

registering her children for school. It turned family movie night into a horrific final act for 12 people in Aurora, Colorado. Gun violence turned a fun night out into a final terrifying moment for 49 people in Orlando and left indelible emotional wounds in the hearts of more than 50 others who suffered injury.

Mr. Speaker, what will you do before this year ends to prevent even more unnecessary and preventable gun violence? What are you and your caucus going to do to change the fact that American children are 4 times more likely to be killed by a gun than Canadian children, 7 times more likely than Israeli children, and 65 times more likely than British children?

There is no room for your deafening silence. There is no justification for your gavel to drown out the cries of families being terrorized by gun violence. It is said that “the blood brother of apathy is the inability to prioritize that which is important.”

Mr. Speaker, your apathy is America’s agony. Our constituents elected us to work together to solve our Nation’s biggest problems. If gun violence is not monumental, then what is? Right now, anyone can buy a gun online or at a gun show without a background check. Why does that make sense? We have a gaping hole in our system that must be closed.

Some States and municipalities already have strong, comprehensive background check laws, but many others do not, preventing laws from truly having their fullest impact. This is the case in Illinois.

I represent communities plagued by gun violence. Despite Chicago and Illinois having strong gun laws, our neighbors have very weak gun laws; so a criminal, a domestic abuser, a terrorist, or a person who is dangerously mentally unstable cannot get a gun in Illinois, but they can jump in their car, drive to a gun show in a bordering State like Wisconsin to buy a gun, and drive back to commit a horrible and preventable crime.

In a 4-year period from 2010 to 2014, 10,000 crime guns recovered in Illinois were from other States. Nearly 1,000 of the guns killing my fellow Illinois residents came from the Speaker’s home State of Wisconsin. Wisconsin’s lax gun laws are tied to 10 percent of Illinois crime guns.

This demonstrates what is all too obvious to 90 percent of the American public: it is the duty of Congress to pass comprehensive background checks to ensure that no matter where a dangerous person lives or travels, they cannot access a firearm.

If you are too dangerous to buy a gun in Illinois, you are too dangerous to buy a gun in Wisconsin. Forty percent of gun sales are online or at gun shows, where a background check is not required.

What if 4 out of every 10 people at an airport or right here in the Capitol didn’t have to go through security?

Would we enjoy the same level of safety as we do?

Requiring comprehensive background checks is a simple, logical measure. It is embarrassing that we are even having this discussion. This isn’t about taking away our constitutional right to bear arms. Law-abiding citizens who aren’t dangerous and can pass a background check will still have access to their firearms for hunting, self-defense, and for personal, legal use.

So, if you are not a danger to yourself or others, is undergoing a background check in order to maintain and buy a gun really that much of a big burden? Second Amendment rights, like all other Amendments guaranteed by our Constitution, have logical limits.

Keep guns out of the hands of the terrorists killing our children, off our playgrounds and streets, and away from people who are killing police officers like the one we just heard about. Once again, I ask: Who has to get shot, and just how many have to die before you do your job, Mr. Speaker?

#### MINNESOTA’S HUMANITARIAN SERVICE MEDAL RECIPIENT

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

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible work of Keith Kieffer, which has made him the deserving recipient of the Humanitarian Service Medal.

Keith began his service to this great Nation when he joined the Air Force in 1975. Three years after his enlistment, Keith received orders to go to Enewetak Atoll in the Marshall Islands, where his mission was to clean up contamination from 43 atomic bombs that were dropped on that island.

During his time on the island, Keith cleaned up World War II wreckage as well as dug trenches, which exposed him to contaminated soil.

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Upon his retirement from the Air Force in 1978, Keith earned the title of “Atomic Veteran.”

Keith is a true American hero. He selflessly put his own well-being on the line to protect future generations.

Congratulations on receiving the long, overdue Humanitarian Service Medal, Keith. Your service will never be forgotten.

#### REMEMBERING HAZEL YOUNGMAN

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Hazel Youngmann, a St. Cloud native who dedicated her life to helping the disabled.

Hazel worked tirelessly to reform our community in order to make it more accessible for those with disabilities. She did so through her work on the Whitney Senior Center Board, the St. Cloud Parks and Recreation Board, and the Stearns County Human Services

Advisory Committee, just to name a few.

Even though Hazel had her own limitations with mobility, hearing loss, and vision loss, she pushed through and attended countless meetings despite the physical toll it took on her.

Hazel’s unwavering optimism, determination, and passion for others is an inspiration and should serve as a model for the rest of us. Our thoughts and prayers are with Hazel and her loved ones during this difficult time. Be assured and comforted that her legacy will live on.

#### EVERSON’S HARDWARE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SUCCESS

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Everson’s Hardware in Waconia, Minnesota, for 50 years of business success.

Ron and Mary Ann Everson bought the store back in 1966, when they were just a young couple with two growing children. Throughout the years, Everson’s Hardware has become a well-respected and established part of the community, and the Everson family has realized their American Dream.

Eventually, Ron and Mary Ann passed the store along the way to Tracy and Deborah Everson, who continue to work behind the counter in this family store today. Small, family-operated businesses are what make Minnesota so great. They make our community special.

I want to thank the Everson family for their lasting contribution to Waconia. Congratulations and best of luck on the next 50 years.

#### GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION DAY OF ACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of all Americans whose lives and communities have been affected by gun violence, and to highlight the Gun Violence Prevention Day of Action.

After the tragic 2014 mass shooting in my Congressional District on the central coast of California, our community declared that not one more life should be lost to gun violence. Yet, today I stand before this Chamber with a heavy heart to mourn the many individuals who have been killed by a gun since that tragedy. And that number is staggering.

In fact, over 2,000 men, women, and children have lost their lives to gun violence since the start of the congressional recess in July. That is 2,000 people in just 60 days. Right here in our country. Our country is better than this.

House Republicans’ decision to dismiss the House for 7 weeks without so much as debating gun violence legislation is shameful. Going home to our districts without addressing life and death issues is not what the American people expect of us. They deserve better.