

Sickey, the revolutionary leader of the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana. His passing leaves a void in the Native-American community. His legacy of resiliency and advocacy will continue to inspire future generations.

Sickey dedicated his life to serving his people and fighting for their rights. He played a pivotal role in securing Federal recognition for his Tribe, ensuring sovereignty, and the preservation of its rich, rich, heritage.

Sickey tirelessly worked to improve healthcare, education, and economic opportunities for Native Americans. His wisdom and leadership were recognized beyond Tribal boundaries, as he served on various boards and committees and left a lasting impact on the State and national levels.

Sickey's commitment to preserving and sharing Native-American culture and traditions helped bridge gaps between communities, fostering understanding and unity.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor this great man and to ask everyone to remember the incredible work that he has done and to continue to foster the unity, the inclusion, the opportunities, and the education of our Native-American friends.

Ernest Sickey will be remembered as a trailblazer, an advocate, and a visionary leader. May his life inspire others to carry on this important work.

Ernest leaves behind a loving, strong, committed family to continue the great work of this great man.

Today, we honor Ernest Sickey.

GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. MCCLELLAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the students at Huguenot High School in Richmond, Virginia, celebrated their graduation.

Moments after the ceremony ended, as friends and family gathered outside for hugs and selfies, gunshots rang out. Panic ensued.

When the dust settled, a graduate, Shawn Jackson, was dead. He was 18 years old. Shawn's stepfather, who came to celebrate with him, Renzo Smith, was dead. He was 36 years old.

Five additional people were shot. Others sustained injuries, including Renya Jackson Smith, Shawn's 9-year-old sister, who was hit by a car while fleeing the scene.

□ 1045

Richmond police have a suspect in custody. He is 19 years old. He knew the victim. He and Shawn were in an ongoing dispute.

We should not have to live like this. What should have been the happiest day of those kids' lives turned into every parents' worst nightmare.

Those kids saw their freshman year cut short by COVID. They should have felt the joy yesterday and last night of

graduating. Instead, their final memory of high school is marred forever by trauma.

The active shooter drills that they endured throughout their school years did not prepare them for a shooting at their graduation, or in a public park, in a grocery store, at a theater, at their house of worship, at a concert, at a mall, walking down the street, on a highway, in their home.

Where are they safe? My son asks me this every time that there is a shooting on the news.

Three months ago today, when I stood at this very spot to take my oath of office, you saw my son and daughter standing proudly beside me. You saw how excited my son was. You saw his dance moves.

Four days later, one of his classmates shot himself accidentally with a gun he was using as a prop to record a video. He died.

Last night, my husband and I had to tell our children that they are not going to school today and possibly for the rest of the year because of a shooting at a graduation less than a mile from our home.

Every time there is a shooting we go through this same routine. Every time my son is afraid, wondering will he be next. I hug him and I say, I am doing everything within my power to keep you safe.

As a State legislator in Virginia, I was proud to pass several pieces of gun violence prevention measures to do just that, including securing \$12 million in funding to invest in our communities to address the root causes of gun violence.

I was excited to see this Congress pass the first piece of substantive gun violence in 30 years in a bipartisan measure. So you can imagine my disgust and my sorrow when, after the Tennessee school shooting, one of our colleagues, one of our Republican colleagues in an interview on television said: We are not going to do anything.

That is unacceptable. We must take action to address the root causes of gun violence, to ban assault weapons, implement universal background checks, gun storage, among other commonsense measures that are popular with an overwhelming majority of voters according to FOX News polling.

I came here to solve problems. I came here to save lives. Thoughts and prayers are not enough. It is past time for action.

Today, I mourn the lives lost in my district, my city, my school division, my neighborhood. Today, I seek to comfort their loved ones and those traumatized by the terror they felt last night.

Today, I recommit to doing everything within my power to make sure that this never happens again. Enough is enough.

Mr. Speaker, I am begging my colleagues in this body: Do something.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF RUPAUL CHARLES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROBERT GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, the House library is open.

I rise to commemorate the start of Pride Month by honoring the one and only queen of drag, RuPaul. An artist, a philanthropist, and a barrier breaker, RuPaul Charles has become an American phenomenon and an icon. Nobody has more charisma, uniqueness, nerve, and talent than RuPaul Charles.

Ru's career launched as a drag performer in New York, and then as a successful pop artist, releasing his first hit album, "Supermodel of the World." In total, he has released 15 studio albums.

RuPaul also became the first gay Black man to host his own talk show, "The RuPaul Show." He is most known, of course, for his multi-E Emmy-award winning show, "RuPaul's Drag Race."

"RuPaul's Drag Race," and its many domestic and international spin-offs, has put drag in the global spotlight. The show has helped lunch and uplift the careers of thousands of drag queens and artists. But more importantly, the show has served as a critical space to discuss issues around inclusion, trans rights, mental health, and self-worth.

This message couldn't be more important as the LGBTQ+ community continues to fight for equality and acceptance. The world needs more love and, yes, more RuPaul. I thank RuPaul Charles for his years of leadership in our community and his activism.

This Pride Season, as we recommit to celebrating diversity, difference, and self-love, we must always remember what RuPaul so famously says: "If you can't love yourself, how the hell are you going to love somebody else?"

LEAD IN CHILDCARE CENTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, in 2018, a State law required licensed childcare centers to test their water for lead every 5 years. Last month, we got the results and they are grim for California's children.

One in four California childcare centers has dangerously high levels of lead in their drinking water. Lead exposure seriously harms children's health, damaging their brains and nervous systems.

Frighteningly, children exposed to elevated levels of lead are often asymptomatic, but the damage is irreversible. Many of the worst facilities for lead levels are in low-income areas or communities of color.

Congress took a step in the right direction when we passed the bipartisan infrastructure law, which invested \$15 billion to remove and replace lead service lines. But there is more work to be done.

Children are our future, and we owe it to every American to protect all kids' safety and well-being.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF RANDY CAMMACK

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate labor champion and proud Californian, Randy Cammack. This month, Randy will retire from his post as president of Teamsters Joint Council 42, where he fought alongside some 200,000 working members and retirees for 14 years.

Randy's time in organized labor began in 1967, when he started as a delivery driver in Los Angeles, California. From there, he went on to spend 42 years as a business agent, becoming a member of the Governor's freight advisory committee and serving as a vice president of the State labor federation.

Randy is also a proud U.S. Air Force veteran, and I join millions in thanking him for his service to our country.

I am honored to celebrate Randy on the House floor today and extend my deepest gratitude to him for his many years advocating for California's workers.

INNOVATION IN ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the innovation happening in Orange County and across California.

Last year, I was proud to celebrate NASA's successful Artemis I mission. Nearly a dozen businesses in my district played a direct role in supplying the necessary components to make Artemis I possible. With dozens of contributing businesses across Orange County, and over 500 companies employing 16,000 people statewide, California had more people working on Artemis than any other State.

Orange County has a storied history in the aerospace industry. It has been home to several of NASA's most critical partners for over 60 years, dating back to the Apollo missions.

I am proud that Orange County and California continue to advance science, strengthen our economy, and push the limits of what is possible.

OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE AFFAIRS

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Orange County leaders for their recent decision to establish an Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. At our Board of Supervisors' April 25 meeting, they unanimously approved the establishment of this new office, which will provide resettlement resources in the form of housing assistance, language programs, legal support, and other vital services.

As Orange County welcomes immigrants and refugee families, we need to empower these new members of our community with what they need to thrive. The Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs will fulfill this mission by strengthening outreach and building on successful partnerships with community organizations.

Honoring our diversity is a California value and an Orange County value. I look forward to the development of the

Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs and to new families calling our community home.

CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight June as Caribbean American Heritage Month. This month allows us to celebrate the diversity and influence of the Caribbean diaspora.

As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, we must ensure the prosperity of the Caribbean.

Just recently, I co-led a bipartisan resolution with Representatives LAWLER, CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, and SALAZAR to redouble our diplomatic efforts with Haiti. This resolution also expresses support in achieving Haitian-centered solutions that restore the island's political infrastructure and address the basic needs of its people. We cannot ignore the plight of our neighbors who are just mere miles from our shore.

Caribbean Americans have helped define the American story. Many of them serve here with me in Congress, and many more have had important roles throughout our country's history.

As a Representative of Los Angeles, I am fortunate to live in a culturally vibrant city where Caribbean Angelenos influence the food, music, and art of the city.

This month is about celebration of culture and community and reminds us to look beyond the European patriarchal lens that dominates our society. The U.S. is a country of immigrants, something the Governor of Florida could stand to remember.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION MONTH

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, June is Gun Violence Prevention Month. June is Gun Violence Prevention Month. June is Gun Violence Prevention Month. So why, in this full body, are we not talking about the gun violence epidemic that has taken hold of this country?

Why is the Republican Party punting on this issue and continuing to blame gun violence solely on mental health and ignorantly say that the answer to gun violence is more guns?

The parents of the children killed by mass shootings, the survivors of these mass shootings don't want or deserve to continue to hear that. They deserve acknowledgment, honesty and, most of all, they deserve action.

They deserve a Republican Party that cares as much about this issue as they do stove tops which, when you think about it, is incredibly painful and disrespectful.

Republicans seem to want to talk about everything except gun violence, everything except gun violence, every-

thing except gun violence, and that silence, that silence on this issue is tantamount to blaming the victims. That failure to act is equivalent to disregarding these victims' lives and dismissing their deaths.

Mr. Speaker, June is Gun Violence Prevention Month. June is Gun Violence Prevention Month, so let's act like it.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 58 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, when the Earth was without form and void, You spoke. Speak now into our world, a world bereft of peace and security in almost every corner of the globe. Speak now into the senseless conflict in Ukraine. Speak now into the meaningless disputes within communities here at home. Speak now into the confusion of tempers and tensions that transpire even among colleagues.

Darkness has invaded the homes of the destitute who take cover in war-torn cities, enduring days without electricity. Ukrainians and all those who live in the deep of war's night long for Your words: "Let there be light." Innocents who hide in the shadows of homelessness or abuse yearn to hear You to command the light to be separated from the darkness.

Water's unleashed violence threatens whole regions of Ukraine after the destruction of dams and critical infrastructure. The shortage of water jeopardizes American homesteads and harvests. Send Your divine spirit to move over the face of these hostile and deficient waters and bring order into the chaos.

In the newness of this day, God speak Your word into the void. Send Your spirit over the turmoil. Let there be light. Lord, in Your mercy, let it be so.

In Your merciful name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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