

our families from gun massacres? No other country comes remotely close to this carnage. Why should we lose 15 times as many as our family members as Germany every year?

When other countries like Canada, Britain, and Australia—that are probably more similar to our country than any others—why were they able to respond not just with outrage or moments of silence, but with action after mass shooting events, to make a difference, to make their families safer, 10 times safer in Australia than in the United States? It is past time that people who claim to be leaders in both parties answer this question.

I am pleased that the response from my party was not one of hopelessness, resignation, or “stuff happens,” but instead calls to action with simple, commonsense steps that are widely supported by the American public.

I am pleased that Hillary Clinton was first and foremost with a strong call to action. I am pleased that Senator BERNIE SANDERS appears to be changing his attitude and policies on gun safety.

It is interesting that two Democratic Senators running for re-election last year, Mark Begich and Mark Pryor, who cast what I can only describe as a craven vote against universal background checks, lost anyway. It ought to be a message about our values and our direction. I am hopeful that there will be greater accountability for both parties to supply solutions.

There is no excuse for ours to be the only developed country that cannot protect our children. The American public should demand answers from everyone who pretends we can't protect our children. Ours is the only country, for instance, where leaders prohibit the government from even investigating gun violence, its causes, and solutions.

The President exhorted us to not be numb to gun violence. One is hopeful in the midst of this unprecedented bizarre Presidential nominating process, already in full swing, with more than a year yet to go, that perhaps we have the opportunity to make sure this doesn't leave the national political stage.

With comments like Republican candidate Ben Carson condemning President Obama's decision to visit and console the families in Roseburg in a private meeting, that somehow he would wait for the next one, it is stunning.

I was in Springfield, Oregon, when President Clinton visited those families, consoling them, demonstrating compassion and the concern of the country. It was a sign of respect and was moving to all who witnessed it. I can't imagine a more callous, heartless remark than that of Dr. Carson, who would wait until the next one.

Reasonable people should ask reasonable questions about reasonable solutions and demand from politicians their answer to the question: When stuff happens, why can't we protect our families from this slaughter, and what are they prepared to do to change it?

HONORING ERCELLE S. CARTER'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Ercelle S. Carter of Institute, West Virginia, who is celebrating her 100th birthday on October 25, 2015.

Ercelle was born on October 25, 1915, in Fayetteville, West Virginia. She is one of two children of John Saunders and Harriet Agee Saunders.

Growing up, she attended Levi Elementary, Boyd Junior High School, and graduated from Garnet High School in 1933. She enrolled at West Virginia State College and graduated with degrees in home economics and elementary education in 1937.

On April 27, 1940, she married Ulysses Grant Carter. They were married for 53 years, until his death in 1993.

Ercelle was a homemaker and a stay-at-home mom until 1959, when she began her professional career as a teacher at Shawnee Elementary School and retired from Mound Elementary in 1979.

Ercelle has led an outstanding life, highlighted with her love of family and service to her community. I wish her many more years of health and happiness.

CONGRATULATING EVANS ELEMENTARY OF JACKSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Evans Elementary of Jackson County, West Virginia, for the honor of being named a National Blue Ribbon School for 2015.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program was created in 1982 under President Ronald Reagan's Secretary of Education Terrel H. Bell. The program was designed to celebrate achievements of both public and private elementary, middle, and high schools which have excellent performance or have substantially reduced the performance gap for disadvantaged student populations.

This is a tremendous honor given to only two schools in West Virginia and only 335 schools nationwide this year. I am proud of the hardworking teachers, faculty, and students that achieved this honor. Their pursuit of academic excellence is inspiring, and I hope their success can be replicated across our State.

UMPQUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHOOTING

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday Americans witnessed yet another tragedy with the fatal shooting of nine people in Roseburg, Oregon, five young kids who had so much more life left to live, three adults who had gone

back to school to better themselves and their families, and an assistant professor of English who used his writing talents to teach others, all gone too soon.

Their lives are lost in tragedy, the kind of tragedy that our Nation has suffered with increasing regularity. There have been more mass shootings this year than there have been calendar days, 294 mass shootings in less than 280 days.

In 2015 alone, there have been nearly 40,000 gun violence tragedies, with nearly 10,000 people killed and 20,000 wounded. Yet, sadly, each gun violence tragedy is met with another tragedy here in Congress, the tragedy of inaction.

People are dying. People are dying from gun violence every single day in America, and this Congress does nothing. As President Obama said last week, “We collectively are answerable to those families who lose their loved ones because of our inaction.”

I have been a Member of the House of Representatives for nearly 7 years. In that time, tens of thousands of lives have been lost, but this body has refused to hold even one hearing addressing the gun violence epidemic that is plaguing our country.

In that time, not even once have we had a vote on the floor on anything, anything related to gun violence, and it is not for lack of ideas. We know from other countries what works. Other countries, not much different from ours, have tackled this issue with remarkable results.

More than 90 gun-related bills offering various ways—large and small—for us to lessen the death toll are just sitting in committee waiting for action; yet, we refuse to even try.

And forget about new gun laws. Congress has made it harder for law enforcement to carry out current laws. It has gotten so bad that Congress refuses to allow Federal agencies to even study this issue because they are afraid of what doctors and scientists will tell them.

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In June, during the Labor-HHS-Education markup and just 1 week after the tragedy in Charleston, an amendment to end the 20-year prohibition on Federal funding on research related to gun violence was defeated by a unanimous Republican majority. Congress refuses to act and stands in the way when others try.

Why is this issue different than others? What is it about these lives that matter less than those lost to terrorism or car accidents or cancer? Unless the status quo in Congress changes, we will continue to lose American lives to gun violence.

In June, I urged my colleagues to break the silence, stop the violence, and start the conversation about gun violence in America. We were reeling from the tragedy in Charleston, and I recounted the other lives we had lost

to guns in the Navy Yard, Northern Illinois University, Virginia Tech, Columbine, Aurora, Roanoke, Sandy Hook, Tucson, and Fort Hood.

I asked my colleagues when will enough be enough? When will we realize and acknowledge that this type of mass violence does not happen in other advanced countries? When will we finally be able to have a national discussion about gun violence?

The answer by House leadership has been a resounding silence.

The first tragedy of last week was the loss of nine American lives. The second tragedy is the continuing inaction of Congress to do anything about it.

No legislation will stop every tragedy, but passing commonsense gun laws will at least stop some. It is the least we can do to honor the memory of those we have lost to gun violence and prevent the list of lives lost from growing.

RED LAND LITTLE LEAGUE

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to extend my sincere congratulations and express my profound pride and admiration to the players and coaches of Red Land Little League in Lewisberry, Pennsylvania, who recently returned home from the Little League World Series as the 2015 United States champions. I am privileged to represent these fine young players and their coaches, families, and supporters.

This team's perseverance and determination on the road to the Little League World Series and subsequent championship makes them, among a myriad of other things, outstanding role models. The team's core values provide the foundation for their success:

"Red Land Little League Baseball is committed to the purpose of implanting firmly in the youth of the Red Land area the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and respect for authority, so that our children may be well adjusted, stronger and happier and grow to be decent, healthy and trustworthy adults."

These values served the team well as they won the 2015 Little League Baseball Mid-Atlantic Region Tournament with a 3-0 record. Throughout the tournament, Red Land outscored their opponents 36-5, and they continued their momentum with an 18-0 victory over Midwest Little League.

As we all know all too well, a great sign of strong character is how you handle adversity. Red Land faced that challenge and persevered in its next two games with a 9-8 victory over the Southeast team and a 3-2 victory over the Southwest team to earn the U.S. Championship. Despite a truly impressive and valiant effort, the team came up short on the world championship

with a loss to Japan. However, Red Land's character, resilience, teamwork, and sportsmanship will be remembered long after the final results of that one game.

The team motto, "#whynotus," became the rallying cry for a team that first inspired their community and went on to inspire our Commonwealth, our Nation, and the world.

One of our Fourth District residents summed it up perfectly: "We were a little-known town that nobody even knew existed. Now, everyone around the world knows where we are."

I am privileged and honored to recognize these players and coaches of the U.S. Champion Red Land Little League here today:

Adam Cramer
Jake Cubbler
Jaden Henline
Braden Kolmansberger
Chayton Krauss
Kaden Peifer
Ethan Phillips
Dylan Rodenhauer
Zack Sooy
Cole Wagner
Camden Walter
Bailey Wirt
Jarrett Wisman
Manager Peifer

Assistant coaches J.K. Kolmansberger and Bret Wagner.

I know I speak for my colleagues when I express our heartfelt thanks and congratulations to our U.S. champions today. The values they have demonstrated in earning this title are the values that make America the greatest country in the world. We need young people like them, with strong character and leadership, to ensure these values are passed to future generations. I, for one, am excited to see what else these guys will accomplish as they move forward with their lives and future adventures.

Lest we forget, such achievements require the support of countless others behind the scenes. On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the families and friends who devoted countless amounts of time, effort, and support on Red Land's path to the U.S. Championship. This team was away from home for many weeks as they took this journey, and this kind of triumph doesn't happen without exceptional devotion and teamwork from all spokes on the wheel.

Finally, I truly commend the citizens of Lewisberry, Pennsylvania, its surrounding community, and the people across Pennsylvania and the United States who mobilized behind this team to drive and push their momentum.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize our 2015 Little League World Series United States Champions, Red Land Little League, joining us in the balcony here this morning.

Today, we join the team's rallying cry, which is, "We are Red Land."

GUN VIOLENCE ACROSS MARYLAND

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

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, in 280 days, Maryland has lost 301 lives to gun violence. That is 301 families that have lost mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters to domestic violence, mental health, and just plain old violence with a gun.

It is time for my colleagues to stand up to listen, to take on the National Rifle Association, and to stop the flood of gun violence that is ravaging our communities in Maryland and across the country.

Let's do that in the names of:

Stefon Donnell Powell; Leon Flemming; Karim Bonner; Josphat Kobia; Matthew Thomas; Everett Thomas; John David Walsh; Troy R. Preston; Robert Durham Thomas; Darius White; Jamal Allen; Anthony Richardson; Seydina Oumar Soumagel; Donte Downer; David Hall; Harry Smith; Tyrone Archer, Jr.; Jason Ballard; Donald Gaff.

Ashanti Lynnae Ballard-Velez; Jason Ballard; Davon Johnson; Stephen Forman; James Smith; Stephen Vaise; Victor Underwood Black; Marvin Barrett; Edward Donnell Bright, Sr.; Derrick Dargan; Tavares Swinson; Allan Bartlett Poole; James Maurice Edward, Jr.; Malik Fuller; Jawan Goode; Own Crayton; Christopher Hagerman; Anthony Reese; Dwayne Reid; Markez Jones.

Djuan Tillet; Tiesha Rogers; Terry Garnett, Jr.; Terrell Walston; Dayonte Matthew; Jonathan Lopez; Alton Wallace III; Johnnie Green; Mary Green; Mark Green; Antwon Marque Coleman; Richard Anthony Jackson; Sterling Day; Daniel Brooks; Jarrell Hicks; Victor Gwaitney; Andre Robinson; Kemmontay Mitchell; Jeremy Ward; Ricky Shawatza Hill.

Keaway Lafonz Ivy; Jamar Green; Steven Jackson; Eugene W. Tolley; Thomas Peterson; Linda Ota; Tywaun Short; Lawrence Buckner; Gilbert Mendoza; Vedrana Mendoza; Molly Mendoza; Rondal Metzger; Mary J. Glacken; Kevin Hill; Jamal Roseborough; Mark Nicholson; Carvell Jones; Mark McKenna; Reanna Lynn Greene; Daquain Tate.

Martin Brooks; Ricky Chambers, Jr.; Andre Hunt; Davon Williams Johnson; James Maurice Johnson; Yogesh Sheth; Bryon Showell; Levi Buck; Khai Hebron; Elliot B. Cheston, Jr.; Cornelia M. Cheston; Robert Scott Slaughter; Keith Watts; Rodney Vandette Johnson; Melissa Anne Bingham; Paul Smith; Armand Parrine; Ivan Anthony McBroom; Matthew Hughes; Odell Stewart.

Lionel Young; Harry Davis; Louis Hicks; Anthony Donnell Minick; Reginald B. Brown III; Shawn Scott; Tiffan Chisholm; Tahil Yasin; Deangelo Green; Rashard Jackson; Wade McKinley Purvey; Eric Diggs, Jr.; James