

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of March as Women's History Month and to commemorate the legacy of Jeannette Rankin, the first elected woman to serve in the House of Representatives on this day, March 4, 1917.

Jeannette Rankin furthered women's rights, ensuring universal suffrage and protecting the poor. She began her career as a community organizer, working in low-income neighborhoods in San Francisco, New York, and Washington State, and she witnessed the troubles of women and single mothers living in these communities. Jeannette Rankin became a strong, natural advocate for giving women a national voice through the right to vote.

Remarkably, Jeannette Rankin was elected to Congress when women still did not have the right to vote. The 19th Amendment was passed 3 months after she left Congress. As Rankin herself put it, "We're half the people; we should be half the Congress."

Today, we must continue to honor her work and legacy. With the ongoing budget crisis in mind, it is imperative that we redouble our efforts, as she would have, to come to a solution and to take the lesson of Jeannette Rankin, to fight for women and the poor who are disproportionately affected by sequestration, and to fight for them as Jeannette Rankin fought for them so hard.

#### CLEAN ENERGY AND EXTREME WEATHER

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, the climate is changing. Climate change is very, very real. You only have to look at the superstorms we have had, Sandy and others, and the \$180 billion of destruction that has been wrought upon us from the environment just over the last 2 years.

The climate is changing, and there's something we can do about it. In fact, there's something this House of Representatives must do about it, and that is to move forcefully, directly, and aggressively to clean energy policies. We ought to be subsidizing those clean energy systems that are out there—solar and wind.

In my own district in Solano County, we have one of the biggest wind farms. My own history goes back to 1978, when I authored legislation for State tax credits. We can and we must deal with climate change, and we can do it with clean energy policies.

#### SPORTSMANSHIP ON DISPLAY IN EL PASO HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL RIVALRY

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

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mitchell

Marcus, Jonathon Montanez, and the Franklin and Coronado High School basketball teams in El Paso, Texas.

Few teams have a more contentious rivalry than these two schools, who compete to claim the title: Pride of the Westside. So it was a hometown sports miracle when these rivals came together last month to support Mitchell Marcus, a special-needs student who was the Coronado basketball team manager.

With 90 seconds left in the season's final game, Coach Peter Morales put Mitchell in the game to fulfill his dream of making a basket. However, after a few missed shots, Mitchell's opportunity seemed lost. But with seconds left in the game, rival Franklin player Jonathon Montanez passed the ball to Mitchell, and he scored the final basket as the clock hit zero. Fans stormed the court to carry Mitchell on their shoulders, chanting his name.

It is a moment now famous in El Paso and around the world because it shows that character and compassion can transcend even the bitterest rivalries.

□ 1910

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SERGEANT GARY MORALES

(Mr. MURPHY of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sergeant Gary Morales, who was laid to rest today after being killed in the line of duty at the age of 35 last Thursday in Fort Pierce, Florida. Sergeant Morales was a 12-year veteran with the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office and also proudly served our country as a member of the United States Air Force.

There has been an outpouring of support in the wake of the shooting, with the community coming together to support his wife, Holly, and their two young daughters, Brooklyn and Jordan. The community has also come together to share fond memories of a man that everyone remembers as being an outstanding officer with a bright future and someone who always went above and beyond to help others. It is clear that Sergeant Morales not only dedicated his life to service, but was a true leader and a selfless hero.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Gary Morales dedicated his life to serving his community and his country. I extend my most heartfelt condolences to the Morales family and his extended family at the sheriff's office during these most difficult times. I am humbled to recognize him here today.

#### GOP FRESHMAN CLASS HOUR: THE SECOND AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the

gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MESSER. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as part of the second in a series of Special Orders put on by the newly elected freshman Republican caucus. Our first was on spending; today we rise to speak on the Second Amendment.

I have participated, in the first 50 days of my service here in this Chamber, in 19 public events throughout the Sixth District of Indiana—coffees, meetings with constituents, the public, folks who vote to send us here—and I can tell you in every one of those events people have two topics top of mind: they're focused on spending; they're focused on the sequester. They're tired of the Federal Government that continues to spend money that we don't have, and they want the government to follow the principle that every American family does, which is, you don't spend money unless you have money to spend. But the second topic that I hear everywhere that I go is the Second Amendment and the importance of making sure that that bedrock principle of American liberty is protected.

We all know of the tragic events that have occurred in recent months here in America—obviously the Connecticut tragedy being foremost on top of the mind. I want to make clear in my comments, as I do all throughout my district, that as a Nation we are heartbroken by tragedies like that when they occur. As a Nation, we mourn and weep with the families that had to deal with those tragedies. But as sad and tragic as those circumstances are, we cannot allow those events to be an excuse to undercut the Second Amendment and all that it means for liberty in this Nation.

There are opportunities to make a difference for public safety in this debate. It is time for a national conversation about mental health because the common denominator in every one of these crimes is that the perpetrator is someone who is mentally ill.

There are opportunities to do more on school security, and I'm hopeful that we will be able to work through those as we move forward. But this much must be made clear: gun bans don't work. They are only effective at preventing law-abiding citizens from having guns because the criminals and mentally deranged that commit these crimes don't care about the fact that there is a law that would have them not have a gun. To blame a gun for a