

Eighty-five percent of Americans support no fly, no buy gun legislation and more than 90 percent support universal background checks. Yet, Speaker RYAN has refused to bring these two measures up for a vote, shutting out the voices and views of the American people. He is opposing popular commonsense legislation.

Mr. Speaker, you have the power to allow people to take the vote on the floor. Mr. Speaker, you have the power to make sure that people in this country will be safe with commonsense laws to prevent gun violence.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 26 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend James R. Shaw, Agnus Dei Lutheran Church, Fredericksburg, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, grant unto those gathered, representing all people of this great Nation:

Knowledge to pursue the good when the outlook seems dark;

Wisdom to vote for what is best for all;

Courage to choose the unpopular, but better;

Boldness to go where creativity has never gone;

Love to care for the poor and needy;

Faith to step forward and lead the misguided;

Understanding to provide for what is truly needed;

Mercy to forgive those who have transgressed;

Hope for a prosperous future as opportunities unfold;

The eyes of a child to approach life's work with diverse wonderment;

Ears to hear the still small voice of God;

Hands to set free the persecuted and the oppressed;

A sense for those things hidden which may prove dangerous;

And a vision of joy for all languages and cultures.

In Thanksgiving for Your providence, we pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's pro-

ceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. RICE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING JAMES R. SHAW

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BRAT) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce to my colleagues our guest chaplain for the U.S. House of Representatives today, Reverend James R. Shaw. Pastor Shaw serves the Agnus Dei Lutheran Church in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

After working for a Fortune 500 company in the IT management division, Reverend Shaw graduated summa cum laude from Concordia University in Wisconsin and proceeded to obtain his Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Reverend Shaw accepted a call to Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Decatur, Illinois, in February 2008. He is now serving as missionary at large on behalf of the United Lutheran Mission Association at Agnus Dei in the Spotsylvania/Fredericksburg area of Virginia.

He has gone on to serve congregations as a pastor, currently serving a small startup, Agnus Dei Lutheran Church, Fredericksburg, Virginia. He also serves as VP of administration, CIO/CTO, and professor of church history and ethics at Walther Theological Seminary, Decatur, Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, Agnus Dei Lutheran Church is a church that is indeed alive. Reverend Shaw and the entire church family minister each day through worship services, daily prayer, and by serving those in need through ministries that support families by providing grief and crisis counseling.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues today to welcome Reverend Shaw, his wife, Peggy, and the rest of his family who have joined him today. May God bless his family and may God bless the church family at Clearwater's Calvary Baptist Church as well as our country today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

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

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am so excited to rise today to congratulate a small university of 10,000 students in Horry County, South Carolina: Coastal Carolina University.

Coastal Carolina may be small in size, but it is huge in achievement. CCU has had a couple of remarkable achievements in the last several weeks. You see, Coastal Carolina is the alma mater of 2016 U.S. Open champion, Dustin Johnson, and the home of the 2016 NCAA World Series champion, Coastal Carolina University Chanticleer baseball team.

After falling behind in game one, the Chants came back to win the final two games in a nail-biting best-of-three series. The Arizona Wildcats were an admirable opponent and came to play, but the perseverance, dedication, and true love of the game carried the Chants to victory.

Year after year, the Chants field remarkable athletes in every sport, and their achievements are often oversized. But this year's Chanticleer baseball team ran the table, and when the last pitch was thrown in Omaha, they brought the national title home. Not only is this the first NCAA title for CCU baseball, it is the school's first national title in any sport.

I want to recognize a few players who hail from the Seventh District of South Carolina: infielder and pitcher, Jordan Gore; first baseman, Kevin Woodhall, Jr.; and the all-star designated hitter, G.K. Young.

Of course, this team's success wouldn't be possible without the leadership of head coach Gary Gilmore and his remarkable coaching staff. A graduate of CCU himself, Coach Gilmore has led the Chants baseball team for 22 successful seasons.

This national title is a win for all the players, the coaches, CCU, and all fans across South Carolina. Congratulations, Coastal Carolina University. Go, Chants.

THE NRA HAS SPOKEN

(Ms. SPEIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, on the Fourth of July in my district I held a sit-in at a local movie theater to declare our independence from the NRA.

The gun lobby doesn't have a single vote in this House. Or does it have 247?

I ask that question because we can't even get a vote on the floor—just a vote—to prevent suspected terrorists who can't buy a plane ticket in the United States, but they can go out and buy a gun, no questions asked.

The NRA has spoken. Only a bill that would require the FBI to establish by

probable cause that the person is a terrorist and do so in a court of law and do so within 3 days, otherwise the gun would be turned over to the terrorist. And, by the way, you would also have to inform the terrorist that they are on the suspected or known list. It is a laughable proposal. It is a fig leaf, and it is a joke if it wasn't such an important issue.

The NRA spends \$3.7 million on the candidates in the House and the Senate. It is time for them to no longer have a seat in this House.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE COASTAL CAROLINA CHANTICLEERS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, Coastal Carolina University won their first-ever national title in the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska.

The Chanticleers defeated the Arizona Wildcats 4-3 in the final game of the series. I am grateful to recognize the entire team, and especially honoring four members from the Second Congressional District: Andrew Beckwith of Blythewood, Connor Owings and Mike Morrison of Gilbert, and Brandon Miller of Aiken.

Andrew, a junior at Coastal Carolina, first demonstrated his skills at Blythewood High School in South Carolina's Second District. He led Blythewood to a 27-7 record and secured a 4A State championship in 2013. Andrew was also named the most outstanding player of the 2016 College World Series.

Prior to attending Coastal Carolina, seniors Connor Owings and Mike Morrison led Gilbert High School to a 2A State championship. Both Connor and Mike earned recognition on the Big South Presidential Honor Roll from 2013 to 2015.

Freshman Brandon Miller, from Aiken High School, earned Second Team All-Area by the Augusta Chronicle.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Congratulations to Coastal Carolina University, represented by Congressman TOM RICE.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR A VOTE

(Mrs. NAPOLITANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, we are here because a lot of the families from everywhere are asking for gun control. Families in our district want the House to act. Poll after poll indicates public support to prevent gun violence.

Democrats want to pass real reform, but the House Republicans refuse to allow a vote. We want action in this House, but Congress passes nothing. No more silence. Watch who is preventing the action: the gun lobby, NRA, and our Republican colleagues. The last meaningful legislation on gun control was in 1994, the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act.

Crimes involving guns happen frequently, too often, 91 a day, motivated mostly by hate and racism. We need dialogue in this House of the people. This is where the action is, on the floor and in committee.

I would like to thank all of my friends and people in the district who called, wrote, and posted on social media. They all want action. They want Congress, the House to pass and do something.

We must keep guns out of the hands of individuals with violent histories and domestic abusers. We need to pass no fly, no buy so that no one on the terrorist watch list is allowed to purchase a gun. There needs to be universal background checks in all States.

Do not stigmatize those with mental illness who are more often victims rather than perpetrators of gun violence.

We will continue to push for a vote. I encourage all of you to continue the calls to the Speaker and my House Republican colleagues. This is too critical. We must act now. Give us a vote.

HONORING ELIE WIESEL

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and contributions of Elie Wiesel. Mr. Wiesel was a passionate advocate for peace, human rights, and the dignity of all people. His moral authority on international affairs served as a constant reminder and challenge to global leaders to always stand up against violence and genocide, even when it may be easier to do nothing.

He sought to use his public platform to highlight atrocities in Darfur, Ethiopia, South Africa, and Yugoslavia; and he called on leaders to take action. He was a strong advocate for the State of Israel, the need for a Jewish homeland, and the spiritual importance of Jerusalem to the Jewish people.

Mr. Wiesel's belief in the moral absolute of peace was shaped by his personal experience during the Holocaust, which claimed the lives of his father, his mother, and his sister. Generations of children now have learned about the horrors of the Holocaust through his firsthand account in the novel "Night."

Mr. Speaker, Elie Wiesel was a visionary scholar and activist. His message of peace and never forgetting the atrocities of the Holocaust will live on for generations to come.

REDUCE THE SCOURGE OF GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. PINGREE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, last week, a few days after my colleagues and I sat down right here in the House to demand action on legislation to reduce gun violence, I went home to Maine. I heard from so many of my constituents who asked: Is something finally going to happen in Washington on this issue?

Well, I don't have a crystal ball, and we live in an unpredictable time, so that is a hard question to answer. But it was especially hard to answer last week when the person asking was the daughter of the principal who was killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School or the parents of a young woman shot and killed in Maine by a handgun that had been sold without a background check.

The question was not just for me; it was for all of us. Will we finally do something to reduce the scourge of gun violence that is sweeping this country? Will we finally do something to limit access to guns by criminals and suspected terrorists?

Erica wants to know because her mother was killed by an assault rifle as she protected students at Sandy Hook. Judi and Wayne want to know because their daughter was shot with a handgun while she slept in her apartment.

Mr. Speaker, I hope our answer is yes.

90TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CHERRY FESTIVAL

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

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, this week northern Michigan is proud to host the 90th Annual National Cherry Festival in Traverse City. The festival consists of over 150 events and activities with over 500,000 attendees over the course of 8 days.

The cherry festival celebrates not only the delicious Michigan cherry treats on dinner tables for millions of Americans, but the enormous economic impact of cherry production. In fact, just this past year, Michigan companies produced 75 percent of the Nation's tart cherries, with 50 percent of those grown in Michigan's First District.

This past month we were proud to bring a little bit of the festival here to Washington, D.C. The cherry festival queen, Danielle Bott, came to visit my office, bringing along some great cherry festival spirit and pie. I was honored to show her around the Capitol and introduce her to Speaker RYAN.

I want to thank all the organizers of the cherry festival, the thousands of volunteers, and the hardworking