

been worse. It's part of an ongoing pattern of carnage because we lose one life to gun violence every 20 minutes every hour every day.

The mass murderer's rampage gets the Nation's attention, but the same total loss of life at Sandy Hook happens more than twice every day all year long.

This is personal for me not just because the mall shooter was in my district, but I had a high school friend who was killed with a random, freak drive-by shooting. My brother took his life with a handgun as a young man. I've supported gun safety provisions at the State and Federal level at every opportunity. It might be different now, not just because of the horrific images of parades of funerals for little children.

I salute Mayor Bloomberg's unstinting advocacy for gun safety and mobilizing America's mayors who bear the brunt of gun violence. I welcome the President's leadership and will support any reform that he advances.

But I would urge my colleagues to read the columns in the Sunday Times by my fellow Oregonian, Nick Kristof, and Ezra Klein's article in yesterday's Washington Post. They demonstrate we know what works. There are examples around the world. Even in America with lax, weak gun protections, there are, in fact, some regulations in some places, and they make a difference.

Let's treat gun violence like any public health crisis, which I would say losing 30,000 lives a year would qualify as a crisis. We need to treat it like the threat to public health and families that it is, treat a gun like any other consumer product. This is how we slashed the auto death rate—vehicle design and driver behavior, enforcement and education.

For guns, it starts when Congress stops being intimidated by the extremists, and then just do what the majority of gun owners agree we should do—renew the assault weapon ban which many of us will introduce under the leadership of our dear friend and colleague, CAROLYN MCCARTHY; ban large magazines and the most devastating bullets; and close the gun show loophole. These are for starters, things that NRA members agree with.

□ 1010

Let's care as much about real guns as we do about toy gun consumer protection to start us down the road of making our children safer, by treating children's gun safety like their auto safety.

With all the airbags, anti-drunk driving campaigns, child seats, driver education, careful licensing, we slashed the accident rate. Yes, it didn't eliminate accidents all together. But we can't imagine a world without these protections for our families.

Let's see if we can imagine a world where our children are safer from gun violence, and then make it happen.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS NICHOLAS CHECQUE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor Petty Officer First Class Nicholas Checque, a true hero who sacrificed his life in the most honorable of ways—to protect and save the life of another human being. His life was a testament to the core values of the United States Navy: honor, courage and commitment.

On December 9, 2012, Petty Officer Checque embarked on a daring Special Forces operation in eastern Afghanistan to rescue a kidnapped American doctor from the Taliban in the Sarobi district near Kabul. A veteran of the Iraq war and decorated Navy SEAL, Petty Officer Checque died following critical injuries sustained on the successful mission to save the life of Dr. Joseph. A grateful Nation grieves for him and his family.

Petty Officer Checque strived for excellence, Madam Speaker. As a Norwin High School student, peers described him as diligent and driven, always aware he would someday serve his country. He was a dedicated student and a wrestler. He consistently challenged himself to pursue excellence in everything he did. Such dedication to one's country was also carried on by Petty Officer Checque. That is truly remarkable, but it's also expected of a Navy SEAL.

Among many commendations, Petty Officer Checque was awarded the Bronze Star, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation and Achievement Medals for service during combat, and now, the Purple Heart.

The Bible reminds us that "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." Through his incredible sacrifice, Petty Officer Checque not only exhibited his great love of country, but unwavering affection for his brothers and sisters.

"The Navy Hymn," also known as "Eternal Father," has a verse added. I don't know the author, but it is fitting to recall now. It goes on to say:

And when at length her course is run, her work for home and country done, of all the souls that in her sailed, let not one life in thee have failed; but hear from heaven our sailor's cry, and grant eternal life on high.

To Petty Officer Checque, we all bid him fair winds and following seas for eternity. May he rest in peace, and may the Lord keep him and his family in his loving hands.

#### CONGRESS HAS DONE NOTHING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, Albert Einstein once said, "The world is

a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing."

Madam Speaker, we have looked on and done nothing. We in this body, we in this Congress, we in this government, have done nothing, nothing to protect the innocent lives of 20 defenseless children gunned down in Connecticut last Friday. Nothing to protect the 87 people killed each day from guns across America. Nothing to stop the epidemic of senseless gun violence that plagues not only our major cities like New York and Chicago, but countless small towns throughout our Nation, towns with names like Newtown, Aurora, Tucson, Dekalb, Blacksburg, and Littleton.

In the nearly 4 years I've been a Member of this body, this House has not held a single hearing, not one, to address gun violence, while over 30,000 Americans die each year from gun violence, while over 400 lives have been lost to gun violence in my hometown of Chicago. People are dying every day, and we in this body have been afraid to even talk about it.

This crisis demands our action. The time has come for us to stop listening to the gun lobby and start listening to the American people. The fact is, the majority of Americans, gun owning and not, desire commonsense, reasonable gun regulations.

Congress must no longer stand in the way of reasonable regulation. Instead, we must champion it. The American people want to see background checks required on all firearm purchases instead of the fraction of sales that get them today.

Forty percent of U.S. gun sales are by private sellers who are not required to perform background checks. You can be a three-time convicted felon, a serial domestic abuser, severely mentally ill, or even on a terrorist watch list and still go to a gun show or go on the Internet and buy whatever gun you want.

The American people want to strengthen databases to prevent the mentally ill from buying guns. But over a million disqualifying mental health records are still missing from the national background check database. Ten States have failed to flag a single person as mentally ill in their database, and 17 States list fewer than 100 people.

Americans want to see the assault weapons ban reinstated and keep military weapons off our streets and large capacity ammunition clips banned to keep dangerous ammunition out of the hands of madmen.

Let's face it, when you put a 30-round clip in an assault weapon, you're not protecting your home, you're not hunting deer; you are hunting people.

We have hid from this fight for too long. For too long we have used politics and the Second Amendment to cover up our lack of action. Yes, the Supreme Court affirmed that we have a right to bear arms, but in that same