

single step possible in the here and now to care for those battling ALS.

116TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES SUBMARINE FORCE

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, just the other day, April 1, marked the 116th birthday and anniversary of the United States Submarine Force. This is the date the U.S. Government accepted the USS Holland, which is SS-1, into the U.S. Navy, again, in 1900.

This was pointed out by a good friend and a great patriot and veteran of the Submarine Forces, Jim Gibson of Redding, California, who has served on several different submarines and is a main organizer of the USS Cuttlefish, a veterans submarine group that does many events up in northern California. He pointed that out to me, and I want to acknowledge, again, the great work of our veterans of those subs and what they mean for the security of our Nation.

So happy 116th to the United States Submarine fleet.

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this is the tale of two cities—not the tale about the cities, but about two examples of America's great embarrassment and failure to treat a brain disease called mental illness, especially serious mental illness. It is also a tale of Congress' repeated failure to address this.

Despite the cries of millions of Americans to do something about it, what we here in Washington tend to do when we hear of another tragedy that has occurred somewhere in the Nation, the tragedies we know by the names of Sandy Hook Elementary School, or Columbine, or Aurora, Colorado, or Tucson, or Santa Barbara, what Washington tends to do is we have a moment of silence. But the people want and Members of Congress want moments of action, not moments of silence.

Let me elaborate on this tale. In this building, the U.S. Capitol, back in the 1990s, two police officers were killed when Russell Weston came into the Capitol seeking a red crystal and ended up shooting these police officers. Under his diagnosis of paranoid schizophrenia, he was pushed, with his delusions and hallucinations, to take action. It ended up in tragedy.

There was also recently, over the break, another man, Larry Russell Dawson, who has been seen around this Capitol and has once, allegedly, disrupted proceedings in this Chamber and, allegedly, also suffers from some level of mental illness. When he was entering the Capitol Visitor Center, a pistol was seen going through the x-ray. When he grabbed that pistol, police officers shot and wounded him.

First of all, it is amazing to me that people did not die. We know that the entrance to the Capitol Visitor Center is a highly secure environment with many, many Capitol Police officers. These brave men and women who put themselves between danger and Members of Congress and the public showed tremendous restraint and judgment at that moment.

I might add that, many times, when a mentally ill person has a conflict, a violent conflict with a police officer, where they may be reaching into their jacket or may be pointing a pistol or approaching a police officer with a knife, it is estimated between a quarter and a half of those mentally ill people involved in a police encounter end up dead. That is a few hundred each year.

Though that is the tale in Washington, D.C., why are we dealing with mental illness as a violent threat instead of in treatment? We deal with it because, in this Nation, sadly, when someone with mental illness has reached that level or they become violent, we call the police.

The rules are, which we will look at tonight: prevent people from getting treatment; we do not have enough providers; we don't have enough places to put people, so we call the police.

Now, I should start off by saying the mentally ill are no more likely to be violent than the non-mentally ill; except when you look at those with serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, bipolar, and other illnesses such as that, they are 16 times more likely to engage in an act of violence than someone who is in treatment.

Again, a person who is seriously mentally ill and not in treatment is 16 times more likely to engage in an act of violence than someone who is in treatment.

On the West Coast, in Seattle, another tragedy was brewing. A man named Cody Miller climbed a tree, a giant sequoia tree in downtown Seattle, and it created something of a furor.

First, I want to read parts of an article that appeared in The New York Times on March 29 that describe this to show you how out of touch we are as a

society when dealing with mental illness.

It said: "For more than 24 hours last week, Cody Lee Miller perched in a giant sequoia in downtown Seattle, pelting people and cars with pine cones and tearing off branches."

Investigators were investigating how much it would cost, using some "complicated formula that goes far beyond the value of natural beauty," the article said.

"A Seattle tree expert . . . said Mr. MILLER caused \$7,800 in damage, according to court documents released this week. Investigators took into account the tree's age, its potential life span and how much of its lush foliage was denuded.

"The formula, created by professional foresters, goes like this. The trunk is 34 inches in diameter at breast height, an investigator's report said. The tree has a '95 percent species rating,' a '100 percent condition rating' and a 100 'percent location rating' . . . The sequoia's pre-damage value was put at \$51,700. But after Mr. MILLER's arboreal escapade, the tree lost 15 percent of its value, the documents show, and is now worth only \$43,900 . . . 'The damage to the tree was extensive,' the report said.

"Mr. MILLER was charged on Monday with first-degree malicious mischief and third-degree assault. He was also ordered to stay away from the tree by observing 'no unwanted contact'—I repeat, "by observing 'no unwanted contact'" with the tree.

Now, the story goes on to describe trees and sequoias, but not until the very end of the article it mentions Mr. MILLER's mother, Lisa Gossett. She said that she had not talked to her son for some 5 years. She saw it on the news and she barely recognized him.

See, what was happening is Lisa Gossett and her daughter sat in their Alaska home watching this clip of the man perched in the tree. With their hearts broken, with tears streaming down their faces, Lisa and her daughter soon came to realize they were watching their son and their brother become the latest Internet mockery of a mentally ill person.

You see, when Cody Lee Miller climbed this 80-foot tree and sat there for 25 hours, he was sporting a bushy beard and ragged clothes, and most Americans were amused by this and they called it #manintree. It was an international viral story overnight. But this was no joke; this was no prank. This was the culmination of untreated mental illness that, once again, our society turned into a joke.

And we wonder why there is a stigma, when newspapers like The New York Times write a mocking story like that towards a man who has a disease. Would they have written an article like that if it was about someone with cancer or diabetes or AIDS or any other disease? My guess is no. But somehow, in our society, it is okay to mock a person who is suffering from schizophrenia.