

unique document represents our founding fathers' innovative strides towards democracy and has fervently outlived all of its predecessors. Our constitutional framers and those who have improved the Constitution through Amendments have ensured the preservation and enhancement of liberty, justice and equality. The Constitution has endured the test of time and now celebrates a remarkable 225 years as the foundation of American government. The Constitution represents the ability of our country to come together for the greater good. The inalienable rights laid out in this historical document have shaped our amazing nation and served as inspiration for the development of future democracies.

On August 2, 1956, President Eisenhower enacted a law that acknowledged the Constitution's importance as the center of the America we now know and love and instituted an annual National Constitution Week to both celebrate the Constitution and promote its study. It is during this week that we acknowledge not only our framers with patriotic dignity, but also honor those who have ensured that this document continues to preserve equality throughout our nation. This dignified piece of American history deserves proper recognition, and I invite my colleagues to join me in renewing our vows to preserve, protect and defend this venerable document.

IN RECOGNITION OF DENZELL
PERRY

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary young man, Denzell Perry. Today, Mr. Perry is being honored as the Pacific Region Youth of the Year by the Boys and Girls Club of America. Mr. Perry is from Watts, California, which is in my district. He embodies the core values held by the Boys and Girls Club. He leads by example and has already made a significant difference at his local center.

Mr. Perry started going to the center at the age of six, and the relationships he built then have turned into lifelong friends and mentors. Now, he provides the same guidance and support that he received as a child.

At his club, Mr. Perry was president of the teen service group and served as a junior staff member. Also, when Mr. Perry's club wanted to help more teens receive assistance through its college access program, he designed a new Web site that really spoke to his peers.

In high school, Mr. Perry was class president, a member of the Black Student Union, and a student member of the board of education. Now he attends University of California Irvine, majoring in criminal justice. I am confident that, with his strong work ethic and sense of social justice, he will transform his community and the lives of future generations.

Mr. Speaker, he is the type of young man we should all look to for inspiration. He is a true leader in his community and has a bright future ahead of him. I am honored to have such an impressive young man in my district. I urge my colleagues to continue to support the Boys and Girls Clubs of America which has a tradition of producing great Americans such as Denzel Washington, Magic Johnson, General Wesley Clark, and now continues with Denzell Perry.

A TRIBUTE TO WALTER HIGGINS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Walter Higgins for his invaluable contribution to the infrastructure of Philadelphia. Since 1986, Walt has transformed several of Philadelphia's vital roadways, enhancing the city's travel efficiency.

After graduating Monsignor Bonner High School in 1975, Walt studied Labor-Management Relations and Construction Management at Delaware Community College, Kutztown University, and The George Meany Center for Labor Relations at the National Labor College. Walt was the Traffic Control Coordinator and Foreman for projects such as the Vine Street Expressway Reconstruction, and the 1-95 Center City Access Job. Walt also coordinated logistics with the City of Philadelphia, the Workforce and Penn Dot for several fast track projects. Philadelphians who regularly utilize the Walt Whitman Bridge, the Benjamin Franklin Bridge and the Patco High Speed Line understand the importance of Walt's work on these projects.

Walt has been a member of the Laborers' Local 57 for more than thirty years and presently serves as the local's Business Manager and the Vice President of the Laborers District Council of Philadelphia. He is a trustee on the Laborers District Council Pension and Health and Welfare Benefit Funds and sits on the Board of Directors of the Allied Trades Assistance Program. Aside from managing business, serving councils, and improving Philadelphia's infrastructure, Walt enjoys spending time with his wife Adele, son Tom and his wife Kelly, and his three grandsons.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Walter Higgins and thanking him for his service to the city of Philadelphia.

NEIL GODLESKI AND SUZANNE
MURPHY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the tragic passing of Neil

Godleski, nephew of my friend and constituent Suzanne Murphy of Southampton, New York. Neil, a rising senior at Catholic University, was fatally shot on August 22, 2010 while riding his bicycle home from a restaurant where he worked as a waiter. He was 31 years old and had returned to college with plans to pursue a career in science. His assailant was a 16-year-old boy who shot him six times with a .38 caliber handgun and then robbed him.

Suzanne's family has been wrenched with grief over the sudden end of this young man's life. More than 200 people attended his funeral in his hometown of Norwalk, Connecticut, and many others gathered at a candlelight vigil for him in his Washington, DC neighborhood of Petworth.

While no vigil or memorial could ever begin to take away the pain of this loss, Suzanne has found a way to channel her grief and focus her energy. She has become an advocate for gun control, becoming part of a movement declaring the need to seek a new path emphasizing gun safety at a time when one in three Americans knows someone who has been shot in an average year, around 100,000 Americans are killed or wounded with guns.

Columbine, Virginia Tech, Trayvon Martin, and the recent episode in Aurora, Colorado are senseless tragedies still fresh in our minds that point to the need for responsible policies that protect all Americans from gun violence but also preserve the right afforded citizens by the Second Amendment. Reasonable people can agree that we can achieve even-handed protections that do not infringe on any American's right to possess a firearm.

Efforts to curb the influx of dangerous weapons into our communities, restrictions on assault-type weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines, and policies on handguns are the types of actions Congress can take to protect our communities from gun violence. We must also equip local law enforcement officers with the tools needed to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and others who wish to do our sons and daughters harm.

Unfortunately, Suzanne Murphy and her family have experienced first-hand the tragic pain and loss that comes to a family in a shooting death. At Catholic University, Neil was a teaching assistant to his biology professor. The professor told Suzanne that one of Neil's jobs was to keep an eye out for other students having trouble mastering the material. Neil especially liked tutoring and helping his fellow classmates. After his death, Catholic University awarded Neil his diploma with his class of 2011. His parents, Dan and Heidi Godleski, gratefully accepted it on his behalf.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Suzanne's efforts to reach out and bring awareness to the problem of gun safety. We must not let her nephew become just another chilling statistic in the battle to make our communities safer—leaving another family struggling to get past the pain and loss.