

and homework. However, for the students of Columbine High School that day became much more. The seemingly normal school day abruptly transformed into a day full of terror, pain, confusion, and shock, as two senior students tried to bomb the school and shoot anyone and everyone in the way, resulting in the deadliest mass murder America had ever seen in one of its high school campuses. This event led to changes in school policy, intensified concern over gun control, and fear among Americans.

After the shooting, schools nationwide have strengthened their security and made improvements to prevent such an event. Schools instituted new security measures like metal detectors and see-through backpacks. Additionally, they numbered doors and rooms for an easier public safety response if this were to ever happen again. Most schools renewed anti-bullying and adopted a zero tolerance system for students in possession of weapons or students threatening others. Analysis of the common factors in perpetrators by the United States Secret Service concluded that schools should pay more attention to the behaviors of students, noticing potential attackers and being especially aware of them. Most attackers tended to feel bullied, reverting to shooting as some sort of revenge. If teachers paid close attention to students being bullied, they could try and put an end to it. Without the bullying present, the student would most likely be happier and not try to avenge.

The shooting also affected the way in which the police force handled situations with an active shooter. Instead of surrounding buildings, setting up perimeters, and containing the damage, a new tactic designed for the presence of an active shooter interested in killing hostages rather than taking them has been utilized. Now, police officers are trained to move toward the sound of gunfire and stop the shooter. The goal is to prevent the shooter from killing or injuring more victims, meaning police officers have to walk past injured victims until they have stopped the shooter. This tactic has helped tremendously at the later shootings in school campuses.

The Columbine shooting also aroused fear among Americans, for now schools, places that nearly every child went to every week-day across the nation, seemed unsafe. Schools became potential targets, with the perpetrators walking along side by side other students. The idea of spending nearly seven hours a day, five times a week, for about ten months a year with someone who may pull out a gun one day and start shooting terrified both kids and their parents. However, time and improved security and safety helped allay these fears.

April 20, 1999 will forever remain a day marked by alarm, fright, trepidation, and hurt. The mass murder at Columbine High School has not only affected the security of schools and the tactic of the police, but also the hearts and minds of Americans, for before, it was hard to imagine that such a terrible thing would ever happen.

EXPRESSING CONCERN FOR THE
HEALTH OF ATHLETES IN THE
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, like most Americans, there are few things that I enjoy more than a Sunday tailgate with friends and family. Football and the NFL are an intricate part of our nation's cultural and social fabric.

Football is America's favorite sport because it is exciting to watch, but that excitement—the clashing of helmets and tackles—takes a terrible toll on the bodies of our nation's athletes and on their families.

A recent study from the American Academy of Neurology found that NFL players are four times more likely than the general U.S. population to die from Alzheimer's or ALS.¹ This is only the latest piece in a body of evidence showing that the risks of repetitive head impacts, if not properly treated, can be severe and irreversible.

The scientific research, which shows a link between concussions and long-term injury to NFL athletes—is incontrovertible. And so, I call upon the NFL to do everything in its power to protect its athletes and warn them of long-term dangers to their mental and neurological well-being.

Far too many of our nation's favorite athletes have paid a terrible price for the brain trauma they sustained while playing in the NFL.

After taking his own life last May, Junior Seau, a former Miami Dolphin and one of the top linebackers in NFL history, was diagnosed with chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a progressive and debilitating disease associated with repeated head trauma. When asked whether the game the whole family loved was worth it, Seau's oldest son Tyler tearfully replied: "I'm not sure. But it's not worth it for me to not have a dad. So to me, it's not worth it."

While the NFL has taken some positive steps regarding the safety of current players, we need it to take the necessary action to mitigate the risks of debilitating brain injury. Last season we saw high-profile players being sent back onto the field immediately after sustaining concussions. This is unsustainable and unfair to athletes and their families. It is also unfair to taxpayers. As a 2008 congressional research services report revealed, when our athletes cannot afford to address their injuries, the cost falls upon the taxpayers.

The NFL has the power not only to give these former players and their families the care and support they deserve, but also to ensure that the game is safer for future generations. As a Member of Congress, and most importantly, as a football fan, I ask that the NFL make use of that power.

HONORING JOHANNA ZURNDORFER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, for the sick and homebound Johanna Zurndorfer is a direct contact with Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel of Riverdale where for the past 23 years she has spent countless hours visiting sick members and organizing volunteers who would call the homebound every Friday afternoon to wish them a Shabbat Shalom. She has also served as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Johanna was born in Rexingen, Germany, before Hitler came to power, at a time when a family could enjoy a rich Jewish life in a small rural town. She went to a local Jewish day school and then attended a high school in a neighboring town bicycling there 5 miles

roundtrip. At 16 she apprenticed as a bookkeeper.

By 1936, her family knew it was time to leave Germany and Johanna went to live with her sister in New York City. She took the only job she could find as a housekeeper and later as a dental assistant, going to night school to learn English. Her mother followed her to the States in 1938 staying with her children until she passed away at 101.

Johanna's husband-to-be, Fred, made his own way to New York from Rexingen, by way of Chicago. Nine years her senior, it only took one date for him to propose to her. They married and moved to Inwood, where they raised two children, Eddie and Susan. Johanna and Fred were co-founders of Ohav Shalom, a shul with mostly German Jewish immigrants that served as the center of their Jewish life for many years.

Johanna and Fred moved to Riverdale in 1979 and soon joined CSAIR. It was after a difficult time in her life that she turned to CSAIR to fill a void in her life. The Sisterhood served as her first introduction to synagogue activism. From there she established new long lasting friendships and to this day, Johanna continues to contribute to the synagogue's life.

It is an honor to join Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel of Riverdale and three generations of her family in showing the pride all feel in what Johanna has done for the community and whose only motive was to help those who needed help.

HONORING MR. MORTON H.
ABRAMOWITZ

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with great solemnity to honor the life and service of a great man, Mr. Morton H. Abramowitz.

Morton "Mort" was a tireless resident of Niagara Falls, NY who dedicated himself to the residents and to the betterment of his hometown.

Mort was a lifelong resident of Niagara Falls and proudly served his country in World War II as a Non-Commissioned Officer. He earned a degree in business from the University of Michigan as well as his Juris Doctor of Law Degree from the University at Buffalo.

Mort was a distinguished attorney in Niagara Falls as well as former Niagara Falls City Manager, former Niagara County Attorney and was currently the legal advisor for the Niagara Falls City Council and Niagara Falls Library Board. Mort recognized the importance and inherent value in serving in a community, through his commitment to service in local government, and also through his devotion to his local congregation, the former Temple Beth Israel in Niagara Falls and Rotary International of the Niagara Falls, NY chapter, where he served as past-President. Mort also served as past President of the Jewish Federation and the Health Systems Agency.

Mort also served as a volunteer for the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross. Service was a very important part of his life. One of Mort's quotes was "service is the highest honor of any public servant."

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor the life and service of