more importantly, a wonderfully faithful servant of our Lord Jesus Christ, and my personal friend, Laurel Walsh.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances directly related to the betterment of the community I serve, I had to miss voting on H.R. 5678 and all accompanying amendments. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call No. 52; Yea on Roll Call No. 53; and Nay on Roll Call No. 54.

IN HONOR OF GENE AND PEGGY
RADIN

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gene Radin and Mrs. Peggy Radin of Jessamine County, Kentucky. Both Mr. and Mrs. Radin are honored veterans of our great nation.

Mr. Radin joined the United States Coast Guard in 1948. He served for 43 years and earned the rank of CWO4 prior to his retirement in 1991. Chief Petty Officer Peggy Radin served in the Coast Guard for 20 years. Between the two of them, they devoted 63 years of service to America.

Following retirement from the Coast Guard, Mr. and Mrs. Radin began serving their fellow veterans by volunteering at the Thomson-Hood Veteran Center in Wilmore, Kentucky. Mr. Radin recently completed 25 years of volunteer service. In addition, for many years Mr. Radin has placed American flags at the graves of Coast Guard servicemen and women at Camp Nelson National Cemetery on the Saturday before Memorial and Veterans Days.

Mr. Radin turns 90 years old today, February 10. It is fitting to honor on this day such dedicated veterans and proud Americans as Mr. Gene Radin and his wife Mrs. Peggy Radin. They exemplify the American spirit and patriotic service that make this the greatest nation on earth. Mr. and Mrs. Radin are to be commended for their service both in the Coast Guard as well as to the veteran community in central Kentucky.

It is my honor to acknowledge the lives of these great Americans, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Radin, before the United States Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. HECK. Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Financial Services, I am deeply committed to strengthening consumer protections through legislative action. I was proud to vote in support of each of the bills in H.R. 3621—Comprehensive CREDIT Act of 2020 in committee, and I commend my colleagues for passing the package out of the House. While I was unfortunately unable to vote on House passage, I would have voted in support.

HOOSIER YOUTH CHALLENGE CLASS 25

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, this past December, I had the honor of serving as the keynote speaker for the graduation of Class 25 of the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy.

Since 2007, the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy has helped change the lives of many young men and women between the ages of 16 and 18, who, for one reason or another, were headed down the wrong path. Many cadets who take part in the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy program are either dropouts or have been expelled from school.

For five and half months, the cadets of Class 25 participated in a quasi-military modeled training and education program that teaches and instills in them a sense of discipline, responsibility, achievement and positive behavior.

Among the group of graduates included an impressive 17-year-old from Indianapolis named De'Von Bates. As the Distinguished Honor Graduate, Cadet Bates spoke to his peers as a leader, a role model and a changed young man now filled with confidence, pride and strength. A sense of accomplishment and hope washed over the faces of he and his fellow graduates upon completion of this rigorous program, and I would like to include in the RECORD Cadet Bates' remarks:

"Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to start off by saying welcome to the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy's 25th graduating class. It is an honor and a privilege to represent this class of 60 as the

Distinguished Honor Graduate. It is truly inspiring to look out at my fellow cadets and see just how much we have changed, both physically and mentally. In the beginning, on Day Zero, I remember waiting in line to get a haircut thinking, "This is not where I want to be." By the looks around the room everyone else had the same exact mindset as me. All we had in common that day was a uniform and an I.D. card, and trust me: those pictures were not pretty.

During Acclimation Phase we were introduced to a lot of concepts and ideas we weren't used to: for some it was early wake ups; for others it was the physical training. A few of us had problems with organization. I think I speak for us all when I say that one of the most challenging aspects of Acclimation Phase was the time hacks. Everything, no matter how trivial, had a time associated with it. Meeting these time hacks was absolutely crucial because if we failed to do so we got rewarded with PT, with plenty to spare. This made us realize that to succeed we needed to work as a team, and that we were only as strong as our weakest link. We could no longer act as individuals, but had to operate as a team, giving us a "one team, one fight" mindset. Thinking back to 5 months ago, I remember how great it felt to receive mail from family and friends. Those 2 weeks were extremely demanding, both physically and mentally, but because of the encouragement from each other, and the constant uplifting notes from our loved ones, we were able to make it through Acclimation Phase and graduate with flying colors.

A wave of relief washed over us as we graduated Acclimation Phase, became cadets, and enjoyed the weekend. To finally get a phone call home for the first time since being gone was like a bottle of ice cold water on a hot summer day. These incentives that we had worked so hard for were a privilege, as compared to back at home where we took everything for granted. Acclimation Phase tore us down, but built us back up even stronger.

After those two grueling weeks, we entered the Challenge Phase of the program. Throughout the next 5 months we were being shaped, shifted, and molded into the best individuals that HYCA could produce. We started going to school learning our 8 core components, essential life skills needed to succeed in our time here and outside of HYCA. Then more options opened up to us: activities such as basketball, Color Guard, yearbook, and Art Club were made available to us to spend some extra free time we had. An early highlight in the program was Family Day where we were allowed to spend a few hours with our loved ones. Everyone had an amazing time, and it was a huge stress reliever for all of us after being here over 2 months.

Soon after there were even more opportunities presented to us: we took the ASVAB test, earned college credit, created a resumé, participated in a mock interview, learned job skills, and had a job fair to give us insight into which career interests we could potentially have. We also gained experience by going on Service to Community trips. We learned how to be selfless by investing time in others, not just ourselves.

In October we had the Tri-State Challenge, something exciting and different from previous classes. We were able to interact with other people our age and learn about some of the other Challenge academies. To end such an eventful weekend, we also had Mentor Match, followed by weekly visits from our mentors. We received guidance, emotional relief, and plenty of advice from our mentors. You have played an important role in our success here at HYCA and we would like to thank you for spending precious time with us.

Finally, here we are at graduation today. After 5½ long months, I am proud to say that you are looking at a group of successful young men and women. During our time here life-long friendships have been made, relationships with family members have been strengthened, and we have found a driving factor in our lives. A lot of us will leave with our high school equivalency, along with our Building Trades and Retail Sales certifications. We also take with us the confidence and discipline instilled within us during these 22 weeks. To the cadets, I want to say to you: congratulations! We've done it! We've made it through something that most people our age wouldn't dare think about doing. Take great pride in yourself knowing that you have succeeded where others have failed. To the staff of the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy, a huge thanks to you all for being there when we needed you. Thanks for being here through the good and bad days, during the ups and the downs, and for motivating us to be the best that we could be when we couldn't find the motivation from within ourselves. Thank you for being such a critical part of our success, for making us who we are today. Lastly, a special thanks to the family, friends, mentors, and loved ones: you stood on the sidelines, gave your best support possible through letters, phone calls, and constant engagement. Without you, some of us wouldn't have come here to make a positive change in our lives, let alone be here on graduation day ready to start anew with a different, but hopeful outlook on our futures. Thank you again.

President Theodore Roosevelt defined success as "the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm." Don't be discouraged by your failures, but be motivated by them. We all have the ability to succeed; we just have to find it. I leave you with these words from sportscaster Ernie Harwell: "It's time to say goodbye, but I think goodbyes are sad and I'd much rather say hello. Hello to a new adventure." This is the first day of the rest of your lives. May you all continue to be successful in your own adventures, wherever they may take you! Thank you.

Class 25: On your feet!

HYCA Creed on 3

1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . "

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF PLANO POLICE OFFICER ARTHUR PARKER

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, upon his well-deserved retirement this month, I rise today to recognize Plano Police Officer Arthur "Art" Parker on his thirty-four years of dedicated service to the City of Plano, Texas.

During his tenure as a school resource officer, Art made headlines for his incredible ability to memorize the names of over 20,000 students. A true public servant, and man of many talents, Officer Parker was often seen playing extravagant harmonica solos, making balloon animals, and most impressively, making people laugh from their cars while stuck in school traffic.

In 2015, Officer Parker was the first ever school resource officer to be named as Plano Officer of the Year. This came as no surprise to many inspired by his power to make others feel valued.