

unselfish mentality, and determination to succeed. I commend them for their tireless dedication to both their school and their teammates, without neither of which this could have been possible. It takes a delicate combination of superior skill and many hours of practice to win a state title. The Loudoun County High School girls' soccer team has certainly earned this honor and the lessons learned over the years will valuably serve them as they continue on in their lives.

They outlasted Salem 1–0 to achieve the team's 2nd state title in as many years. The game's only goal was an impressive header directed into the goal following a long free kick. The teamwork these girls used to get to this moment was on display the entire game as they sprinted and dribbled to victory.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the Loudoun County High School girls' soccer team for their achievement and representing Virginia's 10th Congressional District with such distinction. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING SUSAN H. WARNER

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2016

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Susan H. Warner, the former District Director for Virginia's 8th District.

Susie Warner worked with great cheer and with a wry sense of humor for 25 and a half years as the district director for the congressional district just across the Potomac River. She sat at the helm for twenty-four years for Congressman Jim Moran—his entire tenure—and the last year and a half before her retirement for me, graciously schooling the staff in the thorniest case work issues, how to handle every last constituent with grace, and how to keep a warm office environment to boot.

During those 25 years, Susie was a pillar of her community in the Lee district of Fairfax County, and a fixture of political life in Northern Virginia. And I'm sure she will continue to be. So often, when a member of my staff meets a constituent the first thing they hear is "Do you know Susie Warner? I love Susie Warner." Susie loves all of us right back, and often lets us know. "How ya doin', kid?" is a routine greeting for almost anyone. "I love you babes," she told the staff, often as her parting farewell at the end of the workday.

Susie's approach to problem-solving was old-fashioned, in the best sense of that phrase: She is friends with almost everyone she ever met. This included many, many liaisons in the federal government, who were indispensable to solving case work problems. She built those friendships over years of chats and commiseration, and at least one of her federal liaisons cried when told that Susie was retiring. She would draw upon that vast reservoir of friends and acquaintances in the community to find the answer for a constituent, or to identify and connect someone with exactly the right person in an organization who could fix the problem. She used her

sweet talk and her smarts to solve many, many intractable problems for many people in need. Reciting the list of those she helped would keep me on the floor for hours if not days.

I learned very quickly to value and rely on her sage advice and judgment, just as Congressman Moran had for all of the years in which they worked together. Her leadership will be sorely missed.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF OFFICER
ENDY EKPANYA OF THE
PEARLAND, TEXAS POLICE DE-
PARTMENT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Officer Endy Ekpanya of the Pearland, Texas Police Department, who was killed in the line of duty on June 12, 2016, when his patrol car was struck by a drunk driver as he was responding to a call for assistance.

Officer Endy Ekpanya was just 30 years old at the end of his watch.

On behalf of the constituents of the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas that I am privileged to represent, I extend my deepest sympathies and condolences to the family and loved ones of Officer Endy Ekpanya.

President John F. Kennedy stated: "A man does what he must in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures, and that is the basis of all human mortality."

Officer Endy Ekpanya upheld this lofty standard.

Endy Ekpanya was born in Nigeria and immigrated to the United States with his family in 1996.

One of the happiest days of his life was August 22, 2012, when he was naturalized as a citizen of the greatest nation in the history of the world.

Endy Ekpanya excelled academically, graduating from high school in 2004, and earning two baccalaureate degrees, in Psychology and Sociology, from Hofstra University in 2008.

After completing his first year of law school at Ave Maria School of Law in Naples, Florida, Endy Ekpanya felt a strong calling to serve as a law enforcement first responder and changed his program of study to Criminal Justice.

Endy Ekpanya earned his Master of Science degree in Management and Criminal Justice Management from the University of Maryland University College in 2014 but he did not stop there; he went on to earn his MBA from the University of Maryland University College the following year.

Endy Ekpanya chose to begin his law enforcement career with the Pearland Police Department because he wanted to put his knowledge, skills, and servant's heart in the service of a medium-sized department that had a reputation for excellence and offered the opportunity for professional development and career growth.

Endy Ekpanya joined the Pearland Police Department as a Police Cadet in June 2015 and graduated from the Alvin Community College Police Academy in December, 2015.

Endy Ekpanya was sworn in as a police officer with the Pearland Police Department on December 10, 2015, successfully completed the Field Training Officer Program in May, 2016, and was assigned to Night Shift patrol on D Squad.

Endy Ekpanya had a bright future ahead of him but, sadly, it was cut short by his tragic death on June 12, 2016.

Officer Endy Ekpanya, exemplified the incredible sacrifice that police officers make every day when they head out into the community to protect and serve their family, friends, and neighbors.

Officer Endy Ekpanya, who is survived by wife, Lucy Lugo Ekpanya, and young son, Julian Ekpanya, leaves to cherish his memory his brothers and sisters on the Pearland Police Department and a host of relatives, neighbors, and friends whom he loved very much.

Mr. Speaker, I am at once proud and sad to pay tribute to the memory of Officer Endy Ekpanya.

I ask that the House observe a moment of silence in honor of Officer Endy Ekpanya of the Pearland, Texas Police Department.

IN HONOR OF THE WOODGROVE
GIRLS' SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the girls' softball team from Woodgrove High School in my District who recently won the 2016 4A Virginia State Championship. They practiced long hours as a team, and this extraordinary achievement shows how far dedication, hard work, and commitment to teamwork can take a group as they played against some of the best competition in the nation.

Woodgrove High School girls' softball team has made Virginia's 10th Congressional District proud and they have represented us well. Winning a state championship attests to their impressive athletic ability, unselfish mentality, and determination to succeed. I commend them for their tireless dedication to both their school and their teammates, without neither of which this could have been possible. It takes a delicate combination of superior skill and many hours of practice to win a state title. The Woodgrove High School girls' softball team has certainly earned this honor and the lessons learned over the years will valuably serve them as they continue on in their lives.

This team has captured three state titles in the past five years and their dominance was on display during 2016's title game where they crushed Fauquier an impressive 19–0. I am proud that their efforts this year paid off as they won a much-deserved state title.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Woodgrove High School's softball team for their achievement and for representing Virginia's 10th Congressional District with such distinction. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

CHARLESTON MASSACRE
ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2016

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the victims and survivors of the Emanuel AME Church massacre in Charleston, South Carolina, last year. This was a heinous crime and the response of the families and community has been even more deeply impactful.

As a longtime AME congregant, a former resident of Charleston and longtime Representative of the Holy City in the U.S. House, I have a deep and abiding connection to that community. The victims of that horrific crime were my friends, neighbors and constituents. Their deaths pained me in profound and personal ways and the wounds to our community will take time to heal.

Mr. Speaker, on the night of June 17, 2015, my friend Reverend Clementa Pinckney left his service in the state senate to travel to Charleston to conduct his other kind of service, that of tending his flock at Mother Emanuel AME Church's regular Wednesday night Bible study. Rev. Pinckney was a tremendous leader in our community. Several weeks prior to that night, I had been with Rev. Pinckney at a service in North Charleston after the police shooting of an unarmed black man, Walter Scott. Rev. Pinckney's ministry at that event made a tremendous difference in defusing a very tense time and helped restore calm and allow the local authorities to exert justice on a most unjust situation.

Into that Bible study entered an uninvited outsider. Though he was a stranger, he was embraced by the worshippers who welcomed him into their weekly exploration of their faith. Yet that hate-filled young man shunned their neighborly embrace and conducted an act of violence so heinous the horror has been immeasurable.

Our nation has long had a common sense policy of background checks for prospective gun buyers. Unfortunately, that law has a glitch in that it allows a gun purchase after three business days, even if the background check is not complete, and tragically this shooter was able to purchase the gun due to an error in the paperwork. I have introduced legislation to close this Charleston Loophole in federal law once and for all. This common sense fix will ensure that background checks are completed before gun purchases are allowed.

I have also been pleased to support the request of the Medical University of South Carolina for federal funds to support the community, and last week the Department of Justice released a grant of more than \$3.5 million to support that work. I am pleased that the Department has awarded this grant to help MUSC and their partners, the City of Charleston and other local governments deal with the continuing needs in the community as we approach the first anniversary of this horrible chapter in our lives. I want to thank Attorney General Loretta Lynch, for expediting this award, and all of my colleagues in the South Carolina congressional delegation for joining me in supporting MUSC's request.

I have been extremely proud of the resilience and compassion shown by the people of

Charleston and South Carolina following the horrific attack at Mother Emanuel on June 17 last year. The survivors of the attack and the families of the victims have been an inspiration to their communities, our state and the whole nation. While the Charleston community has rallied together, as we approach the first anniversary of the Emanuel AME church massacre, we must stay vigilant and continue providing the proper support for the survivors and victims.

COMMEMORATING LGBTQ PRIDE
MONTH AND MOURNING THE
LIVES LOST IN THE ORLANDO
SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Pride Month 2016, which celebrates the remarkable achievements and progress made by LGBTQ Movement in extending the promise of America to LGBTQ persons over the last 47 years since the Stonewall Uprising on June 28, 1969 in the Greenwich Village section of New York City.

As hard as it is to believe, in 1969 homosexuality was still classified as a mental disorder by the American Psychiatric Association, gay men and lesbian women received almost universal moral condemnation from mainstream religions, and the most intimate expression of love and human connection between gay or lesbian persons was regarded as a criminal act punishable by imprisonment.

Today, marriage equality is the law of the land, the policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" has been rescinded, and LGBTQ persons today are serving the communities and our nation in every field of human endeavor, as full members of the American community.

Yet for all we have to celebrate and cheer, our happiness over the progress made to date is tempered by the heavy sadness we feel as we mourn the loss of 49 innocent persons who were killed and the 53 persons injured in the horrific mass shooting at Pulse, a popular and welcoming nightclub in Orlando, Florida.

This act of unspeakable horror, which was at once both a terrorist attack and a hate crime, represents the deadliest mass shooting in the American history and the nation's worst terror attack since 9/11.

The Pulse Nightclub in Orlando was a community gathering place offering fellowship, sanctuary, and refuge; a place where men and women met in fraternity and with the freedom to be their authentic selves.

Pulse was a safe space until June 12, 2016, when it was defiled by a gunman who used an AR-15 assault rifle to murder 49 people and wound 53 others.

Mr. Speaker, the struggle for equality and dignity for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBTQ) community is a struggle each of those individual communities have faced.

Pride Month was established to recognize the collective progress of love's triumph over hate.

Tempered by remorse, today we remember those who were in the struggle; we honor their memory and the resilience of the LGBTQ community.

The hearts and spirits of the fallen breathe new life into the valiant stars and stripes that continue to wave.

Let us remember the majestic words of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who said that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Notwithstanding the extraordinary progress we have made in the area of civil rights over the past several decades, LGBTQ Americans still face discrimination simply for being who they are.

There is still more work to do so long as it remains true that LGBTQ persons can get married on Saturday and fired on Monday.

Our commitment to combatting discrimination against the LGBTQ community must not stop at our borders; the fair treatment of all people must always be a cornerstone of American diplomacy.

We must make defending and promoting the human rights of LGBTQ individuals a priority in our engagements across the globe.

This commitment must be based upon the ideal that all people are created equal and deserve to be treated fairly with respect.

As Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated in her International Human Rights Day Address in Geneva on December 6, 2011:

"Like being a woman, like being a racial, religious, tribal, or ethnic minority, being LGBT does not make you less human. And that is why gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights."

Mr. Speaker, my congressional district is home to many remarkable members of the LGBTQ community who, day in and day out, work alongside their American brothers and sisters to make our country better in every sector of the economy including the arts, sciences, professions, and as teachers and service members defending our country.

Leaders such as Jason Black, Director of Public Health Services for Legacy Community Health Services, who has for decades been tireless in his efforts to remove the stigma associated with people living with HIV and AIDS and to increase the availability of care for marginalized communities.

Persons like Fran Watson, Esq. the first African American female President of Houston's GLBT Political Caucus, who works tirelessly to ensure that the LGBTQ community fully participates in our democracy and its interests are seriously considered.

Organizations such as Gamma Mu Phi and Delta Phi Upsilon Fraternities; Houston GLBT Political Caucus; Stonewall Democrats and Stonewall Young Democrats; Legacy Community Health; The Montrose Center; Houston Area Community Services; AIDS Foundation Houston; Houston Splash; and LGBTQ friendly organizations that work to empower Americans to live their truths.

Freedom is not free and the fight to realize the promise of America for every American continues.

I commend the courage of the millions quietly toiling in the vineyards to make this happen.

Mr. Speaker, today I am reminded of the classic ballad, "Stand By Me," by the legendary Ben E. King:

"When the night has come,
and the land is dark,
and the moon
is the only light we'll see;
No, I won't be afraid.