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No. 5

## Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2011, at 10 a.m.

## House of Representatives

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2011

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: With the psalmist, we pray for this Congress and the Nation:

“Come, let us bless the Lord at all times. Let praise always be on our lips. If the Lord is your boast, be humble, listen and be moved.

Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us reverence the Holy Name. When in difficulty, we looked for the Lord. Then from all our terrors we were set free.

When most vulnerable, we called out to the Lord, and we were rescued from all our difficulties.

So reverence the Lord with all the saints, for those who revere the Lord will lack no blessing.”

In the midst of everything, let us seek the Lord both now and forever. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings 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 Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) come forward

and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KUCINICH 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.

### ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 33

*Resolved*, That the following named Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.—Mr. Goodlatte, Mr. Johnson of Illinois, Mr. King of Iowa, Mr. Neugebauer, Mr. Conaway, Mr. Fortenberry, Mrs. Schmidt, Mr. Thompson of Pennsylvania, Mr. Rooney, Mr. Stutzman, Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Austin Scott of Georgia, Mr. Fincher, Mr. Tipton, Mr. Southerland, Mr. Crawford, Mrs. Roby, Mr. Huelskamp, Mr. DesJarlais, Mrs. Ellmers, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Hultgren, Mrs. Hartzler, Mr. Schilling, and Mr. Ribble.

(2) COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES.—Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Thornberry, Mr. Jones, Mr. Akin, Mr. Forbes, Mr. Miller of Florida, Mr. Wilson of South Carolina, Mr. LoBiondo, Mr. Turner, Mr. Kline, Mr. Rogers of Alabama, Mr. Franks of Arizona, Mr. Shuster, Mr. Conaway, Mr. Lamborn, Mr. Wittman, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Fleming, Mr. Coffman of Colo-

rado, Mr. Rooney, Mr. Platts, Mr. Rigell, Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Hartzler, Mr. Heck, Mr. Schilling, Mr. Runyan, Mr. Austin Scott of Georgia, Mr. Griffin of Arkansas, Mr. Palazzo, Mr. West, Mrs. Roby, Mr. Brooks, and Mr. Young of Indiana.

(3) COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE.—Mr. Barton of Texas, Mr. Stearns, Mr. Whitfield, Mr. Shimkus, Mr. Pitts, Mrs. Bono Mack, Mr. Walden, Mr. Terry, Mr. Rogers of Michigan, Mrs. Myrick, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Murphy of Pennsylvania, Mr. Burgess, Mr. Bilbray, Mr. Bass of New Hampshire, Mrs. Blackburn, Mr. Gingrey of Georgia, Mr. Scalise, Mr. Latta, Mrs. McMorris Rodgers, Mr. Harper, Mr. Lance, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Guthrie, Mr. Olson, Mr. McKinley, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Pompeo, Mr. Kinzinger of Illinois, and Mr. Griffith of Virginia.

(4) COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES.—Mr. King of New York, Mr. Royce, Mr. Lucas, Mr. Paul, Mr. Manzullo, Mr. Jones, Mrs. Biggert, Mr. Gary G. Miller of California, Mrs. Capito, Mr. Hensarling, Mr. Garrett, Mr. Neugebauer, Mr. McHenry, Mr. Campbell, Mrs. Bachmann, Mr. Marchant, Mr. McCotter, Mr. McCarthy of California, Mr. Pearce, Mr. Posey, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Westmoreland, Mr. Luetkemeyer, Mr. Huizenga of Michigan, Mr. Duffy, Ms. Hayworth, Mr. Renacci, Mr. Hurt, Mr. Dold, Mr. Schweikert, Mr. Grimm, Mr. Canseco, and Mr. Stivers.

(5) COMMITTEE ON RULES.—Mr. Bishop of Utah, to rank immediately after Ms. Poxx.

(6) COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE.—Mr. Young of Alaska, Mr. Petri, Mr. Coble, Mr. Duncan of Tennessee, Mr. LoBiondo, Mr. Gary G. Miller of California, Mr. Johnson of Illinois, Mr. Graves of Missouri, Mr. Shuster, Mrs. Capito, Mrs. Schmidt, Mrs. Miller of Michigan, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Reed, Mr. Harris, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Herrera Beutler, Mr. Guinta, Mr. Hultgren, Mr. Barletta, Mr. Cravaack, Mr. Farenthold, Mr. Bucshon, Mr. Long, Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Meehan, Mr. Hanna, Mr. Fincher,

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H143

Mr. Landry, Mr. Southerland, Mr. Denham, and Mr. Lankford.

Mr. HENSARLING (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

Mr. PASTOR. I object. I would like to have the resolution read, if possible.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Clerk will report the resolution. Mr. PASTOR. I withdraw the objection.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING ARIZONA SHOOTING

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of January 12, 2011, to consider in the House without intervention of any point of order a resolution relating to recent events in Tucson, Arizona, if offered by the Speaker or his designee;

such resolution shall be debatable for 6 hours equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and the minority leader or their respective designees; and

the previous question shall be considered as ordered on such resolution and any preamble thereto to final adoption without intervening motion.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of today, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 32) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona, on January 8, 2011, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 32

Whereas on January 8, 2011, an armed gunman opened fire at a "Congress on your Corner" event hosted by Representative Gabrielle Giffords in Tucson, Arizona, killing 6 and wounding at least 14 others;

Whereas Christina Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, John Roll, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard, and Gabriel Zimmerman lost their lives in this attack;

Whereas Christina Taylor Green, the 9-year-old daughter of John and Roxanna Green, was born on September 11, 2001, and was a third grader with an avid interest in government who was recently elected to the student council at Mesa Verde Elementary School;

Whereas Dorothy Morris, who was 76 years old, attended the January 8 event with George, her husband of over 50 years with whom she had 2 daughters, and who was also critically injured as he tried to shield her from the shooting;

Whereas John Roll, a Pennsylvania native who was 63 years old, began his professional career as a bailiff in 1972, was appointed to the Federal bench in 1991, and became chief judge for the District of Arizona in 2006, and was a devoted husband to his wife Maureen, father to his 3 sons, and grandfather to his 5 grandchildren;

Whereas Phyllis Schneck, a proud mother of 3, grandmother of 7, and great-grandmother from New Jersey, was spending the winter in Arizona, and was a 79-year-old church volunteer and New York Giants fan;

Whereas Dorwan Stoddard, a 76-year-old retired construction worker and volunteer at the Mountain Avenue Church of Christ, is credited with shielding his wife Mavy, a longtime friend whom he married while they were in their 60s, who was also injured in the shooting;

Whereas Gabriel Matthew Zimmerman, who was 30 years old and engaged to be married, served as Director of Community Outreach to Representative Gabrielle Giffords, and was a social worker before serving with Representative Giffords;

Whereas Representative Gabrielle Giffords was a target of this attack, and remains in critical condition at an Arizona hospital;

Whereas 13 others were also wounded in the shooting, including Ron Barber and Pamela Simon, both staffers to Representative Giffords; and

Whereas several individuals, including Patricia Maisch, Army Col. Bill Badger (Retired), who was also wounded in the shooting, Roger Sulzgeber, Joseph Zimudio, and Daniel Hernandez, Jr., helped apprehend the gunman and assist the injured, thereby risking their lives for the safety of others, and should be commended for their bravery: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns in the strongest possible terms the horrific attack which occurred at the "Congress on your Corner" event hosted by Representative Gabrielle Giffords in Tucson, Arizona, on January 8, 2011;

(2) offers its heartfelt condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of those who were killed in that attack;

(3) expresses its hope for the rapid and complete recovery of those wounded in the shooting;

(4) honors the memory of Christina Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, John Roll, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard, and Gabriel Zimmerman;

(5) applauds the bravery and quick thinking exhibited by those individuals who prevented the gunman from potentially taking more lives and helped to save those who had been wounded;

(6) recognizes the service of the first responders who raced to the scene and the health care professionals who tended to the victims once they reached the hospital, whose service and skill saved lives;

(7) reaffirms the bedrock principle of American democracy and representative government, which is memorialized in the First Amendment of the Constitution and which Representative Gabrielle Giffords herself read in the Hall of the House of Representatives on January 6, 2011, of "the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances";

(8) stands firm in its belief in a democracy in which all can participate and in which intimidation and threats of violence cannot silence the voices of any American;

(9) honors the service and leadership of Representative Gabrielle Giffords, a distinguished member of this House, as she courageously fights to recover; and

(10) when adjourning today, shall do so out of respect to the victims of this attack.

□ 1010

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the resolution shall be debatable for 6 hours equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and the minority leader or their designees.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. PASTOR) each will control 3 hours.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the Speaker of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER).

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker and my colleagues, today we are called here to mourn.

An unspeakable act of violence has taken six innocent lives, and left several more—including our colleague, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS—battling for theirs. These are difficult hours for our country.

Among the fallen is Gabe Zimmerman, a member of Congresswoman GIFFORDS' staff—a public servant of the highest caliber—one of our own. Even in our shock, we are composed and determined to fulfill our calling to represent our constituents. This is the great cause for which Gabe gave his life.

Like us, Gabe swore an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution. At the time of the attack, he was engaged in the most simple and direct of democratic rituals: listening to the people, listening to his neighbors.

The brutality that shattered Saturday morning's calm was devastating, but brief. Bravery and quick thinking prevented a larger massacre, turning innocent bystanders into heroes.

The service and skill of first responders and medical professionals saved lives. Law enforcement officials are working to ensure swift justice. Look to Tucson right now, and you will be reminded that America's most plentiful source of wealth and strength is her people.

We are so thankful GABBY is still with us. We are so thankful that two of her staffers who were also wounded—Ron Barber and Pam Simon—are still with us as well.

In her stead, GABBY's staff has pressed on, opening for business Monday morning right on schedule. The men and women who faithfully serve the people of Arizona's 8th Congressional District have signaled that no act—no matter how heinous—will stop us from doing our duty and being among the people we serve.

To all of the dedicated professionals that we rely on to make this institution work, to each of you: thank you for what you do. And to GABBY's staff—and their families: please know that our hearts and prayers go out to each of you.

This body has yet to fully register the magnitude of this tragedy. We feel a litany of unwanted emotions no resolution could possibly capture.

We know that we gather here without distinction of party. The needs of this institution have always risen above partisanship. And what this institution needs right now is strength—holy, uplifting strength. The strength to grieve with the families of the fallen, to pray for the wounded, and to chart a way forward, no matter how painful and difficult it may be.

Today it is not ceremony, but tragedy that stirs us to renew our commitment to faithfully fulfill our oath of office. Let us not let this inhuman act frighten us into doing otherwise.

The free exchange of ideas is the lifeblood of our democracy, as prescribed by the First Amendment, that beacon of free expression Congresswoman GIFFORDS recited in this well just days ago.

These rights have not been handed down by dictate; they have been preserved and protected through generations of hard sacrifice and commitment. We will continue that unfinished work.

We will do it for Christina Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck, and Dorwan Stoddard, ordinary citizens who died participating in their democracy. And we will do it for Judge John Roll. And we will do it for Gabe Zimmerman. And we will do it for—and God willing, with—GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

Our hearts are broken, but our spirit is not. This is a time for the House to lock arms in prayer for those fallen and the wounded, and in resolve to carry on the dialogue of democracy.

We may not yet have all the answers, but we already have the answer that matters most: that we are Americans, and together we will make it through this difficult period. We will have the last word.

God bless this House. God bless this Congress. And God bless America.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the minority leader, Ms. PELOSI.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and extend my condolences to him, Mr. PASTOR, the senior member of the Arizona delegation, and to all of the members of the Arizona delegation.

Madam Speaker, I am saddened, greatly saddened, to join the Speaker of the House, Mr. BOEHNER, in coming together in sadness today to share our prayers and indeed our hopes for those who have lost so much because of the tragedy in Arizona involving our colleague, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS, her staff, and innocent bystanders.

Words are inadequate at a time like this, but I hope it is a comfort to those who have lost loved ones or who were injured on Saturday that so many people mourn the losses but also pray for the survivors and care for them at this very difficult time.

I think the resolution in its description of what happened and the context with which it happened is an excellent resolution; and I hope people will read it, pray over it, and be grateful that we have this opportunity to comment on it.

Today, we will say many prayers for our country and for the victims of this horrific event. We think of our colleague, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS, fighting to recover, and the 14 others who were injured and remember the six who were killed. Their names are mentioned, and they are described in the resolution. The Speaker has mentioned their names, but I think acknowledging them bears repetition.

How do you explain the death of 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green who had recently been elected to the student council in her school, Mesa Verde Elementary School, and the unbearable grief of John and Roxanna Green? Again, we pray for them and will carry Christina as an inspiration in our hearts.

Dorothy Morris was married for more than 50 years to her high school sweetheart and was the mother of two.

Federal Judge John Roll had just come from mass, which he attended every day.

Phyllis Schneck, mother of three, grandmother of seven, and a great-grandmother. And I know that the New Yorkers like to hear she was a Giants fan, snowbird in Arizona carrying that dedication west.

Dorwan Stoddard died shielding his wife, Mavy. Shielding his wife, Mavy.

And as has been mentioned in the resolution, and we have mourned, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS' director of community outreach, Gabriel Matthew Zimmerman. One of his colleagues, his coworker, said: "Gabe helped people for a living."

As we honor the heroes who risked their lives to protect others, among them some who were injured, Patricia Maisch, for one, who grabbed the full magazine of ammunition from the killer as he attempted to reload. Just think of how many more we could have lost.

Roger Sulzgeber and Joseph Zimudio tackled and subdued the suspect. Imagine the courage.

□ 1020

And Daniel Hernandez, Jr., 20 years old—an intern who had just been on the job for 4 days. When he heard gunshots, he ran toward them—he ran toward them—and attended to Congresswoman GIFFORDS, helping to staunch her bleeding with his own hands.

We pray for the recovery of other members of Congresswoman GIFFORDS' staff—Ron Barber, Pam Simon. We commend Pia Carusone and the entire GIFFORDS staff for carrying on.

Those heroes at the scene were joined by first responders from county and municipalities, arriving just 3 minutes after the first 911 call, who performed excellently, and in doing so, saved

lives. We also pay tribute to the skilled professionals at Arizona's University Medical Center, whose role is ongoing in healing the victims of this tragedy.

Tonight, the University of Arizona community joins with Tucson, the State of Arizona and, indeed, the entire Nation to acknowledge together Saturday's tragedy. Appropriately, this remembrance is called "Together we thrive: Tucson and America."

"Together we thrive: Tucson and America" will be an opportunity to grieve, and it will be a demonstration of our strength: a strength in community—a strength in community that was demonstrated last Saturday, a strength in community there that is ongoing. Tucson demonstrated its strength on Saturday when the city was full of heroes—ordinary citizens, victims, first responders—coming together in the spirit of community.

Madam Speaker, our colleague Congresswoman GIFFORDS was the primary target of this cowardly act; and as she recovers, we honor her as a brilliant and courageous Member of Congress. She has brought to Congress an invigoration—the thinking of a new generation of national leaders. As a businesswoman and State legislator, she came to Congress full of ideas, and we will long continue to be blessed by them. I look forward to when she is present with us on the floor. She has spoken out courageously and led boldly when the times have demanded it.

It is especially tragic that those who lost their lives and those who were wounded had come together, as the resolution presents, to participate in an activity that reflects the best of our democratic tradition—a Representative of the people, of GABBY GIFFORDS and her staff hearing directly from the men and women she represents.

American democracy is founded on our commitment to a contest of ideas, not violence. Political disagreement and dissent must never violate our Nation's values, as expressed in the Constitution, of free expression, speech and peaceful assembly. GABBY spoke to that right here from the floor last week.

In this hour of anguish, we seek a renewed commitment to hope, to civility, to peace among the American people. In many of our churches, we sing on Sunday and on other days of the week: let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin, not just with us but with me—with each of us, within each of us.

In speaking as one House today, coming together in peace, we offer our thoughts and support, our prayers for the health of our colleague, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, and for all of the injured. We share the stories of the heroes of this tragedy and mourn those who perished. Let their actions and their memories be a blessing to our country.

We don't know why God saw this to be necessary, but let this be something that we cherish as an opportunity as we mourn the heartbreaking horror of

it all. This resolution is a fitting tribute. It is a great resolution. Please read it again and again. Carry those names in your heart. Remember each of these people because, again, a tragic accident took lives and wounded people in the free expression of ideas. May this resolution remind us of the urgent need to uphold our democratic values, to treat one another with courtesy and with respect, and to act as Congresswoman GIFFORDS has always done and always will do—in a manner that reflects the best of American leadership.

As our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of all who were affected, I want to call special attention to Commander, Navy Captain Mark Kelly, GABBY's husband, who has been a source of strength to all of us in this difficult time. We pray for him. We thank him for his and GABBY's service to our country. God truly blessed America with their leadership, with their service, and with their love for each other.

Mr. CANTOR. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this week, most Members of the House will gather briefly here in Washington, but our hearts and spirits will be in Arizona. The unspeakable tragedy in Tucson last Saturday came as a complete shock, casting a pall over the entire Nation.

With this resolution, we join 300 million Americans and millions of others around the world in showing our solidarity with Congresswoman GIFFORDS and the rest of the victims. GABBY serves Arizona's Eighth District with distinction and thoughtful leadership, and we are all praying for her speedy recovery.

Saturday's cowardly crime was more than just an attack on dozens of innocent Americans at a grocery store. It was an attack on the very essence of democracy and representative government—an assault on the open exchange of ideas between legislators and the people to whom they are accountable.

This resolution honors the memory of Christina Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, Judge John Roll, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard, and Gabriel Zimmerman. The slain represent a broad cross-section of the American public—young and old; men, women and child; friends, brothers, sisters, and children. They will be missed but not forgotten.

This inexplicable crime reminds us that there is evil in the world. Yet, as we look for light in a thicket of darkness, our Nation has drawn inspiration from the bravery and quick thinking displayed by the heroes on the scene. Were it not for their efforts, there likely would have been many more victims.

The outpouring of support, prayer, and solidarity also reminds us that America is a country of compassion, community, and empathy. We will stand with the victims and their families, and pray and mourn with them as they cope with this horrific tragedy.

Madam Speaker, I also want to offer my thoughts of comfort to GABBY GIFFORDS' staff and want them to know that our hearts hang heavy, and our thoughts and prayers are with them as they try and persevere through this very difficult time.

I would also like to add my thanks to the brave law enforcement that has helped our Nation over the last several days and every day—the law enforcement under the directorship of Director Mueller of the FBI, the local law enforcement in Arizona and, from our perspective, most especially, the Capitol Police, the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and the Sergeant at Arms, himself—for the tremendous job that they are undergoing each and every minute as we try and cope with this tragedy.

Madam Speaker, this resolution affirms the point all of us want to make. Our hearts are heavy. We mourn with the victims, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

□ 1030

Madam Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), and I ask unanimous consent that he be permitted to control that time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Arizona will control the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding.

Madam Speaker, this week, we pause the work of the House to mourn the lost lives of six of our fellow citizens—one of those born on that day of tragedy and carnage when thousands were slain in an equally indiscriminate, heinous act of hate—citizens shot dead on Saturday in Tucson in pursuit of the "right to peaceably assemble," the amendment which GABBY GIFFORDS read on this floor. We come as well to honor those who risked their lives to save others, to pray for the lives of the wounded, and to pray for our colleague and friend, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

Today, this temple of representative democracy is a sadder place. But Congresswoman GIFFORDS' intelligence and her toughness, her public spirit and her charm will, God willing, and with the extraordinary medical care she is receiving, soon return to this body and again be a practitioner and a model for the principles of civil debate and thoughtful deliberation on which this temple is founded.

Congresswoman GIFFORDS was attacked doing the work that is the heart of democracy, as has been so eloquently observed by our Speaker, Mr. BOEHNER: Listening to her neighbors, listening to those who sent her here to Washington to reflect their views.

Each one of us have done that work. Each one of us has come back bearing

their fears and their hopes, their convictions and their visions for the future. Some, of course, are everyday hopes; some are matters of life and death. But in each case, we bring these hopes here and speak to our neighbors as best we can. That is what Congresswoman GIFFORDS was doing.

We do not know, of course, the specific motive which led the perpetrator of this crime to act, nor can we draw conclusions as to specific causes, but it seems to me it is a time for us to reflect on the heightened anger being projected on our public debate and the daily denigration of those with whom we disagree. And it is appropriate, therefore, that the wrenching, shocking, senseless violence of that day compel us to reflect on our own responsibility to temper our words and respect those with whom we disagree, lest the failure to do so give incitement to the angriest and most unstable among us.

Let us speak for our neighbors in a spirit of unity, not a false and shallow unity, not a unity that wishes away our differences or our discords, but a unity founded on our reverence for our democracy's most precious, most fragile gift—its power to resolve without violence our weightiest questions.

In a much darker time than ours, from the edge of a great war, President Lincoln addressed these words to the men and women whom, even in the war's depths, he refused to see as anything other than his fellow Americans. He said this: "We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection."

There are, in every society and in every culture and every nation, those who reflect that creed, but if we love our country, if we honor our oath to country, Constitution, and to our Nation of laws, we must live by those words. There is, perhaps, nothing we can do that will prevent the mindless violence committed by the few, but we can and must appeal to the best instincts of the many.

To the families of the fallen, we extend our sympathy. To the survivors, we extend our prayers for a full and speedy recovery. And to our colleague, to our beloved colleague, GABBY, we extend our love and our hopes for her early return to the Chamber and our ranks.

All of us in this time have come together, reached out to one another, comforted one another, and lifted one another up. May that sentiment not pass quickly from this body or from this country.

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank Speaker BOEHNER and the leadership on both sides of the aisle for bringing this resolution to the floor. This is indeed Congress at its best.

None of us will ever forget the feeling we had when we heard the news of the shooting last Saturday—one of the victims which was our dear friend and colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS. A few hours

after the first news broke, I was in attendance at the press conference in Tucson at the medical center. Amid the turmoil and the anguish of the occasion, there were audible expressions of joy and relief around that room and around the country when Dr. Rhee announced that GABBY could listen and respond. GABBY's progress over the past few days has been measured in much the same manner—the squeeze of a hand, the raising of two fingers, a thumbs-up sign, each gesture letting us know that she hears, that she is listening and responding. These traits, listening and responding, have defined GABBY GIFFORDS' career as a legislator.

Let me give but one example borne of another tragedy just 10 months ago. Longtime Arizonan Bob Krentz, known to provide assistance to those he found in need, was murdered on his ranch near Arizona's southern border. Farmers and ranchers in Arizona were understandably alarmed. GABBY listened and responded. Over and over she contacted and visited those affected, reassuring them that help was on its way. She convened monthly conference calls for the farming and ranching communities involving the Border Patrol, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Justice Department and other Federal agencies, each month broadening the circle to include more stakeholders.

We learned of her efforts in delegation meetings here in Washington, where she enlisted additional support. Last August, much as a result of GABBY's persistent efforts, the Congress acted, providing unprecedented resources to improve security in the area. GABBY listened, she responded, and, in the end, Congress responded as well.

We are responding here today by giving thanks for the service of Federal Judge John Roll and Gabe Zimmerman for the public service they have rendered. We are responding today by recognizing the heroic lifesaving efforts of people like Daniel Hernandez, who delivered aid to Congresswoman GIFFORDS; to those who tackled the gunman; to Dorwan Stoddard, who shielded his wife from the gunfire, selflessly giving his own life that she might live. We are responding today by joining John and Roxanna Green in mourning the loss of their 9-year-old daughter, Christina, as well as the friends and families of Dorothy Morris and Phyllis Schneck.

We in the Arizona delegation are proud of the wonderful State that we, together with more than 6 million of our friends and neighbors, call home. Arizona is defined not by the actions of a lone crazed gunman, but by the heroism and bravery of those who left us on Saturday and those, like our friend and colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, who will continue to lead us in the future.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the leader

of the caucus, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON).

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. I thank the gentleman from Arizona.

Shakespeare tells us in Othello that when Iago whispers mistruths in the ear of Othello, something beautiful dies.

□ 1040

Something beautiful died in Tucson, Arizona, this past Saturday. People who came to an event, to hear their congresswoman speak—one little girl, 9 years old—all beautiful, all celebrating the great beauty and majesty of our democracy, passed on that day.

Who knows what mistruths were bouncing around in the head of the assassin. Who could know that? But something beautiful died. Democracy died just a little that day.

But beauty has a way of coming back. It resides in people like GABRIELLE GIFFORDS. She epitomizes all that is good and rich about serving in the United States Congress. From her very demeanor, to her graciousness, to the way she carried herself in committee, with her legislation, and how she held forth with her constituents in an accountable manner that has become so much a fabric of our democracy—our Congress on the Corner.

She truly is a beautiful person. And that beauty had others responding that day with acts of heroism that have already been recounted on this floor. And that beauty lies with her husband by her side and with the fervent prayers of a Nation in hope, knowing and feeling confident that she will return from this awful incident and be back here with us gracing us with her beauty and dignity and vision and purpose.

One of her last remarks, in speaking to Mr. Trey Grayson, director of the Harvard Institute of Politics, was to say, I would love to talk about what we can do to promote centrism and moderation. I think we need to figure out how to tone down our rhetoric and the partisanship that exists here.

Mr. FLAKE. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS).

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, the tragedy this week in Arizona has been a reminder to all of us of the brevity and delicate nature of this earthly life. It is my prayer this morning that God would grant all of the victims named in this resolution, as well as the grieving families and loved ones who are mourning the loss of the six precious lives that were taken that day, the comfort, the peace, and the restoration that only He can give.

Madam Speaker, it happens that the only one of those victims that I knew well personally was our own GABBY GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, GABBY and I are from different parties. And on past and happier days, many in Arizona would often joke about the differences in our politics.

But I can testify to you this morning, Madam Speaker, that in the 4 years that I have known GABBY GIFFORDS there has never been one unkind or acrimonious or even terse word passed between us.

GABBY GIFFORDS is a precious, warm, caring, decent human being whose warmth and charm touched the hearts of all who know her. And the testimony of her life and work is proof that true tolerance is not in pretending that we have no differences; it is being kind and decent to each other in spite of those differences.

And it strikes me as more than a poignant coincidence that only days before the tragedy, we all listened to GABBY GIFFORDS as she stood at this very podium and read the words of the Constitution's First Amendment, which protects the right of the people to peaceably assemble.

And then only days later, Madam Speaker, as she was exercising that right and faithfully doing her job as a Member of the United States Congress, one bereft of heart, human compassion, and respect for innocent human life mindlessly shattered her life and the lives of so many others around her.

Madam Speaker, the last words I had with GABBY GIFFORDS were spoken not 10 feet from this podium when we exchanged simple but genuine and heartfelt words and best wishes for the new year and the new Congress. And, Madam Speaker, I will tell you that when I heard the news of this tragedy and the false report that GABBY had died, I felt such an overwhelming sense of grief in my soul to think that those were the last words that I would ever speak to her.

And it was a reminder to me, Madam Speaker, of the brevity and preciousness of human life and freedom and just how important it really is for each of us to seize every moment and to speak kind and loving words to each other while we still can.

So, Madam Speaker, it is my prayer that God would comfort the Giffords family and all of the victims of this horrible tragedy and hold them closely in His arms as only He can, and that He would some day very soon return a smiling GABBY GIFFORDS to this Chamber and to all of us, as clear eyed and as whole as when she left us.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. PASTOR of Arizona asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I also join my colleague from Arizona, JEFF FLAKE, in thanking the leadership in bringing this resolution here this morning. I also want to recognize that Representative GIFFORDS' staff is in the gallery with us this morning. So we want to wish them the best.

Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness I rise today to pay tribute to six innocent and precious Arizonans who, while participating in a public event designated to strengthen our democracy, so tragically lost their lives in a

senseless act of violence last Saturday. I also want to pay tribute to those 14 Arizonans, including our dedicated and beloved colleague, and my personal friend, GABBY GIFFORDS, who were wounded.

These Americans, all dedicated to freedom and all loving their country so much that they chose to use their Saturday morning to participate in a public event to make their government better, are recovering at different paces and with unique and different needs. The city of Tucson, Pima County, and the entire State of Arizona stand poised to assist and welcome these brave heroes back to our communities once they have recovered.

GABBY continues to fight, literally fight, every minute for her life. And we are all reaching toward our God in prayer, contemplation, and silent whispers in our unified effort to bring about her quick recovery and return to us here in this House of Representatives.

Those who perished—Phyllis Schneck, Dorothy Morris, Gabe Zimmerman, Christina Taylor Green, Dorwin Stoddard, and John Roll—will be missed by their families, their colleagues, their friends, and all Arizonans.

□ 1050

Phyllis Schneck was described by her New Jersey hometown paper as a lifelong conservative, yet she was there to see GABBY because she admired her. This is a perfect example of someone who wanted to step beyond the current vitriol in modern-day politics and bring us together.

Dorothy Morris was married to a former Marine Corps pilot, who was also wounded and recovering. We all know the patriotism and love of country every spouse of a marine exhibits, and she was no exception.

Gabe Zimmerman was one of us. A dedicated staff member to GABBY, it is said that he literally lived to serve his community. Sadly, he perished, but he perished fulfilling his calling and doing what he loved—helping the people of his town.

Christina Taylor Green was just starting her political career. She had just been elected to her school's student council and wanted to come see it done at the highest level. She wanted to see a pro, so she came to see GABBY. She was a special little girl who kept reaching for the stars in politics, dance, baseball, and whatever her heart desired.

Dorwan Stoddard died shielding his wife, who was also wounded but expected to recover. Following their regular Saturday outing, Dorwan brought his wife, Mavy, to GABBY because reportedly she wanted to tell GABBY what a good job she was doing. High school sweethearts who were reconnected after many years apart, they were a pillar of their church community. And we know Mavy will continue on, saddened and burdened, but hopefully not broken.

Finally, Judge Roll had been working with GABBY and several of us in the delegation for the past several months trying to make the courts in Arizona more efficient and more responsive to both the victim and the accused. I knew him to be a fair, dedicated, charming, professional, and loyal person. He loved his family; he loved his profession; he loved his job, his community, and his country. Arizona and the Nation will be a different place without him.

Again, I am encouraged by the reports concerning all the wounded. These individuals are the perfect example of the strength of Arizonans and all Americans. They will recover, we pray, and they will not shy from continuing to serve their community.

This is most true for GABBY. GABBY is a special person among us here in Congress. We all know that. We all love her pragmatism, her bipartisanship, her willingness to learn, her dedication to give, her compassion for her job and for each of us, and her spirit to continue striving to make the Eighth Congressional District of Arizona and America a better place to live and work.

Hopefully, it won't be much longer until we see her here, her smiling face with us again, doing what she loves, and working hard for the people of our country.

Our prayers go to GABBY, all the victims, and the families of the deceased. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT).

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I come to the floor today to offer these thoughts on this tragic event this past Saturday outside Tucson that took the lives of John M. Roll, Christina Taylor Green, Dorwan Stoddard, Dorothy Morris, Gabe Zimmerman, and Phyllis Schneck, and gravely injured our colleague, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS.

It was just last week that my wife and I had the opportunity to visit with GABBY in Statuary Hall before the ceremonial swearing in. And as so many of you know, our interactions with her were gracious, energetic, and she was willing to help us as we were setting up our freshman office. We took a few photos. We talked about ways we could work together, and of course we engaged in the banter and teasing of Arizona's favorite rivalry, ASU versus U of A.

GABBY takes enormous pride in the job in representing the communities of southern Arizona. And my wife and I send our thoughts and prayers to Mark during this difficult time. We deeply appreciate the gift Mark generously shares with all of us here in Washington and back in Arizona.

It is also important not to forget the individuals who lost their lives or who were injured while they were exercising their right to participate and have a

say in this Republic. Indeed, they became victims while exercising a fundamental right that has served as a backbone of this country since its founding, a right our Nation's Founders sacrificed so dearly for, just as the victims this last Saturday have tragically also sacrificed for.

We are stunned by the tragedy, but we remain resolute in our commitment to assemble peacefully, engage civilly in the types of discourse that are fundamental to maintaining this Republic. Although words may not sufficiently capture the sorrow and grief we are experiencing, particularly in Arizona, Joyce and I send our thoughts, our prayers to GABBY; Mark; Roxanna and John Green, the parents of little Christina Taylor Green; and the loved ones of Judge Roll, Dorwan Stoddard, Dorothy Morris, Gabe Zimmerman, Phyllis Schneck, the community of Tucson and southern Arizona, all Arizona, this Nation. Our hearts are heavy, but our prayers are with all of you.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. We are one as we pay tribute to Congresswoman GIFFORDS and all the other victims of violence in Tucson. Our gathering reflects the truth of America's first motto, which is above this Chamber, E Pluribus Unum—Out of Many, We Are One.

It is vital that we acknowledge our oneness, not just as a Congress, but as a Nation and as a world. In that appreciation for oneness, we find human sympathy, compassion, and love. It is an awareness of the imperative of human unity which can bring us to the threshold of understanding our power to bring an end to the violence which is consuming our loved ones. It is an awareness of the imperative of human unity which can help us to create a new America where the omnipresence of violence is understood as a challenge to be met, not as an unyielding truth of the human condition to be accepted.

Our hearts are open now as we recognize the victims. So let us be open to a new direction, where we in this Nation can take an organized approach to deal with the causes of violence, not just the effects. We are one with our sister, Congresswoman GIFFORDS, and all the other victims. Let us continue to be one with each other as we struggle to bring light to this moment of darkness.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. QUAYLE).

□ 1100

Mr. QUAYLE. I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 32 and to honor the victims of the senseless act of violence that took place in Tucson on Saturday. All Arizonans and all Americans mourn the six souls that lost their lives. They will never be forgotten.

They were model citizens, actively engaged in their community and with their government, just chatting with their Representative on a Saturday morning.

Mr. Speaker, peaceful discourse and participation is a precious part of our society and one of the things that makes our country great. We must not allow an act of violence to inhibit the free exchange of thoughts and concerns.

The six that lost their lives died because they loved America. They wanted to be involved in the process. In recent days, we have heard their inspiring stories from family and friends. We shouldn't have to wonder what the future had in store for them. They are the friends, neighbors, and colleagues that our communities depend upon.

Mr. Speaker, we pray for our friend and colleague, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS. That she survived her wounds is a miracle but no surprise to those who know her and admire her spirit, determination, and conviction.

Congresswoman GIFFORDS was attacked while doing her job to the best of her ability. She wasn't in an ornate congressional hearing room or on the floor of the House. She was back home on the sidewalk of a supermarket listening to the concerns of her constituents. That too, Mr. Speaker, is what makes this country great. That, too, must never change.

In our great State of Arizona, there is much to mourn after Saturday's tragedy. But make no mistake, there are also many things that elicit great pride.

We are proud of the brave civilian and professional first responders whose quick response time and decisive actions prevented more loss of life and greater injury. We are proud of the amazing work performed by the surgeons and the medical teams at the University of Arizona Medical Center, whose skill and expertise shined during trying times.

And above all, Mr. Speaker, we are proud of the six who perished and of Congresswoman GIFFORDS, all of whom were simply doing their duty as good Americans: they as active citizens and she as their worthy Representative.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan.

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. We all come together in the aftermath of the overwhelming tragedy at Tucson to remember all of the victims and also to fervently hope, still in disbelief.

Our colleague, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, epitomizes what a public servant should be, fully dedicated, principled, caring and reaching out to all constituents and to all our colleagues. Time will tell with clarity exactly what are the appropriate lessons for all of us to learn from the Tucson tragedy.

In the meanwhile, our focus is, indeed, very personal. In the holiday card

that GABBY sent to me, she wrote her best wishes for a joyful new year and continued writing that we will have our work cut out for us.

The new year is now far, far less joyful. So our hope in the prayer we are sending with love to GABBY and to Mark is that GABBY will be able to join us as we take on the work cut out for us to which, GABBY, you have devoted your whole self so fully.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, let me just say how nice it is to have you presiding and another Arizonan controlling time on that side and so many in the delegation here today. We are a close delegation.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today with a heavy heart as I give my prayers to Representative GIFFORDS and her family, as well as my condolences to the other victims of the rampage in Tucson. I speak not just for myself and for my family, but for the citizens of my district in Arizona and so many others who are saddened and outraged by this senseless act.

GABBY is more than Arizona's third female Congresswoman. She is first and foremost an American who devoted much of her life to public service. There are risks with public service. We cannot deny that. But GABBY has powerful beliefs, and she came to DC to represent the people of her district, and everyone knows she is tireless.

GABBY has the grit of a fighter and the tenacity of a woman on a mission. It is that heart and that grit and that tenacity that I pray will continue to serve her well and speed her recovery.

I hope the day is coming soon that I get to greet GABBY with open arms and welcome her back to the floor of this House. There is so much that we have yet to do together for Arizona, for this country. I look forward to working with GABBY on the issues of our day and hearing her spirited voice.

Let me add further the acts of a criminal will not stop us from meeting our people. We will not be deterred. We will not be intimidated, and we will not abandon the people of Arizona because of the murderous acts of a deranged killer.

GABBY read the First Amendment on the floor of the House just days before she was shot. That amendment provides that the people shall have the right to petition their government and gives the people of this Nation a voice to speak on the issues important to them. GABBY did not just read the First Amendment; she lived it. She was living it on the very day someone tried to kill her.

Let us continue to pray for the recovery of the wounded. Let us pray for the full recovery of GABBY. Let us pray for the families who lost a loved one. Let us pray for the mothers and fathers who lost a child, and let us pray that God will continue to guide us in everything we do.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and offer prayers for my friend and colleague, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, her staff and all the victims of the tragic and senseless shooting in Tucson.

She is a brilliant and caring public servant. She loves this country as all Members of Congress do.

At times like these, words are always inadequate to express the full extent of our grief. What we can do is pray, reflect, and seek to gain some meaningful perspective from this time of great sorrow.

Mr. Speaker, this terrible act, whatever the cause, does violence to the democratic principles our country was founded on.

As I pray for the victims of this terrible event, I also pray that our country can move forward from this tragedy with that love and respect that GABRIELLE GIFFORDS has for human dignity.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE).

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, tragedy is always accompanied by so many thoughts and emotions. The irrational violence visited upon our Nation last Saturday in Tucson brought a new wave, shock at learning the news of the carnage; incredulity at even the possibility of such a senseless act; sadness for those injured or killed and for their families; confusion by this inexplicable violence; anger at the lunatic responsible for this; inadequacy to comprehend the mind that conceives such an act; respect for those expert hands and minds working to heal the casualties; honor for those who sacrificed and helped in a moment of real crisis; hope for a full recovery for Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and all battling their injuries; recognition that life and liberty are precious and fleeting; love of our country and the blessing of liberty that we all enjoy; steadfast in our commitment to preserving our great Nation; humbled by our mutual responsibility as citizens charged with that preservation; reverence for our Lord, the only one who knows the answer to the why, and strength from His grace and His love and His mercy.

So we resolve to use this unspeakable and senseless tragedy as an opportunity to better ourselves as a people, to recommit ourselves to the tireless preservation of our Republic and to reaffirm those fundamental principles of liberty and American representative government.

May God place his healing hand on all affected by this heinous event, and may God bless the United States of America.

□ 1110

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON).

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution before us today and think it is fitting and proper that we take this opportunity to pause and remember those who lost their lives and were wounded in the tragedy that occurred last Saturday in Tucson, Arizona.

It is really hard to comprehend how such senseless acts of violence can happen. And yet while we may not be able to fathom why this tragedy occurred, the harsh reality is that six innocent people were killed, including a 9-year-old child, and another 14 individuals were wounded, including our own friend and colleague, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS. As we speak, she remains in critical condition in the intensive care unit at the University Medical Center in Tucson, fighting for her life.

Those of us who know GABBY know that she is a real fighter and that gives us optimism that the final outcome will be a good one and that she will be returning to this institution that she loves and still fight for what she believes in.

A number of my colleagues have spoken about the many ways in which Representative GIFFORDS has touched their lives here in Congress, and I would like to echo some of those sentiments. As the ranking member on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, I have seen firsthand the way her passion, commitment and competence have been used to voice her help for our Nation to move forward in a positive way. She has been very active as a member of the committee sponsoring and cosponsoring numerous pieces of legislation relating to research, innovation, renewable energy, space exploration, and math and science education. They have included the Solar Technology Roadmap Act, the Science Parks Research and Innovative Technologies Act, the NASA Authorization Act of 2010, and America COMPETES, as many other important pieces. She has been tireless in carrying out her oversight responsibilities.

As chairman of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee in the 111th Congress, she conducted numerous hearings on a wide range of issues related to NASA, civil and commercial space activities, international cooperation in space, civil aviation, and earth observations, among others. Her willingness to work hard, to get the facts and exercise tough love on the agencies she oversees has earned her the respect of Members on both sides of the aisle. In addition, while she is not afraid to express her views directly, she always has done so with civility and grace.

Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, the one I know and respect, we hope to see her return soon. It is still hard for me to comprehend that such evil could befall her and the other victims of last Saturday. I know I speak for all Members in saying that

our thoughts and prayers are with each of them and their families. We look forward to the day when we can welcome Ms. GIFFORDS back to the House floor and join together with her to do the Nation's business.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues today with respect to the delegation from Arizona who suffers and yet today comes to the floor of the House of Representatives to do their duty. To the colleagues of Ms. GIFFORDS who today join in support, not only in prayerful support but as we stand together we speak clearly to say that the support for Congresswoman GIFFORDS and all the victims of this tragic shooting and their families need to be remembered, and we offer full support.

I was deeply shocked and saddened by these heartbreaking events and I join my colleagues and I know all of America looked on TV on Saturday as we all condemned not only in our own hearts but also as our families spoke around the tables about what had happened. We condemn this senseless act of violence.

Congresswoman GIFFORDS is a dedicated public servant and has served the people of Arizona for over 10 years. She was elected to the House of Representatives in 2006. She is known as a steadfast leader in Congress for her constituents. I would see her often on the airplane as we would travel back every weekend. She is known by each of us as a kind and wonderful person who serves with honor and who is a very deeply genuine and a warm person with friends on both sides of the aisle.

All Members of this body understand the high honor it is to serve our constituents every single day and I would like to join my colleagues in standing together today to guarantee that the inhumane acts of this last Saturday will not deter us from our duty. This heartbreaking event has left Americans astonished and speechless. Those participating as Members of Congress today should stand up and say that we will stand behind GABRIELLE and look forward to her safe return to be with her colleagues. We offer a prayer for her support.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I am very grateful to join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to mourn the tragic loss of six lives and the many who were injured who wanted nothing more than to participate in a simple but precious opportunity to meet directly with their Congresswoman, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

There will be time to reflect on potential remedies that could prevent or diminish the threat that has so personally touched us all, but today I simply want to send my love to GABBY and to Mark and the rest of their family. We

have all had the opportunity to focus on you, GABBY, the brilliant, effective, warm, courageous person and leader that you are. You brought us together to focus on just how meaningful your friendship is to us, to me.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank my dedicated staff here in Washington and at home in the district and all the staff that work with us. Thank you for your daily efforts and sacrifices, the long hours and the commitment to your constituents, our constituents. The tragedy of this event and the loss of Gabe Zimmerman and the wounded staff has brought home just how important you are to all of us and to everything that we do here.

Let us take this sad moment to seek peace and love, to honor those who were killed, and fervently pray for those who were injured, including our beloved colleague GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and look forward to the day when she will return to us in full health.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I come over here today because about 3 weeks ago, 4 weeks ago, on a plane coming back from Washington, DC, flying to Dallas, where I changed planes and also GABRIELLE GIFFORDS changed planes, was my first opportunity to interact with this young lady. I watched her visit with the fellow travelers on the plane. She espied a couple of her constituents and talked with them. She visited with me. And then as we shared a cart to our changing gates, I was just touched by what a really, really nice person she was.

We interact in this building and we have our debates and so forth, but I got a chance to just ride and talk about family and talk about life with a charming, intelligent and quite honestly captivating young lady. And that's why I came down here today, because you don't cross paths with individuals like that very often. And when you do, it's a blessing that comes into your life.

And then when I turned on the television and discovered that this blessing had been attacked by this vicious, vicious attack that took place in Arizona, and not only was this sweet life placed at risk but a 9-year-old child was killed senselessly, others were murdered, others were wounded on the streets of Tucson in the United States of America at a congressional event.

□ 1120

It makes you stop and pause and think. We have to get back together and work on these issues. We have to get civility into the world.

And I am concerned about the violence. Violence has entered our House and injured one of our own and killed one of our own. I hope justice is swift and I hope justice is severe. But as we go forward, we need to work together to secure not only this House, but to secure this Nation.



Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maryland.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and prayer for our friend and colleague, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, a delightful personality, a dedicated legislator, and a powerful advocate for her constituents. Sitting next to her on the Science and Technology Committee, you only had to be there to know and feel her passion for NASA, solar technology innovation and research. It has rubbed off.

As we pause to reflect on the terrible tragedy that took place in Tucson, we know that Congresswoman GIFFORDS was simply doing what she does so well, meeting with the constituents of Arizona's Eighth Congressional District and hearing their different points of view. This is a sentiment that is reflected in Congresswoman GIFFORDS' own words when she said, "My position . . . is to listen to my constituents . . . then ultimately make sound, rational decisions that are going to be beneficial for the Eighth Congressional District. That's my job."

Mr. Speaker, I join the Nation in expressing my sorrow for the senseless and tragic loss of life—Christina Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, U.S. District Court Judge John Roll, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwin Stoddard, and Gabriel Zimmerman—and to all those injured, including our friend and colleague, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and her staff. We will keep you and your families in our hearts, thoughts, and prayers.

We are deeply grateful for the heroes, sung and unsung, who showed great courage and sacrifice and continue to do so in caring for their friends, family, and community.

To GABBY; to Mark Kelly, her husband; her staff, we pray that your burdens are lifted and that the dark days become light. May God bless you and strengthen you. May God bless this Congress, and may God bless America.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN).

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the people of Oregon's Second District to offer my deepest sympathies to the families of the victims of Saturday's senseless shooting in Tucson. Americans see each of us taking this personally, because Congresswoman GIFFORDS and her staff were doing what each of us does in our own way: We go home; we reach out to listen to people who agree and disagree, and we practice the art of democracy. It is a practice so fundamental to our Nation that families bring their young children who are interested in public service; senior judges attend to discuss Federal policy, and citizens come to get help with their Medicare or Veterans Affairs benefits. No one comes thinking such a despicable act of violence will occur.

Despite deep philosophical differences, sometimes argued vigorously

and vociferously in our meetings, Americans share a common belief that violence has no place in democratic discourse.

In Romans 12:1, Paul writes, "Don't be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." We stand together across America committed to this calling and in the belief that the great good in America will always overcome the isolated evil.

May God's healing hand be on our colleague and those affected and bring comfort to all.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HARMAN).

(Ms. HARMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, as GABBY's colleagues, we all have had moments with her, so many memories that we recall vividly and fondly. For me, she is a refreshing, frank, and inspiring younger member of the House sisterhood. She is whip smart and a serious and disciplined legislator. She is the kind of person we need so badly in this Chamber doing the people's business without rancor or vitriol.

Though the attack occurred in Tucson, it was an attack on all of us, and it strikes very close to home. Just a week ago today, I sat near GABBY at a New Democrat lunch in the Capitol Visitor Center. The group was assessing the recent election, and her contribution to the discussion was personal, impressive, and well delivered. But 7 days is a long time in politics, and our world here is in upheaval.

Beyond the heroic efforts of Tucson's emergency and medical teams, the FBI, and the Capitol Police, the alleged gunman must be fairly and swiftly prosecuted. But there is more. The Congress family must take additional, prudent steps to protect our staffs and constituents from random violence at our public events or offices. I serve here, as we all do, in loco parentis and take this very seriously.

And finally, we should revisit sensible Federal laws to control access to guns and ammunition. At a minimum, I believe we must promptly restore the expired Federal ban on extended magazine clips. I personally would urge us also to reenact the 1994 ban on assault weapons, which I was proud to support, and to bar sales of Saturday night specials.

Mr. Speaker, we can't roll back last Saturday, but we can and must learn its lessons.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS).

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. I rise to add the voice of the people of Wyoming to the chorus of united Americans reaching out in prayer to the victims in Arizona and to the families of those whose lives were stolen from them.

On January 6, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS took to the floor

of this House and eloquently read to us the First Amendment of our Constitution. She gave her own strong emphasis to the phrase that grants Americans the right to peaceably assemble. Two days later, she and her constituents have had their God-given rights violently taken from them.

In the midst of our national grief, the desire to make sense of the senseless is profound. We err if we attempt to rationalize what is wholly irrational and to understand what cannot be understood. The Apostle Paul writes, "Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror."

Instead, let us all stand with the gentlelady from Arizona in her time of trial and in defense of the Constitution which she is striving to uphold. Let us stand with our 9-year-old daughters who are fostering a budding interest in our representative democracy. Let us stand with our 76- and 79-year-old mothers and fathers who seek only to forge a relationship with their elected representatives and to impart a wisdom that comes with long life as a citizen of this country. And let us stand with our servant leaders of all ages and parties and to spend every day in a passionate effort to better a great Nation and a beautiful ideal.

We do them honor if we continue, not with idle speculation, but with a renewed commitment to exercise the rights of liberty and freedom. We begin the long road to healing by fervently praying for peace in our world, peace in our country, and peace in our hearts.

God bless the victims of Saturday's violence and their families. God bless America. And now may the peace of God which surpasses all human understanding and all human misunderstanding be with us all.

□ 1130

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO).

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution today and to honor the six individuals who lost their lives; and my friend and my colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, who is currently fighting for her life; and the 13 other wounded victims of Saturday's tragic shooting in Tucson. Gabe Zimmerman, Federal Judge John Roll, Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwin Stoddard, and the innocent 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green, all who passed away on Saturday in such a senseless act of violence that was a direct attack on our democracy.

Being the extraordinary public servant she is, GABBY had taken her first opportunity in the 112th Congress to organize an event to learn of her constituents' concerns and their hopes. The victims had all peacefully gathered at a local mall to participate in the democratic process. The basic exercise of democracy was interrupted by a disturbed individual bent on anger at the system. This needless and despicable act of violence has no place in

our society and should give us all cause to reflect on the level of political discourse in this country.

But while we recognize the tragedy that occurred and pray for the quick recovery of those injured and those who died, let us not overlook the many acts of bravery and heroism on Saturday.

As we piece together the events of last Saturday, my thoughts and prayers go out to GABBY and the others who have been killed or injured. Let this tragic event serve as a reminder of the obligation that we have as elected Representatives of the people to be responsible in our leadership and be careful of the words that we choose.

I will keep the victims and their families in my thoughts and prayers, and I know that all of my colleagues will do so as well.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 32.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FRANKS of Arizona). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, it is now my honor to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank our leader for the time.

Just a few days ago, one of our own, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, was gravely injured as a result of a terrible act of an unbalanced individual. Americans were profoundly shocked and saddened and continue to be by this deplorable act of violence which resulted in the unjust deaths of six innocent individuals and a struggle to survive for others, including our own GABBY.

Among those who lost their lives, we know that the list is lamentably long: the Honorable John Roll, a Federal judge who went by just to say hi to his friend, GABBY; and Christina Taylor Green, a 9-year-old girl, who had just been chosen to serve in her school's student council and was taken to GABBY's "Congress on Your Corner" event by a family friend who wanted to get her interested in public affairs; and Gabe Zimmerman, a member of GABBY's loyal staff who had an enormous heart and was recently engaged to be married.

It is difficult to make sense of this tragedy, but all Americans stand with GABBY and her family and the families of all the victims throughout this painful time. Many of us count GABBY not just as a colleague but as a friend. I had the privilege of getting to know GABBY as a member of our Foreign Affairs Committee. She has always demonstrated a strong commitment to serving her constituents, our men and women of our Armed Forces and our

Nation. And that is exactly what we must do. We must not waiver in our duties to serve those whom we are proudly and yet humbly asked to serve.

Our Republic was founded on the premise that the people have the right and the duty to petition their Representatives and to express their views, and GABBY truly embodies that principle. She has always been accessible. She has always been eager to listen to her constituents. Representatives like GABBY are what has made America an example of freedom and democracy the world over. It is truly reprehensible to think these noble intentions were exploited to carry out such a terrible tragedy.

To quote Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "We must disagree without becoming violently disagreeable."

The thoughts and prayers of the residents of Florida's 18th Congressional District are with GABBY's family and with the families of all those affected by this senseless tragedy.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI).

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the victims of the Tucson shooting, including our colleague and friend, GABBY GIFFORDS. I have seen GABBY's commitment and dedication to her constituents firsthand. I have had the pleasure to work with her as we promoted efforts to restore our Nation's competitiveness and specifically to help create clean energy jobs.

GABBY is smart, courageous, disciplined, and effective. And as we have all seen over the last few days, her strength is unwavering.

Last Saturday, GABBY organized an event to talk to her constituents about their priorities, about their concerns and their hopes. It is heartbreaking and a tragedy that six innocent people lost their lives and an additional 13 have been critically wounded, all while trying to participate in and strengthen our democracy.

We are all now reflecting on what brought our country to this point and how to move forward. As everyone in this Chamber can attest, being a Representative is more than a job title. It is what we do, and it is who we are. We meet with our constituents. We listen to them. We advocate for their best interests.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take a moment to honor the other victims of this horrific tragedy: 9-year-old beautiful Christina Taylor Green, recently elected to the student council; Gabe Zimmerman, a dedicated staffer who was just on the cusp of his own life, recently engaged; Federal Judge John Roll, a highly respected jurist who just came by to thank GABBY for her support of the judiciary; Phyllis Schneck, who was a tireless volunteer at her local church; Dorwan Stoddard who shielded his dear wife; and Dorothy Morris who was married to her husband a long time who was also there but who survived.

My thoughts and prayers remain with GABBY and with each victim and their families.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE).

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be here to offer my thoughts and prayers for GABBY, our colleague. Like all of us, any interaction I ever had with her was always pleasant and memorable, and I look forward to her returning. I pray for her return. I am praying for her staff and praying for the other victims.

I just want to hold up one victim this morning. I didn't know Dorwan Stoddard, but through a close network of friends, I had the opportunity to learn a little bit about Dorwan Stoddard. He shielded his wife with his own body, saving her life but losing his own. He and his wife were having breakfast and decided they wanted to go to the "Congress on the Corner" to give GABBY encouragement for the new year and the new Congress to encourage her.

He loved the Bible. He loved the scriptures in its simplest and purest form and just wanted to internalize them and live them, which is evidenced in his life. He was very involved in church work. He ran the Benevolence Program, which lived up to Christ's challenge to feed the hungry and clothe the poor. We know that he internalized the scripture because of his last act. And I don't know this, but I think I can say without fear of contradiction there were many times he was probably sitting in church, the minister was delivering a sermon on marriage, and I am sure the text was Ephesians 5:25 when it said: Husbands, love your wife, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. What love he had for his wife, and what faith he had in God.

□ 1140

Throughout his life, he aspired to do good. Through his life, let us all aspire to do our best.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, today we are one, and we are resolute.

We are one because we understand that there really is but one race, and that is the human race. We are one because, as Dr. King put it, all of humanity was created by one common Creator to live in harmony—from a bass black to a treble white.

We are one, and we are resolute.

We are resolute in our belief that one day our friend, our sister, will return to the floor of this Congress, to this Hall, and she will stand at this podium, and she will be welcomed by her colleagues as she returns and takes her rightful place in the Halls of the Congress of the United States of America.

We are one, and we are resolute because we believe that an innocent baby was taken from us. That innocent baby, though she is not with us in the

physical, will forever be with us in the spiritual as long as we remember who she was and never forget that we cannot allow the innocent to be stolen from us without our taking the time to pause and be grateful for the time that we had with the innocent.

We are one, and we are resolute.

We must also be resolute in a basic premise that Dr. King called to our attention, and that is that we must learn to live together as brothers and sisters, or we will perish together as fools.

We are one, and we are resolute.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN).

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to my friend and colleague, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, one of many victims of a very senseless act of violence this past Saturday.

I have had the pleasure of knowing GABBY and her husband, astronaut Mark Kelly, for several years—even before either of us stepped foot in this Chamber. In my district office, there is a photo of GABBY, myself, and others who were part of an Aspen Institute-Rodel fellowship program, which was created to explore the responsibilities of public leadership; advance thoughtful, civil, bipartisan dialogue; and help America's young leaders achieve their full potential. GABBY is so much about all of these ideals.

Quite often, I found myself looking at this photo over the last few days; and I couldn't help but think that all of our communities could use a few more individuals like GABBY, whose bright smile and kind heart have come to define her tenure here in Congress.

For many of us here today, the news of the tragedy was gut-wrenching. It's hard to believe that, just a few days before this senseless attack, my family and I were out visiting at the Air and Space Museum at Dulles Airport when we heard someone shout out my name. I turned around, and it was GABBY's husband, Mark, with GABBY and her parents in tow. We spent the next several minutes sharing a positive outlook about the new Congress that was upcoming and, as friends often do, recalling some of our good memories, such as when I joined GABBY with two of my daughters at one of Mark's space shuttle launches in Florida.

Over the past few days, there have been many moving tributes to GABBY, and all of them are true. She leads by example with her fighting spirit, her diligent work ethic and friendly, constant smile. It is my hope that we can follow in GABBY's footsteps over the next several weeks and, as hard as it may be, can show the same bright smile and kind heart that she has shown all of us.

My thoughts and prayers remain with GABBY, her husband, Mark; and their family; and with GABBY's staff—all of the victims and their families who are a part of this tragedy.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I, as some of the future speakers here, are members of the class of 2006, which Representative GIFFORDS was a member of. We had the opportunity to go through the orientation with her, to meet with Speaker PELOSI on many occasions, and to share many activities.

GABRIELLE GIFFORDS is a tremendous Member of this House—bright, caring, beautiful—and we all pray for her recovery and that she comes back and works with us.

I listened to her remarks on television when she talked about words having consequences and her brother-in-law, who is up in space, saying the same thing. It's true. Words have consequences, and we all need to be more concerned about how we speak about political opponents or people who have different perspectives than we do on political issues.

We are all Americans. We are all human beings. We all have similar goals and similar aspirations; and even though we may differ on philosophy, that doesn't make us communists or socialists or Birchers or whatever. We are all trying to make this government work.

One thing that we know about the person who did this shooting, besides the fact that he needed mental health treatment and was obviously crazy, is that he didn't like government. Government is good, and one thing we should learn from this is that government can be and is a good force. It is a lot about what America is. People who tear down government are doing a disservice to all of us, and they provide an atmosphere in which people think that anarchy is an answer. It is never an answer. Orwellianism is a philosophy that ought to be followed, and it isn't.

GABBY works as a Congressperson to make government work for her people, and that's what she was doing with her program on Saturday. The staffers who were there were working on the weekend, as many staffers do, and they work long hours. They love government and they love people, and they try to make a difference.

So I think we just need to remember that we are all human beings, that we all have similar goals and aspirations, that government can and is good, and it is the representative body of the United States of America. If you don't like the government, you don't like the country, and I love the country and so did GABBY.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I now yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL).

Mr. MCCAUL. I thank the gentleman. Madam Speaker, we gather here today in this House and as a Nation to mourn the tragic events in Tucson, Arizona; to honor those who lost their lives and those still fighting for them; to honor the heroic acts on that dark day; and to condemn the perpetrator for this senseless act of violence.

The last few days have been surreal. When I first heard the news, I was

shocked and disturbed that one of our own had been shot—someone I am privileged to call a friend and a colleague. As the Speaker said, when one of us is attacked, all of us are attacked. This experience has been painful to all of us and hits too close to home.

Professionally, I was fortunate to have worked with GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, or GABBY, as she is affectionately called. We both serve on the Science and Technology and Foreign Affairs Committees. She is passionate, bright, and a delight to be around. GABBY is a talented lawmaker who always works effectively across the aisle to get things done for the American people. I am honored to have been one of those she chose to work with.

She always told me Arizona and Texas are sunshine States and we need to harness that energy. I agreed with her, and together we introduced and passed the Solar Technology Roadmap Act. She often talked about being from border States and that we needed security to protect our way of life. We passed a \$600 million appropriation for more resources on the border.

As everybody knows, she is a staunch advocate for NASA, and she is married to an astronaut. She passionately defended the space program; and we worked together, with many others, to save the Human Spaceflight Program. In fact, the last time I saw GABBY, a week ago, we were getting off the elevator over there to vote on the floor here, and we talked about NASA.

She said in her classic way, Yeah, but we can always do better. That was her spirit—we can always do better.

We often talked about putting together a delegation of Members to witness the last shuttle flight, the one that her husband, Mark, is commanding. I hope we will still have that opportunity.

So when I received the news that she had been shot, it had a profound and personal impact upon me—for, above all, she is my friend. She is a bright ray of sunshine in what is too often a dark world.

Coming out of a tough election, she often talked about moderation and of toning down the partisan rhetoric to get things done for the American people. I know that it is her sincere hope that, as her wounds heal, so, too, will the wound inflicted upon this Nation and that the political discourse in this country will be restored to one of civility.

□ 1150

I pray for her and all those affected by this horrible tragedy. I pray that one day she will return to this floor and join her colleagues, and I am confident that she will. For above all, she is a passionate fighter and an eternal optimist.

So keep fighting, GABBY, for we need you and more people like you in this world. May God bless you, and may He hold you in the palm of His hand.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

Mr. CROWLEY. I thank my friend from Arizona for yielding me this time.

First, Madam Speaker, I want to recognize and give thanks to the leadership of the House—in particular NANCY PELOSI, and more so this morning to Speaker JOHN BOEHNER—for this beautiful resolution that we have before us today. I said on Sunday that his remarks were appropriately brief when he said, “An attack upon one of us is an attack upon all of us.” It could not have been better said in reflection upon what took place in our country on Saturday. Judge John Roll, Gabe Zimmerman, Christina Green, Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck, and Dorwan Stoddard all were taken from us too soon by a crazed and depraved individual.

I wanted to take a moment to also mention the wonderful staff of GABBY GIFFORDS. I had the opportunity on Saturday afternoon, being in Washington, to stop by her office and immediately was moved by the palpable sense of love and affection that was throughout their room, not only for GABBY, but for all the victims and particularly their fellow colleagues.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank all of our staffs—whom maybe many of us in Congress take for granted—for their tireless work and their efforts to serve the people of our constituency and of our great country, not always reflecting upon sometimes the danger that we can't avoid.

GABBY GIFFORDS and I go back even prior to her getting elected. I had the great opportunity to endorse her early in her primary because I was so moved by the moxie and the strength of GABBY GIFFORDS when I visited Arizona. She often would say to me when she was around Mark, you know: Mark always tells me, JOE CROWLEY, that I'm his second favorite Member of Congress and you're the first. She said that, I think, because she knows how I was unabashed about my admiration for her.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ROSLEHTINEN). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. CROWLEY. The last conversation I had prior to this incident was last Friday when she asked me: JOE, can I chair the new Dem Task Force on Energy? She was trying to convince me somehow that I had to let her do this. And I just said: GABBY, you're not a freshman Member of the House. Yeah, you're going to do that. Don't worry about that.

But she was always trying to convince. She's a star. We know it. Every Member here knows it, Democrat and Republican. This woman has something that many of us wish we had, and that is an inner beauty. And if we can take something away from this event, this tragic event, aside from the issues of rhetoric and aside from the issues of gun control—and mental illness, which we do not give enough time to in this country—it is the beauty of this

woman and what she reflects upon this institution.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS is always a bright spot in this rather dull, moody, self-absorbed body called Congress. She is easy to work with no matter on which side of the aisle we happen to be. We all find ourselves being criticized, but few of us have been able to respond with the grace and class with which GABBY has.

Today, we mourn the loss of all those killed during the evil shooting spree in Tucson. I know we are praying for the victims' families, that somehow, through their devastating loss and heartbreak, they may still find that peace that passes all understanding. For those who have survived the assault, may they find healing in the shadow of the Almighty.

Hearing so much these days about the need for congenial discourse, we might look at GABBY GIFFORDS as a living example of how we go about discerning the roadmap to get to the desired decorum. I'm sure both sides of the aisle wish the other side worked with others as well as GABBY does. She makes people here in Congress smile just by showing up.

Her flights to and from Washington, D.C., often had us on the same flight to and from the Dallas/Fort Worth airport hub. GABBY knows I love chocolate, so when she sees me on her flight, she always lights up and says something like: LOUIE, I was hoping you would be on my flight. I need some chocolate.

GABBY always finds something for which she can look forward. Our prayers remain with her.

This is no time for assigning blame to anyone but the gunman. This is a time to note the positive influences from those who were harmed. This is a time to note and perpetuate the good in their lives so that they live on whether their heart beats or not. This is a time to learn from GABBY, who has a heart that both still beats and still inspires. We can learn from her attributes and her ability to smile even at those of us with whom we disagree as we pray for the opportunity for her smile to regain its vitality so she can go back to spreading her sunshine to all the places that need it.

May God bless GABBY GIFFORDS and all of those who are suffering because of this heinous attack as only He knows their most specific needs. May God further provide the comfort and peace that only comes from the embrace of His loving arms.

Let me just close by saying that when I see her again, I'm going to have plenty of chocolate just for her.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the assistant to the leader, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN).

Mr. CLYBURN. I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Madam Speaker, the Book of Micah, the religion that GABBY practices, raises a question: What would the Lord require of thee?

And the question is answered in Micah 6:8: To do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly.

I cannot think of anybody whom I have ever served with who personified that passage more than GABBY GIFFORDS.

In my faith, I practice that which is found in the Book of Luke, the 10th chapter, where we get the story of the Good Samaritan. The question was asked of the lawyer who wanted to know what was required to have life everlasting. In the answer, the master said to him: In this and other things, love thy neighbor as thyself.

GABBY GIFFORDS is our neighbor, not just here in this body, but she is our neighbor on this great planet, because we learn from that story that being one's neighbor is not dependent upon one's religion, nor is it dependent upon one's ethnicity.

□ 1200

Being one's neighbor is dependent upon whether or not we have the capacity to show compassion. GABBY GIFFORDS is our neighbor, and I'm pleased to honor her today.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE).

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution.

We come together to extend our thoughts and prayers to those who were killed and to those who were wounded during the horrific attack in Tucson on Saturday.

As we gather in the people's House, we pray for the recovery of our colleague, Representative GIFFORDS, and the others who were wounded, including those who serve the public in the Congresswoman's office. We mourn the loss of Judge Roll; Gabriel Zimmerman; the 9-year-old girl, Christina Taylor Green; and the others who were senselessly killed that terrible morning.

While the horrific events in Tucson provide a stark reminder of the fragility of human life, we are also reminded that we meet on the floor of the House of Representatives in what Franklin Roosevelt, and more recently George W. Bush, have called “the warm courage of national unity.” We have heard the inspiring stories of those whose selflessness protected the lives of others.

Violence has no place in the life of the American Nation. This tragedy will strengthen, not weaken, our resolve to serve the true principles of democracy.

May God bless those who are fighting for their lives as a result of this attack, and may the souls of those who were lost be received in His loving embrace.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF).

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, last Wednesday, this Nation and the world witnessed the orderly transfer of power in this House when NANCY PELOSI passed the Speaker's gavel on to Speaker JOHN BOEHNER. That simple act occurred without violence. It occurred without soldiers in the streets or a massive show of force by the police. For most Americans, indeed for most people working in this building, the day was rather ordinary.

Our lack of political violence, our tradition of resolving policy arguments in the legislature and the courtroom is one of the greatest gifts that the Founders and all of the generations that followed them have left to us. But, as we were so cruelly reminded last Saturday, our peaceful civil discourse can never be taken for granted. It is a gift that must be safeguarded.

Last Saturday, our colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, set up shop outside a local Safeway in Tucson to engage her constituents to perform the central role of representative democracy—listening to the people. The hatred exhibited by the would-be assassin, before and during the shooting, were an assault on that connection between those of us who have the honor to serve and those we represent.

My heart goes out to GABBY, her family and staff, and to the families and friends of Federal Judge John Roll, Congress staffer Gabe Zimmerman, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard, Dorothy Morris, and Christina Taylor Green, who was born on September 11, 2001, and who deserved a longer life than this.

And to GABBY and her staff here in the gallery today, there is one day that we look forward to above all others, and that is the day that GABBY walks back onto this House floor and stands before this podium and is recognized.

We know that day will come, and we pray that it comes soon.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I now yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, it was a Saturday morning, clear skies, and a wonderful day, and GABBY GIFFORDS was doing what really she liked to do best, what many of us like to do best—talking to people that we represent and listening to those people back home.

Friday, before she left for Tucson and I left for southeast Texas, we were talking here on the House floor. GABBY and I are friends. I have been to Iraq with her. And we were talking about border security. In fact, she had invited me to Tucson to see what takes place there and go to the border. I, likewise, have already invited her to Texas to see our border. And we work quite well together. She works with everybody quite well. And then she was off to the airport, going home.

Many people don't realize that most Members of Congress go home every weekend. We don't live in Washington. We work in Washington, and we com-

mute. And she was headed to the airport, excited to go back and see the people that she represents.

And then Saturday morning, an evil-doer came to a public gathering, attacked GABBY. He really attacked our Nation, because there was a crowd of citizens, old and young, that were peaceably assembling to learn more about America—to participate in the American process in dealing with their representative, GABBY GIFFORDS.

We should remember the victims that were shot and killed that day. The evil-doer, his name is not important. He should be held personally accountable for his actions. His trial should be swift. If convicted, his punishment should be severe. But it is the victims that we honor, that we remember in this cruel episode of evil.

You know, Christina Taylor Green, a 9-year-old girl, just elected to the student council in her third grade class. She liked politics. She wanted to be more involved, and that's why she was there Saturday morning with GABBY GIFFORDS. She was born on 9/11, a 9-year-old girl, her life stolen in her youth.

All of us who are parents, grandparents, we never want to see our child or someone else's child taken before their time. But that's what happened to Christina Taylor Green, apparently a wonderful, wonderful young person.

You know, GABBY GIFFORDS is a fighter, and she fights for her beliefs, make no question about it. Everybody who knows her, knows where she stands on issues. My grandmother described her years ago without even knowing it. My grandmother was probably the most influential person in my life. My friends on that side of the aisle would appreciate the fact that she was a Yellow Dog Democrat and never forgave me for being a Republican. But she made a comment about people like GABBY. She said, "there is nothing more powerful than a woman that has made up her mind." GABBY GIFFORDS is that woman.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. POE of Texas. She's made up her mind about her beliefs. She's made up her mind about the will to represent the people in Arizona. And I believe she's made up her mind to survive, because only 5 percent of gunshot wounds to the head, those people, survive. And she will be one of them.

So we recognize her; we honor her, and we look forward to seeing her on this House floor again being that strong-willed woman, that feisty woman from Arizona.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Congresswoman GIFFORDS loved America and she loved America's val-

ues, and America blessed her with opportunities. American values give us all the opportunity to do our best and to be our best. Last Saturday, Congresswoman GIFFORDS was at her best meeting the people of Arizona, of Tucson, and the United States of America.

But Congresswoman GIFFORDS would also ask us to do our best. And as the Bible has said, she was a woman who used her talents well.

She would also want us to acknowledge the Americans who have poured out their hearts during this tragedy all over this Nation.

□ 1210

Americans did their best Saturday. And good Americans lost their lives being good Americans. We know of those who lost their lives and offered to us a sacrifice: Christina Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, Judge John Roll, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard, and Gabriel Zimmerman of her staff.

We are well aware of what happened. And we say to Congresswoman GIFFORDS, keep on fighting for your life, along with others who were wounded, while the heroes of that day, Mr. Hernandez and others, reflect on the horror. But hopefully, they know that they did their best.

Now it is time for us to do our best, to be a servant leader, giving to others first, showing by example. It is so very important that we do so in her name. To Captain Kelly, a brave American and family, we stand by you, we stand by your side. You will not stand by yourself. To Congresswoman GIFFORDS' staff, we stand with you, and we pray for you and your loss and those who are wounded.

We are committed to both our freedom of expression and our job to create a more perfect Union. And yes, in the words of Scott Kelly, as I offer them today, Mark's twin brother, "We have a unique vantage point here aboard the international space station. As I look out the window, I see a very beautiful planet that seems very inviting and peaceful. Unfortunately, it is not. These days, we are constantly reminded of the unspeakable acts of violence and damage we can inflict upon one another, not just with our actions but also with our irresponsible words. We are better than this. We must do better."

I agree, we can do better. And we can follow these words.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Non-violence is a powerful and just weapon which cuts without wounding and ennobles the man who wields it as a sword that heals. Let us use non-violence in our expression. Let us denounce violence. And as Martin Luther King would tell us, that we can be a people of peace. And I know that we know the words of John Lennon, "Let

it be.” But the truth will let us be free. And I look forward to the gentle lady from Tucson, Arizona, being here with us. God bless you, and God bless America.

I rise today to voice my strongest, sincerest and most heartfelt support for House Resolution 32, “Expressing the Sense of the House of Representatives with Respect to the Tragic Shooting in Tucson, Arizona, on January 8, 2011.” This resolution rightly condemns the horrific attack which occurred that fateful Saturday at the “Congress on Your Corner” event held by our beloved colleague, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS. Representative GIFFORDS was doing something she loved to do; something so fundamentally important to which every member of Congress can relate. She and her dedicated staff were truly bringing Congress home to the constituents on “Main Street” and making sure that they knew their national government was accessible to them, cared about them, was there to listen to their concerns and to work together with them to make this country a better place, beginning with their own community.

It is only fitting, that on the opening day of the 112th Congress, Representative GIFFORDS read from the First Amendment of the Constitution which states that “Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

This devastating tragedy touched the hearts and minds of not only the good people of Tucson, Arizona, but indeed the very hearts and minds of all Americans. At that moment, everyone in America, and in many places throughout the world, collectively identified with the good people of Tucson. We felt their shock, we felt their pain and we shared their anguish over the senseless killing and injury of innocent people who simply gathered at a comfortable, well known local establishment to participate in our great democracy with their friend and Congresswoman, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS. We mourn the needless loss of life and condemn this atrocious infliction of pain, injury and suffering. We pray for the swift healing of all wounds, both physical and spiritual, for those who suffered from this tragedy. We pay tribute to the value and sanctity of every life, and we count our blessings.

Among those blessings, I am privileged to count the time I spent serving alongside Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS in the House of Representatives, and I look forward to serving with her again very soon. She embodies the kind of goodness, selflessness, caring and passion for helping others that make her constituents in Tucson and throughout the state of Arizona justly proud.

Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS loves her district, the state of Arizona, and loves our great country. She loves America’s values and America blessed her with opportunities. America’s values give us all the opportunity to do our best and to be our best, and Congresswoman GIFFORDS did just that, making the most of her talents. Congresswoman GIFFORDS was at her best last Saturday meeting with the people. She is truly a “servant-leader” like all of us, in this august legislative body.

Congresswoman GIFFORDS would also ask us to do our best and to acknowledge the Americans who poured their hearts out during this tragedy. Americans in Tucson and across

the country did their best to respond to this tragedy last Saturday, and many good Americans lost their lives being heroic Americans.

I pay tribute to the six individuals who lost their lives on Saturday, January 8, 2011, at the “Congress on Your Corner” event in Tucson, Arizona. The assassin’s bullets did not discriminate; they took the lives of young and old alike. We mourn the loss of Gabriel Zimmerman, the Community Outreach Director who shared Representative GIFFORDS’s passion for personally connecting with constituents at the local level to improve the quality of their lives and to simply be a good friend and neighbor. We mourn the loss of nine-year-old Christina Taylor Green, who lost her life on that tragic day. She serves as an example for us all. She had just been elected to her school student council, and she attended the “Congress on Your Corner” event with great interest. At the tender age of 9, she was already a leader with a promising future. We also pay our most sincere tribute to and mourn Federal Judge John Roll, Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck and Dorwan Stoddard, who also needlessly lost their lives that day while exercising their right to peaceably assemble and participate in our democracy.

Furthermore, I pay tribute to the many heroes of all ages who demonstrated the most unselfish bravery and came to the aid of all those in attendance at the “Congress on Your Corner” event. Among those, we admire the 61 year old Patricia Maisch, who bravely risked the loss of her own life and effectively disarmed the shooter as several men pounced on him and threw him to ground. As they struggled to hold him down, Maisch joined the group of people wrestling on the ground, clinging to the gunman’s ankles, and she grabbed the gunman’s bullet clip before he could reload and continue his savage attack. Patricia Maisch humbly said, “I am not a hero. The other guys are. I just assisted getting the clip.”

Congresswoman GIFFORDS is also close to her family and married to Captain Mark Kelly, who honors this great nation with his service as a NASA Astronaut at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. This tragic event occurred on the eve of Mark Kelly’s planned command of the last shuttle mission to the Space Station. His twin brother, Captain Scott Kelly, also honors this nation with his service as a NASA Astronaut.

Space station Commander Scott Kelly led NASA in a moment of silence Monday January 11, 2011, as he struggled with the senseless shooting of his sister-in-law, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS. He was in outer space at the time of the shooting. Flight controllers in Houston fell silent as Scott Kelly spoke via radio from space. “We have a unique vantage point here aboard the International Space Station,” he said. “As I look out the window, I see a very beautiful planet that seems very inviting and peaceful. Unfortunately, it is not. These days, we are constantly reminded of the unspeakable acts of violence and damage we can inflict upon one another, not just with our actions, but also with our irresponsible words. We’re better than this. We must do better.”

Congresswoman GIFFORDS is now fighting for her life along with others who were wounded on that fateful day while the heroes of that day reflect on the horrible tragedy that occurred and hopefully, remaining cognizant that they did their best in the most trying of cir-

cumstances. Now it is time for us to do our best, to be servant-leaders giving to others first and leading by example.

To Captain Kelly and his family, we stand by your side; you do not stand alone. To Congresswoman GIFFORDS’ staff, we stand with you too and extend our heartfelt condolences on the loss of your fellow staff member, Gabriel Zimmerman, and our prayers for your wounded fellow staff members.

We are committed to both our freedom of expression and our Constitution’s constant pursuit to create a more perfect union. We as a nation are better than what occurred in Tucson on Saturday, and we are showing it today and must continue to show it every day henceforth. As we approach the holiday commemorating the life of slain civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I am reminded of his commitment to nonviolence. Dr. King’s timeless words ring especially true at this time. He reminds us that “Nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon, which cuts without wounding and ennobles the man who wields it. It is a sword that heals.”

In the wake of this shocking event and at this crucial moment in our nation’s history, I call for a commitment from all of my colleagues in the United States Congress to act and speak with a renewed and inspired sense of civility and respect for one another in our discourse. I call for a restoration of the time honored history and tradition of this great legislative chamber, which includes an atmosphere of decorum, comity, collegiality, and respect, even while we discuss the most hotly debated issues of our day.

We have before us a great opportunity to lead by example and remind the people of this nation and throughout the world about what makes our democracy truly unique and special. We need only recall that we are here as the duly elected Members of Congress to represent the people of our districts, our states and this country. We can demonstrate we truly reflect the voices of the people who sent us here. As we go about conducting the nation’s business, we can comport ourselves with respect and dignity toward one another even when we disagree. A nation is watching. What we do at this critical time is of great importance.

We have the rare opportunity to honor those tragic victims of January 8, 2011, by setting a new national tone of civility. Then, our constituents will know that we truly speak for them. I urge my colleagues to join me in this commitment.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER).

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I am saddened to take part in today’s tribute to our colleague GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, who was so senselessly shot this weekend; her outreach coordinator, Gabe Zimmerman, who was killed in the line of duty during the incident; two other staff who were wounded while supporting the Congresswoman; and all of those who were killed, wounded, and impacted by this terrible tragedy.

Congresswoman GIFFORDS was performing the most fundamental duty of a Member of Congress, listening to her constituents. All Members of Congress take the role of being an advocate for

their constituents seriously. For Congresswoman GIFFORDS, it's promoting solar energy production to boost the local economy, or being a voice for military families, and working to secure the border with Mexico.

Today I stand here to say not as a Republican, not as a Democrat, but as an American that violence has no place in our society. And I wish and pray for peace and justice for all of those who have been involved in this tragedy.

My thoughts and prayers, as well of those of my family and the people of Ohio's Third District, remain with Congresswoman GIFFORDS, her staff, her constituents, and their families.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, our hearts and prayers go out to our colleague and friend GABBY GIFFORDS and her family. And equally noted are six of her constituents and fellow Americans who died as a result of this tragic incident, and several others who were injured and wounded at this time. We also pray for God's good grace and comforting Spirit to be upon them as well.

I deeply appreciate the initiative and leadership of both parties to bring this resolution to the floor for consideration, not only to give special tribute to our colleague and friend GABBY GIFFORDS, for her courage and commitment to public service, but to also give us all an opportunity to seriously reflect on what we need to do to change the atmosphere, if you will, of what we do and say not only among ourselves, but to our fellow Americans throughout this great Nation of ours.

I'm not much for giving speeches, Madam Speaker. But today I felt it was important that our friend and colleague GABBY GIFFORDS needs to know how much we all appreciate her friendship and admire her character and her courage to be an example of what true public service is about. One great lesson I learned from GABBY GIFFORDS is her comment that words do have consequences. And I have also learned a couple more phrases—cut the rhetoric, let's lower the temperature in our discourse with one another.

And there is also an island expression that goes like this: E pala le ma'a ae le pala le tala—meaning while rocks and stones may deteriorate or erode, words never die. I pray we will find that balance and move our country forward to solve the problems our country is greatly confronted with at this time.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE).

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. I thank the distinguished majority leader for yielding time.

Like every American, I will never forget where I was last Saturday. My

wife and I were shocked and saddened when we learned of the attack on our colleague GABBY GIFFORDS, her staff, and her constituents. GABBY's a hard worker, a talented legislator. But as has been said poignantly on this floor so much better than I will ever be able to today, she is a dear person and a unique individual who is universally liked in the House of Representatives.

We are praying for her recovery, the recovery of all those injured, and the comfort of the families of the fallen. I rise with gratitude to the leadership of both parties in this institution for moving this thoughtful resolution to the floor. Today the American people speak with one voice. We will condemn these unspeakable and evil acts. We will remember the injured and the lost. And we will gently reaffirm our ideals.

This act was an unspeakable act of violence. And those responsible must be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. But as we mourn with those who mourn, two words of gentle admonition. First, we cannot fear free assembly because of the acts of a single assailant. We live in an open society and enjoy representative democracy under our Constitution. Our system depends on regular and informal contact with our elected Representatives. And neither the public nor its servants should be dissuaded from participating in public assembly because of the despicable acts of a single deranged person.

Lastly, I understand the pain that Saturday last has caused for so many in this body and around the country. But we cannot fear free and open debate. Democracy depends on heavy doses of civility. And as my colleagues know, I have always sought to model that, here on the floor and elsewhere. We should always refrain from engaging in personal verbal attacks against those with whom we differ on important questions of the day.

But let me say we must also resist, in these moments of heartache, the temptation to assign blame to those with whom we differ for the acts of others. No expressed opinion on the left or the right was to blame for Saturday's attack. And we must resist efforts to suggest otherwise. Because to do so has the potential to inhibit and erode our freedom.

So we rise to mourn with those who mourn, to grieve with those who grieve. We cannot fail to be moved by the tragic events in Arizona. We must not fail to pray earnestly for all those affected. And we will not fail to defend our freedom lest it be one more victim of the horrific event in Tucson on Saturday last.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS).

□ 1220

Mr. HIGGINS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, the outpouring of support from every corner of western

New York for the victims of the attack in Tucson has been overwhelming and inspiring.

It is on behalf of western New York that I offer our prayers to my friend and colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, and to all the injured and our sympathies to the families and friends of Gabe Zimmerman, John Roll, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard, and Christina Taylor Green.

Some are suggesting that violence-themed political rhetoric contributed to this tragedy. I think it would be wise to reflect on how we characterize our political opponents and how we conduct our debate. Undoubtedly our debate could benefit from more light and less heat, from more humility and less hostility.

But this attack was carried out by a man who appears to have been severely mentally ill, and we may never understand why he did what it is he did.

Our best response to this atrocity is to reject fear and intimidation and to embrace the work in our communities with joy, openness, and dedication. That is the type of public service that GABBY believes in, and I urge my colleagues to follow her example.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the chairman of the Education and Workforce Committee, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE).

Mr. KLINE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, Saturday was a dark day for the residents of Tucson, Arizona, and our Nation.

In the blink of an eye the lives of men, women and children who were going about their daily routines were forever changed. One troubled, twisted soul robbed six innocent individuals of their lives and cast a dark shadow over a fundamental right of our democracy, the exchange of ideas between a Representative and the community she represents.

Madam Speaker, in an effort to find meaning in this tragedy, it is tempting to assign blame or to draw conclusions in support of a larger pattern, but what we witnessed this weekend is void of rationale. We must recognize the disaster for the senseless act it is, but we should not stop there.

As the men and women we represent mourn those who were lost and rally to support a brave public servant who is battling for her life, we in this body have a responsibility to lead the way. We must demonstrate our resolve to continue the important work of listening to our constituents and legislating on their behalf. We must press on, undeterred by panic, in carrying out the work we have been elected to do. We must demonstrate that America is strong, her institutions are unshakeable, and her people are brave and determined.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing condolences to the family and friends of the victims of this tragedy and sending my prayers to our colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, in her time of

need. May she find the strength to recover and join us in leading the way forward.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM).

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, this House and this entire Nation extend our support, love and best wishes to our colleague, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, and to all those wounded in Saturday's shooting. We also mourn the deaths, the tragic senseless deaths of six Americans who were participating in street-corner democracy with their Congresswoman.

My Minnesota constituents feel the pain and loss inflicted by a few seconds of gun violence. A St. Paul constituent visited my office on Monday and wrote a note to Congresswoman GIFFORDS, and the note said: "I pray for your recovery. I want you to be strong and continue to be the fighter that you are so you can continue to serve the people of America."

I too am praying for you, GABBY, for Mark, for your family, and for all of the families who are in pain and those in mourning.

May such unspeakable acts of violence end in this country, and may all Americans find the strength to live in peace.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, it is now my honor to yield 3 minutes to the majority whip, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY).

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, I recall a short time ago, after the election in 2006, I came in a freshman class. All the Members here, when they come here together right after the election, they get together as freshmen. You have gone through a debate, you have gone through an election, and you look around and you are meeting people from across the country.

I remember in that class when we looked across there were a lot of different people, but GABBY's smile just lights up the room. She didn't sit back to wait to talk to everybody on different sides of the aisle. She did it just as she has done every day on this floor, walked right up, introduced herself and says how can we work together. When you look just last week, GABBY was sitting on this floor, standing right in this well, reading the Constitution, the First Amendment, going home, doing what she has done many times before, listening to her constituents, what all of us do.

What has transpired, we cannot let happen. We cannot be deterred, just from that same aspect that GABBY gives the strength as she fights right now, and we cannot forget those that lost their lives.

We cannot forget the Federal Chief District Justice John Roll; Gabe Zimmerman, working for GABBY's staff; 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green, being elected in student council, just want-

ing to meet her Representative and a neighbor taking her down; also Dorothy Morris, Dorwan Stoddard or Phyllis Schneck, doing what they thought was every American's right to do and give their opinion.

That's what this floor has to be committed to, that's what this floor has to continue to fight. That is exactly what GABBY continues to fight for and will continue as we go.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI).

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the men and women of the 10th Congressional District, I rise in support of this resolution and bring to this floor their condolences and prayers for the six who were murdered in Tucson and for GABBY and for her speedy recovery.

Patti and I send along our own special prayers and condolences. For those of us that have had the privilege of working with GABRIELLE, I add my own special thoughts.

I came to the Committee on Science and Technology where she was the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Space and immediately saw her incredible intelligence, her charm and wit as she conducted numerous hearings, and came to understand her commitment to America's science and technology and space as she led our committee to the reauthorization of the NASA programs.

I look forward to her speedy recovery and her return to this floor, where she can once again provide her talents and her leadership as she would once again lead us in our efforts to bring about a better understanding, not only of the space and this role of our planet in the cosmos, but also our own personal understanding to each other and to our constituents.

It was a sad day on Saturday, and it will be a bright future when GABRIELLE returns to this floor.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, it is now my honor to yield 3 minutes to the chairman of the Republican Conference, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING).

Mr. HENSARLING. I appreciate the gentleman from Virginia, the distinguished majority leader, for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I haven't come to the House floor with any prepared remarks. Frankly, I am not sure my vocabulary, I am not sure my thoughts can do the moment justice.

I would say, in the victim that we know, Congresswoman GIFFORDS, GABBY, if there is a sweeter, a kinder, a more gentle Member of the House, I know not their name.

So many of us consider her to be a friend. I think if there were a poll of Members of the House, she would probably be voted least likely to offend any human being, which makes this incident, this tragedy so unfathomable. We all pray for her full recovery. This House is not whole without her smile,

without her voice, without her presence.

Madam Speaker, I did not know Gabe Zimmerman; but I know a lot of great Americans, young people, who decide to dedicate themselves to public service and work on my staff, and I know how they are a part of my extended family.

□ 1230

I didn't know Dorwan Stoddard, Phyllis Schneck, Dorothy Morris, but they're parents, they're grandparents, they're spouses, and we think of our own family. I didn't know Judge John Roll. But, again, somebody who committed their life to public service. And last but not least I don't know Christina Taylor Green. I didn't have that pleasure. A 9-year-old child thrilled to learn about our representative democracy and brought down in an act of evil. I never met her. But I think about my 8-year-old daughter, and I think about my 7-year-old son, and how they learn about their father's business.

And so all of us come together in this time of mourning but this time of resolution. We mourn the loss of these great American citizens, but we resolve that the representative democracy, that the traditions of the House will not be a casualty of this tragedy. The people's House will be open. The Members representative will be accessible. It can be no different in this country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. HENSARLING. We cannot allow the tragedy to be compounded by changing the way we conduct the people's business. This cannot happen. And so we come here today to mourn, but we come here to be resolved that this individual who is responsible for a heinous, evil act will not succeed in interfering with the people's business in the people's House. Godspeed in her recovery to GABBY, our colleague.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, we come to the floor with respect, compassion and yes, love for those who have lost loved ones in Tucson last Saturday and for those who are recovering from the physical and psychological wounds. We also come to pay tribute and show love and send our best wishes to Representative GIFFORDS and to Mark Kelly. I hope they feel our love. Our colleague is a beautiful person and everything one would want in a congressional representative—thoughtful, engaged, compassionate, optimistic and a genuinely good person. We also recognize those who responded, staff members quietly going about making democracy work, bystanders, medical responders and



surgeons, ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

This hits us on more than a personal level, though. Each year, there are many thousands of Americans felled by gunfire. Each is a personal tragedy to the victim's loved ones. The Tucson shooting strikes a blow to our ability to govern ourselves, to maintain a peaceful society. The rights to assembly peaceably and to speak freely are preserved not just for their own sake, but, as the geniuses who established this country recognized, it is through those rights that we can create a society that protects and extends life, liberty and happiness.

There are lessons to be drawn from the events about our understanding of people with mental illness and their screening and treatment. There are lessons to be drawn about our gun crazy culture. There are lessons to be drawn about the ever-present inflammatory, dehumanizing rhetoric, but let us defer those discussions for the moment and recognize that we are a strong, prosperous and supportive country because of our representative democracy and our freedom to assemble and speak.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. HOLT. Let us in Congress not withdraw. Let us hold more outreach, more town halls, more sidewalk office hours. And let us, in the words of Representative GIFFORDS delivered here on the floor of the House, let us agree to forgo some of our individual interests and intemperance to allow the space for open dialogue, debate and discussion.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, it is now my honor to yield 2 minutes to the chief deputy whip on the Republican side of the aisle, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM).

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I thank the leader for yielding.

You know, one of the untold stories of the House of Representatives is the connections that Members have with one another that really never show up, except among ourselves. I had a unique connection with GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, I still do, and that is when we came in in this class of 2006, we were both invited to participate, one on one or two together, in a series of interviews that was hosted by National Public Radio, the show All Things Considered. I had not met GABRIELLE before that and we started this dialogue back and forth and really enjoyed that. And I found that she had this very refreshing and winsome approach, as we all know, to how she would handle herself and how she conducts herself.

So it's really no surprise to me that we're hearing hopeful news about her medical condition based on a disposition of perseverance. And I thought that the conversations that I was involved in with her brought a brightness to public life and brought something that as I heard from constituents that

would listen to her, they would say to me, I can see how you would like serving with people like that. And that is sort of the lost lead, I think, in some ways about the House of Representatives.

We were heartsick on Saturday when we heard that news. I know many of my constituents who are to their knees in prayer for GABRIELLE and for the victims of that shooting. And so as I think we all reflect on the gift that we have been given, we have a great example in GABRIELLE GIFFORDS in somebody who understands the nature of democracy and real willingness to serve, and we wish her the very best and pray for her complete recovery.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER).

Mr. PERLMUTTER. I thank the gentleman from Arizona.

Madam Speaker, I had the opportunity to know GABBY before we were elected to the Congress. She was in the State legislature in Arizona; I was in the State legislature in Colorado. She was one of the youngest people ever elected to the State legislature there in Arizona and she has been a friend of mine for some time now. I am having a hard time processing what actually occurred last Saturday to her and to those other people. Our prayers obviously are with her, with the families of those who were murdered, and for the swift recovery of everybody who was injured in that shooting. I rise in support of the resolution and I thank the leadership for bringing it.

The second paragraph of the resolution says, Whereas on January 8, 2011, an armed gunman opened fire at a "Congress on Your Corner" event hosted by Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS in Tucson.

I want to explain what it was she was doing, because it's at the heart of our democracy. We've heard about it from other speakers. We do something like GABBY's "Congress on Your Corner," which we call, "Government in the Grocery." Other Congressmen and women do similar things. It's about listening to your constituents. It's about being accessible in a less formal setting than on the floor of the House of Representatives or in an assembly hall but where people feel comfortable talking to you. So comfortable and so successful was her "Congress on the Corner" that she had the littlest, most innocent person in Christina Taylor Green, a 9-year-old, to one of Arizona's most powerful, experienced people, in the chief district judge, John Roll, coming to a very informal setting, at a grocery store, to talk about America, to talk about their hopes, their desires, their concerns. This is what it's all about.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. This woman was conducting something so essential to the fabric of our democracy.

□ 1240

And to the grocery stores, the coffee shops, and the flea markets, those that provide these venues where people feel comfortable to come and express their views, just, thank you.

I do these kinds of events every other Saturday. We obviously have to work with the different grocery stores and law enforcement to see if we can continue to operate in these fashions, but this is what it's all about.

GABBY GIFFORDS is as good as they get. We pray for her speedy recovery, and we thank her for her service.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, it's now my honor to yield 2 minutes to the chairman of the Rules Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

Mr. DREIER. I appreciate our distinguished majority leader for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, obviously, this is, as everyone has said, an extraordinarily challenging time for this institution. And we have to remember that this institution is the people's House, and so, by extension, this is a challenging time for the United States of America.

When we think about the victims ranging in age from age 9 to 79, and when we think about our colleague, who is at this moment wounded and recovering, it is, as my friend from Colorado has just said, extraordinarily far reaching. And we need to expend time and energy soul-searching. And I think that last Saturday's tragedy is going to lead all of us to do that.

I do believe that engaging in civil discourse is something that is essential, and I believe it is what our framers wanted us to do. I regularly say in this House that James Madison wanted there to be a clash of ideas, and I think that we need to make sure that that continues.

But at the same time, I think it's important for us to remember that we are not dealing, based on every shred of evidence we have now, with anything political as it relates to what took place on Saturday. As George Will said over the weekend, there are 308 million Americans, and a few of them are unhinged. And we need to remember that. But while we remember that, I think it's imperative for us to do everything that we can to remember the responsibility that we have, to remember the great people who are public servants and serve as our staff members and are regularly on the front line, and to do everything that we can to ensure, as we proceed as an institution, that we do our job and, as Speaker BOEHNER has said, don't do anything that will impinge on our responsibility to the American people.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, and with all of those who were victimized last Saturday.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further proceedings on this resolution will be postponed.

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RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

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□ 1355

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BONO MACK) at 1 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.

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EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE  
REGARDING ARIZONA SHOOTING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, proceedings will now resume on the resolution (H. Res. 32) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona, on January 8, 2011.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. When proceedings were postponed earlier today, 4 hours and 6 minutes of debate remained on the resolution.

The gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) has 2 hours remaining, and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. PASTOR) has 2 hours and 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK).

Mrs. MYRICK. I thank the gentleman for yielding the time.

I think like everyone else who is here, I'm here today in support of this resolution, not only because it recognizes what happened in that tragic situation that just shocked and saddened all of us on Saturday, but I think most people in America were really just in a state of shock and not actually knowing what to do at that time when we saw what was happening, not just to our friend, GABBY GIFFORDS, who is a friend with everyone here, but also to all of the other families that were touched by this.

It goes so deep in the Tucson community when you look at the six people who gave their lives and the people who are still in the hospital fighting for their lives and all the heroes of that day. We keep hearing story after story after story of the heroes that emerged, just ordinary, everyday Americans who do what we do in situations like that. We don't think about ourselves, but we come forward to help the other person. And there were so many people like

that who literally saved lives, GABBY's staff members, who were so heroic at this time, and just the shock that all of them I know are still going through. But I know that they are really heartened by the fact that most people in America are just reaching out to them, and people are saying, what can I do, how can I help, where can I be of service to this situation?

And that's what we do in America is we come together. We pull together. We say, okay, we need to be Americans and Americans first. And I think that's what we're seeing out of this. And I just hope that we, throughout this country, can continue to maintain that feeling of goodwill toward one another, of wanting to help one another, of wanting to reach out to one another and wanting to work together no matter where we are in the country, because that's what makes us great.

So our prayers and our support are with GABBY and with the others, and they will continue to be. The reports appear to continue to be good, which is so gratifying and so heartening to all of us. And we all look forward to the day when she's back here standing on this floor with the rest of us.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR).

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. I thank Mr. PASTOR for yielding.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my community in Florida, the Tampa Bay area, I rise to honor my friend and colleague, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, her staff and the other victims of the Arizona shooting tragedy. The arc of time of Congresswoman GIFFORDS' service to her community and in the U.S. House so far has proven to be a time of change and challenge.

□ 1400

Through it all, Representative GIFFORDS has been a model public servant. When we were sworn in 4 years ago, Congresswoman GIFFORDS and I arrived as part of a class, Republican and Democrat, that had very high ideals. She was a leader from the very beginning. We adopted ethics reform. We bolstered veterans. We sought modern solutions for energy challenges. We helped more students attend college. And she, particularly, promoted scientific innovation.

She sought a seat on the Armed Services Committee at a time when our country was struggling with the war in Iraq. She sought that seat because she wanted to ensure that the military personnel and the bases in her district had a champion—and did they ever.

Congresswoman GIFFORDS rose quickly to become a leader on solar energy and on immigration reform. GABBY works to strike a balance with pragmatic policies that actually work. And whether it was President Bush or President Obama, Congresswoman GIFFORDS spoke up boldly for additional resources on the U.S. border.

I know it sounds like a modern fairy tale, that a beautiful, smart congress-

woman marries an astronaut, but a love of science and a love of their country brought them together. She was a champion for NASA and space exploration before she married Captain Mark Kelly, but she has become one of the greatest advocates for the mission of NASA.

In 2007, our economy began to contract and people lost jobs, and Representative GIFFORDS stood up to fight for them, for help for the Tucson area and for our great country. It has not been easy, but GABBY does not give up. As one of the more youthful Members of Congress, Congresswoman GIFFORDS has served at a time when the first President of our generation was elected.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 15 seconds.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. It is a time of hope and promise, but in the middle of a time of great economic challenge for Arizona, for Florida, and for all of America. But GABBY GIFFORDS has an optimistic eye to the future. She believes that working together we can solve many of the challenges before us. And in her honor we must recommit to doing so.

From the stories of the victims and the heroes in Tucson, it is obvious that it is a community composed of remarkable individuals. And it may explain why the Tucson area has sent such a remarkable public servant to represent them.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana, Dr. FLEMING.

Mr. FLEMING. I thank my friend from California.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 32. Last week, in an act of cowardly violence, our friend and colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, was gunned down at a public event intended to give her constituents a forum to express their opinions. While our Nation honors, mourns, and remembers those hurt and killed in this senseless tragedy, it is imperative that we strengthen our resolve as public servants to not let these acts deter us from the important work we do and from who we are.

America was founded on the idea that the people have direct access to their elected representatives, and as long as I serve, I plan to continue that tradition. As Speaker BOEHNER so eloquently put it, no act, no matter how heinous, must be allowed to stop us from our duty.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Congresswoman GIFFORDS, her family, and all those who suffered from last week's events.

Finally, God bless GABBY GIFFORDS. God bless the victims of this tragedy. God bless this institution. And God bless the United States of America.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON).

Mr. ELLISON. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

On behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Minnesota, let me offer my heartfelt condolences to those brave Americans who lost their lives in the tragedy at Tucson, and let me offer wishes of a very speedy recovery for those people who are wounded, including our own friend and colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS. And also, let me offer congratulations to those heroic people who jumped up to help their fellow Americans at a time of tragedy and need.

It would be very human for anyone to be a little bit shy about coming to a public event after hearing about a tragedy like this. But I think that in the spirit of GABBY GIFFORDS, we should reaffirm and rededicate ourselves to public access, public engagement.

I don't think it would be honoring her great work that she and we expect for her to carry on if we didn't get right back out there and engage in a spirited conversation about the shape and destiny of our democracy. And so I think it is important to make a very bold statement that we will reaffirm our dedication to having a robust, open access, and free democracy by not letting forces of fear and hatred, desperation and madness deter us from this very important and noble enterprise.

God bless America, and we wait for and we look forward to a speedy recovery from our colleague, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER).

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I wish I didn't have to rise today in support of this resolution because it was a sad day for America last Saturday.

But let me say this: On behalf of the people of the 19th Congressional District, whom I represent, we send our heartfelt condolences to the families and the friends and the loved ones of those who were killed in this senseless attack.

We also offer our prayers for GABBY and the others who are making recovery from this act as well. You know, as I read through this resolution, and as many of you like I have been watching TV, Saturday was a bad day. It was a horrible day for America. Dana and I were in the grocery store shopping when I got the notice that my friend GABBY, our colleague GABBY, had been shot, along with others. It was terrible. As we have gotten an opportunity to watch over the last few days, what we learned is that out of this horrific act, we saw some of the things that make America great. We saw people tackle the attacker. We saw people offer assistance to GABBY and others. We saw a man shield his wife from the attacker. We saw the first responders do remarkable work in getting people to the hospital in what would be record time. We saw so many of the good things about

America at a time when we saw one of the bad things.

You know, as I was walking over here, I was thinking about Wednesday, I guess a week ago today, coming down on the elevator with Mark and GABBY and her parents. We had a wonderful visit. I have had an opportunity to serve on the Science Committee with GABBY. I went to lunch with her. She has a little interest in space, in case you didn't know it. And how sometimes we take for granted our friends and acquaintances and life itself, and how in just a moment life can change.

So today we offer this resolution to recognize some good things about our country, to wish our good friend GABBY a complete recovery and to come back here, and we offer our thoughts and prayers for our country. God bless America.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN).

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, many of us have just come from a congressional prayer service for the victims of the terrible tragedy in Arizona where we sang "Heal Us Now."

We all know in this body that GABBY GIFFORDS is one of our brightest lights: smart, fair, courageous, and considerate of people of all points of view. She is a very effective legislator and a caring and thoughtful friend. And the people of Arizona could not have a better representative in this United States Congress.

On Saturday, she was doing the job she loves so dearly and takes so seriously: meeting with her constituents and listening to their concerns when this senseless act of violence occurred.

We come together to grieve for those who were killed, including GABBY's talented and energetic outreach director, Gabe Zimmerman; to pray for the quick recovery of those injured; and to honor those who, in a moment of chaos and violence, took heroic actions that saved the lives of many, including GABBY.

□ 1410

GABBY GIFFORDS is a person who is always thinking of others—her constituents, her staff, her colleagues. I spoke with her frequently during the very tough campaign she went through, and she was always just asking how were her colleagues doing. Today, in that same way, GABBY would want us to be thinking and praying for the others—for her fallen and injured constituents and for her heroic staff.

Gabe Zimmerman died doing what he loved, serving the people of Arizona. His many good works are a testament to the selfless works of public service performed by congressional staff every day for the people of our districts and our Nation.

GABBY GIFFORDS has always conducted herself in a manner that brings honor on this people's House. She passionately advocates for the positions

and issues she cares so deeply about but always in a way that is respectful of opposing views. She is a fierce competitor, but is always considerate of others.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. That is why she was such a good role model for Christina Taylor Green—the 9-year-old girl born on that terrible day of September 11, 2001, and who was gunned down on another awful day for our Nation.

Christina Taylor Green, Gabe Zimmerman, and four others are, tragically, no longer with us. As we mourn their loss, we also pray for the full recovery of those who were injured.

GABBY GIFFORDS' light continues to shine, and she will continue to inspire young and old throughout Arizona and our Nation. God bless GABBY GIFFORDS and all the victims of this horrible tragedy.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON).

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, you know, we all get to know a person through the words of others. For our colleague GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and for everyone affected by the violence in Tucson, the outpouring of prayer and emotion really tells the story of how we are all touched by these sad events.

I think all of us draw strength from one another in hearing the personal stories of relationships that they have had with GABBY, and it really does help us. I thought it would be important for us to also hear just a couple of stories, just a couple of sentiments, from some of GABBY's friends and supporters back home because they know GABBY, perhaps, in a little different way than we do.

Carol Frazier writes, "Many prayers and much love to you and all the victims of this stupid tragedy. GABBY, you are what we need in Congress. I was so impressed with meeting you—that you looked me in the eye and truly listened to what I was saying."

A high school friend, Erika Noebel, writes, "Your entire UHS family is pulling for you. We just love you so much and are so proud to be your constituents."

Scott Smith writes, "I hadn't even heard of you until this tragic event, GABBY, but you are in my thoughts, and I very much hope you pull through this, especially because you were doing your job talking to your constituents when this happened."

I think, like all of us here in the House of Representatives, Cathy Paredes expresses her sentiments best: "Love you, Gabby. Stay strong. We are here for you."

God bless GABBY GIFFORDS.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ).

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I am from San Antonio, and in my hometown, about a year and a half ago, a

convenience store owner was murdered by a robber.

The brother of the slain owner observed that both his brother and the murderer got up that same morning and made conscious choices: His brother chose to go to work and support his family—a right and a good thing. The murderer made a choice to rob and kill—an evil and a destructive thing.

On January 8, 2011, in Tucson, many people got up that morning and made a choice to do the right and good thing. Only one person got up that morning and decided to do an evil and destructive thing.

We cannot and will not allow the cruelty of one person to overshadow the goodness that each of his victims represents. We in this Chamber are not helpless. We offer our prayers for those who died and for a speedy recovery for those who have survived.

And, to GABBY, I know we all join in saying: Hurry back. This House needs you. We love you.

But we can do more. We can set an example that creates a fertile environment for constructive discourse that extends beyond the confines of this Capitol.

Despite the heartache and the tragedy of last Saturday, we find solace and inspiration that, in our Nation, the United States of America, the goodness of the many will always triumph over the evil of the few.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MACK).

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today with sadness in my heart and a bit of anger about what happened in Tucson.

I cannot help but think that, on that morning, a colleague of ours was doing what she enjoyed, doing what is expected of a Member of Congress—meeting with her constituents, talking about the important issues of the day. She went to work that morning, to the grocery store, to listen to her constituents. For someone to show up and pull the trigger is something that I don't think any of us will ever forget.

I pray for GABBY. My thoughts and prayers go to all of the family members who have been affected by this tragedy.

We hope and we cannot wait for that day when GABBY comes back to this floor—when she walks through that door, when she joins us again, when she casts a vote. Most importantly, though, I cannot wait to see that smile on her face. No matter who you are, whenever you met GABBY, she always greeted you with a smile, with kindness in her heart, with determination and strength.

GABBY, we are praying for you. We pull for you. Our hearts and prayers are with you. You are missed, and we look forward to seeing you back on the floor of the House.

Thank you and God bless you.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. On behalf of all of the people of northern Indiana, we want to express our prayers and thoughts for the victims and the families of those killed and injured in Arizona.

To the staff of Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS, we want to thank you for your service to our country and for your sacrifice to our country.

To my friend GABBY GIFFORDS, who I came into Congress with in 2006, we love you and Mark. We miss you and Mark terribly. We are praying for your recovery. We know you are getting stronger every day, and we can't wait to see you back here in the House again in the very, very near future.

May God bless you, and may God bless our beloved country.

□ 1420

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON).

Mr. OLSON. I thank my colleague from California.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution before the House and to pay tribute to my colleague and dear friend, GABBY GIFFORDS. I have been privileged to call her a friend as the chairwoman of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee while I was the ranking member.

We found that we share a deep passion for space and NASA, and we have worked closely on these issues together. In sitting in a hearing that GABBY was running with your eyes closed, you would be hard pressed to know who was the Republican and who was the Democrat. And as a freshman Member in Congress, it was heartening to know that while the controversial issues of the day may divide us, there is also room for collaboration and unity on both sides of the aisle. That was because of GABBY.

I have no better bipartisan friend in the Congress than GABBY GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, she is warm and kind, but the GABBY I know is also tough. She will pull through this with her husband, Mark, by her side. I wouldn't bet against her.

Other Members of our House family need our support too. I would like to say a prayer for Gabe Zimmerman and his family, GABBY's staffer who lost his life, as well as Ron Barber and Pam Simon, her other staffers who were victims in this horrible, horrible tragedy.

We must also remember the others who lost their lives or were seriously injured. They are in our hearts and prayers as the Nation begins the healing process.

Madam Speaker, I am going to close my remarks by talking to my friend as if she was here because in many ways she is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. OLSON. I thank my colleague from California.

GABBY, I know you feel things and you hear things. When asked, you squeeze a hand, you hold two fingers up, and you hold a "thumbs up." I know you feel the love and prayers of a Congress, a Nation, and a world that only wants you to have a full and speedy recovery. My friend, right back at you. I will see you when you get back in this Chamber.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS).

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deep sympathy for the victims of the tragedy in Tucson, Arizona, this past Saturday. Like all of us, I mourn for the grievous harm that came to those who attended Congresswoman GIFFORDS' Congress on Your Corner; for our colleague, GABBY, a courageous and conscientious lawmaker whose recovery and good health we all yearn for today; for a 9-year-old child bursting with innocent enthusiasm and great promise; for a respected jurist engaged in a simple act of friendship; for a kind and accomplished staffer; for a loving husband who instinctively shielded his wife from the rain of bullets, and for a husband, also lovingly protective, who was unable to save them off; and, finally, a widowed retiree still giving to her community, all so abruptly and violently losing their lives; and for those who are thankfully recovering, all engaged in the abiding promise of democracy, coming to talk with their Congresswoman, gathering in the parking lot of a local supermarket on a Saturday morning.

This horrific incident has raised many serious questions about appropriately identifying and caring for those who suffer from mental illness, about the accessibility of violent weapons, about the tone and language of our politics today, and about the solemn obligations of elected office in a democratic society—of those serving, of their staff, and of constituents eager to participate and be heard.

But today we honor with our words those who tragically lost their lives and those harmed by this senseless act of violence. We pray for GABBY and all those still recovering; and we remember their families and loved ones now struggling with the immensity of their losses. In the days ahead, however, we must honor and remember them with our actions.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN).

Mr. MEEHAN. I want to thank my friend for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise and join my colleagues—and in fact fellow citizens from across this Nation—in thought and prayer following the tragic assault on GABBY GIFFORDS and 19 others in Tucson. I pray that in these critical

hours GABBY GIFFORDS will heal and begin the path to a fuller recovery.

Just yesterday, I was privileged to join a large number of my freshmen colleagues as we went on a visit to the Walter Reed Army Hospital where we were humbled and inspired by the remarkable strength of severely injured military heroes who are fighting to recover from their wounds. I pray that GABBY GIFFORDS will be provided with a similar resolve.

I pray for those who lost their lives and the families of their loved ones who now struggle with grief. And I think particularly, having been a former prosecutor, of Judge John Roll, whose loss is being deeply felt by our colleagues in their public service from the judiciary. While this tragedy was not related to his duties per se, it is a reminder that our judges too often face threats that impinge on the independence that they must be accorded for our system of government and freedom and, just as importantly, justice, to prosper.

Lastly, I want to express deep condolences to the family of Christina Taylor Green, whose grandfather, Dallas Green, is a member of the Philadelphia community. This tragic incident brought it home in a very personal way to the people of my region. Let us allow this horrible tragedy to inspire all Americans to become better instruments of peace.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from California (Ms. RICHARDSON).

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I concur in expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona, on January 8, 2011.

Like all Americans, on Saturday morning I was not only saddened, but I was sick to my stomach while I watched the horrible attack against my colleague, my office mate for 2 years, Congresswoman GIFFORDS—known as “GABBY” to me—and her staff, her constituents, and all Americans.

We know now that on January 8 Congresswoman GIFFORDS reached out and sought “new ways to reduce the highly partisan divisive tone that all too often dominates our public discourse.” Today, I am going to do exactly that, not in words of criticism, but thoughts of observation and a desire to help.

For lawmakers, whether Federal, State or local, this tragic incident must make us reevaluate our spending priorities and accept the fact that our continued failure to adequately fund mental illness is a mistake. For agencies, whether they be educational, military or private vendors and businesses, we must be diligent in connecting the dots and making use of good technology to have real-time information.

For parents, whether your child, who will always be your child regardless of their age, should not be allowed under

our own roofs to turn their rooms, garages or backyards into private areas where we’re even afraid to tread. For protectors and preservers of the law, it’s not okay to tell me that nothing is wrong with receiving an email that says, “I’m concerned and looking for a good old-fashioned lynching.” For those who debate and protest, it’s not okay to spit, to say racial slurs, to say reload, or to arm, in reference to debate, and it’s also not okay to say a group other than yourself is a Neanderthal and they want people to die quickly.

□ 1430

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield the gentlelady an additional minute.

Ms. RICHARDSON. For our courts, even in 1919 and 1931 in the cases of *Schenk v. United States* and *Near v. Minnesota*, our forefathers had the wisdom to know that the most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man in falsely shouting “fire” in a theater and causing panic.

So who would tell me that it would be appropriate that on August 17, 2009, that it would be appropriate for a man to carry an AR-15 rifle and a pistol only feet from our President.

And now, for those of us who are here today, we turn to the resolution on the floor.

On page 4, sections 7 and 8, the resolution says that we would have the right of people to peaceably assemble and that all would participate without being silenced for fear of intimidation. I’m sad to say that, yes, even in this own Chamber on these grounds, I don’t think we’ve always fulfilled those words of “peaceable assembly free of intimidation.”

We, too, must not react. But it’s time to act, not just in legislation, but to do what Congresswoman GIFFORDS asked us to do—to reduce the divisive tone in this country. Maybe if we start as leaders, others will follow.

I express condolences. I pray for those on their recovery, and I also commit to work on this issue and to work with my colleagues.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GIBSON).

Mr. GIBSON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people in upstate New York to express our deepest condolences and sympathies to all of those affected by this horrific tragedy. We pray for those who lost their lives and for the recovery of those wounded in the attack.

I first met GABRIELLE GIFFORDS many years ago at Cornell University where we were graduate students together in the mid-1990s. I did not know her well, but we shared mutual friends who always spoke of her in the kindest of terms. Last night I heard from one of GABBY’s good friends, Colin Forth, and he shared the following:

“GABRIELLE is a strongly principled person who, at Cornell, continually worked toward improvement, finding a way to reach a positive agreement. I found myself continually impressed with her ability to see workable solutions to issues, even when we did not agree on the issue. GABBY is fun, passionate, intelligent, highly competent, and focused. She is a person who turns words into action, something that should be valued now more than ever.”

GABBY, Cornell prays for you, and the citizens of upstate New York are reaching out to all of those families affected by this senseless act of violence and praying that they may find peace, comfort, and healing.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from California (Mrs. DAVIS).

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I come here today shaken by an act of horrific proportions and yet heartened by bountiful acts of the human spirit. We are comforted that in these times, the pain and the shock can be lightened, if only temporarily, by knowing that the good overwhelms the bad. I think that is how GABBY would want us to reflect today.

We grieve for the losses and the pain felt in the community of Tucson for ordinary people who we learned are quite extraordinary.

We know the tireless efforts of our own staff who come to work every day with one goal in mind—to help people. That’s why we mourn the loss of Gabe Zimmerman.

But most of all, I come here today to send, in the most public way I can, my love and Mi Shebeirach—a Hebrew prayer for the sick which celebrates the spirit of healing to those recovering from their wounds, and particularly to my dear friend and colleague, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

People beyond GABBY’s district are learning about the political acumen of this talented and engaging leader. As public servants, we do our jobs by listening to the American people—by looking constituents in the eye, assuring them that we want to help, letting them know that we understand with a nod, a handshake, and most often a hug, as GABBY frequently was known to do. To have that important connection so shaken by the attempted assassination of our colleague and friend is devastating.

But GABBY, of all people, was an example of what it means to be connected to your district. I know she wouldn’t stand for this kind of violence, but she also wouldn’t stand for allowing it to stop us from our service.

Whenever she talked about her constituents, she prefaced it with, “I really understand where they are coming from, and we need to solve this problem.”

Her constituents are fortunate to have such a representative with such energy and skill who cares about them so deeply.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield the gentlelady an additional 30 seconds.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. She cares about their concerns, fears, and hopes and knows how to work with people from all political persuasions.

My heart goes out to everyone affected by this massacre, and the shock from it reverberates throughout my community and our country.

So I am listening to my constituents that hope that this tragedy will engage us anew in serious and civil discourse on how we can leave a better world for our children and our grandchildren. That is what GABBY strived to do daily. It is what she would want us to be doing right now.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. I rise today with a heavy heart to join my colleagues in support of this resolution and to honor the innocent Americans whose lives were so senselessly and tragically altered by the events in Tucson last week.

GABRIELLE GIFFORDS was embodying the very essence of what it means to be an elected Representative in our great Republic by meeting and listening to her constituents last Saturday. Gabe Zimmerman, Ron Barber, and Pamela Simon were there, too, doing their jobs like thousands of other dedicated congressional staffers who support us and the work we do here every day in Washington and especially back in our districts.

The Americans who lost their lives on Saturday and the innocent victims who were wounded were performing their civic duty to take an active role in their government, and among them were 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green and Pittsburgh native Judge John Roll.

In our disbelief of the events last week, let us not forget the heroism of those who subdued the attacker preventing further loss of life. They put their own lives on the line to protect their neighbors. They represent the best of America and shine in our darkest hour.

We will not allow this tragedy to weaken our resolve or to undermine the sacred responsibility that we as elected officials have to serve the people we represent. To allow this act of violence to keep us from our duties would be a disservice to the people we honor today, especially GABBY.

GABBY was a friend of mine. We first became friends when I looked at her bio and realized that her family and she were operators and owners of a tire business just as my family was. So not only could GABBY and I talk policy, but we could talk tire; and there are few women that can talk tire like GABBY.

Also, I served on the Armed Services Committee and got to know her very well. We traveled on two trips—one to Afghanistan and one to Iraq. It was the week before her wedding to Mark that we traveled, and she talked about look-

ing forward to her marriage and to future trips. And just last week, we discussed going to Afghanistan again.

So I look forward to GABBY's speedy recovery, for her return here to the House, and for that trip that we will take to Afghanistan to go greet our men and women in harm's way.

May God bless GABBY. May God continue to bless the United States of America.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the opportunity to come together to express our sorrow and support for our friend and colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, and the 19 other victims of this senseless rampage.

I cherish the time I spent with GABBY in Tucson to promote the livability of her community. There I've seen firsthand the respect Congresswoman GIFFORDS commanded from the entire civic leadership. I witnessed the emotional connection between GABBY and her political supporters. They knew that she was somebody special, and you could see that she treated each and every one of them the same way.

□ 1440

Then there is the bond between GABBY and her terrific team. It makes it so jarring, the loss of Gabe Zimmerman, the wounding of Rod Barber and Pam Simon of her office. Her outstanding staff is representative of the amazing men and women, over 10,000 in all, here on Capitol Hill and back home, who make the government process possible. They are like family, not just for GABBY. We must do all we can to protect the safety of staff and the employees who serve our country every day.

Finally, this is about our relationship with GABBY and our responsibility to heal and repair. The path forward is illustrated by GABBY herself, the best example I know of someone who uses her intelligence, charm, passion, and commitment to bring people together. Then they can sort out the difficult issues that way, and move forward with the same good humor, skill, and results as GABBY. As she recovers, I hope we can honor her service and sacrifice by doing all that we can to restore that spark, that civility, and that commitment to civilized discourse.

Madam Speaker, that's a tall order. Can we beat the odds? Our dear friend GABBY will show us how, as she is beating the odds right now. I am confident her recovery will be a triumph of her spirit, will, and intellect, and be a further inspiration to us all.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED).

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today without a script, but to send my thoughts and prayers, and those of all of the thousands of people from my dis-

trict, out to the Congresswoman's family, to the Congresswoman herself, and to all the families that were affected by such a tragic day in our Nation's history.

We shall never forget what happened last Saturday. But as I walked into work today, and I saw the Sun breaking as it was coming up and shining on the dome of the Capitol, it was a glorious sight. Because what it reminded me is that even in our darkest days this Nation always will rise again. And as we stand here rightfully and pay our respects to our dear colleague and the families that suffered so much, and are suffering as we speak, let us not forget that this Nation will rise, and we will persevere.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY).

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. The great State of New York certainly sends their wishes and their prayers to the great State of Arizona. New York State went through a horror the same as Arizona is going through now. It's so parallel it's scary. Six killed, 20 injured, my husband dying, murdered, my son shot. But this is really a message of hope because my son did survive. Many of the victims survived.

But I think the wonderful thing that needs to be out there are the prayers that came through from all parts of this country.

GABBY's staff, you are suffering terribly. Those that have died, your families are suffering terribly. And those that have been wounded have to go through the pain to heal. What I will say to all of you, time will heal you. You will never forget, but time will make you smile again.

GABBY would be so proud of this Chamber today. One of the things that GABBY is known for is how bipartisan she is. And she has brought this Chamber together. It's just a shame that a tragedy has to bring us all together. You know, GABBY's going to be fine, and she will be back here. And she'll be over there hugging people, talking to people. But that's what we as a Nation have to learn. We can disagree, but we need to work together. That is what GABBY wants, and that's what she'll push when she gets back here.

So with that, the prayers of this Nation go to all. God bless our country, God bless the victims.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from Ohio (Mrs. SCHMIDT).

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor our colleague GABBY GIFFORDS and to mourn the loss of those that died in Tucson on Saturday, and to also pray for those who have been affected by this great tragedy, and to applaud the courage of those who risked their own lives so that others might live, and to thank the first responders and the

health care professionals whose quick action and work saved their lives.

You know, Madam Speaker, nobody ever thought Saturday would happen, especially GABBY. She was just out there doing her job. And when you think of the 20 families, and the community and the Nation, and how we have been affected by this act of violence, you think of the little girl that went there to meet her Congresswoman who never came home. You think about the person that took her, that wonderful neighbor who now will always think about what if I hadn't done this, what if I hadn't said would you like to come?

Madam Speaker, there are so many people affected by this tragedy. And no one can ever understand the mind of a person that would do this random act of violence. But we as a Nation can come together. We can recognize the courage of those that helped stop him. We can recognize the courage of those that are fighting for their lives, especially our GABBY. We can pray especially that this Nation will never again see that kind of tragedy.

And most importantly, Madam Speaker, we as a Nation—and I know people have said to me, well, what can we do? We as a Nation can pray. Get down on our knees every morning and every night. Pray for GABBY. Pray for her family. Pray for those folks that are suffering in the hospital. Pray for those moms and those dads and those brothers and those sisters and those aunts and those uncles and those grandparents that will never touch the family members again. Pray for GABBY's staff. Mourn the loss of her staffer. Mourn the loss of all six who perished. But most importantly, to pray that the folks that have been affected can have the courage to go on.

You know, we had a prayer service. And Cantor Leon Sher wrote a beautiful song. And at the end of the song he says:

We pray for healing of the people,  
We pray for healing of the land.

And peace for every race and nation,  
Every child, every woman, every man.

I don't think any words can sum up what we need to do here now today. So let us pray for GABBY that she comes back and she fights for what she believes in.

I welcome her spirited debate and her smile and her Pollyanna point of view. But let us hope that all of those that have been touched by this tragedy can heal and heal in a short run. Thank you. God bless this country, and God bless all in it.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding.

Madam Speaker, my wife, Vivian, and I were shocked and saddened to learn of the awful events in Tucson, Arizona, last Saturday. First and foremost, our prayers are with GABBY GIFFORDS, her family, her staff, and the other victims of the senseless tragedy.

Since she was first elected in 2006, GABBY GIFFORDS has been one of the brightest lights in this Congress. I have gotten to know her personally in the Blue Dog Coalition, and she is my friend. I have been especially impressed by her intelligence, her warm personality, and her singular ability to bridge differences and bring people together. These qualities, and the fact that she was attacked while serving her constituents, make the situation all the more heartbreaking.

In the book of Isaiah, it is written, "Come let us reason together." Let us then take this opportunity to pause and reflect on the lives of the victims, the heroism of the first responders, and the bedrock principle of American democracy—reaffirmed in the resolution before us today—the right to assemble peacefully and to petition the government for the redress of grievances.

□ 1450

We must not let violence or the threat of violence deter us from representing our constituents and doing the Nation's business. God bless GABBY GIFFORDS, the other injured, the families of those who were killed, the people of Arizona and the United States of America.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN).

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, Saturday was indeed a grim day for our Nation. It was the day our beloved colleague, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, was attacked while doing her job listening to her constituents. It was GABBY herself who aptly said just last year that the term "representative" is more of a job "description" than a job "title."

As we all work to represent our constituents and our States and Nation, the Speaker is correct when he said that "an attack on one who serves is an attack on all who serve." Last weekend, GABBY's efforts to serve her constituents brought her staff, herself and her constituents into a line of fire from a deranged man who shot 21 defenseless, innocent citizens.

Six people died and many were wounded. Phyllis Schneck was a 79-year-old native of New Jersey who lived during the summer on Old Lake End Road in the Green Pond section of Rockaway Township in my congressional district. She was one of those. Mrs. Schneck and her late husband, Ernie, lived for years in Towaco, and they were active members of the Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church. She was a member of the Montville Women's Club. She was a mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Hers, as were the others, were lives well lived.

Madam Speaker, our minds reel from Saturday's violence. Our hearts ache for those slain and injured and their

families and friends. However, as is so often the case when an act of random cruelty bewilders and depresses us, exceptional displays of generosity, courage and heroism can serve as a potent counterweight. These acts are a reminder of the extraordinary selflessness that people are capable of.

Let's remember and salute those acts today. Mark and GABBY, we are thinking of you. We are behind you all the time. We love you.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution and join my dear colleagues and on behalf of the people of northern Ohio, who join citizens across our Nation in pouring out compassion and healing to the families and citizens of Arizona who have been so harmed and wounded at liberty's doorstep, the U.S. House of Representatives.

Let our prayers and comfort flow to the victims, to the healers, to those who must carry forward with full memory and understanding of what has transpired and why. Let us strive to do and to be so much better as a people. Our collective feeling of brotherly and sisterly love and the unity that flows from it holds the power to heal.

We all feel that desire. Our constituents feel that desire. Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS, our beloved colleague, is fighting to show us the way forward. We pray for her and her family. We pray for all victims and their families. We pray for all those who are taking this difficult journey with them.

What a remarkable young woman GABBY is. She represents the highest aspirations of America. She is kind, talented, highly motivated, effervescent and so in love with her husband, Mark. We know GABBY is a fighter and so very enjoyable to be with.

We embrace her, her family, her staff with the same affection as would she. And if GABBY were able at this moment, we know she would be embracing the victims of the fallen and their loved ones.

This is a moment for America to take stock of itself. No one should have to endure what these citizens have had to endure. Frankly, no one should have had to endure the mean-spirited and inciteful political campaigns GABBY did.

In the sweep of history, this attack was an attack on liberty. It desecrates our worth as a people. We must all search our souls. How could such a heinous act transpire?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield the gentlelady an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. KAPTUR. If the evidence shows that unaddressed mental illness, coupled with guns and disturbing Internet postings were contributing factors, as when two Capitol Police officers were gunned down just a decade ago outside

this Chamber, then Congress must finally, finally engage that which to date it has been unwilling to fully embrace and understand. When human tragedy falls at your knees, do you look away, or do you stoop to pick up the pieces and ask why? Why?

May God bless America. May the campaigns of 2012 be conducted in a manner that brings credit to our Nation's highest aspirations, mindful of the suffering that has occurred. And may God give America and her leaders and her people great wisdom in the days ahead.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to express my condolences to the families and loved ones of Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, her staffer, Gabe Zimmerman, and all the victims of last Saturday's shooting.

Like all my colleagues here today, I have struggled to make sense out of this horrible tragedy since first hearing the news that our good friend and colleague had been viciously attacked. As I watched the news and learned about the innocent lives that had been cut short, it became painfully clear to me that nothing will ever be able to explain such an atrocity.

Politics is the art of genteel disagreement. Actions like those we witnessed last Saturday have no place, no excuse, no explanation, nor rationalization in our democratic system.

What I do know is that GABBY is fighting hard for her life, fighting with the same tenacity that fueled her passion for public service, and I take comfort in the knowledge that my friend is winning that battle.

Like GABBY, we must never stop fighting for our great democracy and the time-honored traditions that keep it strong. Neither we nor our constituents, all 300-plus million of them, will be intimidated by the violent actions of the few.

As Americans, we will come together and mourn for those who lost their lives that day, and we will honor the survivors and heroes of this tragedy that stood strong together in the face of madness.

Madam Speaker, I join all my colleagues here today to express my support for this resolution, and I know I speak for all of my constituents in the 13th District of Illinois when I say that we share in the loss of our friends from Arizona, and our thoughts and prayers are with their families at this difficult time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY).

Mr. CLAY. I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bipartisan resolution and to offer my thoughts and prayers for the swift healing and complete recovery of my

friend and colleague, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS.

In addition to the dedicated members of her staff who were also wounded and all of the other innocent victims of this unconscionable act of violence, I want to express my sincere sympathies to the families of U.S. District Court Judge John Roll, Gabe Zimmerman, a valued member of our congressional family, Dorwan Stoddard, Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck and most especially Christina Taylor Green, a remarkable 9-year-old child who had just won her first election to the student council and wanted to speak to her Congresswoman about a career in public service.

Madam Speaker, as Speaker BOEHNER so aptly noted just moments after this tragedy occurred, an attack on one who serves is an attack on all who serve. I would venture to say that all of us who have the high honor of serving in this body, the people's House, have searched our souls to try to understand the nature of this attack on the very core of our democracy.

Like most of us, Congresswoman GIFFORDS knows that there is simply no substitute for spending time with your constituents. The plain truth is that you cannot effectively represent your community in Congress unless you make time to interact with the people who hired you for this job.

And as for me, I will continue to do that because I truly believe that even in the face of this kind of mindless violence, constituents have a right to question their Members of Congress directly. And we, who have been entrusted with the honor of public service, must never allow fear or threats to undermine that fundamental principle.

□ 1500

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, so we may be able to equalize the remaining time, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE).

Mr. ALTMIRE. On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of western Pennsylvania, I rise to pay tribute and offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to the 20 victims of the tragedy in Tucson. And as a member of the class of 2006, I grew to know GABBY quite well, and we look forward to the day, hopefully very soon, when she will join us back here in this Chamber. And I know her well enough to know that her first priority on a day like today would be to honor the 19 constituents who were taken and affected by this tragedy, especially the six who lost their lives.

So it is in that spirit that I honor, and we all honor in this Chamber, 63-year-old U.S. district judge John Roll, a Pittsburgh native, an active Catholic parishioner; 9-year-old Christina Green, a Pennsylvania native, third grader who had already told her parents she was looking forward to a ca-

reer in public service and attending college, she hoped and said, at Penn State; 30-year-old Gabe Zimmerman, Gabrielle's staffer, newly engaged, master of social work, who dedicated his life to public service; 79-year-old Phyllis Schneck, New Jersey native, church volunteer, loved cooking and spending time with her family; 76-year-old Dorwan Stoddard, devout Christian, survivor of 17 heart stents, who died saving the life of his wife, a grade school friend; and 76-year-old Dorothy Morris. We pay tribute to them all, and we thank them for their service to this country.

And we will not let this attack deter us from carrying on the business of the American people and engaging in civil discourse in our representative democracy.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN).

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, what does the Lord require? Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. These words from the prophet Micah are as true today as they were when first spoken. They provide guidance to how we in Congress can lead by example for everyone in this country as we try to come to terms with the tragedy in Arizona.

We can work with each other with justice, with mercy and humility in our hearts. When Micah said these words, they were guidance. Today they are a plea. And I know that we can heed these words.

Madam Speaker, I ask that we keep all the victims and the families of this tragedy in our prayers, and I especially ask that we keep GABBY in our hearts.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN).

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 32.

I had the opportunity to work with Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS over the last 2 years on the House Armed Services Committee, and I have always admired the gentlelady from Arizona for her dedication to her constituents and to our Nation.

This resolution before us today condemns in the strongest possible terms the horrific attack which occurred last Saturday in Tucson, Arizona. This resolution offers the heartfelt condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of those who were killed in that attack. It expresses a hope for the rapid and complete recovery of those wounded in the shootings. It applauds the bravery and quick thinking exhibited by those who prevented the gunman from potentially taking more lives. It recognizes the service of the first responders to race to the scene, and the health care professionals who tended to the victims.

This resolution stands firm in the belief in a democracy in which all can



participate and in which intimidation and threats of violence cannot silence the voices of any American.

This resolution honors the service and leadership of Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, a distinguished Member of this House, as she courageously fights to recover.

Madam Speaker, when adjourning today, let us do so out of respect for the victims of this attack.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON).

Ms. SUTTON. Madam Speaker, we know GABRIELLE GIFFORDS as a colleague and a friend, a member of our congressional class of 2006, the majority makers. She is an outstanding public servant whose sole and constant commitment is to help make her district and our Nation as great as it can be.

The shooting that has left GABBY fighting to recover and that has claimed the lives of her outreach director, Gabe Zimmerman, and five other innocent victims was horrific and stunning. Our thoughts and prayers go out to GABBY, her husband, Mark, and their family and to all of the victims and their families.

In recent days the Nation has learned much about GABBY and her commitment to kindness and service. We've learned also of other extraordinary Americans present on that day. We learned of Christina Taylor Green, a child full of grace born on 9/11, taken away far too soon but who will be remembered always not only by her beautiful family, but by a grieving Nation that glimpsed her spirit, leaving her goodness impressed forever on our collective memory.

America has learned of Gabe Zimmerman, a faithful public servant who used his life to make a difference in his country and for his community; and of Judge Roll, husband and father, committed to justice and the rule of law; of Dorothy Morris, beloved wife of George Morris, who also was critically wounded as he tried to shield her from the bullet; and of Phyllis Schneck, loving mother of three and beloved grandmother of seven; and of Dorwan Stoddard, who acted with great love in giving his life to save his wife.

We remember these extraordinary people and the others who were injured, and we remember the heroes who came to the aid of fellow citizens, these ordinary yet great Americans reflecting the best of our Nation and its citizenry. And we join together today to condemn this violent rampage.

But let us also join together to express our appreciation for those who offered themselves up in service, like GABBY, Gabe and Judge Roll, and all who were there participating in our representative Republic. Let us reach out one to another in common purpose. It has been said, God has not called us to see through each other, but to see each other through. Let it be so.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I am shocked and saddened by the senseless act of violence that occurred Saturday against Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, her staff and members of the Tucson community. Just 2 days before this horrific attack, GABBY joined me and many other Members of Congress in reading aloud the U.S. Constitution on the House floor. It was my honor to yield to GABBY to read the First Amendment. And on Saturday, she and those participating in her Congress on the Corner event were exercising their First Amendment freedoms of free speech and to peaceably assemble.

It is unconscionable that anyone would take violent action to deprive someone of their life and liberty. Our thoughts and prayers are with GABBY, her family, her staff and others who were affected by Saturday's tragic events in Tucson. While this tragedy serves as an unfortunate reminder of evil actions, it must also remind us of the good in people as we hear the stories of the heroes of that day, people who gave their lives, people who saved other lives.

We as Members of Congress cannot allow this senseless act of violence that occurred against Congresswoman GIFFORDS to deter us from our jobs or deter the American people from exercising their precious freedoms.

□ 1510

I read again the words that Ms. GIFFORDS read on the floor on Thursday.

Amendment I: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Madam Speaker, I don't know if Ms. GIFFORDS spoke on the floor after that. Those may have been the last words she uttered on the floor of the House. I join my colleagues in praying that we will see her again on this floor exercising her precious freedoms.

God bless her and all of the victims of this tragedy.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON).

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, on Saturday morning in Tucson, it started out in a very good way. It started out with a number of people who wanted to engage in one of the great American traditions, a tradition of our government which is that we have a discussion of ideas. That is what America is about, a competition of ideas. And so we had Congresswoman GIFFORDS and we had her staff and we had members of the community gather. That is a positive start to that day. Of course that positive start was destroyed by

the tragic acts which have been recounted by so many on the floor.

We all step back in shock and horror and sadness at what took place in Tucson. It is an attack on the individuals that clearly affects all of their lives. It is also an attack on what this country is about. It is important that as we hope and pray for the recovery of the victims, and we hope and pray for understanding for the families of the victims, and we mourn the loss of those who perished that day, it is important that we also recognize that they were great Americans who were there to exercise their right of assembly, and the great American tradition which represents what this government is all about, which is we can sit down and have discussions. We can disagree with each other. It is okay to disagree with each other. That is the strength of this country. That is the idea behind America, that we have the opportunity to look for the best ideas from wherever they come.

When it comes to public service, it would be good for all of us to recognize the ideals of our colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS. She was a good friend, a good colleague, someone who had the right ideas and motivations when she first got to Congress, and continues to represent those motivations. She is someone who is smart, articulate, looking to solve problems, and someone who knew how to be compassionate for her constituents.

I think everybody in this well probably knows a story where GABBY talked to them about her constituents in Tucson and an issue that mattered to her. That is what impresses me about Representative GIFFORDS. It is a model that I think we can all remember and continue to follow as we do our best for our constituents.

Madam Speaker, I close by saying I wish all the best to the families, the victims, and our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, let me preface my remarks by saying I barely know GABBY. As a freshman Member of the House, I was sworn in last week with a lot of colleagues I hope to get to know over the coming days. But I rise today in concert with my friends and colleagues on both sides of the aisle to express the sadness and grief that all in our country feel over the loss of life in Tucson this past weekend.

The citizens of South Carolina mourn with our Nation, and we lift up in prayer the family and friends of the victims in Arizona. Much of the coverage and attention has been centered around our wounded colleague, GABBY. My family and I join in praying for her healing, and for the others who have been wounded.

I also want to celebrate the lives of the six who were lost: 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green, an inspiration to us

all; Judge John Roll; congressional staffer Gabriel Zimmerman; Pastor Dorwan Stoddard; Dorothy Morris; and Phyllis Schneck.

While we mourn their loss, we also remember what they meant to their families, their friends, and to their communities. I join with all of my fellow Americans in honoring their lives and in praying that God's comfort may rest upon their families. May God bless them and may He continue to bless America.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the dean of the Congress, the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL).

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DINGELL. I thank my dear friend for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, I rise, as do all of my colleagues, with sincere condolences to the families who lost loved ones in the horrific events of last Saturday. The victims amongst them were a young student, a number of congressional staff members, one of our dear friends and colleagues who has served with distinction and remarkable ability and grace, and an outstanding Federal judge.

During my career in Congress, I have witnessed horrific events: the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy. I have seen firsthand anger brought on by landmark life-changing legislation such as the civil rights bill. Like other Members, I have found the current state of affairs is also somewhat new to me.

One of my colleagues, as we were going to the memorial service, observed to me that he had as a judge sent large numbers of people off to jail, but he had never been as concerned about his own personal safety and that of his family as he is today. Our Founding Fathers wanted our system of government to be a vigorous one, full of enthusiastic and vibrant debate. But I don't believe that they wanted to see the kind of debate and discussion that we are seeing both in this place and in other places of public assembly.

I want to read a few of the statements that I have seen that I find to be pretty awful. Here is one:

"People are really looking toward those Second Amendment remedies and saying, my goodness, what can we do to turn this country around? I'll tell you, the first thing we need to do is to take (blank) out." That blank is for the name of the person.

The next one: "I want people in (blank) armed and dangerous on this issue of the energy tax because we need to fight back."

"I want to kill (blank) with a shovel."

"Every night I get down on my knees and pray (blank) will burst into flames."

"Our Nation was founded on violence. The option is on the table. I don't

think that we should ever remove anything from the table as it relates to our liberties and our freedoms."

"Don't retreat, reload!"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. DINGELL. I thank the gentleman.

I would observe, we saw the district of GABRIELLE GIFFORDS had crosshairs put on it. As a lifetime rifleman and shooter, I know what crosshairs signify when you put them on somebody, and I know what happened.

One other quotation: "If ballots don't work, bullets will."

So here we have a denigration of the great debate and the system of government of ours where threats are made. Members of this body have a duty to speak out, as do members of the media who have been saying these kinds of things and leading us into a time when we create a threat not just to the lives and well-being of our Members but also to the lives and well-being of this country and its debates.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, last week GABBY GIFFORDS did speak the words of the First Amendment here on the floor. They talk about the right of citizens of the United States to come and plead their case to their Members of Congress and to seek the redress of their grievances. I think our Founding Fathers anticipated that we would be involved in robust and vigorous debate, but they also hoped that we would utilize some sense of civility as we did so.

I would like to read an e-mail that I received in my office from a constituent that I think would bring a smile to the lips of GABBY GIFFORDS, and it responds in some way to what the gentleman from Michigan has just said.

These are those words:

"Dear Representative LUNGREN: I write to share with you my feelings upon hearing the news of the terrible shooting in Tucson, Arizona. I find I am overwhelmed by emotions. In the past, and I suspect in the future, I have disagreed with you on many of the political things that you have said and done. I have voted against you. I have even felt and expressed frustration and anger about you. I wish now to state that if unlikely circumstances arose and I were in a position to protect you from physical attack, I would do whatever I possibly could to preserve your safety and your person at whatever risk to myself.

□ 1520

"Our democracy and freedom cannot survive if elected officials feel threatened and find themselves having to consider their physical safety as they make the decisions and fill the responsibilities of office. Please continue to do your job as a Member of Congress as

best you can. I will continue to disagree with you when and as needed. I am just one man, but all of us citizens can only do what we can do.

"I, for one, will never threaten, encourage or resort to any violence whatsoever while debating, disputing, and arguing politics. For whatever tiny weight I count for in the great sea of Americans, I want you to feel safe from any harm.

"Make your decisions, and vote your votes in Congress—please try and not be such an idiot Republican about it—and know that you are safe in the Third District for all of your life if I shall have any say in the matter.

"Thanks for all the work that you do. Most sincerely . . ."

That's a message that I know GABBY would want us to embrace and one that would not only give her resolve but would, hopefully, attract her sense of humor as well.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE).

Ms. FUDGE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart I stand today to support this resolution and to encourage Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS, her family and all victims of the Arizona shooting. I am in prayer for their well-being, their healing and their peace.

GABBY and I served together on the Science and Technology Committee, and we lived in the same DC apartment building. I learned of her passion for people and for her commitment to service. In her honor, I call for a return to compassion and an abandonment of hate-laden rhetoric.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

If I could speak directly to the American people, I would ask them to combat this great darkness with love, not with fear. I would ask them to combat this great darkness with a tide of hope and faith and perseverance and to understand our unity.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CARNAHAN).

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and lift up in our prayers my friend and colleague from Arizona, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS; the dedicated public servants on her staff and the citizens engaged in the most fundamental practice of our American democracy—meeting with their Representatives at a Congress on Your Corner public event. In the aftermath of this horrific attack, we have learned a lot about the lives and actions of the victims and heroes of last Saturday. They reflect the very best of America.

GABBY not only spoke out regarding the importance of government by the people, but she lived it every day. Last week, I sat here on this floor of the House, in line with GABBY and our colleagues, as we read the U.S. Constitution. The section that she read from this very podium was the First Amendment, which protects the right of the people to peaceably assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

I remember thinking to myself what an ideal section for GABBY to read because of her great example as an engaged public servant and as truly being a Representative who stays close to the people.

This resolution before us today is necessary and appropriate but, by itself, will not be long remembered. What will be remembered is our resolve, our unified national resolve, to stand against extreme and divisive rhetoric and against building barriers between citizens and their Representatives that would weaken our democracy and diminish our way of life. An attack on one citizen, while engaging in our representative democracy, is an attack on all citizens and the very foundation of our democracy.

Let us resolve, in honor of all the victims in Tucson, that every Representative and every citizen continue to meet on corners across America to work through our differences, to find common ground and to make progress working together.

To GABBY and every person impacted by this tragedy, we resolve today to always be in your corner.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA).

Mr. LATTA. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise on this sad day to join my colleagues in recognizing the lives of those affected by the horrible tragedy in Tucson, Arizona, this past weekend.

As we reflect on this tragic event, the one thing that must be remembered is that our colleague from Arizona, Congresswoman GIFFORDS, was simply doing her job, a job that she loves to do. Meeting with her constituents and providing them with assistance is the basic duty of any Member of Congress. The best and only way for Members of Congress to carry out their oaths is to be with, listen to, and see what our constituents are experiencing. The nameplates on the front of our offices read "Representative." Congresswoman GIFFORDS was doing just as we do day in and day out—representing our citizens at home and here in Washington.

The loss of life and injury suffered by the victims will always be remembered by this body. Whether it was Federal Judge John Roll; Gabe Zimmerman, Congresswoman GIFFORDS' staff member; or 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green, all of those who lost their lives

or who were injured will hold a special place in our hearts, thoughts, and prayers.

We cannot let this random act of heinous violence deter us from our duty to serve our constituents, and I know we will move forward together as a stronger united House.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ).

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, last Saturday in Tucson and across the country, so many Americans, including myself, were horrified and deeply saddened by the mass shooting at a congressional outreach event hosted by U.S. Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS. The senselessness, the violence and the magnitude of death and injury were stunning and alarming.

It is a personal tragedy. It is a national tragedy. It is heartbreaking and wrenching because we all share in the pride of our representative democracy. Members reaching out to their constituents and constituents having the opportunity formally and informally to talk to their Representatives of Congress is at the core of our responsibilities and is a value we all hold as Americans. So even as we mourn, as Americans, we cannot allow this to diminish or deter our civic interactions.

I ask for my colleagues to join together in honoring those who were killed. My thoughts and my deepest sympathies are with them and with their loved ones.

And, to GABBY, GABBY is our colleague and she is our friend. I share in acknowledging and honoring her commitment to public service and her principled leadership on behalf of her constituents. She has a deep passion for who we are as Americans and for working to find that common ground to meet our Nation's challenges. Her inner strength, determination, and her good spirit are all serving her well as she struggles to recover from her wounds. Reports from her doctors have been remarkably positive.

So my heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with GABBY and with all those injured, and I wish them swift and full recoveries. I extend those thoughts and prayers to her husband, Mark; to all the families and friends of the victims; to GABBY's staff; and to all those affected by this senseless shooting.

I love this country deeply and the values we all share. It is my hope that our Nation will come together to honor those who perished and to affirm our commitment to move forward in a way that allows us to voice our differences and to debate the solutions to our challenges while respecting our shared love and dedication to our great Nation.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. GRIFFIN).

□ 1530

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of the victims and in support of my colleague from Arizona, her staff, the loved ones of the victims, and those who bravely and skillfully responded to the attack.

My freshmen colleagues and I have only been here for a few short days, but in Representative GIFFORDS we see the temperament and dedication needed to be good representatives of the people. She embodies these qualities and is an example for everyone here in the people's House.

Let us not forget the personal side of this tragedy. Those lost include two dedicated public servants, a devoted great-grandmother and a loving wife, a heroic husband whose last action was protecting his wife, and a 9-year-old interested in public service. They will all be missed.

In the wake of this tragedy, we find solace and we find power in prayer. My prayers are for the families of the victims, for the speedy recovery of Congresswoman GIFFORDS and all others who were wounded. I pray for law enforcement investigating this cowardly attack. I pray for the medical workers, that their work heals those who have been injured. I pray for this House, its leaders, fellow Members and their staffs. And I pray for our country, asking God for His blessings during this time of grief.

This attack hits each of us in a personal way, but we must resolve to move forward, representing the men and women who sent us here to do our Nation's work.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my sincere condolences to the families of the victims of this senseless tragedy and to the family of our colleague, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS. I hope and pray for her quick recovery. And to the people of the Eighth Congressional District of Arizona, we know what you're going through: the life of a 9-year-old who wanted to be a student council representative and was elected to that, Christina Taylor Green; Federal Judge John Roll, father and grandfather; Phyllis Schneck, a former Jerseyite who still loved the New York Giants who, as you may know, play in New Jersey; Gabriel Zimmerman, commander of outreach, who did such a great job for her; and two 76-year-olds, Dorothy Morris and Dorwan Stoddard, who shielded his wife so that she would live.

I thank the leadership for bringing forth this resolution, first acknowledging the victims of the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona, and also condemning the act of violence which was a product of hatred that threatens the democracy of this Nation in which all

can participate and in which intimidation and threats of violence cannot silence the voices of any American. Congresswoman GIFFORDS, her staff members, and constituents were exercising this very privilege on Saturday, January 8, as well as the right afforded to all of us under the First Amendment of the Constitution.

It is ironic that gun violence has, throughout our history, brought down leaders—Abraham Lincoln, 150 years ago, who said all people should be free; our President, John F. Kennedy in 1963, during that time; his brother, Bobby Kennedy, 5 years later; Mohandas Gandhi, who brought India into independence; Tom Mboya, a Kenyan who talked about a united Africa; Yitzhak Rabin, who, if he had lived, I think there would be peace in the Middle East; and then, of course, Dr. Martin Luther King.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. PAYNE. So as we think about the tragedy of so many outstanding Americans who have lost their lives, I implore each and every one of us to continue in the spirit of unity, support, and love that often overflows during tragic events. May we continue in such spirits to prevent further acts, for we all know that only love drives out hatred and only good drives out evil.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY).

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, we gather here today to honor the victims and the heroes of the tragic shooting that took place in Arizona this past weekend.

GABBY GIFFORDS is one of the best this institution has to offer. I have had the honor of working with her on NASA issues in support of human spaceflight.

GABBY embodies the type of public servant many of us strive to be: smart, kind, and dedicated, fulfilling her duty representing her constituents. That's why she was holding a public meeting on the first weekend of the new session.

I pray for her strong recovery and for her family and staff, and I look forward to working with her once more in this body.

I think in the darkest moments in our history we also see the brightest stars. Those stars are the men who wrestled the gunman to the floor, the woman who kicked the magazine away, the loved ones who protected their spouses and children, the intern who had enough first aid training to put pressure on GABBY's head wound, the first responders who responded to that scene, and the medical teams that got most of the victims into the operating rooms in under 38 minutes.

GABBY's staff so clearly reflects her character and leadership. Gabe Zimmerman lost his life fulfilling his duty,

and two others were wounded. We pray for their recovery and for Gabe's family and friends in this time of tragedy. The efforts of her intern, Daniel Hernandez, may very well have saved GABBY's life, and we will always be grateful for his quick actions.

We also pray for the other victims of this unspeakable act of violence: for Christina Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard, and Judge John Roll. We pray for swift and fair justice for them as well.

As we stand here today, Democrats and Republicans, we are steadfast in our determination to keep representing our constituents. We will not let the tragic events in Tucson change the way we represent the people. We will instead look to Saturday's heroes as a reminder of the real strength that is America.

As Americans, we know that adversity, however tragic, makes us stronger and brings us closer together. That is what GABBY would want. We look forward to the day we welcome her back to this Chamber. God bless America and all her citizens hurting in the wake of this tragedy.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES).

Mr. SARBANES. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

In the last few days, I have run into scores of people of my district, the Third District of Maryland, who have expressed their shock and their sadness at the events that occurred in Tucson last weekend. On their behalf and for myself, I want to express our deep condolences to the families of all those who were victimized by this tragedy.

A word about GABBY GIFFORDS, our colleague. She and I came in together in the same class. We began in January of 2007. She is everything that a Representative in this body should be. She is thoughtful. She is hardworking. She is compassionate and, to a fault, she is attentive to the concerns of her constituents. That is why she was there at that supermarket last Saturday.

We pray for her speedy recovery. We pray for the recovery of all those who survived this terrible event. We mourn the loss of those who perished, and we send our thoughts and prayers to their families.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington, the former distinguished sheriff of King County, Mr. REICHERT.

Mr. REICHERT. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, there are a few words that have touched me over the last few days that I would like to share. First, thankfulness, thoughtfulness, prayerfulness, patience, wisdom, and hope.

□ 1540

First we should remember those who have lost loved ones, keep them in your thoughts and prayers. They'll not need

them just today, but they'll need them in the weeks, the months, and the years to come. A pain that will never leave their hearts.

Second, thankfulness. We sure thank God for GABBY's remarkable recovery and pray that her recovery continues in a speedy way and in a way that causes her to recover to the point where she can return to this House and work with us again.

And I think of patience and wisdom—and I'm addressing the Speaker but asking the Members of this body to think about patience and wisdom in a moment because first of all, let's respect the investigation that's being conducted by the law enforcement officers across this country, the Federal, local, and State agencies. Let's respect their continued efforts in weeding through the information that they're gathering. Let's be patient when we think about legislation and laws that we might be passing that could inhibit that investigation or maybe even inhibit some of the freedoms that we today enjoy, patience in allowing them to gather the needed information where we can base good decisions on building good laws that protect the citizens of this great Nation.

And lastly hope. Hope, which is a thing we all hold near and dear to our hearts, hope that this country continues to maintain its freedom, hope in the American people, hope that we can all stand together after this tragedy. If there is a silver lining in this tragedy, it is the hope and the strength and the trust that the people of this country can build together to keep this country free.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

Mr. ENGEL. I want to first say I'm so proud of all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have spoken today. GABBY has brought us all together as never before.

I'm a good friend of GABBY GIFFORDS. She's a good friend of mine. I first met her before she ran for Congress when a mutual friend said to me, You ought to meet this lady. She wants to run for Congress and wants some advice. Would you give it to her? I called GABBY. She called me back. We spoke. And she decided to run, and we've been good friends ever since.

My colleagues have all said it today: GABBY is as kind and as sweet and as nice a person as you could ever meet. She's considerate, she's thoughtful, she's caring, smart, hardworking. It's hard to believe that anyone would want to harm her. She was doing what she always did—going out in service of her constituents, helping her constituents, going out to a shopping center.

You know, I have another connection with GABBY. My son Jonathan attended the University of Arizona, just graduated this year. And she and I spoke many times about Tucson. I have been to Tucson many, many times in these past 5 years. I've even shopped in the

Safeway, tragically, where the gunman shot all of the people, including GABBY.

You know, GABBY said something to me this past August as we recessed. I served as the chair of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and GABBY served on my subcommittee, and we talked about having a field hearing in Tucson. And when I said to her, Let's try to do it in September or October of this year, she said to me, No. You know, the speech, the language has gotten very hostile and people's attitudes toward Washington have been very hostile, and I don't really want to do anything that would show that I'm the Washington person. That's how bad the atmosphere is.

I couldn't help but thinking about that when I heard about the shooting on Saturday.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. ENGEL. You know, in this country we do our political discourse with balance, not bullets. And although the assassin tried to murder a U.S. Congresswoman, he really was trying to stick a stake or murder American democracy. All of us on both sides of the aisle are not going to let him. We are going to continue to do what we've done before—going out in the street, meeting people, taking care, and helping our constituents. We are going to continue to attend town hall meetings and do the kinds of things that GABBY would want us to do.

I look forward to GABBY returning here. I look forward to working with her again. GABBY GIFFORDS is the best America has to offer, and we honor her and all of the other victims of the shooting today.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart today that I join my colleagues in paying respects to the victims of the senseless tragedy that took place last weekend in Arizona. I extend my prayers to the families of those who lost their lives, to the wounded, and the recovering, and to our dear colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS.

GABBY is an energetic Member of Congress who works and enjoys and treats all of those she meets with decency and kindness. I was here with her just last week while we read the United States Constitution on the floor of this House. GABBY so eloquently read from that bedrock of our democracy the First Amendment. In a direct reflection of her passion for interacting with those she represents, GABBY read of the established right of the people to peaceably assemble.

All of those gathered in Tucson on Saturday were engaging in what should have been a peaceful activity that is absolutely fundamental to our form of government—spending time with the

gentle lady who so proudly advocates on their behalf here in the United States House of Representatives

Among the fallen were Phyllis Schneck, a great-grandmother; Dorothy Morris, a devoted wife; Gabe Zimmerman, a public servant; John Roll, an honorable judge; Christina Taylor Green, a 9-year-old girl who just wanted to learn more about government; and Dorwan Stoddard, a man who gave his life protecting and saving his wife. They are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Our Founding Fathers made no mistake when they included the right to peaceably assemble among the first tenets of democracy. The inexplicable violence of last Saturday is a stark, tragic reminder that we must never waver in our steadfast support of the First Amendment and the precious freedoms it affords us every day.

As our colleague, GABBY, and all of those directly affected by this tragedy continue to heal from Saturday's incomprehensible events, let us remember the victims and their loved ones in our thoughts and in our prayers and in our actions. As those of us here have known, and as people all throughout the Nation are witnessing, GABBY GIFFORDS is a fighter. Let's keep in our prayers the hope that she once again joins us back here on the floor of this, the people's House.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH).

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS is one of the kindest, most thoughtful and hardest working elected officials anywhere. It is a shame that it took a despicable act to shine this bright spotlight on GABBY. She is what virtually every American would say they want in a Member of Congress—smart, open, friendly, intellectually honest, and very brave. She cares passionately about all of her constituents and, as she was demonstrating on Saturday, what they think.

Speaker BOEHNER was absolutely correct when he said an attack on one Member of Congress is an attack on all, but Saturday's attack was more than an assault on a Congresswoman. It was an attack on American democracy. GABBY was doing what her job title implied—listening to her constituents at an event set up like hundreds before, conducting the business essential to effective representation. Dozens of citizens were actively participating in our democracy, asking questions and expressing themselves. The attack on GIFFORDS was an attack on them as well.

Earth-shaking tragedies sometimes create the opportunity for our society to have a reasoned discussion on critically important issues that we often cannot have under normal circumstances. In the wake of catastrophe, our hope is that such a discussion can strengthen our democracy and help our Nation emerge stronger.

Responsibility for this weekend's shooting in Tucson rests solely on the shoulders of the madman who pulled the trigger. However, it is our responsibility, as citizens in the world's strongest democracy, to seriously consider the impact that the accessibility of high-capacity weapons and the increased vitriol of public dialogue have on impressionable or unstable individuals and our society as a whole.

For all of the pain and agony caused by this tragedy, it could also be a turning point for the country. Already leaders from across the political spectrum are discussing the vital need to turn down the rhetorical volume and dial back extremism for the sake of our Nation.

□ 1550

We all are praying for GABBY's recovery and for the families of those who were killed and wounded Saturday. Let each of us resolve to do all we can to protect our democracy from those who would deny and subvert it.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GRIMM).

Mr. GRIMM. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to come to the House floor to honor the victims of the tragic shooting in Arizona. The six individuals killed and the 14 wounded, including Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, were victims of a heinous and despicable act of violence. On behalf of the constituents of the 13th District of New York, I want to extend my deepest sympathies to the victims, their families and friends, and to the staff of Congresswoman GIFFORDS. We will continue to keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

As we come together as a Congress and a country to mourn and reflect, I urge my colleagues not to lose sight of what we have been called here to do and what we are here to accomplish. Congresswoman GIFFORDS was doing the exact thing I hope we will all continue to do—going out into her community and taking the time to meet with, to talk to, and most of all, to listen to her constituents. This is what keeps us connected to the heartbeat of our district. This is what allows us to effectively serve our constituents and our country. This is what democracy is all about. This is what we have been elected to do.

Additionally, I implore my colleagues to resist the innate temptation to enact reactionary legislation or call for extreme measures that could adversely impact the institution of the House of Representatives. Giving due respect to the Capitol Police and the FBI, we should allow them to do their jobs, to thoroughly investigate, and afford them the time to offer us recommendations for our safety and that of our staff and constituents.

I hope that moving forward we will not let this incident create distance between ourselves and those we have

been sent here to represent. We cannot let this senseless, this completely senseless act of violence keep us from serving our districts as effectively as possible.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. GRIMM. As we move forward, let us remember that, while we should remain aware of the danger around us, we cannot live in fear or isolate ourselves in a bubble. Today, I mourn with my colleagues and the Nation, and I will continue to pray for those lost and to pray for Congresswoman GIFFORDS and the others injured in the attack and that they will have a full and speedy recovery.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. PETERS).

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I take to the floor of the House today to pay tribute to the fallen, but also to honor the heroes, to express grief in the wake of tragedy, but also to express my heartfelt gratitude to those who showed incredible bravery in the face of evil.

Madam Speaker, I come to the floor of the House today to honor my colleague and friend GABBY GIFFORDS, because I want every American to know that she exemplifies what every American wants to see in their Member of Congress. The GABBY I know is smart and hard working. The GABBY that southern Arizona knows is personable and accessible. The GABBY we all know is dedicated and humble.

GABBY takes her job representing Arizona seriously. She works hard to effect change on the issues that matter most to her southern Arizona constituents. We both served on the Committee on Science and Technology in the last Congress, and I was privileged to be able to collaborate with GABBY on her signature issue—solar energy development. She worked tirelessly to create not only clean energy for America, but also new jobs for Americans.

We are both residents of border States, albeit different borders, and I was proud to cosponsor her legislation to help give businesses the tools necessary to enforce immigration standards. I admired her strong commitment to our national defense and her tireless dedication to the men and women who serve our country in uniform. But even more than her legislative prowess, it is her smile and friendly nature that makes her a beloved figure here in the Halls of Congress as well as in her home district. And we all pray for her speedy recovery.

We also mourn the loss of those who were senselessly murdered while participating in the most fundamental democratic tradition—talking with the people who represent us; victims like 9-year-old Christina Taylor, who was just elected to her student council.

Christina attended Representative GIFFORDS' Congress on Your Corner event because she cared about her community, and a neighbor thought she would enjoy it.

But while this tragedy has extinguished lives of promise, it has also revealed some incredible heroes. Today we stand shoulder to shoulder and pray for the speedy recovery of our friend and the other wounded victims.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. PETERS. And I just say to all, God bless the victims and their families; God bless all those who are grieving, and God bless America.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas, Dr. BURGESS.

Mr. BURGESS. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I stand today in support of the resolution; I stand today in support of the victims of the devastating events of last Saturday, and I stand today in honor of one of our own, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

Congresswoman GIFFORDS was the youngest woman elected to the Arizona State Senate and now, at the Federal level, continues to serve the constituents of her hometown with enthusiasm and distinction. It was in this spirit of statesmanship that she participated in her Congress on Your Corner event at the grocery store in Tucson, Arizona. This event characterizes the Congresswoman's approach to her constituents. She recognizes the importance of remaining open to the people—retail representation—absolutely necessary in order to fully grasp the extent of the needs and views of those she served.

Congresswoman GIFFORDS epitomizes the term "public servant," understanding that she works for the people first, last, and always.

Congresswoman GIFFORDS was doing the work of the American people when her life was threatened. And after she recovers, I have no doubt that she will return with that same energy and determination.

I look forward to working with her again. I had the opportunity to partner with her on the Congressional Motorcycle Caucus in support of motorcycle safety awareness, and I saw that energy and enthusiasm firsthand.

One of our primary freedoms that our forefathers upheld was the right to life. After years of fighting on behalf of others, Congresswoman GIFFORDS must now fight for her own life. And let us also remember the doctors and the nurses, the first responders who played such a pivotal role in preventing an even greater loss of life last Saturday.

I will keep Congresswoman GIFFORDS and those who were injured and their families in my prayers. I also offer my deepest condolences to the families of Christina Taylor Green, U.S. District Judge John M. Roll, Gabe Zimmerman,

Phyllis Schneck, Dorothy Morris, and Dorwan Stoddard.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL).

Mr. ISRAEL. I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding.

Madam Speaker, the violence in Tucson and the shooting of my very good friend GABBY GIFFORDS is not a time for partisanship and it is not a time for politics. It is a time for reflection, and I have three brief reflections to share with my colleagues.

I knew GABBY pretty well. We weren't best friends, but we were good friends. I was with her and her husband, Mark, on the day that Mark proposed to her. We were in New York, and GABBY and I had several events to do. And Mark kept asking if GABBY could leave early, and I kept saying no. And finally, Mark said, There is no choice. She's leaving early.

I later learned that the reason that she had to leave these events early was because Mark took her to the Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point and proposed to her. Most of my constituents now know GABBY GIFFORDS. Few know that this important day in her life occurred on Long Island.

Second reflection, I believe that GABBY would have been uncomfortable with the attention that she is getting today and over the past several days. I believe she would want Americans more focused on the 9-year-old girl who was killed, on the Federal judge who was killed, on the congressional staffer who lost his life, on the others who were killed and wounded.

And my final reflection is this: I believe that we should reject the notion that GABBY's colleagues in Congress need to hide from our constituents, that we should reduce our exposure. This is not the time for us to hide from our constituents. This is the time for us to reassert our connection with our constituents. And this isn't the time for us to hide our opinions.

This is a time for us to reassert our opinions, but to do it without vilifying one another. There is a way to have opinions without necessarily demeaning one another. We have the right to our opinions, but not to be called any more or less of an American with a different opinion.

Opinions and the expression of those opinions are the essence of democracy. They are American. And it is fitting that GABBY GIFFORDS on this floor, at that podium last week, read the First Amendment in the Constitution, which talks about our right to have opinions.

□ 1600

We should continue to express those opinions but do it in a way that would make our children proud of us, do it in a way that is respectful and tolerant. That is exactly what GABBY GIFFORDS did while she was here, and it is exactly what she will do when she returns.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER).

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution.

The tragedy we discuss today is of enormous consequence to the families of those who were killed and wounded and, of course, our hearts go out to them, especially to the member of our own family, congressional family, to the Giffords, but all those who were killed or wounded in this senseless violence that took place in Arizona. This, of course, is not just of great consequence to them but of great consequence to all of us.

There are things that we must learn, and there are events like this that happen that will help us shape what we will do in the future. One thing we must not let this do is to reduce the actual contact between the American people and their elected representatives.

We will not let the acts of a demoralized individual reduce the right of the American people to have direct contact with their Member of the House of Representatives, and we will not let this senseless act of violence diminish or in some way stampede us into in some way diminishing the freedom and reducing the freedom of the American people themselves.

Finally, let me just say there is a positive lesson to be learned from this tragic event, and that is we must make sure that we treat each other better here in Congress, and those of us who are active in the political arena need to understand we need to be kinder to each other. Even as we disagree with each other fervently on policy, there is no reason for us to have insinuations about negative values of the person on the other side of the argument.

We need to make sure that we exemplify for the American people that people can disagree on fundamental issues, even have basic differences in value systems and what their goal is for our government, but still respect the other person's opinion and treat the other person with kindness and dignity. That's one lesson that we need to learn and to make sure the American people see us as an example of that.

Ronald Reagan used to say, be really tough when it comes to policy but, DANA, be really nice to people. Well, that's how Ronald Reagan ended the Cold War. He was really tough on communism, but he was very kind to those people who worked in the Soviet Union, which later led to that disintegration.

Today we need to be kinder to each other. We need to be respectful of the fact that people on the other side of issues are as intelligent as we are and as moral as we are, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't use tough language about those issues. Let's be kinder to each other and let's send that as a present, a get-well message to GABBY, because there is no one else that exem-

plified that better than her. We know that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Congresswoman GIFFORDS and I were on separate sides of a major issue, an issue of great concern to me. I have been on the Science Committee for 22 years, and she was for a totally different approach to the American space program than I have been on. We had some very serious debate on that issue.

I will tell you not only was she kind and articulate, but she was brilliant—which of course I didn't necessarily want her to show that brilliance in her arguments against my arguments. But I remember right here on this floor, after a major debate that we had, I walked over to her when the gavel went down and people were leaving, and I said, you know, you did a great job for your position today. I really respect you more than some of the people on my side of the issue, because you were articulate, you took your responsibility seriously, you have presented your arguments. I just want you to know how much I admire that in you. Keep it up and I know you will be Speaker someday—and I shouldn't say that to my colleagues over here. I don't say that often to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

But that's the type of spirit that she had, and I would hope that we send that message to GABBY and to the rest of the American people today.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

On behalf of Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS, the families of the victims, the people recovering in Tucson and my fellow Arizonans, I want to express a sense of gratitude to all the Members here who have spoken and will speak, for your prayers, for your condolences and your affection you have given all of us.

We thank you very much from the bottom of our hearts. We hope that some of the expressions you have given of showing respect, more respect to each other, more love for each other and disagreeing, debating, but not being disagreeable, will help us do the business of this House.

Madam Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the distinguished gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BRALEY), and I ask unanimous consent that he be allowed to control that time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BRALEY) will control the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI).

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the victims of Satur-

day's shooting in Tucson and pray with all of us for them and their families.

This senseless tragedy has struck at the very foundation of the United States of America, attacking a representative to Congress, a congressional staffer, innocent bystanders in front of a grocery store. But there were heroes who showed up that day: the intern, Daniel Hernandez, who came to GABRIELLE GIFFORDS' aid; the witnesses who immediately tried to help those who were injured; the civilians who bravely stopped the shooter from injuring and inflicting more harm on others; the emergency room personnel; the emergency personnel overall whose decisive action saved other lives. These are the true examples of the spirit of what America is all about.

It's important to remember that this was an outrageous act by a deranged individual. Despite all the talk about tone and rhetoric, it's important to remember that we all on this House floor can disagree without being disagreeable.

The fact is that as public officials, Madam Speaker, being accessible to the public is an important part of our jobs, and we cannot let this tragedy stop us from doing our important work. We are Members of the people's House, and the minute we start separating ourselves from the people is the minute that we weaken our Republic.

The events in Tucson remind us how fragile our lives are. We pray again for the victims and their families, and we remember what really matters and that civility should rule the day.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE).

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. I thank my colleague from Iowa for yielding the time.

Madam Speaker, it's hard, after a long day like this when all of us are feeling so sad and discouraged about the challenges that have been faced by GABBY and her family and others, to actually think of anything that hasn't been said. But I want to reiterate what so many of my colleagues have said, so many of us who consider ourselves friends of GABBY, who are so proud of the work that she has done, who know what a hard fighter GABBY is and hope that she continues to pull through every day.

I sit near GABBY on the Armed Services Committee, and I have never seen GABBY walk into a hearing room without a pile of letters that she plans to sign, a few things that she is going to read, prepared to ask good questions and keep her eye on the conversation and the debate the whole time we are in there. That is just GABBY; she is always working, she is always thinking.

□ 1610

You turn to her and ask her a question. She always has a smile or a little joke or is ready to make a plan for some kind of an outing or a field trip or something that we could all do together. She is a wonderful colleague, as

we can see today, well respected by both sides of the aisle, well regarded by all colleagues, whether they agree or disagree, and highly well regarded back in her home community where she had another hard-fought election but came through.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her. I know GABBY is on the Armed Services Committee because she's a fighter. She's a fighter for the people she represents, and I do believe she's fighting in her hospital room today, fighting for her life alongside her husband.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the others who died alongside where GABBY was lying, who came to that event and were injured, innocent victims—a young woman and a staff member who was dedicated.

Many of us realize when we take this job on that we take a risk, but we often forget the risk of those who serve with us, those young people who come out and stand beside us, the risk that they are also taking just to be with us everywhere we go.

I also want to mention someone else who I was asked to mention who wasn't appearing in the resolution that we talked about earlier today, but Dr. Steven Rayle, a former emergency room physician was just a few feet away from GABBY when the shooting began. In the terrifying moments after the shooting, Rayle was able to use his trained first responder skills to triage what I can only imagine was a terrifying scene. And we owe him a great deal of gratitude.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. I yield the gentlewoman 30 additional seconds.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. I just again want to thank Dr. Rayle for his heroism and for his being there with GABBY in the first possible moments. We owe him our gratitude, and everyone else who worked so hard to make sure that people were safe as quickly as possible at that scene.

And I echo the remarks of my earlier colleague, DANA ROHRBACHER. I hope this all reminds us to think about how we speak, to think about how we speak with each other, how we conduct our business, and how we move forward. This is a solemn week. We will have many solemn weeks ahead of us, and we have a lot of work to do.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California, a distinguished presiding officer of this body, Mrs. BONO MACK.

Mrs. BONO MACK. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer a prayer for our Nation. President Abraham Lincoln, during the height of the Civil War and during a very low point in American civility, once told a hushed crowd: "My dream is of a place and a time where America will once again be seen as the last best hope of Earth."

My friend, all of our friend, Arizona Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, has believed in that dream for her entire life. Today, she represents a beacon of hope, perhaps "our" last best hope, to restore some measure of civility to the important public debates of our day.

This is not a time to be finger pointing. Rather, this is a time, in memory of all those who died or who were injured during this dark day in our history, to start talking again like friends and neighbors.

Right now, we should be praying for GABBY and all of the other victims of this horrible ordeal. We should be searching our soul as a Nation, asking one important question, a question Abraham Lincoln confronted every single day of his Presidency: How have we allowed hateful rhetoric to paralyze our national debates?

Yes, we all have different points of view, but we should discuss them, and we should debate them without resorting to name-calling or questioning each other's motives. GABBY has always stood for civility. She is the most delightful and the kindest Member of Congress, and I think we've all said that. Her never-ending smile and her unfailing willingness to work in our Nation's best interests have earned her the respect of people everywhere.

I, like all of my colleagues, cannot wait for the day when GABBY walks back onto this floor and she joins us. She is a strong woman with a very unbreakable spirit and a passion for life, her family, her friends, and our great Nation.

Let us all pray to give GABBY the strength to carry her through the difficult days ahead. I believe with all of my heart that GABBY was put on Earth by God to make a difference. And she has. I know, because she's made a difference in my life.

So the next time that a debate heats up and threatens to get ugly, let's remember our responsibilities as leaders. Let's remember what Abraham Lincoln said. Let's take a deep breath and "agree to disagree agreeably." Let's do that for GABBY.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK).

Mr. LOEBSACK. I thank my colleague and friend from Iowa for recognizing me.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues, my constituents, and all Americans in mourning for those who lost their lives in this weekend's heinous event and in praying for those, including our dear friend and colleague, Congresswoman GIFFORDS, who are fighting to recover.

I have had the honor to serve with GABBY, like many in this body, on the Armed Services Committee since we were both elected in 2006, and I've always been struck by her intelligence and by her commitment to her constituents.

When she and her constituents were attacked on Saturday, she was car-

rying out the most central of our responsibilities as elected representatives, as was already mentioned, and that is making ourselves available to our constituents. That this horrific attack occurred in the middle of a gathering that is the basis of our representative democracy is a reminder to us all that we must all remain constantly committed to upholding the principles upon which our great Nation was founded.

As we come together to offer our prayers to all those involved, I hope that we will carry forward the sentiment that so many have expressed in the last few days, including on the floor of this House of Representatives, that our country's commitment to passionate debate is the heart of our democracy, but that debate must also be rooted in civil discourse and mutual respect. We can, and we should, debate with vigor the pressing challenges facing our Nation, but we must do so in a way that moves our country forward and that is constructive. In part, that will require us to recommit ourselves—recommit ourselves—to civil discourse and honest debate as well as to remaining accessible to our constituents and listening to all viewpoints.

We are a Nation, I believe, that rejects violence. And on a day when we saw really the very worst of humanity, we also saw the very best: individuals who were willing to lay down their lives to save others. Let those folks serve as our inspiration, and let us continue to keep all those affected in our thoughts and prayers and continue to move forward in America in a constructive, positive, and mutually respectful manner.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I am privileged to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I haven't gotten to know GABRIELLE GIFFORDS very well yet, and I thank God that by His grace I haven't lost the chance to do so. I didn't know the Americans who came to speak with her that day. But what I do know is that they gathered last Saturday to do something uniquely American.

GABRIELLE GIFFORDS was reaching out and listening to her employers, the American people, and they had come to offer her their guidance, advice, and counsel. In this respect, the attack on GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and her constituents struck at the very heart of our process of representative democracy, that very point where the American people communicate their views to their elected representatives. That is the linchpin in the entire process of self-government.

This was not only an attack on those who serve; it was an attack on every citizen who steps forward to offer honest advice and counsel and, yes, even criticism to those they have selected to serve them and to serve the Nation.



It is the nature and strength of participatory democracy to have sincere and passionate differences of opinion. But in moments like this, we see the very best of the American people come forward. We put aside our differences and disagreements, and we stand together as one Nation, the American Nation; one race, the American race; one people, the American people. Men and women of goodwill cease to be Republicans or Democrats. We suspend our political agendas; we silence the partisan recriminations, and we stand together as Americans.

By doing so, we pay supreme honor to our fellow citizens who were felled in the exercise of their rights and responsibilities as a free people. We salute the heroes who, without a moment's hesitation, rose to resist and stop this craven and depraved attack, and we assure the world, as Lincoln said, that "government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the Earth."

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas, another colleague from the Armed Services Committee, Mr. REYES.

□ 1620

Mr. REYES. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Madam Speaker, today I rise on behalf of the people of the 16th Congressional District of Texas to express our community's profound sadness in the wake of Saturday's senseless act of violence that claimed the lives of six Americans and has left our esteemed colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, fighting for her life and has affected 13 others.

Ironically enough, last week on Thursday we had a meeting of the Border Caucus. GABBY came to that meeting, and we discussed the agenda for the 112th Congress. I can tell you that she is a tireless champion on border issues. She is an incredible Member, dedicated to representing the people of her district, and I have had the pleasure of working with her on border issues, on military issues, and on intelligence issues on many occasions.

Over the last few days, my office has received an outpouring of support for GABBY, for her family, and for her staff, as well as everyone else who was affected by this tragedy.

Madam Speaker, when I was in my congressional district this past Sunday, I was approached by a gentleman who I recognized who said something to me that I thought was very touching. He said: Congressman, I often disagree with you on many issues, but I want you to know that I'm praying for your friend from Arizona and for you. I hope she keeps up the fight and pulls through.

I expressed my appreciation on behalf of all of us and shook his hand.

Madam Speaker, in the aftermath of this tragedy, one of the best ways that I know of to honor the victims is to come together as Americans, as so

many Members have said, and to speak with one voice against the violence and the hate that claimed the lives of both Republicans and Democrats, Americans all both young and old.

Our thoughts and our prayers today and since Saturday have been with GABBY, her family, as well as all of the victims and their families affected by this terrible tragedy. It is now up to us to move forward in the same spirit that they have shown as they persevere through this terrible time.

With that, it rests on us to be better. As Mark's brother said from space: It is a peaceful planet. It looks peaceful. Sadly, it is not; but we can do better. We must do better.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, today our thoughts and prayers are with all of those who were taken from us last week in this horrific tragedy in Tucson, Arizona. Our Nation stands with Congresswoman GIFFORDS in her recovery, her family, her staff, and all of those who have been impacted by this tragic event, including the family of Gabe Zimmerman, GIFFORDS' director of community outreach, and Federal Judge John Roll, who both died during the shooting.

We also stand with Christina Taylor Green who lost her life that day. Christina had hoped to go to Penn State one day and pursue a career of helping others. Penn State is one of the top public universities in the country, and it is located in my congressional district. I share those same aspirations and have no doubt that Christina would have achieved her dreams and been successful in the career path of her choosing. I offer my deepest condolences to her family.

While this tragedy reminds us of how fragile life is, it also shows us what we can truly be thankful for.

I want to commend and thank all of the Federal, State, and local officials for all of their efforts over the last week. These everyday heroes are often unsung despite the dangerous situations they are placed in. Americans everywhere are also thankful for those who showed courage to stand up in the face of danger:

Daniel Hernandez, Representative GIFFORDS' intern, the hero who assisted Congresswoman GIFFORDS by performing triage immediately after the shooting.

Bill Badger, a retired Army National Guard colonel who tackled the gunman despite being grazed by a bullet in the back of his head.

People like Daniel and Bill serve as real-life examples of what it takes to be a hero. As we mourn our losses, we are grateful for such courageous acts. Our prayers are with Congresswoman GIFFORDS, her staff, all those we lost or were injured, and their families. All of us are searching to make sense of this

situation. As we do, we must maintain our support for those seeking recovery and pray for the well-being of all those involved.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA).

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

To our friend and colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, to the victims and heroes in Tucson, and to all of their loved ones, our thoughts and prayers are with you. You have won our hearts with your courage and example in these difficult times. GABBY, knowing your ethic of hard work, your tenacity and determination, and knowing you as a fighter for what you believe in, I simply say to you: keep at it, don't stop. Fight, fight, fight. And we look forward to seeing you here and welcoming you here in your House, the people's House.

Times like these make it unmistakably clear how important second chances are. Not everyone in Tucson will have that second chance. How lucky we are that we can pick up the baton for them and finish the job of seeking justice and making our democracy a more perfect Union.

America, this is our second chance. This is our opportunity to shine. Let us make our work, whether here as duly sworn Representatives of the people or as the media or as responsible citizens of America, let us make our work count.

It is our turn to show courage and to be an example as we move forward, doing our part to build a better America. We owe that to GABBY and the good people of Arizona. Let's honor them by hitting that second chance out of the park.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA).

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. I thank my friend from California for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution today.

I, like all of my colleagues, was shocked and very sobered by these events. I was especially touched as a new Member seeing the location and the situation and the circumstances. This is something we all have done as Members. As a former district director for a former Member of this body, my heart especially goes out to the family of Gabe Zimmerman, of Ron Barber and Pamela Simons, to all the staff who have ever served Members in this House, both here in Washington and out of that district. We want to say thank you for your service. We want to say that our hearts and thoughts and prayers are with those families that have been touched. And rest assured, your safety is on top of our mind for us all.

As a father, I mourn the loss of a 9-year-old daughter. I too have a 9-year-old daughter, and I think all of us as

parents cannot help but look at this and be heartbroken.

As an American, this is an assault on our humanity. This is not the first time this has happened in our Nation's history. It is a sad day nonetheless. We are again asking God to heal our land. We will rise to this challenge as a people. I will continue to do my job as a duly elected Member of this body. I know my staff will do its job. I know all of my colleagues' staff will do their job as well; and we as a body, most importantly, will continue to do the people's work as we move forward through this tragedy.

We again will rise to this challenge, and we pray that healing and grace and peace be brought to all of the victims.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, this weekend we honor a truly historic American who, through unyielding struggle, bent the trajectory of our Nation closer to justice. "Violence . . . solves no social problems," that man, Dr. Martin Luther King—himself a victim of violence—wrote. "It only creates new and more complicated ones." The shootings in Arizona remind us of the truth of these words. They show that the world is still a dangerous place for those who stand up for civic duty.

I do not have to tell this body that GABBY GIFFORDS has been an exemplary Member of this House. As a small businesswoman in her earlier career, she has worked hard to see that the economic concerns of Arizona's families are heard in Washington. As one of the growing number of women Members here, she has been a powerful voice on immigration reform, energy independence, reducing drug trafficking and cartel violence along the border, and the continued importance of exploring the stars.

□ 1630

As a third-generation Tucsonian, she has brought an Arizonan's love of the sun to her advocacy of renewable energy and the benefits of solar power for all Americans.

More importantly, however, GABBY is an exemplary person. She is fun to be with. She is a dear friend of mine, a friend to my family—my stepdaughter, Anna Greenberg, is her pollster—and I know that, wherever you stand in this Chamber, she was a friend to you. She never had anything but a smile for anyone, left or right.

For this, simply for serving her constituents to the best of her ability, she was shot in the line of duty.

At this very moment, she fights for life in Arizona—a life that has already been cruelly denied six others in this tragedy, including a longtime officer of the court, a staffer just like the young men and women we rely on every day, and a little 9-year-old girl.

The troubled individual who perpetrated this evil is now in custody,

and time will tell what moved him to commit this unspeakable act. Yet, for those of us here in this room, we all have to do more to drain our politics of the venom where such hatred breeds.

At this moment, above all, I pray for GABBY's recovery and for the others I do not know, and I mourn those who were lost.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to a member of our committee, the gentleman from Georgia, Dr. GINGREY.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. I thank my colleague from California for yielding time.

I rise in strong support of this resolution.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my prayers and wishes, as well as those of my constituents in north-west Georgia, to my colleague Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, her family and staff, and to all the other victims of the shooting. What took place was an unspeakable tragedy, and it has absolutely no place in our society.

Madam Speaker, on Saturday morning, Ms. GIFFORDS was hosting an event fundamental to our duties as Members of Congress—meeting with and listening to our constituents so that we can best represent them in Washington. It is painfully sad and sobering that, in the process of doing her job, GABBY was brutally attacked.

I had the pleasure of serving with GABRIELLE on both the House Armed Services Committee and the Science and Technology Committee during the 110th Congress. I have always known her to be a thoughtful legislator and a dedicated public servant and have always appreciated her cheerful disposition. Throughout her tenure in Congress, Representative GIFFORDS has distinguished herself as one of the Members of this body who works well with our colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

My prayers continue to be with her and her family, and I look forward to the day when she walks back onto this House floor.

Madam Speaker, we must also not forget the other individuals who were victims of Saturday's attack. One of the casualties was 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green, who was born on September 11, 2001, and was recently elected to serve on her school's student council. Driven by her interest in politics, she had gone to GABBY's event last Saturday to learn more about our Federal Government. The tragedy of her death reminds us all of the fragile nature of life and what it means to be a public servant.

Additionally, we all know the critical role that our staff members play in helping us carry out our duties and better serve our constituents. Like us, members of our staffs are dedicated public servants. That is why it is truly heartbreaking that a member of Ms. GIFFORDS' district staff, Gabe Zimmer-

man, lost his life in this senseless attack while two other members of her Arizona-based staff were injured.

In the midst of one of the darkest hours of our country in recent memory, let us also thank those whose courage and bravery, whether in helping take down the gunman or in assisting in providing care for the injured, deserve recognition. We thank them for their valor.

Madam Speaker, during times of tragedy, we depend on steady leadership to guide us through our grief. I commend the leadership of both parties for remembering that there is much more that unites us than divides us.

Again, I pray for the recovery of our colleague, Ms. GIFFORDS, and for all of the victims of the Tucson shooting.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD).

Mr. MICHAUD. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution.

All of us on Capitol Hill were dealt with the shocking news that Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS and her staff were shot and that her director of outreach, Gabe Zimmerman, was killed. This tragedy makes me think of my own staff and the great work that they do each and every day for me, representing the people I was elected to represent.

I join our entire country in continuing to pray for the recovery of our friend and colleague, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS. She is a hardworking and highly respected Member of this Chamber, and she is a true advocate for her home State.

In 2008 I had the privilege of joining her in Tucson for a discussion on the need to improve mental health care for our servicemembers returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. I know she cares passionately about this issue as she does about so many other issues important to her constituents.

May God bless Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS, her family, her friends, and all those in Arizona who have been affected by this tragedy.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. RIGELL).

Mr. RIGELL. I thank my colleague from California.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution today.

We gather here to remember the innocent people whose lives were cut tragically short by the horror that unfolded in Arizona on Saturday. We also gather to honor and pray for our colleague, Representative GIFFORDS, and the others wounded in that attack.

It was a real privilege for me to participate in the reading of the Constitution with GABBY, and I anxiously look forward to her return to the House floor.

Joined by so many in Virginia's Second District, I offer my heartfelt condolences to all of those affected by this

tragedy. I commend the citizens, the first responders, and the health care professionals who bravely worked to protect and save lives.

We are blessed to live in a country where freedom and the opportunity to peacefully assemble and petition our elected officials, even at a grocery store, is a cherished right. We uphold that right today, and we stand united in condemning this senseless act of violence.

My wife, Teri, joins me and all of this body in praying for those who lost their lives, for those who were wounded and their families.

May God bless America and bring peace to America.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY).

Ms. BERKLEY. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, I don't think there are enough words to express my feelings at this time, and I am sure the words that I have will never be adequate to truly share my grief with my colleagues and with our country.

As with all of the Members of Congress, my thoughts and prayers are with those who lost loved ones in the aftermath of this senseless act of violence. My heart is hurting for those who were injured—some catastrophically, some still fighting for their lives.

I love GABBY GIFFORDS. I don't think there is a better example of a true public servant than this remarkable woman the country has gotten to know over the last few days. She is kind and caring and dedicated, and the very fact that she was doing her Congress on Your Corner just 4 days from the time she was sworn in for another term gives you some idea of how dedicated she was to her job.

While I watched in horror, like most of the country, and was riveted to my television set this weekend, I also couldn't help but marvel at those who rose above personal fear, who had the presence of mind and who, in spite of their own personal safety, tackled the perpetrator of this heinous crime; at the young intern who possibly saved GABBY's life by his medical attention to her; and at those who attended the wounded and comforted the bystanders. These are the true heroes in our country—the medical personnel, the hospital administrators and staff.

The entire citizenry of Tucson has given us hope for our Nation as they have risen to this occasion and have demonstrated to the rest of us how good we are in times of trial.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. BERKLEY. I've gone through many stages of grief in the last few days. First, I was heartsick at the news. Then I was angry. And now I'm resolved.

□ 1640

I am going to do my own "Congress on the Corner" in honor of GABBY this coming Friday because nobody, no lone gunman, nobody can stop the democratic process and stop us from doing our job of interacting with our constituents.

On behalf of myself and my family and the people that I represent from southern Nevada, I send our collective condolences to those people that have lost loved ones in Tucson. And our thoughts and prayers to the survivors. We wish them all Godspeed. God bless them, and God bless this great Nation.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, before I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM), I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) be allowed to control the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) will control the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. LATHAM. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

I rise today to join my colleagues in offering my prayers and condolences to the victims of Saturday's senseless violence in Tucson. To the families and loved ones of those who lost their lives or were injured, know that every Member of Congress and their staff stand with you today.

This legislative body was designed to be a forum for the will of the American people, and Congresswoman GIFFORDS has always met her constituents in accordance with that spirit. She and her staff members who accompanied her on that Saturday possessed a deep understanding that a Representative of the people's House must listen and remain as accessible as possible to the people.

The citizens who lost their lives Saturday morning were exercising their patriotic duty to participate in the democratic process: a widely respected Federal judge; a dedicated church servant; a great grandmother who deeply believed in her country; a former secretary and homemaker; and a 9-year-old girl, herself a leader, getting an early glimpse of how our democracy works. And it is with an especially heavy heart that we mourn the loss of Gabe Zimmerman, a dedicated member of Congresswoman GIFFORDS' staff and a member of this congressional community who was also a tireless servant to the people of Arizona's Eighth District. That those voices and lives were cut short is a national tragedy of the highest order.

This is a heartbreaking moment in the history of the House of Representatives and our Nation, but we cannot allow this tragedy to put us on the defensive. We cannot retreat from our responsibilities to be accessible and responsive to the will of the American people.

I look forward to the day when Congresswoman GIFFORDS rejoins us in this

Chamber. Until then, we can strive towards the lofty standard she has set. We can find inspiration in her steadfast commitment to those she serves, and we can draw strength from her unwavering belief in democracy.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Rhode Island and Providence Plantations (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution and in honor of the victims and those left suffering as a result of last weekend's devastating tragedy in Arizona.

In what can only be described as a brutal act of domestic terrorism, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, members of her staff, and other members of the Tucson community are now fighting for their lives. And six innocent others, including a 9-year-old little girl and the Congresswoman's director of community outreach, Gabe Zimmerman, gave the ultimate sacrifice in the exercise of our democracy.

This tragedy gives us great pause as we begin the work of the 112th Congress and serves as a painful reminder that our democracy is built upon the ability of our citizens to participate fully in our democracy, and we must protect that. These have been tragic hours for our country, for those who lost loved ones, and for those who were injured and their families. On behalf of the people of the First District of Rhode Island and my colleague, Congressman JIM LANGEVIN of the Second District, we send our sincerest condolences from our entire State to all those who have lost a loved one as a result of this hideous attack. We also extend our thoughts and prayers to Congresswoman GIFFORDS, her staff and her constituents, all of whom were victims of this tragedy. And we pray that those injured have a speedy and full recovery.

May God grant our Nation and all the victims peace and comfort. And may we renew our commitment to the ideals that have made America great, including the free exchange of ideas and a democracy that continues to listen carefully to the people we serve.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Last Saturday, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and many others were victims of a brutal and brazen attack as they participated in a Congress on Your Corner event. Six people were killed and many more were injured.

Like many of my colleagues, I have had the pleasure to work with Representative GIFFORDS and can attest that she is a thoughtful, kind, and wonderful person. My prayers are with her and her family as she begins the road to recovery.

My thoughts are also with the families of those who were killed. No words can ease the pain of their families, and

our country shares in the grief of six lives cut short. The goodness that Dorothy Morris, Judge John Roll, Phyllis Schneek, Dorwan Stoddard, Gabe Zimmerman, and 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green brought to this world will never be forgotten.

It is during moments of tragedy that Americans forget our differences and unite around common goodness. We love our country and our countrymen. We will never let any one act or one individual deter us from living in freedom and without fear. As Members of Congress, we refuse to be cowed by senseless violence. Our duty is to our constituents, and we will fulfill that duty without reservation or hesitation.

The lesson from last Saturday can be found in the courageous acts of strangers and neighbors who banded together amid violence to help others and confront a madman. Let us honor Representative GIFFORDS' intern, David Hernandez, who did not hesitate to come to her aid, and three incredible Arizonans who, without regard for their own lives, tackled and subdued the attacker.

Whatever the deranged purpose of the shooter, it has only served to strengthen our resolve and the greatness of our country and to marvel at the bravery and kindness of our fellow Americans, who without thought of their own safety acted in the face of evil. It is their stories of bravery that will be remembered and held up as an example of an exceptional nature of our great American character.

As we move forward from this horrible event, let us keep the feelings of brotherhood and compassion that should not only exist in the wake of a tragedy, but in our everyday lives.

God bless our dear friend, GABBY GIFFORDS, all those who were injured, the families of the fallen, and God bless America.

Madam Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN), and I ask unanimous consent that he be allowed to control that time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from California may resume.

There was no objection.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

(Mr. ANDREWS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, we are gathered here this afternoon to show respect and affection for our beloved colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, to mourn the dead, and to provide support for those wounded in body and in spirit.

We also have a special responsibility here this afternoon to tell the truth about the nature of America. Our children and people all over the world saw acts of heinous violence on Saturday, and many think that that represents

the true nature of America. We are here today to say it most emphatically does not.

The true nature of America is not an evil, haunted person killing innocent people. The true nature of this country is the diligence of GABRIELLE GIFFORDS as she stood there listening to her constituents so patiently. The true nature of America is the optimism of a 9-year-old girl eager to become involved in the political process. The true nature of America is the ultimate act of selflessness as a long-term husband interposes his body between that and the bullets and saves the life of his beloved wife whom he met in grammar school.

□ 1650

The true nature of America is the skill and heroism of the young intern, 5 days in the service of Congresswoman GIFFORDS, who rushed to her side and very likely saved her life with his skill.

The true nature of America is the judiciousness and careful reasoning of the Federal judge who gave his life by happenstance on that day at that moment. The true nature of America is the three brave Arizonans who ran toward a man with a loaded gun who was firing away, threw their bodies at him and saved the lives of countless others around them.

Saturday was a horrendous day, but let us be resolved that it will not be marked in history by the manifestation of evil that it represents, but by the manifestation of optimism and diligence and selflessness and goodness that truly reflect the spirit of the American people.

May God bless our colleague and all those who suffered through this long nightmare.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT).

Mr. ADERHOLT. First of all, I would like to join in with my colleagues in condemning this act of violence and to express my deepest condolences to all of the families who were killed in the attack on January 8, 2011, in Tucson, Arizona.

I join millions of others in praying for the recovery of all of those that were injured. Especially we pray for our colleague, the Honorable Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS. It has been my privilege and honor to work with her, especially on the well-being of this Nation's space program, and I pray for her full recovery and God's strength for her husband and her entire family.

In a Nation where there is freedom, some individuals will choose to do evil, and certainly no law can cure the human heart. I do pray for the individuals who are suffering from anger, like those of the accused, that they will find the counseling and healing that they need.

Actions like this, which include the tragic death of a 9-year-old child, are not normal.

But even in tragedy we see the great strength of this Nation. We see the heroic actions of individuals, private and professional, who helped subdue the attacker and who helped the wounded survive. And we see a nationwide outpouring of concern and prayer for GABBY GIFFORDS and all of those that were injured. And of course that rises far above political differences.

May God bless the families and bless us in our work here this year in the 112th Congress.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to another fine gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, earlier this afternoon many of us attended a congressional prayer service for the victims of the shooting in Arizona, and I just wanted to reflect on three things that occurred there that really were meaningful for me.

One was after the prayer service, the staff of GABBY GIFFORDS were gathered, and we had an opportunity to meet them and shake their hands and talk to them a little bit. And I was just taken aback, first of all, by how young they were and how optimistic they were, of course optimistic about her because they really feel and they're praying, and we all do, that she has a full recovery.

But I can't help but reflect on the fact that not only the Congresswoman but her staff were so dedicated. I would often talk to GABBY on the floor oftentimes in the back of this room; and as many have said, she was wonderful. She was so enthusiastic about her job, about her constituents. She is also a beautiful person. And I was just so happy to hear that after the operation that they were optimistic about her recovery, and it seems like every day she gets better. So I'm really looking forward to her coming back here.

And I want to pay tribute to her staff. I mean, obviously three of them were injured. One was killed. That person was killed, and all of them were facing the reality, unfortunately, that we do face now that when we do outreach, that there is a certain amount of danger. But I also think that it's really important for us to say that we are going to fight against that. We are going to continue to be out there meeting with our constituents, and we want people to come and meet with us.

The second thing was the House Chaplain. At the prayer service today he said that the Arizona victims were essentially martyrs to the cause of America because they were out there participating in democracy. And I really think that that's true, that the need to participate and the democratic process is what this is all about. And to the extent that we reinforce that in the aftermath of this tragedy is really important.

And the last thing I would say is some of the Members today, and particularly ED PASTOR when he spoke at the prayer service, he said that we

have to be inspired to better the lives of others.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. PALLONE. And I noticed that the little girl, Christina Green, the one who unfortunately passed away, actually told her parents that she wanted to have a career that involved helping those less fortunate than her. And I think if there is anything that we can do in the aftermath of this tragedy, as ED PASTOR said at the prayer service, let us be inspired to better the lives of others. Let's try to make something positive of this tragedy.

That little girl was so much in my heart when I heard about her and her wanting to have a career in public service and her being there at this outreach center because of that desire.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS).

Mr. STEARNS. I thank my distinguished colleague; and on behalf of myself and my constituents from the Sixth Constitution District in north-central Florida, we offer our thoughts and prayers to our colleague GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and her family.

I also join the American people in extending our condolences to the other victims of this terrible event. This is a heartbreaking loss.

But I'm encouraged by the positive news from her doctors. And I commend those medical professionals in Tucson for their dedication and outstanding work. Obviously, we look forward to GABBY coming back to the House floor. We miss her warm demeanor and her courageous qualities.

In paying our respects to her and the others harmed and killed in this senseless act of violence, we must make it clear that we will not be deterred from meeting with the American people. The act of this deranged individual should not alter the routine duties of our office. I've had 560 town meetings in my district. I understand what it must be to remain accessible to my constituents. An attack on any single Member is an assault on this institution, and we must carry on in our commitment to an open and representative government.

So I extend my best wishes to my colleague for a satisfactory and swift recovery. I also share my deepest sympathies with the families of the victims who were injured and killed in this incomprehensible act.

Let me close with two Bible quotes, from Psalm 46:1, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble"; and 1 Peter 3:14, "But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear. Do not be frightened."

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution that recognizes the tragedy in Tucson on Saturday. I'm deeply shocked and saddened, and I'm praying for GABBY, her family, staff, and the other victims of this senseless act of violence.

In times like these, words often fail to describe our anguish and pain. As a fellow Member of the class of 2006, I've gotten to know Congresswoman GIFFORDS well and have developed enormous respect for her intellect and her love for this country.

□ 1700

She and I have served together on the House Armed Services Committee. And she was very gracious on the morning of President Obama's swearing in. She offered to share her blanket with me as we both braved the cold during the inauguration. We kept each other warm, and we had warm dialogue and happy moments.

GABBY and her staff were performing a fundamental duty of a Member of Congress: That is listening to the concerns of her constituents. Our democracy depends on this type of open and informal meeting of elected officials and the people that they serve. We cannot let this cowardly act of violence prevent us from engaging with our constituents. I encourage my colleagues to take appropriate caution but to continue holding constituent meetings and do the job we were elected to do without fear. To do otherwise would allow the gunman a small taste of victory and would diminish our democracy and dishonor the victims of this senseless act.

I look forward to GABBY's speedy recovery and to working with her on the Armed Services Committee again soon.

And I would like to say a few words about Federal Judge John Roll, who lost his life on Saturday. Judge Roll was with Congresswoman GIFFORDS the day of the shootings to press for funding to relieve overcrowding in his district.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Judge Roll had been a lifetime servant of his community and his State, 63 years old. And as Justice John Roberts said, Judge Roll's death is a somber reminder of the importance of the rule of law and the sacrifices of those who work to secure it.

Finally, I would like to recognize the other victims. I won't name them, and I do not know them personally, but I want to express my sympathy and condolences to their families.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOUTHERLAND).

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution. The thoughts

and prayers of Florida's Second Congressional District I deliver. Our hearts are broken over the events of Saturday. We want to deliver today our thoughts especially to those families who lost their loved ones, the six families who are today memorializing them and planning those details.

I also want to make sure that I express my appreciation for the short time that I had a privilege of speaking with Representative GIFFORDS. Last Thursday, shortly after we were sworn in, I walked just outside the floor. She met me outside, and she extended her hand to me. And she said, "Hello, I am Gabby Giffords. You must be new." And I said, "Well, I am new. I am Steve Southerland." She goes, "Where are you from, Steve?" And I said, "Florida." She said, "Let me introduce you to some people that will help you." And she walked down the hall and out to the steps, and she introduced me to numerous, numerous floor staff. I did not have any other encounter with her except for that 5-minute brief time.

And on Saturday, when I learned of the events that had occurred in Tucson, it was with horror that I got home, and I turned on the television, and I realized that it was that wonderful, sweet person who with kindness and gentleness introduced me to the staff. And so it is with a burdened heart today that I want those in this Chamber and the people of America to know that the citizens of Florida's District Two are heartbroken as well. We are praying for each and every one affected.

And I want to make sure that we go from here to continue, in honor of those who have given their lives and those who have been affected, to create a more perfect Union, that we work hard to secure the blessings of liberty. For that is how we will be known by the world. Not by our security, not by our policy, but by the civility, by the love we show and care for one another. That will make us a shining city on a hill. And that's what I am committed to doing.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak here today. As has been said over and over, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS is a smart, gifted, and compassionate Member of Congress. It is a privilege to be her colleague and friend. Arizona is privileged to be represented by a person of her caliber.

My wife, Lisa, and I pray for her recovery. And our thoughts are with her, her family, her friends, and her community as they come together in the aftermath of this terrible act of violence. I look forward to seeing GABBY back here where she belongs, on this floor, advocating on behalf of her constituents.

I served in this House for many years as a congressional aide. And since I've

been elected to Congress, I've come to appreciate even more the generous and selfless service of our staffs. So I am especially touched and grieved by the murder of Gabe Zimmerman, who served as GABBY's director of community outreach.

For those whose lives were lost—Christina Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, Judge John Roll, Phyllis Schneck, and Dorwan Stoddard, who was related to one of my own staff, my sympathy, condolences, and prayers are with their families and loved ones.

I believe so very strongly that we here in this House, and all of us as Americans, must come together and transform this tragedy into something positive and hopeful. We live in a country that is too polarized. And we live in a country where a culture of violence is all too common. If this horrible act of violence results in all of us becoming more civil to one another, in taking a more careful look at the words and imagery we use when talking to and about one another as we deal with difficult and controversial policy debates, if it results in concrete ways to begin to reverse this culture of violence, then our Nation will triumph over this pain and loss.

Today is a time to grieve, to mourn, to express sympathy. But unfortunately, in the aftermath of this tragedy, too many of the old fights resurfaced. The left blamed the right, the right blamed the left, everybody blamed the media, op-eds were written, and bills were introduced. But Madam Speaker, none of that will bring back those who were lost. None of that will put a 9-year-old girl back at the breakfast table where she belongs.

Like many of my colleagues, on Monday I participated in a national moment of silence. The best thing about that moment was that for just a minute or two the noise stopped. We paused and we reflected. And I hope that we can do more of that in the months and years ahead.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure now to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman who has returned from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, it's my distinct honor to rise today and call Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS not only a colleague, but a friend. I had the pleasure of working with this fine lady from Arizona on several initiatives, beginning very early in her first term. The districts that we serve are very similar, southern New Mexico, southern Arizona. We share the southern border. We have issues of public land, public access, resources. So many of our perspectives originate from the same sort of district.

I got to know GABBY just in her first month here. In February, we went together to Iraq to visit soldiers. Together we would sit down and visit with young men and young women who were defending our country, who were

fighting for the freedom of the Iraqis there. And we just grew a common bond in the service and the recognition of those who were serving in an even more difficult circumstance.

We found the opportunities to work across the aisle on several issues just after we returned. And those are the strong memories that compel me today to stand up and say that I have grown to respect and admire the efforts of this courageous young woman as she served here in Congress.

As we saw the unforeseeable and tragic circumstances of this past weekend, we realized that there are circumstances that face us all. And I would recognize right now that GABRIELLE GIFFORDS decided to do her job no matter the risk. She served with courage, determination, with openness and a forthrightness to her constituents that should be a model to all of us.

I know that she is an inspiration for me today as she struggles to regain her health and to regain her position here serving the American people.

I have been able to support many of GABRIELLE GIFFORDS' initiatives in the past. It's my privilege today to lend my support to this resolution. I pray for her speedy recovery and for the recovery of those injured on that fateful day. I pray for the comfort of those who lost loved ones. May God bless GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

□ 1710

Mrs. MALONEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, like so many of my colleagues, I knew GABBY GIFFORDS to be a warm and caring friend, a rising star in the House with a moral compass as sure as it is true. That is why she recently spoke out against the rising tide of hate speech in our country and the lack of civility in our political process.

While it may be too early to come to any conclusions about the consequences of the recent and tragic events, it is never too late to reflect on lessons we have learned from earlier such tragedies and take them to heart.

Guns kill. And those who glamorize gunplay do no service to humanity.

Words matter. And those who use inflammatory rhetoric to achieve cheap political gain wound our country and weaken the ties that bind us.

Democracy triumphs. The fundamental wisdom that has distinguished our Nation and led her to greatness resides in our unwavering commitment to settle our disputes with ballots, not bullets.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Congresswoman GIFFORDS—I hope for her swift and complete recovery—and to her family and to all the friends and family members of the victims of that tragic event.

As we approach the observance of Martin Luther King Day, let us recall

the words of Robert Kennedy that were said on that tragic day so many years ago, and I quote: "Let us dedicate ourselves to what the Greeks wrote so many years ago: 'to tame the savagery of man and make gentle the life of this world.'"

Get well soon, GABBY. We need your leadership, your strength, your courage. You are in our thoughts; you are in our prayers.

Mr. DANIEL L. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS).

Mr. PLATTS. I thank the distinguished gentleman from California for yielding to me.

Madam Speaker, I rise in humble and solemn support for House Resolution 32.

I also rise to express my heartfelt gratitude to our distinguished Speaker, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), and all Members of the House leadership, Republican and Democratic alike. The thoughtful and compassionate manner in which they have united the Members of this great institution in prayerful support for our beloved colleague and friend, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, and all of the victims of the January 8 attack in Tucson, Arizona, is sincerely appreciated.

Madam Speaker, as with all Americans, I was deeply saddened and horrified upon learning of the senseless and violent attack on Congresswoman GIFFORDS, members of GABBY's staff, and citizens of Arizona's Eighth District. This act of violence was an unthinkable attack on a dedicated public servant and her constituents.

It was also an attack on one of the most important cornerstones of our form of representational democracy—the duty of elected officials to reach out to the citizens they serve. It is imperative that we not allow the tragic events of January 8 to prevent elected officials from fulfilling this duty to remain in close contact with their constituents and well grounded in their concerns.

On behalf of my wife, Leslie, and our family and all residents of Pennsylvania's 19th Congressional District, I offer our deepest sympathies to the families, the friends, and the coworkers of those who were taken from us in this attack. Please know that you and all the victims of this terrible tragedy are and will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers. May God watch over you as he continues to watch over our grieving Nation.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN).

Ms. BALDWIN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise to express my thoughts and offer my prayers and those of my constituents for my friend and colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, who lies critically wounded; and for her staffer, Gabe Zimmerman; for the precious patriot, Christina Taylor Green;

for Dorothy Morris, Judge John Roll, Phyllis Schneck and Dorwan Stoddard, who lost their lives in this senseless tragedy; and to their families.

Our thoughts and prayers, too, go out to the other innocent victims of this tragedy, including congressional staffers Ron Barber and Pamela Simon and their families, and our heartfelt gratitude to all those brave souls who responded valiantly and quickly, preventing even more death and injury. And to the people of Arizona, who love their State and our democracy, to you we express our solidarity.

GABBY, as we all know, is one of the nicest, most decent, dedicated, concerned, and compassionate Representatives in this body. The fact that she and her staff were gunned down while doing their jobs, doing exactly what is required in a democracy, makes this tragedy even more unfathomable.

And so I am concerned about the impact of this tragedy on our democracy. We cannot have a well-functioning democracy without ample interaction and discourse between members of the public and their elected officials.

Directly or indirectly, this tragedy invites us to examine the way we conduct business on all levels. There is no question that political discourse has become toxic at times, and I hope that out of this tragedy comes a renewed commitment to civility.

I applaud Speaker BOEHNER and Leader PELOSI for setting the right tone. We have a moment now to look prospectively at how we debate issues of great import.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. BALDWIN. I hope we seize this moment to come together as a Congress and ask, How can we bring renewed civility to consequential debate and create a new environment in which people can differ without demonizing others?

People reach different conclusions about the important topics of our time, but each of us, like GABBY, seeks office because we want to make life better for the people we represent. We want a better America.

GABBY, keep fighting the good fight. We need you and America needs you.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I, like our colleagues, am rising in sorrow today to address the events that occurred in Arizona this past weekend. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of those victims, with their families, and with our colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS. She was doing what we all do—hearing the concerns of her constituents. And I think we all know and recognize that we in this Chamber are more visible and more accountable than ever before.

On Saturday, a madman, a monster, attempted to assassinate our beloved

colleague. She was shot in the line of duty, the duty of listening to, so that she could more effectively represent those constituents. It was a duty that she and many of us do love and do treasure that interaction with our constituents.

Today, more so than ever, as Members of Congress are called to that duty, we realize that it goes with us wherever we go. Every trip to the grocery store, to church, to a soccer game, can turn into a town hall meeting. That accessibility to those who count on us to make the right decision is something that we cannot give up. Even though this past weekend's events have devastated us, we must not compound the tragedy by being deterred from those duties.

The shooting occurred on Saturday, and on Sunday I kept a previously scheduled district appointment at Fort Campbell. That Army post is home to the 101st Airborne when they are not deployed, as they currently are in Afghanistan. These public servants know what the senseless loss of an honored friend, colleague, even a hero feels like. They also know better than anyone else that service is often most valuable when it is performed in the face of fear, uncertainty, or hostility.

So many of my constituents have asked what will this mean for how we, as Members, carry out our jobs. I think we will all be more careful when we undertake our duties. We know we are responsible not only for our own safety; we are responsible for the safety of our staff, our constituents who bring issues to us. And in this, I hope our service does credit to the men and women in uniform.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

□ 1720

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I hope our service does credit to the men and women in uniform who have served us so very well. God bless GABBY GIFFORDS, bless her staff, her constituents, the other innocent victims, bless this House and our great Nation.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Our energetic and talented colleague GABBY GIFFORDS was doing what she does so well, the core responsibility of every Member: listening to her constituents in an open public forum. Young and old, Americans of all political philosophies gathered to meet with her.

This is the very type of neighborhood office hours that so many of us hold. I have held many of them throughout central Texas. And this is the very type of accessibility and openness that is fundamental to our democracy and critical to a society that recognizes that change is achieved through ballots, not bullets.

Less than a year ago, another disturbed individual expressed his anger by crashing his airplane into a building in Austin, Texas, that housed IRS employees, causing great death and destruction. Incredibly, a Facebook page was erected quickly in his honor. What I said then I would reemphasize today: We must turn down the volume on hate to discourage more such horrors.

Debate, vigorous debate, is at the very heart of our democracy. Sometimes it is heated and strongly worded. Such strong discourse helps us to set America's course. But violence is not discourse. It debases our democracy. Violence can kill a human being, but it cannot kill the truth. In a free and open market of ideas, truth will ultimately prevail.

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose life and work we celebrate this very month, "I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. That is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant." We pray for those lost and the many who still suffer from this great tragedy.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to humbly add my voice to the remarks made so eloquently by my colleagues.

I had the honor of personally meeting Representative GIFFORDS for the first time just last week, here in the Chamber; and although my service in the House has thus far only overlapped ever so briefly with hers, GABBY's attitude of service and spirit of commitment to those that she represents was immediately apparent.

Representative GIFFORDS was practicing one of the most basic and important duties that a Member of Congress will have, making herself available to constituents, when a gunman viciously and inexplicably attacked her and 19 others.

It is difficult to find explanation for such a tragic event. And while an explanation will always elude us, we can find comfort in the prayer of a friend and constituent from my home district in Pennsylvania, Rabbi Ira Budow.

Just this past Monday evening before a town hall meeting in Bucks County, Rabbi Budow prayed. He said, "I pray that the disaster in Arizona serves as a wake-up call for our country and results in a more caring and loving atmosphere for us all. At the end of the day, we are all Americans and rise and fall together."

I'm proud to support the resolution.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO).

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues today in support of this resolution and associate myself with the eloquent and heartfelt expressions of condolences and comfort from

my colleagues from both sides of the aisle. And hearing the wonderful stories about GABBY told on this floor help capture the warmth and humanity that is GABBY GIFFORDS.

The shock, horror, and tears that followed the unfolding of the terrible news from Arizona, it's like just yesterday. Here was GABBY, out on the first day after we finished votes to meet with her constituents at a Congress on your Corner, an event that many of us do in our own districts. She was joined by her dedicated staff and a large number of constituents who wanted to talk with her, including a third grader so excited to meet with her Congressperson, who had just been elected to an office in her elementary school.

I send my condolences on behalf of all of the people of Hawaii to the families of those who lost loved ones in this senseless act of violence. And I'm going to say their names again because they must not be forgotten: John Roll, 63, chief judge for the U.S. District of Arizona; Gabriel Matthew Zimmerman, 30, Representative GIFFORDS' director of community outreach; Christina Taylor Green, 9 years old, a beautiful and bright girl who should have had a chance for a full life; Dorothy Morris, 76, whose husband was critically injured trying to protect her during the shootings; Phyllis Schneck, 79, mother of three, grandmother of seven; Dorwan Stoddard, 76, who shielded his wife, Mavy, who was also wounded.

Our prayers are with those who are struggling to recover from their injuries, including our dear friend and my classmate, GABBY, GABBY's husband, Mark Kelly, and all of the family members of the victims. We are all one family. As we say in Hawaii, *ohana*, united in our collective grief and prayers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. I yield the gentlewoman 30 additional seconds.

Ms. HIRONO. I thank the gentleman.

The day before this terrible tragedy, GABBY had reached out to a friend of hers, Kentucky Secretary of State Trey Grayson, a Republican, to talk to him about ways that we all could tone down the political rhetoric and partisanship.

At this point we don't know what drove the gunman to commit this horrible act of violence. Regardless of whether his actions have a causal connection with an increasingly negative tone of our political discourse, I think this tragedy should give us all pause to reflect. Just as we have all come together today to honor the victims of this tragedy, I believe we can honor GABBY by going forward with a heightened commitment to respect each other, listen to each other's points of view and come up with policies that will strengthen our Nation. We must go forward together. *Mahalo nui loa*.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York, Dr. HAYWORTH.

Ms. HAYWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the victims of Saturday's senseless and atrocious attack. Congresswoman GIFFORDS and her staff are constantly in the thoughts and prayers of her colleagues in the House. And as a mother, I am most profoundly saddened by the loss of the youngest victim, Christina Taylor Green. Christina was only 9 years old.

She belonged to history at the beginning of her life, and she belongs to history at the end of her life. She was born on September 11, 2001; and Christina was acutely aware of the impact that day had on our Nation. But she always found the positive and hopeful in that dreadful event. She would often tell people she was born on a holiday, and she said it was a holiday because it gave hope to say that and people came together on that day. She wore red, white, and blue; and she was vocal about her patriotism and her pride to be an American.

And in addition to being extremely patriotic, Christina was an inquisitive and mature young lady who had recently taken an interest in the most fundamental of American rights, civic engagement. She had just been elected to her own student government, and she was attending Saturday's event to meet her Congresswoman and learn more about government.

As we grieve for her loss, it is important to pay tribute to the model young citizen Christina was and for us to honor her memory. As adults, we can all learn from Christina's positive outlook on life, love of country, and participation in government.

Even during these very dark and painful times, we should take solace in knowing that with children like Christina growing up in our society, our Nation has a bright future.

□ 1730

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPES).

Mrs. CAPPES. I thank my colleague from Iowa.

Madam Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for H. Res. 32, a resolution to honor GABBY GIFFORDS as she recovers from her injuries, to pay tribute to those who lost their lives, and to thank those who helped the injured and prevented further loss of life.

This is a devastating and emotional week for all of us here in Congress, for our staff, and for America as a whole. The senseless and atrocious loss of life in Tucson has infringed upon our sense of safety and decency. It has also left us grieving for a colleague, for her staff, and for the six Americans who lost their lives last Saturday, as recited by my colleague from Hawaii just now.

Representative GIFFORDS—GABBY to so many of us—is truly a treasured Member of this body. She is a gifted legislator, frequently leading her colleagues on issues like solar energy,

space endeavors, veterans health care, and comprehensive immigration reform. But GABBY is also known around Capitol Hill as a smart, generous, and unfailing dedicated public servant and friend. She is the one who would be helping to plan a baby shower for one of her colleagues, to reach across the aisle to lend a supportive hand to a colleague in need of advice or a laugh, to take time to offer a hand to a staffer after a long day at work.

I also think of GABBY as a unique and all-too-rare representative in this Congress. She prefers considerate and detailed debate over harsh and angry rhetoric. She chooses her words thoughtfully, and has spoken out against violent language and the consequences such careless acts create.

So I would argue if we really want to pay tribute to GABBY here today, may her service not be an exception to the rule. We in this Chamber have the opportunity to live every day by the words we are speaking today.

Madam Speaker, the sorrow and grief of Saturday's tragedy will echo for many years to come. As we pray and take stock of this tragedy, I am also concerned by the ease with which a clearly troubled young man could obtain a firearm. And I believe that this incident also illuminates a serious gap in our mental health system, one where far too many ill people slip through the cracks. The price for these failings is all too often paid, as in this case, by friends and neighbors. We owe it to the victims of this horrific tragedy to improve our mental health system.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Mrs. CAPPES. We owe it to the victims of this horrific tragedy to improve our mental health system; and, in addition, to address gun violence. We can do better. Let us resolve to do so. Like everyone here and countless at home, I am praying for GABBY's swift recovery, for her constituents who lost their lives, and for our country.

Let us adopt this resolution today in honor of our beloved friend GABBY and the victims of this senseless tragedy.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, at this time I do not believe I have any other speakers. I reserve my time to close.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN).

Mr. SHERMAN. We come together today as a Nation to mourn those who died in Arizona and to pray for the full recovery of those still lying in hospital beds in Tucson.

GABBY GIFFORDS has captured the love and admiration of this entire country as America has come to know her through news reports, just as we have come to know her over the last 4 years as the most delightful and engaging Member of this House, and as a woman who brought intelligence and



determination to the service of this country.

The last time I had a chance to spend time with GABBY was just 6 days ago. We were here on the House floor. As it happens, we sat next to each other as we waited our turn to be assigned a portion of the Constitution to be read. We had a chance to listen to each passage, to speak briefly about some of the salient provisions. And as they got down the line to where we were sitting, it became apparent that GABBY would be called upon to read the First Amendment to the Constitution, and that I would be called upon to read the considerably less august Third Amendment.

For just a selfish instant, I wondered why luck couldn't have been just a little different. If we had been sitting just one seat over, then I could have stood here and talked about freedom of religion and freedom of speech. But providence had determined otherwise, had determined that GABBY GIFFORDS should stand on this floor and have the honor of reading the First Amendment, an amendment that is best known for its earlier clauses but which ends with the words that enshrine the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

The day after she read those words at this podium, she flew home to Arizona so she could stand in front of a Safeway, intending to meet people peaceably assembled, and listen to people petition for a redress of their grievances.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. SHERMAN. I was relieved yesterday when doctors said that they were confident that the assassin had not taken GABBY's life. And I am confident that that assassin did not take from our people the right to peaceably assemble and to tell their elected representatives their ideas and, yes, their grievances.

I look forward to 2 years from now and 2 years after that and 2 years after that, to sitting here on this floor with GABBY and waiting until she is called upon to read the First Amendment.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, contrary to my previous statement, I do have another speaker. At this time I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee, Dr. ROE.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, and I join my colleagues in denouncing the horrific attack that occurred against one of our own this past weekend, and took the lives of six innocent people, including a staff member, Gabe Zimmerman, and a beautiful 9-year-old child. We continue to pray for Congresswoman GIFFORDS and all those injured, and the families of the deceased.

As Members of Congress we have two responsibilities after such an attack.

First, we must vow that we will never let the work of a madman stop us from doing our work on behalf of the American people. Secondly, we will make it clear to all that while we have disagreements, we are all still Americans, and we respect each other. Words matter. When we show Americans that we can disagree substantively and respectfully, we bring our entire country closer together and show the world why America is the greatest force for good.

There is a song Sarah McLachlan sings, "Angel"—we place them in the arms of angels. And may God bless this family and these people who endured this horrific event.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, GABBY GIFFORDS is a wonderful human being and a treasured colleague and friend. But this resolution, as important and appropriate as it is, stops short of any collective commitment to prevent this type of tragedy from happening again. It happened because of a combustible mix of: one, a highly charged, antigovernment political environment; two, easy access to weapons whose only purpose is to kill large numbers of human beings; and, three, mental illness.

Not too long ago, another mentally ill person used the same kind of weapon to kill 32 innocent people on the Virginia Tech campus. In response we passed legislation eventually that enabled States to provide the names of people that they judged were too mentally imbalanced to be buying guns and provide those names to the National Instant Criminal Background Check system. We authorized \$250 million to enable them to do that. But since then, we have appropriated each year less than 10 percent of that amount. As a result, of the 2.6 million people that the States know should be disqualified from buying firearms, less than 20 percent are actually on that list and so disqualified. In fact, less than 4 percent of Arizonans who the State knows should be disqualified from purchasing firearms are actually on that list and unable to purchase those firearms.

□ 1740

So perhaps we could consider following up on this resolution with some concrete steps to prevent this from happening again. I know it is important to protect one's individual freedoms, but a little 9-year-old girl should also have the freedom to visit with her Congresswoman, secure in the knowledge that her Congress has the courage to take reasonable steps to protect her and our country from such senseless violence.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, the horror of Saturday's bloodshed in

Arizona, the senseless loss of life, and the cowardly attack on GABBY GIFFORDS has for many Americans raised the question of whether we as a Nation have lost our way. Many wonder, if an act so benign as GABBY's effort to listen to her neighbors in the Eighth Congressional District of Arizona can be the target of such violence, whether there is hope and a future for our democracy.

One voice from our recent past suggests there is still hope for that fragile ideal. On April 4, 1968, Senator Robert Kennedy spoke in Indianapolis, Indiana, shortly after the slaying of Martin Luther King at a time when political violence wracked our Nation. This is what he said:

"We have to make an effort in the United States. We have to make an effort to understand, to get beyond these difficult times."

He then said, "My favorite poem was Aeschylus, and he once wrote, 'Even in our sleep, pain which cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart, until, in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom through the awful grace of God.'"

He concluded that what we need in the United States is not division. What we need is not hatred. What we need is not violence and lawlessness. It is love and wisdom and compassion toward one another.

GABBY GIFFORDS' work at that Tucson shopping mall on January 8 and all those present and all those victimized by a coward's bullets were affirming Senator Kennedy's vision that peaceful dialogue and understanding is the true calling of the American people, not division and violence.

As one who entered Congress with GABBY in the class of 2006—a tight-knit group that has met every Wednesday over the last 4 years—it has been an honor to watch her on the Armed Services Committee, advocating for the Air Force and for military families. Even during the lame duck session, she was a leader in enacting the GI Bill Patch, which will make sure that the Guard and reservists will not be left out from the GI Bill's educational benefits. She is an extraordinary person this country needs if we are going to overcome the many challenges that we face today.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support passage of this resolution, which is an affirmation that we will not surrender our way of life to the forces of lawlessness and hate.

On behalf of the people of eastern Connecticut, I want to express our awe and reverence to the examples of human courage and excellence which GABBY GIFFORDS and the other victims in Tucson displayed to the world last Saturday.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I am proud to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, a gunman has underestimated the will and undaunted bravery of GABBY GIFFORDS.

Tragically, we have lost Gabe Zimmerman, her director of community outreach; her constituents; Judge John Roll; Christina Taylor Green; Phyllis Schneck; Dorwan Stoddard; and Dorothy Morris, all of whom were engaged in the very civic activities we most encourage, along with 13 others who were injured along with Congresswoman GIFFORDS.

Together, these Americans have brought this House together as never before for a much needed time of reflection. I am heartbroken for all who were in the line of fire and for their families.

I focus now on GABBY because I cannot get her out of my consciousness. I am trying to understand her prescient fearlessness of her own safety in the days before the attempt on her life given what has happened to civil discourse in our country.

Can GABBY's selflessness and her concerns for our country give us the fortitude to follow her example in assuming that it is not the safety of Members that is at risk? Do we dare follow GABBY in her search for ways to be at once resolute and respectful?

Remarkable courage and determination have made GABRIELLE GIFFORDS the living manifestation of what Members of this institution and the citizens of our great country want to be. May GABBY GIFFORDS' words prove as contagious as her courage.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS).

Mr. CUMMINGS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, like every speaker today, I rise with a very heavy heart. Our friend GABRIELLE GIFFORDS lies in a hospital bed, fighting desperately for her life.

At the same time, dozens are in mourning for those killed in the senseless slaughter, including Judge John Roll and our own Gabe Zimmerman—Congresswoman GIFFORDS' director of public outreach.

We join them in a grieving process that is painful beyond words.

To those families, particularly that of Gabe's, who reached out in GABBY's voice each and every day, we weep for your loss and know of the constant ache left in your hearts by the sudden loss of those you loved, and we are blessed to join you in the celebration of their lives.

As we mourn those who were lost, we triumph, with equal emotion, in miracles. By the mercy of God and the swift hands of our medical heroes, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and many of those wounded by this madman have been saved.

When I heard of this tragedy, I immediately asked the question that each of us here must have wondered dozens of times: How could anyone hate or seek to harm this wonderful public servant, this beautiful person, who has never spoken a cross word or shown a downcast expression throughout her time in this great House?

Though these answers are painfully slow in coming, I pray her return to the warm embrace of her family will be swift.

More selfishly, because she is my friend and because I see in her the pure heart of a servant, I pray she will return to this Chamber as soon as possible to continue her work for the people of Arizona, whom she so treasures. GABBY knows at her core that she is an ordinary lady called to an extraordinary mission.

GABBY, you are a champion among champions, a friend among friends, and a fighter among fighters for the common good. We are all pulling for you. Get well soon. We can't wait to have you back.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this body is numb.

We forget that we are a family, a dysfunctional family at times, but that we are a family. We all get to know each other, and we all have a common passion for the values of this country, values that brought us here in the first place. That is a remarkable story that we have heard unfolding about our good friend GABBY GIFFORDS since this horrible tragedy first took place.

All of us in this body share a unique sense of responsibility for what happened to our dear friend, to her courageous staff and to the incredible people who showed up to participate in democracy at that Safeway in Tucson on Saturday. I know that a lot of us had this shared experience of horror on Saturday as we watched these horrible images appear in front of our eyes.

I want to briefly talk about my good friend GABBY.

It is ironic that on this day when our President is in Tucson, honoring the memory of those who lost their lives and those struggling to put their lives back together, that my connection with GABBY and President Obama go back to the exact same day. It was September 29 of 2006. GABBY and I were both candidates for Congress. We met at an event, and there were things about her that leaped off the page immediately.

□ 1750

It was her passion for why she was running, it was her fearlessness, and it was that smile that you've heard people talking about that could light up a room.

We got to talking about each other and what we had in common; and I learned that her brother, Alex Giffords,

had been a place kicker at Iowa State University, where I graduated from college and where I was an unknown walk-on under Earl Bruce. And we talked about that. And I have in my office this little print of Beardshear Hall at Iowa State University that my friend GABBY gave to me that she got from her brother Alex because she knew this was important to me. This little picture is an emblem of what an amazing human being GABBY GIFFORDS is because she was always thinking more of her friends than she was of herself.

I got on a red eye after first meeting GABBY GIFFORDS and flew back to my district and met an unknown Senator from Illinois who had just gotten elected named Barack Obama for the very first time. That's what is great about this country is these random meetings that we have with amazing people from all over the country who we meet on the House floor, many of whom came in in one of the largest classes in recent memory. You heard them come to the floor today and talk about someone they barely knew or may have met briefly or didn't know at all, because that is what binds us together is the spirit, the history of this Chamber and what it has meant as the people's House.

That is why it is incumbent on all of us to take away as a lesson from this tragedy a renewed sense of respect for each other and for the common purpose that brought us all here together in the first place.

I talked about how we are a family. Every Thanksgiving our family has a tradition of watching a movie called "Home for the Holidays" about a very dysfunctional family. The star of that movie is Holly Hunter. In one of the closing moments of this movie—which like all good movies makes you laugh, makes you cry and makes you think—Holly Hunter's father is down in the basement watching old home movies and he's talking to her about one moment in his life that took 5 seconds and made all the difference in the world in his relationship with his daughter. And he said, You were fearless, huh? Fearless.

That is my friend, GABBY GIFFORDS. She is fearless in what makes this job worth having. That is why we have a responsibility—to her and all the people who lost their lives and who showed up at that town hall meeting because they care about this country—to make a difference going forward in how we talk to each other and how we care about each other.

As we look forward to next Monday, we should remember what Martin Luther King, Jr. taught us, that "the moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice." We have a collective duty, all of us, to make sure that we bend that arc sooner and quicker so that the American people realize that we are all in this together and that this is the people's House for a reason.

I want to thank my Republican colleagues for their extreme sensitivity

and their devotion to this important resolution, and I thank my colleague from California for helping us put this resolution together today.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in enthusiastic support of H. Res. 32.

Madam Speaker, I am privileged and humbled to be able to close out this debate. I am not, as some who have come to the floor, a close personal friend of GABBY GIFFORDS; but I have, as have others, been under her spell here. I have had the chance to talk with her on several occasions in an informal setting, and I might mention that on each of those occasions she reminded me that she used to be Republican. I don't know if that was her way of thinking that maybe we could have a rapport—you didn't really need that with her because of her openness and her smile, but it was interesting. She always did it with a smile, and she always did it with an invitation to engage with her that is the mark of her.

We pray, all of us together, that she and those others grievously wounded will have a speedy and full recovery. We pray for those who have lost their lives. We pray for this institution, that we will take the correct lessons out of this tragedy. And when I use the word "tragedy," it is a tragedy on the side of those who were attacked and the institution that was attacked. It is, however, the product of a criminal act, and we should understand that.

Madam Speaker, it is always within our power to either take the proper lessons from a particular incident or to discard them, to think deeply about them or think of them superficially. I believe that the fact that we have dedicated this entire day to trying to find the right lessons out of that and to give proper respect to those who suffered in this tragedy is evidence of the fact that we will attempt to take the proper lessons out of this.

One is, of course, that this is the people's House. If you read the Constitution, article I, it is clear that the House of Representatives is meant to be the closest to the people of any of the Federal institutions. We all, in a real sense, no matter where we come from, are institutionalists in that we love this institution—we fought in many ways to get here—but we honor one another by showing respect to one another and we honor our constituents as well.

Speaker BOEHNER has said, "An attack on one is an attack on all." That is true. Perhaps several hundred years ago the writer and the poet, John Donne, said it best. He said, "No man is an island, entire of itself. Every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, be-

cause I am involved in mankind. And, therefore, never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise this morning to pay tribute to my esteemed colleague from the great state of Arizona, U.S. Rep. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, who with God's grace is still alive and appears to be heading toward a promising recovery. I am grateful to God for His divine intervention in the lives of those 13 other victims who, along with Rep. GIFFORDS, were shot last Saturday at a shopping mall in Rep. GIFFORDS' Tucson, Arizona district. Right now, news accounts indicate that those 13 people will survive their injuries.

But, Madam Speaker, six people, including a nine-year-old girl, did not survive last Saturday's gunfire by a young man who, by every account, is clearly mentally unbalanced. It is my opinion that under no set of circumstances should the gunman have been able to purchase a handgun with a 30-round magazine. That young man was able to wreak all this havoc in a matter of a few minutes before several courageous Americans rose to the occasion as they quickly wrestled the assailant to the ground.

Today, however, is a day to honor the tragic loss of life that took place last Saturday and to also pray for the continued strength and full recovery of Rep. GIFFORDS and the others who survived.

Rep. GIFFORDS is a brilliant woman who represents the best of what a Member of this body should be. She keeps an abiding focus on serving her constituents and, last Saturday, she was in the midst of an open air forum, "Congress on Your Corner," where she and her staff had assembled a portable congressional office to, literally, take the best of their legislative and constituent service ability directly to the people who elected her to serve. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday, Rep. GIFFORDS and her staff were operating in the best traditions of this Congress and in the best traditions of our democracy. That is why it still seems incredible to me that Americans as diverse as nine-year-old Christina Taylor Green to 79-year-old Phyllis Schneek, a mother of three and grandmother of seven, should come to this public forum only to lose their lives to a deranged assailant with a gun.

This simply should not happen in our country but, sadly, far too often it does.

Madam Speaker my prayers and support remain with Rep. GIFFORDS and her husband, Captain Mark Kelly, a NASA astronaut, their family and the team of medical professionals and first responders who have done an amazing job in helping Rep. GIFFORDS and the other survivors to continue to improve. I also extend my condolences to the six Americans who lost their lives that day including Gabriel Zimmerman, Rep. GIFFORDS' community outreach director, who lost his life in the midst of serving his community.

At another day and at another time I will amplify my voice and advocacy in a manner that I hope will make a dent in the wanton proliferation and availability of guns in our society to those who clearly should not have them. But, for now, I wish God's peace and healing power upon GABBY GIFFORDS and the other survivors of this tragic event.

I also pray for our President and for our Nation as we assemble in a spirit of community tonight, in Tucson, in a national service of

prayer and reflection for the victims of this tragedy and for our Nation.

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in recognizing my friend, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, members of her staff, and other victims of the senseless attack which took place on January 8, 2011 in Tucson, Arizona.

GABBY is kind, brilliant, beautiful, charming, intellectually curious, honest, and a powerful presence. She is truly one of the most amazing people I've met in my life. She is devoted to public service for all the right reasons—to make America stronger, safer, better-educated and to protect America from its enemies. She is thoroughly dedicated to her district and selflessly serves her constituents. Her constituents, even those who do not always share her political views, respect her for being ready to help them and fight for what is right. I know my colleagues on both sides of the aisle recognize her as a person of great integrity who fights tirelessly for her principles.

Madam Speaker, my thoughts at this time are with my friend GABBY. We are all hoping and praying for her complete recovery, as well as for the families of those who were killed and those who were wounded and are struggling to recover. Violence and threats have no place in our democracy.

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I stand united today with my colleagues and our nation as we remember those killed and wounded during the shootings on Saturday in Tucson, Arizona.

To the families, loved ones and friends of those who suddenly and senselessly lost their lives, I join my colleagues in extending our most sincere condolences and hope that they find comfort during these extremely difficult days.

To those still recovering in the hospital, including our respected colleague and dedicated public servant GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, we offer our prayers for healing of the physical and emotional wounds inflicted during this unprovoked and despicable attack.

We also stand united today in expressing our deepest gratitude to all who demonstrated true courage and extraordinary heroism in that grocery store parking lot to prevent more lives from being lost and provide care for their neighbors in need.

Lives were lost and forever changed in an instant on Saturday. The anguish and sorrow will linger much longer.

That is why it is important to solemnly honor the memories of the victims of this dark day and, as the resolution we are voting on today states, reaffirm our belief in a democracy in which all can participate and in which intimidation and threats of violence cannot silence the voices of any American.

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say a few words honoring my friend and colleague, Rep. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

I first came to know GABBY when she joined the Blue Dog Coalition, a group of moderate, fiscally conservative Democrats of whom I have served as co-chairman.

I came to know—and admire—GABBY more when I travelled to her district in southern Arizona to host a town hall on agriculture with her.

As all who have met her know, GABBY is a bright, energetic young woman who is deeply committed to public service. That inner

strength will no doubt carry her through this tragedy and to a full recovery.

As painful as it may be to admit, this tragedy was not unexpected. GABBY's office had been the target of violence before.

And, as all of us who have held public events over the past few years know, the anger and vitriol has been escalating.

Sadly, it was only a matter of time before hateful speech turned to hateful action.

Passionate public debate is essential to our democracy. It is what our founders fought and died for, and it is what made the United States unique among nations at our birth.

But we must maintain respect and civility in our discussions. Elected officials have a responsibility to set an example and behave like statesmen.

The media have a responsibility to encourage debate, without feeding the flames of anger.

And the public has a responsibility to stand up and be strong voices in our democracy, without degrading the debate into petty name-calling.

As one of my colleagues said recently about a verbal attack made against him, "It's not what you meant to say that matters, or even how I understand it. What matters is how your words are interpreted by the least sane person in my district."

I look forward to the day—hopefully soon—when we will see GABBY back on this floor, fighting for her constituents in southern Arizona.

Until then, instead of pointing fingers and playing the blame game, let's take this tragedy as an opportunity to return civility to our democracy.

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in supporting this resolution. On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of residents and families I represent in Massachusetts, I respectfully offer my deepest sympathies and condolences to the families, friends and loved ones of those who were killed last Saturday in Tucson, Arizona. I want to express my support for those who were injured. Let's hope their recovery is swift.

Our focus right now must remain on honoring the lives that were lost and the lives that will never be the same as a result of this unspeakable attack. However, as we turn to each other, seek solace and mourn, we cannot lose sight of the fact that extraordinary heroism and selfless courage could be found amid the horror of that day. The worst of tragedies brought out the best of humanity, as it so often does. There were men and women of all ages, who, in some cases, were injured themselves, shielding children from harm, tending to the injured, and apprehending the gunman. All of them put their own lives at risk to help save others.

I'd also like to convey the heartache and concern of my constituents—and all Americans—for my colleague, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS. As so many have noted, GABBY is a smart and honorable member of Congress, but even more so, she is a great person—a warm, caring, thoughtful, and a hard-working public servant who strives and succeeds in making a real difference for the people and community she represents. Our hearts go out to GABBY's husband, Mark Kelly, her parents and family, and her dedicated staff in Washington and Arizona.

It is well-known now that this shooting occurred while Congresswoman GIFFORDS was

conducting a "Congress on Your Corner" event, which gives her constituents an opportunity to meet directly with her and raise issues or ask questions of concern. All of us conduct events like this in some form as often as we can because it is such a fundamental aspect of our job. As Speaker BOEHNER said last week, "this is the people's House." Moving forward, even in this time of grief and sadness, I believe it is important to keep it that way. Rather than inappropriately increasing the barriers between us and those who we represent, we must stay committed to engaging in precisely the kind of activities that Congresswoman GIFFORDS and her staff undertook last Saturday. We must continue to travel around our communities and be in contact with those we represent. We must be more accessible, not less.

Madam Speaker, as we struggle to make sense of these horrific events, one thing remains perfectly clear to all of us in public life: this type of incident cannot be condoned—and our accessibility to our constituents cannot be curtailed—if our nation is to endure as a democratic republic.

Before I close, I again wanted to join my colleagues in remembering all the victims and rededicating ourselves to the enduring American values which Congresswoman GIFFORDS and her staff embody: openness, accessibility, and a sincere commitment to serve those who we represent.

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join the entire House Armed Services family in my shock and sadness at the shooting of Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and members of her staff. The tragic events that occurred this past Saturday give us all reason to come together and reflect on the frailty of human life—my thoughts and prayers go out to GABBY, to her family, and to all the victims of this heinous crime. Violent acts of this nature have no place in our democratic society, and it is my hope that justice will be swift for those who perpetrated this attack.

I spoke with GABBY just before the holidays and am reminded of her tireless efforts to work across party lines in representing Arizona's 8th Congressional District, as well as her unwavering support for our men and women in uniform. Today we rise to honor the service of Representative GIFFORDS and offer our thoughts and prayers for her, her family, and all victims of this attack.

Mr. MARINO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my heartfelt sorrow for the tragic and senseless attack on Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, her staff and constituents. I especially want to offer my condolences to the families of Christina Taylor Green, Judge John Roll, Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard, and Gabriel Zimmerman. Their memories will live on in the hearts of all Americans.

I would also like to send my best wishes to those who were wounded during the attack, particularly our colleague Representative GIFFORDS. We hope for your speedy and complete recovery.

Also important to remember are the heroic actions of the individuals who put their lives on the line to bring down the gunman before he had the opportunity to reload his weapon. Without your quick thinking and brave intervention this tragedy could have been much worse.

Finally, it is important to recognize the emergency responders, nurses, doctors, and

all medical personnel who have worked tirelessly throughout these difficult times. Your efforts undoubtedly saved lives and your dedication cannot be praised enough.

Again, my thoughts and prayers go out to the victims and their families.

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, her staff, their families and everyone affected by the tragic events of January 8, 2011 in Tucson, Arizona.

It has been my honor to work with Congresswoman GIFFORDS here in Washington, and to call her a friend. Congresswoman GIFFORDS has earned her reputation as a pragmatic, rational and clear-minded lawmaker, and we are all better for having served with her. My wife and I have had the opportunity to spend time with her and her husband, who are truly patriotic and dedicated Americans not deserving of this fate.

The details of this horrifying event are still coming to light, but in these uncertain times it is my hope that we can come together to bring relief to the victims and justice to those responsible, not point partisan fingers or score political points. We owe it to those lost or wounded in this senseless crime to grieve for the fallen, pray for those in recovery and reflect on how we might better serve our office and the work of this great nation.

Madam Speaker, I know I speak for all my colleagues in wishing her a speedy recovery. I look forward to working with her again soon in the halls of Congress.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, Saturday was a tragic day for America. Like most Americans, my wife Vicki and I felt a profound loss because of the senseless attacks at a Congress on your Corner event held by Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

GABBY serves with me on the House Armed Services Committee, and all of us who have worked with her hold her in the highest regards as a hard-working public servant. The violent attack on a Member of Congress, her staff, and innocent constituents was not only an attack against humanity; it was also an attack on our freedom and democracy.

Throughout the history of our Nation, Americans have stood together in times of tragedy. Today we gather to honor that tradition and display our unwavering support for GABBY and the other victims and families affected by this attack. Let one man's senseless act not overshadow her service, or the lives of those who were tragically lost.

Vicki and I continue to pray for her full recovery, for her family and staff and all of those whose lives were gravely impacted and forever changed.

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, oh sister how I have cried, prayed, and listened to stories about you. I am so sorry for your pain of losses, and your pain through your recovery. But I am, at the same time, so proud of you and delighted you are alive.

For all the wrong reasons, today the world rightfully knows what a remarkable person you are. They know how fortunate our country has been to have you in public service. You still haven't stopped serving, because your injured life has given hope to millions that you will recover—and that those with like kinds of injuries may also have a chance. You are a national role model for public service—brave, kind, friendly, accessible and effective.

While praying for your life I recalled every conversation we had and each photo I have taken of you and Mark.

I remember when you were first elected in your great class of freshman. I was so proud to meet the woman that took Jim Kolbe's place. You had been a Fulbright Scholar in Mexico. We talked about your student life there and my similar age experience of being in Peace Corps in South America—how we had parallel experiences serving in the Arizona and California legislatures.

Starting with that first conversation, we both knew we were like brother and sister in a large body of Congress. Over the years I grew amazed at how hard you worked, and it made me wonder if you ever had time for yourself. Obviously meeting and marrying Mark, an admired astronaut, gave you an added value to life. This might be why you always came to work so happy. I pray that you never lose your happiness, as it always lightens up the room for others. But I do worry about how tough your district has made your campaign demands, and thus on your personal life.

Your recovery keeps me smiling, after the tears of tragedy, to watch you—once again—show me—while sitting in the Chamber—the marred of politicians on your Blackberry. GABBY you are the only member that has the full schedule of NASA launches and landings at your finger tips. This is just another example of how clever you are in application of technology to political life style.

So today our colleagues stand in the Chamber to salute you, to mourn the loss of other wonderful people, and to begin the dialogue on what we have learned from your tragic encounters.

I hope that we can learn and honor the victims, with smarter gun control and better funding for mental health treatment. And I hope we can develop a better understanding that hate talk and negative campaigning leaves the wrong impression for young people growing up in our society. A democracy based on negative talk can not survive.

I pray that you fully recover. I lost my 17-year-old sister from a horse accident, while she was visiting me in Colombia during my time with the Peace Corps. It was just months after my mother had died of cancer. My sister Nancy died because of the lack of medical care available in the rural hospital. So I am extremely relieved that the availability of good medical science and a rapid response saved your life.

We all look forward to seeing you back on the floor of the House of Representatives. You have always been the spirit of public service, and will continue to be forever more. God bless you GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I join with my colleagues today to honor the 6 who died and the 14 who were wounded, including our own colleague GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, in the horror which unfolded last Saturday morning in Tucson, Arizona.

I was at home Saturday checking my iPhone when I saw the shocking news of the shootings and that Congresswoman GIFFORDS and her staff were among the victims. What I read was hard to comprehend. She and her staff were doing their jobs, back in her district on a weekend, meeting with constituents in the finest example of representative government. And in a split second, the lives of those there were forever changed, and in a larger context, all of our lives have changed.

My heart and prayers go out to those who lost their lives and to their families. There was

9-year-old Christina Taylor Green, there to meet her representative because she wanted to become involved in government; Dorothy Morris, there with her husband of over 50 years, George, who was critically injured trying to shield his wife from the shooting; federal district Judge John Roll, who had just come from Mass, which he attended daily; Phyllis Schneck, age 79, who was spending the winter in Arizona; and Dorwan Stoddard, a 76-year-old retired construction worker, who shielded his wife Mavy, who sustained injuries in the shooting. And also slain was Gabe Zimmerman, the 30-year-old community outreach director for Congresswoman GIFFORDS, a congressional staffer like the thousands of dedicated public servants we have the privilege of working with in this House. Just there doing a job he loved serving the people.

I haven't had the privilege of getting to know GABBY as well as some have, but she and I shared an interest in keeping the space program strong. I pray for her full recovery and look forward to working with her again when she returns to this House. From what I know of her through other colleagues, GABBY GIFFORDS epitomizes what every member of this body aspires to be: a dedicated, courageous public servant with a heart of service and an optimism about America that is infectious.

Madam Speaker, we honor the memory of those whose lives were taken last Saturday and express our heartfelt condolences to their families and friends, and we pray for those who were wounded that they will recover quickly, including our colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, today we honor Congresswoman GIFFORDS. The House stands together in support of her and in condemnation of a senseless attack that severely injured her and claimed six lives.

I have served with Representative GIFFORDS on the Science Committee, and am grateful for this opportunity to speak about her character and professionalism.

Representative GIFFORDS is a warm, friendly individual who is genuinely interested in others, and who always maintains an upbeat attitude.

She works hard to improve the lives of her constituents, and is engaged and energized about issues of concern to them. She also goes out of her way to be accessible, which is exactly what she was doing when this tragedy occurred.

The reprehensible attack that took place has united us as Members of Congress and reminded us that while the act of a lone gunman cannot always be prevented, we must make sure that justice prevails and that our democratic ideals remain secure.

We hope and pray for Representative GIFFORDS' full recovery.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memories of Gabe Zimmerman, Judge John Roll, Christina-Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, Dorwan Stoddard, and Phyllis Schneck. I rise also to voice my sincere hope for the recovery of our friend and colleague, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, and the others who were injured in Saturday's terrible shooting. The loss to the Congressional community and to Tucson has already been great. We can only hope the loss will not become even greater.

Representative GIFFORDS serves a politically divided community. As long as I have known

her, she's worked honestly and tirelessly to bridge that divide. There are few greater goals in public life than bringing people together and creating unity. Whatever your politics, Representative GIFFORDS is a listener and a seeker of solutions. In politics and in life, that is a rare thing.

She spread that ethic to her staff, as Tucson knows very well. Gabe Zimmerman, her director of community outreach, had an incredible and contagious desire to help people and make their lives better. When we speak of public service, we sometimes forget the many unelected but no less dedicated men and women whose work enriches the city, district, state or country they serve. Tucson, and I hope the country, will never forget public servants like Gabe. He will be missed by more people than he could ever know.

Judge Roll was a strong, honest and effective advocate for the American justice system, and his loss will be deeply felt. Christina Green, at only 9 years old, had already made an impression on everyone around her and will be long remembered. Dorwan Stoddard, a committed and long-time church volunteer, reportedly died saving his wife's life by shielding her from gunfire. Dorothy Morris and her husband, George, were together on that tragic day as they had been for the past 55 years of their happy marriage, and her daughters and family will hold her memory very close. Phyllis Schneck was an outgoing mother and grandmother known for her generosity and devotion to her family, and our thoughts go out to her and her loved ones today.

Alongside the victims of this tragedy, I would like to take a moment to recognize the many heroes of that day—people who offered medical assistance, alerted law enforcement, prevented further violence or assisted in too many other ways to count. This resolution names Patricia Maisch, Army Col. Bill Badger, Roger Sulzgeber, Joseph Zimudio, and Daniel Hernandez, Jr. To that list we can add brave people like Steven Rayle, an MD who was at the event and offered emergency medical attention to the wounded, and many others whose names may emerge over time.

It is in the spirit of unity that we all go forward together. As difficult as this time has been for Tucson and the Nation, this can be a moment when the best is truly in each of us. This can be a time when the truest values of humanity join us all—values that let us mourn appropriately, reflect together, take time for ourselves, and bring us closer. At this moment, there is no greater goal than to heal our wounds and grow stronger.

Out of great tragedy and sorrow, there will be a new America. Pain brings people together and reminds us of the time we all share on this Earth. It also reminds us of the value of being good to one another, and how easily we forget ourselves in a heated moment. Pain, as horrible as it is, is inevitable. Our lives cannot be free of it. What matters now—what always matters—is how we respond to it.

Our most important response will not be political—it will be simply human. It will be to build bridges and remember those who have died. Public life should be about bringing people together; so should private life. We are stronger and more human when we are together. That's true of a family, a community, and a country. In a very real sense, a country—our country—is a family. Families may fight, disagree and say things they regret, but

in the end, they come together. They rejoin their hands and make peace. This is a time to make peace in America.

There are few occasions to offer a call for national unity, and in our lifetimes there will be few others. I sincerely hope the next is not another tragedy. With that hope, today I add my voice to the many who call for a stronger national family. There is nothing more important.

Mr. RUNYAN. Madam Speaker, along with the rest of the American people, I was shocked and saddened by news of the January 8, 2011 attack on Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, her Congressional staff, Judge John Roll, and her constituents at a public event in Tucson, Arizona.

Congresswoman GIFFORDS is a dedicated public servant who was engaging in the most important role we have as Members of Congress: interacting with and listening to our constituents. January 8, 2011 was indeed a sad day for our Nation and this sick and senseless act of violence in Arizona has no place in our society.

My thoughts and prayers are with Congresswoman GIFFORDS and the other victims of this unfathomable attack. May their families and friends find comfort and strength in knowing the American people are with them in spirit during this difficult time.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I extend sympathies and well wishes to my colleague, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS of the 8th Congressional District of the State of Arizona. I wish a speedy recovery for this remarkable woman who has dedicated her life and career in service to her constituents.

I would also like to extend my deepest condolences to the families of the victims who were fatally wounded: nine-year-old Christina Taylor Green, Congressional Staffer Gabe Zimmerman, Federal Judge John Roll, and Arizona citizens Dorwin Stoddard, Phyllis Schneck, as well as Dorothy Morris. To the people of Tucson, Arizona affected by this random, senseless act of violence, my thoughts and prayers remain with you.

As they work through the ineffable tragedy which befell this community on Saturday, January 8, 2011, I must commend the tireless efforts of Pima County's first responders, as well as the efforts of bystanders in their role to restore and maintain order during this tragedy. With their efforts, lives were saved.

America is mourning both for the victims of this tragedy and for the assault against our constitutional right to peaceably assemble. That our citizens can fall under attack while upholding our Democratic values is deplorable. We must never allow an act of violence to thwart this right.

I ask my colleagues to join me in support of the Resolution before this chamber today which condemns this indiscriminate act of violence and honors Representative GIFFORDS as she fights to recover.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my condolences regarding the terrible events that took place on Saturday, January 8, 2011, in Tucson, Arizona. The attempted assassination of Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and the killing of six people, including a 9-year-old child, a federal judge, and a congressional aide, is an unspeakable tragedy.

Congresswoman GIFFORDS is not only an esteemed colleague of mine, she is my friend.

It has been an honor to serve alongside of her on the Armed Services Committee, and I have witnessed first-hand her dedication. GABRIELLE's passion for her job is evident to all those who know her, and it is no surprise to me that GABRIELLE was doing what she loves most on that horrible Saturday. I look forward to her full and speedy recovery, and I anxiously await her return to Congress.

While I am hopeful about GABRIELLE's recovery, I am heartbroken over the deaths of the six innocent people caught at the wrong place, at the wrong time. Christina Taylor Green, who was only 9 years old, was recently elected to her school's student council and hoped to speak with a government official that tragic day. Pennsylvania native and Federal judge, John Roll, was hoping to meet with his Congresswoman to discuss overcrowding of prisons. Gabriel Zimmerman was struck while carrying out his duties as the Congresswoman's Director of Community Outreach. Dorothy Morris, Dorwan Stoddard, and Phyllis Schneck were going about their regular Saturday activities and hoped they would get a chance to speak with their member of Congress.

Madam Speaker, I hope that all those touched by these tragic events find peace and comfort. Saturday, January 8, 2011 should be a reminder to all Americans that there is no place for violence in a free political process. I continue to pray for those that were lost and for the recovery of those who were wounded, and I hope we as a country can move forward and learn from this tragedy.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of House Resolution 32, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona, on January 8, 2011. Last Saturday's senseless and vile act of violence wounded Congresswoman GIFFORDS at an event with her constituents. Six Americans were tragically killed and 14 others, including relatives of the slain, are recovering.

First, above all else, I want to express how deeply saddened I am by this weekend's events. Congresswoman GIFFORDS is a dedicated public servant, a cherished colleague, and a friend. I join with all Americans in wishing GABBY and the other wounded a speedy recovery. I also mourn the loss of those who passed. Gabriel Zimmerman was Congresswoman GIFFORDS' community outreach director. Dorwin Stoddard, a retiree, was waiting in line with his wife to speak to the Congresswoman and protected his wife from the gunman's bullets. The youngest victim was 9-year-old Christina Green who had just been elected to her elementary school's student council. Dorothy Murray was a retired homemaker and her husband was among the injured. Phyllis Schneck, also a retiree and a New Jersey native, spent winters in Arizona. Chief Judge John Roll was a respected jurist who served on the federal bench since 1991 and became Chief Judge in 2006.

Last Saturday, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS was doing the people's business, meeting constituents in front of a local grocery store and explaining how government can improve their lives. She was doing her job: connecting her constituents to their government.

The tragic event should cause us all to stop and consider what more we can do to change the tone of our national politics. In recent years, it seems that politicians and other

public figures have increasingly utilized political rhetoric that includes violent imagery to make a point. We can do better. We must do better.

As someone who knew the late Dr. Martin Luther King, I have drawn inspiration during this crisis from one of his statements. Dr. King believed that "nonviolence means avoiding not only external physical violence but also internal violence of spirit. You not only refuse to shoot a man, but you refuse to hate him." As we approach the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday, I hope we can reflect on these words and his teachings and make our world a more just and peaceful place.

Mr. LUJAN. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to mourn the victims of Saturday's tragic shooting that took the lives of six people, injured numerous others, and left our friend and colleague, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, fighting for her life. In an instant, the Tucson community, and indeed the entire country, was shocked by the senseless violence and saddened by the loss.

For four years, GABBY GIFFORDS has been a well-respected member of this body, serving her constituents with determination and distinction. To those who know her, it comes as no surprise that she is fighting with such tenacity to recover from this severe injury. I wish her all the best on a full and speedy recovery and look forward to the day when we will welcome her back to this chamber.

I know I join with my constituents in New Mexico in honoring those who lost their lives in this heinous attack, those who wanted nothing more than to be part of our democratic process and speak with their elected representative or dedicate themselves to public service. Their memory will not be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers are with all of those involved in this tragedy as well as their families and friends during this difficult time.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today I rise with a heavy heart at this moment of great sadness in our nation's history. The violence we witnessed last weekend in Arizona still seems so unreal, so shocking, so unbelievable. Only a few days ago, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS stood in the well of the House reading the First Amendment, and today she is fighting to regain her ability to speak.

I keep hoping that in the midst of this great tragedy, we will say enough is enough. I keep hoping we will finally find it necessary to teach the way to love, the way of peace and non-violence, not only to our children, but that we will embrace it among ourselves as adults and as national leaders. We pray a special prayer today for all of the people of Arizona, but especially GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and her husband Mark Kelly.

Representative GIFFORDS is one of the most hopeful, optimistic people you would ever want to meet. She is wonderful. She is smart, and she is beautiful. I hope that one day soon she will rejoin us in this chamber. My thoughts and prayers are with the victims and the families of all those who were hurt, those who are still struggling to be made whole, and with the families of all those who were slain. May God bless them all in these difficult hours.

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to support House Resolution 32, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona, on January 8,

2011. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their loved ones, including my friend and colleague GABBY GIFFORDS, the Giffords staff, and all who are mourning this tragedy in Arizona and across the Nation.

The events of this weekend are difficult to comprehend. GABBY is a champion for her constituents and it was because of her devotion to them that she was outside a local grocery store the Saturday morning when she nearly lost her life. As the tragedy unfolded, she was surrounded by a group of dutiful staff and constituents, including an intern who may have saved her life, and many who so unbelievably lost their own lives or were injured.

I have gotten to know GABBY through our shared efforts to advance renewable energy policies, including our working together on the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition. She's bright and engaging, and is always bringing in fresh ideas to achieve solutions to our Nation's energy problems. My heart is with her and her husband at this moment as she fights for her recovery. If there is anyone who can pull through, I believe it will be GABBY.

It is in times like these that I believe our Nation can rise above our past and shine brighter than we have before. While it will take time to learn exactly why this has happened, I hope that as we heal, our Nation will find a way to be more compassionate, understanding and peaceful.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise with all of my colleagues here to honor the victims of the tragedy in Tucson and to speak of our great colleague GABBY GIFFORDS.

We are all encouraged by the signs of recovery that GABBY is showing every day she has been in the hospital. Our prayers are with her, her husband Commander Mark Kelly and her entire family.

As Co-Chair of the Traumatic Brain Injury Taskforce I know GABBY faces a long road. We now she is receiving the best care in the world—but even more importantly we all know that she's a fighter and that's exactly what she's doing now.

On Monday in honor of the victims in Tucson I called for a Week of Solidarity in the 8th District of New Jersey.

I love that word "solidarity" and all it represents. I wanted all our faith leaders to hold services and events this week—in order for our collective community to reflect on this national tragedy and pray for the victims and their families and for all of America.

As tragically occurred in Tucson, too many of our communities have been afflicted by gun violence—as a nation now is the time to heal with our words and find unity where there may be strife.

I find it especially appropriate that the end of this week will culminate with the observance of Martin Luther King Day—a man who gave our entire Nation the chance to find solidarity with each other—it is a bond that serves us well in the wake of this tragedy.

The victims in Tucson truly embody the greatest spirit of our Nation, you had individuals from every different background, both young and old, coming together as citizens to take part in one of the most essential rites of our representative democracy—it is indeed government of the people, by the people, for the people.

I hope we will all look towards GABBY's example and use it to guide us towards a better public discourse with each other—I think we

can all agree that too often these days our political rhetoric has gotten overheated and vitriolic. Lower our voices and raise our commitment to peaceful resolve.

I want to make this very clear, this is not about being on the left or the right—the shooting in Tucson was an attack on all Americans from a perpetrator who tried to strike at the very heart of our great democracy.

Being from Paterson, NJ and it being the day after Alexander Hamilton's birthday, I am reminded of one of the greatest political debates in the history of our Nation between Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson.

The nature of the debate between Hamilton and Jefferson was as monumental in their day as it is in ours—their arguments went to the very core of our Nation in its infancy and the issues they debated remain contested to this day—yet despite the gravity of their discussion not once did they cross the line from fierce disagreement to considering violent solutions.

I hope we will use this occasion to pause and recognize that in our great Nation we each have a responsibility to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our fellow citizens in times both good and bad.

Names of the Victims: Chief Judge John Roll, 63; Christina Taylor Green, 9; Dorothy Morris, 76; Phyllis Scheck, 79; Dorwan Stoddard, 76; and Gabriel "Gabe" Zimmerman, 30, (GIFFORDS's staff as a Community Outreach Director).

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, it is with heartfelt sadness that today I remember those who lost their lives in this bravery in trying to stop the gunman. I remember those who were wounded and even now are fighting to recover from their wounds. I remember all of the family members who are struggling with great losses. Finally, I remember with hope for her speedy recovery, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

This is a sad time for our Nation, a time when we reflect on how all too often violence strikes and randomly takes some of our best and brightest. All of the lives that were lost were special to those who loved them—to their spouses and their children and their grandchildren. Judge John Roll was a public official serving our country with distinction and dedication. Christina Taylor Green was a young child with an interest in learning more about how government works. I hope that in the future our children will be able to meet with their representatives without endangering their lives.

As a Member of Congress who has worked with Representative GIFFORDS, I am especially touched by this senseless tragedy. Representative GIFFORDS is a very friendly, hard working colleague. She is someone who is easy to get along with and always willing to chat and lend a helping hand. She was doing what is expected of all of us who represent our constituents—we meet with our constituents and we listen to their concerns and we try to help them. That is what we were elected to do—and so it is especially hard to see that one of our own was injured while doing—what we all do—our job.

Please let me conclude by saying that my thoughts and prayers are with all of those who died or were injured and with the families who loved them. My prayers are with Representative GIFFORDS as she recovers and my hope is that soon she will be back with us here in the House of Representatives where she belongs.

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to ask all Americans to join me in my prayers for Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS' speedy and full recovery. I extend my thoughts to her husband, Captain Mark Kelly, their family, and those of all the staff and constituents who were innocent victims of this traumatic event.

At a time like this we should also remember that all of our staffs could be in harm's way, just by working with us. Staff is a vital part of our lives, and without them we would not be able to function. While everyone is concerned about Members' safety, I think we should also be concerned for our staff.

Such act of violence on GABBY, her staff and constituents is a threat to the virtue of open government and has no place in our democracy. Concern for safety should not stand between public officials and the people. My constituents in Upper Manhattan have a special understanding of this tragedy because of the amount of gun violence we have in the district.

GABBY is one of the most charming and brilliant stars I have seen in Congress. She is a true dedicated public servant who works tirelessly for the people of her district and our great country. I have great love and affection for GABBY and I look forward to seeing my dear colleague and friend back in Washington very soon.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 32 and to offer my thoughts and prayers for my friend and colleague GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, as well as the 18 other victims of Saturday's unthinkable tragedy in Tucson.

I hope and pray for the wellbeing of all those battling for their lives and offer my deepest condolences to those who did not survive—Christina Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, Judge John M. Roll, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwin Stoddard, and Gabe Zimmerman. My heart goes out to the families and loved ones of all involved.

Congress on Your Corner is democracy in action. Ms. GIFFORDS, her staff, and everyone attending Saturday's event were doing what this country is built on: participating in a conversation between an elected official and the people she represents. As sadness gives way to reflection, I hope we will remain committed to that ideal.

Just 2 years ago, I was a new member of this body. GABBY GIFFORDS greeted me with warmth, kindness, and friendship. With all my heart, I hope to one day return the favor.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in support of this resolution and to offer heartfelt sympathies on behalf of myself, my family, staff and the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands to the people of the Eighth District of Arizona, our colleague GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, her staff, their families and all others who were hurt or killed in the tragic and senseless attack in Tucson, Arizona.

Everywhere that I went at home, my constituents responded with outrage, but also prayerfully to this horrendous event. Our churches devoted Sunday services in memory of those who died, offered prayers for speedy and full recovery for those injured, for the affected families, for the residents of the district and for our nation as well as in grateful tribute to all who responded and continue to respond.

We joined our fellow Americans in the moment of silence on Monday.

I, like all of my colleagues, and all public figures understand and accept the risks of being in public office and we and those charged with the responsibility of protecting us act to mitigate these risks. However we are here to represent the residents of our districts and are committed to doing what is needed to do so to the best of our ability. That means that we must meet, listen and interact with our constituents as much as possible. This incident will not prevent us from doing so,

But just as we continue to carry out our duties, it is the responsibility of everyone, but particularly those who have a public platform, to be responsible in what they communicate to the public and how.

There are many who warned that the increasingly inflammatory rhetoric of the past year, especially as the campaigns got underway, could lead to some kind of violent action.

That being said I do not intend to point fingers or cast blame, but ask only that each and every one of us here and across this country honestly and fully examine our hearts, our consciences and our past words and actions and ensure that going forward all that we do and say reflect respect and unity instead of discord, divisiveness and violence.

As someone who has abhorred violence and worked for peace all of my life, I have had the great privilege and honor of joining my distinguished colleague JOHN LEWIS and the Faith and Politics Institute almost every year that they have held it on the civil rights pilgrimage to pay tribute to all who work for justice and equality but also to renew my dedication to non-violence and my commitment to furthering the beloved community envisioned by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

It is a spiritual, renewing and life enriching—for some, life changing experience—and I would urge as many as can to attend this year.

Our colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, as many have already said and everyone now knows is a special person. Many of us supported her during what was an extremely difficult and unnecessarily bitter campaign. She may not have always voted as I would have wanted her to, but she is without a doubt fearless and faithful in the representation of her district and all of us respect her highly and love her dearly. We thank God that she is progressing well and we pray for her full and speedy recovery. This body is incomplete without her presence.

As we approach the hard fought for Martin Luther King holiday, let us all rededicate ourselves to the principles he espoused, commit ourselves to continuing his legacy and to being drum majors for justice and peace!

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 32, honoring our colleague, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, and those killed and injured in a senseless shooting during a Congress on Your Corner event in Tucson, Arizona. Our colleague GABBY was doing her job to serve the constituents of the 8th Congressional District of Arizona, those who were killed and wounded were there to participate in the democratic process we hold dear. As the nation mourns with the victims' families, we learn about these innocent Americans whose lives were cut short by this unspeakable crime against our democracy and our humanity.

Dorothy Morris, age 76, known to her friends as "Dot," was a retired homemaker and secretary who lived with her husband of

50 years, George, at a retirement community just north of Tucson. When the shots rang out, George, a former Marine and retired airline pilot, threw himself on his wife in an attempt to shield her from the bullets. George survived after suffering two gunshot wounds; Dorothy did not.

Judge John Roll, age 63, was the chief judge of Arizona's Federal district court. Appointed to the Federal bench in 1991 by President George H.W. Bush, Judge Roll was a widely respected jurist by his colleagues. Known for this deep Catholic faith, it is reported that Judge Roll was simply stopping by the event to say hello to his friend, GABBY, after morning mass. Judge Roll is survived by his wife, Maureen, their three sons, and five grandchildren.

Phyllis Schneck, age 79, a widow and retired homemaker, was a native of Rutherford, New Jersey, where she would return during the hot Tucson summers. Phyllis is known by her three children, seven grandchildren, and great-granddaughter as a talented cook, and she spent much of her retirement volunteering at her church. According to her daughter, Phyllis was a registered Republican who was not involved in politics, but Representative GIFFORDS was "the first person she really took a liking to."

Dorwin Stoddard, age 76, was a Tucson native and leader in his church. Dorwin attended the event with his wife Mavy, a high school classmate who he reunited with and married after both their former spouses passed away. After seeing Mavy shot and wounded, Dorwin threw himself on her and shielded her from the spray of bullets. As Dorwin's stepdaughter noted, "What a way to go, as the hero, he lived that kind of a life."

Gabe Zimmerman, age 30, was the Director of Community Outreach for Representative GIFFORDS. Oftentimes the face of Representative GIFFORDS's office to her constituents, as one of his colleagues said, "Gabe helped people for a living." Gabe was engaged to be married with a wedding date set for 2012.

The youngest victim, Madam Speaker, was Christina Taylor Green, age 9, a third grade student at Mesa Verde Elementary School. Christina had recently been elected to the student council and was inspired into politics by President Obama's 2008 campaign. A neighbor brought Christina to the event to meet her Congresswoman. Born on the fateful day of September 11, 2001, Christina was taken from her parents and this nation on January 8, 2011.

Madam Speaker, today, with the passage of House Resolution 32, the People's House mourns with family and with the nation for these innocent lives cut short. During these trying times for our nation, I am reminded of what Senator Robert F. Kennedy once said in his remarks to the Cleveland City Club just months before he was assassinated.

"A sniper is only a coward, not a hero; and an uncontrolled, uncontrollable mob is only the voice of madness, not the voice of the people.

"Whenever any American's life is taken by another American unnecessarily—whether it is done in the name of the law or in the defiance of law, by one man or a gang, in cold blood or in passion, in an attack of violence or in response to violence—whenever we tear at the fabric of life which another man has painfully and clumsily woven for himself and his children, the whole nation is degraded."

Now is a time for reflection. My prayers and condolences are with the fallen victims' families and with those, including GABBY, who are making their way along the long road to recovery from the injuries they suffered. May our nation honor the loss of innocent lives with greater peace and understanding.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, West Virginians' hearts are heavy for our fellow citizens lost last weekend in Tucson, Arizona. To those recovering, our dear colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, our thoughts and fervent prayers are offered.

Our country's resolve is strengthened each time it is tested. Citizen participation is the democratic bedrock of our more perfect Union.

Representative GIFFORDS understands the value of constant constituent conversation, and her example shines as a beacon for public office holders throughout our Republic to follow.

May GABBY's dedication to others serve her recovery, as the blessings we celebrate in the Book of Ruth, "a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age."

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, today I join with my colleagues in condemning the savage attack in Tucson last Saturday that shattered the lives of so many innocent victims, and their families and friends, and broke the heart of a nation. Since the news of this awful tragedy, I have prayed through tears for comfort, and for peace in the midst of the storm, for the families of the six people whose lives were senselessly ended by a gunman who had no concern for human life. I have also been praying for healing for those who were injured; among them a respected colleague and friend, GABBY GIFFORDS.

GABBY and I came to Congress together in 2006. Over the years we have often voted differently. From time to time, we found ourselves at opposite ends of the table during media interviews, offering contrasting viewpoints. But the moment we stepped away from the set, we greeted each other as we often did on the House floor, as friends, with a hug, a warm smile, and a few precious moments of conversation. I cherished those times with GABBY, and I look forward to renewing them as she recovers and returns to the good, faithful, and hard-working service that she has given to the people of Arizona's 8th District.

I am rejoicing to hear the doctor's prognosis of recovery for GABBY, but my heart is broken for the families of the six victims who lost loved ones in that unconscionable act last Saturday. They were American citizens who were brutally gunned down even as they were taking advantage of the time-honored American tradition of meeting face-to-face with an elected representative for a free and open discourse about issues of concern. One of the small ways we can honor their memory is to carry on with that discourse, opening our doors to the American people, listening to their concerns, and exercising the free exchange of ideas that has marked our nation throughout its history.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, last Saturday in Tucson, Arizona our colleague, Rep. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, was shot by a disturbed gunman while she was meeting her constituents. This shooting resulted in the death of six Americans who were participating in the most common of events in this democracy, a meeting with their congresswoman. Fourteen additional Americans were wounded in the attack,



including the critical wound suffered by Congresswoman GIFFORDS.

On January 10, 2011, dozens of concerned and compassionate Minnesotans visited my St. Paul District Office to express their support for Congresswoman GIFFORDS, the victims, and the people of Tucson. They also expressed their heartfelt condolences to those who were killed.

With the consent of the concerned citizens who I have the honor to represent, I submit the eloquent words of Minnesotans who send their prayers and support for Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and all of those whose lives have been hurt by this senseless act of violence. I join them not only in praying for healing and peace, but I will continue to dedicate myself to working to make a more peaceful and less hostile America.

The following comments were made by Minnesotans who visited my St. Paul district office on Monday, January 10, 2011. These messages of support and sympathy were transcribed directly from their individual handwritten notes.

"My prayers and thoughts are with the Congresswoman and her staff. This act of horrific violence was a response to the everyday work that public officials do on a daily basis to serve their constituents. Congresswoman Giffords and her staff's work exemplifies this. I hope that the Congresswoman can continue to do this important work." Henry Parker, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"It is here my daughters, that love is to be found, not hidden away in the corners but in the midst of occasions of sin. And believe me, although we may more often fail and commit small lapses, our gain will be incomparably the greater."—Saint Teresa of Avila" Loren Cramer, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"I'm so sorry to hear of this violent attack in Tucson. I hope for and pray for Giffords and others." Mary Doran, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Keep up your work. We need you now more than ever." Jason Garrett, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"God bless America. Thoughts and prayers to the victims and their families." Nicole Ly, Oakdale, Minnesota.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with you, your staff, and your family during this difficult time. You have the nation behind you with an outpouring of love and well wishes." Shelly Schafer, Woodbury, Minnesota.

"Although Congresswoman Giffords may have been the target, all citizens who engage their elected officials have become unsettled by this act. Civil war < Be civil." Mary Jane LaVigne, Birchwood Village, Minnesota.

"I am so sad to hear about the shooting. I pray for your recovery. I want you to be strong and continue to be the fighter that you are so you can continue to walk and serve the people of America. Thank you for your service. Your district is giving up a lot for America and my thoughts are with you." Kao Ly Ilean Her, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"My heart goes out to the Giffords family. I was born and raised in Tucson, and now serve in the Minnesota House. To think our public servants are under attack is so sad. We pray for you Gabby. We pray for the victims." Nora Slawik, Maplewood, Minnesota.

"Our thoughts and our prayers are with all the victims of the Arizona shooting!" Susan Zumberge, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to you, the other victims, their loved ones, and the

people of your congressional district. We hope that if any good will come of this horrific event, it will be that people will once again realize that our fellow citizens, regardless of political views, are human and deserve to be treated with respect and civility. Our words can have consequence so far beyond our intent." Steve Schaus & Angela Braun, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"My heart is terribly heavy with this horrific event. For any public servant to be struck down while serving the people is an appalling affront to every citizen. For innocent and random people to be struck down in this way is an affront to all humanity. Let us all pray for the families of the victims, and work for peace among all people." Ross Willits, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Gabby, you are in my thoughts and prayers as you recover. I am deeply saddened that someone like yourself who has willingly given of themselves has become a victim of such a senseless act. We pray that the rhetoric that inflames will be replaced by words of cooperation and collaboration in our houses of Congress. Blessings to you and your family." Jeanne Sedgwick, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"There are no words at my command to express my sorrow at what happened and my warm best wishes to all you so affected by truly cruel and senseless violence." Elmer Pierre, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Rep. Giffords: Please accept my deepest condolences. I also wish you immense strength and courage." Heather Meyers, Eagan, Minnesota.

"As someone who has been involved in politics for years and met many members of Congress, I was horrified as I watched the events of this past weekend unfold. I was deeply saddened by this attack and I want to show my support for the victims and their families. I hope and pray for a speedy recovery and I believe that Congresswoman Giffords' service and devotion to her country is truly heroic. You are in the hearts and minds of all Americans. God bless." John Moore, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"I offer prayers for Representative Giffords, her family, and all others affected by this senseless, terrible tragedy. The wounded and killed, especially Christina Green and her family. May you be comforted and strengthened by the prayers of our nation." Florence Steichen, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"We need better gun control measures and an increase in civil discourse—sending prayers to the families who lost loved ones in this senseless act of violence and also to the family of Congresswoman Giffords for her speedy and full recovery." Lyn Burton, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Congresswoman Giffords: Thank you for your service. Thank you for your support of health care reform. Prayers for you and your family for strength in adversity." Mary J. Pohl, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"The rhetoric of violence, scapegoating and demonization must end! My sympathy to Rep. Giffords, her family, her staff and all victims of violence in Tucson." Richard Lee Dechert, Maplewood, Minnesota.

"My prayers, thoughts, and heartfelt sympathy go out to Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords's family, friends, and supporters. My daily prayers will include the wishes for the long term recovery of Congresswoman Giffords. I express my heartfelt thoughts and prayers for the Federal Judge, the young girl

and all others who died or were harmed by this uncaring perpetrator." Fred Gates, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Please know that you are loved and supported in vastly greater measure than the distortion and hatred that made this unspeakable tragedy possible." Lori Stee, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"My thoughts are with Rep. Giffords' family as they support Gabrielle's recovery and with the others affected by this violent act. We are incredibly lucky to live in a country where political violence is extremely rare. The rhetoric that creates a context for violence must cease. Hate is not a response for disagreement." Anne Claflin, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"I extend my deepest condolences to Congresswoman Giffords and all the victims of this senseless tragedy. There are consequences to the violent rhetoric that plagues the political landscape today—it's the innocent and the brave that suffer." Dr. Mary de Leon-Denton, Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.

"My prayers are with you and especially I pray that somehow, someday, some good will come of this horrible tragedy." Michael Michauk, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Congresswoman Giffords, I give you my deepest and heartfelt support to the service and honor you give to our country. The needless violence and anger that has been shown in our country over politics has to stop. It is sad that something like this had to happen in order for the dialogue to begin to change how we promote change with deepest prayers and sympathy to all harmed." Aaron Crawford, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"In this time of great sorrow and shock, my great hope is that all this will serve to wake up those in our nation who don't believe that gun violence is a huge problem that needs to be addressed—yet again. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you—and with our country!" Julie B. Goldstein, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"To Congresswoman Giffords, her family and those injured and killed: This morning I received a note from two constituents—St Paulites in the summer and Arizona snowbirds in the winter. Gene and Ginny shared their affection for 'our dear Gabby'. The road ahead is difficult for all of us. I wish you strength in your recovery and wisdom for all Americans as we reconcile the meaning of this tragedy with our own actions as citizens. To be truly free from violence and persecution, we must persist in our efforts to maintain an open society where we can disagree peacefully and move forward together. My best to you and your families." Minnesota State Rep. Erin Murphy, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"To Congresswoman Giffords, victims, and their family and friends: My heart goes to all of you, and I continue to pray for all of you. Public service is noble work, and it is difficult. Thank you for all you do, and know the goodwill of the people of our state and country is with you at this very difficult time. Together, we will heal and find grace in our democracy." Minnesota State Rep. Kate Knuth, New Brighton, Minnesota.

"My heart bleeds for all of you. Courage." Ted King, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

"May you experience a speedy recovery. Thoughts and prayers for you and your family." Peter Austin, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

"May you heal and feel better in time. You are in our prayers. May God be with you. You are in our thoughts as you recover from this

tragic event.” Paehin Young, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

“Thank you for all your service to the country. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your staff. We need more people like you.” Sam Dougherty, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“Our prayers go out to those affected by this attack” Kevin Weingart, Coon Rapids, Minnesota.

“My thoughts are with you and your community in this time where senseless violence has changed how everyone feels. Public servants and those who engage in our government and the political process should not fear for their safety. I hope that everyone affected by this tragedy can come together in solidarity. Thank you for your service and bravery.” Meagan Bachmayer, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

“May the sun rise in your hearts and souls. Our deepest condolences, warm wishes and never-ending prayers are with you.” Jill Curran, Larry Wichlans and Family, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“I feel so saddened by the events in Tucson, AZ. My sincerest sympathies go out to all the victims. God bless, Gundy.” Gundy Gunderson, Oakdale, Minnesota.

“A truly tragic moment in our nation’s history. My prayers and support are with the victims and our nation’s leadership as we struggle with the complex issues that led to this violent event.” Cheryl Westman, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“Thank you for doing this, our prayers are with the Giffords family. This is not what our country is about. It is time to come together.” Jody Prip, New Prague, Minnesota.

“Blessings of hope and prayers for each one of the innocents killed and injured in this tragedy. This feels the same as the tragedies of Bobby Kennedy, MLK and 9/11. God help us all—if we calm down—we will get through this.” Robert F. Riesert, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“Following the violence, it has been a painful and angry weekend—much of it emailing my own vitriolic reaction to personal friends. Expressing fear for our country and the safety of our representatives was a helpful and immediate necessity. The shock remains although many of us, as was Gabby herself, feared the new language and images presented often now in a repetitive fashion filling the airwave and filling especially vulnerable minds with pictures of weapons as political tools. We shared emails then too, as we heard and watched the rhetoric become louder and scarier. Helpless to counteract these emotional appeals, we signed petitions condemning them. We still wait helplessly for the apology that will not come. We pray for cool down and safety.” Janyce Kovash, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“‘Violence is a cycle,’ said Dr. King. When met with senseless actions against public servants and the public at large, we must strive to do justice to the sacrifice and heroism of so many—by reaching out to those who serve and thanking them by tamping down the rhetoric and respecting those of all political persuasions. And also by answering the call to justice and caring for our friends and neighbors. We will never have a satisfactory answer to the question ‘why?’ but we can use the moment to consider for fully ‘how?’—How do we ensure that this never happens again? My thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who lost their lives, especially Gabe Zimmerman, who gave his life in service to the

people of Arizona. It could have been any of us. I also wish Rep. Giffords a speedy recovery and hope to see her return to the House and serve her constituents.” Devin Driscoll, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“Please accept my deep sympathies for your current situation. We as, U.S. citizens, are a very special society. Those that attempt to steal our lives, and the lives of our friends, will find that we are strong in the face of adversity. The actions against the U.S. citizens in Tucson, including Rep. Giffords, are a tragedy that I hope is never repeated. Trusting in God’s healing and your full recovery.” Jim McKie, West St. Paul, Minnesota.

“Thank you for all of your work and service. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family and we hope you have a speedy recovery.” Warren Claflin, South St. Paul, Minnesota.

“This weekend’s events were a sad reminder of the consequences that can arise when political rhetoric becomes hateful or violent. Angry, upset and unbalanced people respond in unpredictable ways. Thank you, Rep. Giffords, for your service to your district and your country. Thank you to the staff that helps you in this work. No American should ever fear violence as a consequence of participation in our democracy.” Paul Rohlfing, lives in Minneapolis, works in St. Paul.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family from the St. Paul Federation of Teachers in St. Paul, Minnesota.” Julie Hawkins, Inver Grove, Minnesota.

“I feel anguish at this terrible violence (senseless) and the resulting loss of life and hurt. Gun violence is too prevalent in our society and too many unstable people have too easy access to guns. I do lay some blame on radio shows with hosts that stoke the flames of people’s anger and sit back and say they have no responsibility. Please continue to get stronger and the keep the faith.” Julia Fish, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“In these challenging times, know that the thoughts, prayers, and best wishes of all Americans are with you and your family. We mourn the loss of life, and share your vision of a healthier and stronger country. One of my close friends works in Congresswoman McCollum’s office in St. Paul. I know how hard our public servants work, and you must be so proud of the bravery of your young staff intern, Daniel. I am sorry beyond words that this happened. Peace to you, and all who were impacted by this tragedy.” Adam Robinson, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the families involved in this terrible tragedy. Hopefully this will become a time of healing, and a time when the vitriol between opposite sides ceases. We pray that Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and all the wounded recover. Our condolences go to those who lost their lives in Tucson. We pray for the safety of all public officials, and the continuing health of our nation.” Tom and Susan Pugh, South St. Paul, Minnesota.

“Our thoughts are with you as you recover from this brutal and senseless attack. I am confident you will continue to serve the people of Arizona and the United States. To the families who are struggling with this unimaginable loss, the thoughts and prayers of the nation are with you.” Samantha Gemberling, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“I wish Congresswoman Giffords, and all others who were wounded, a steady and com-

plete recovery. I also wish to extend my sympathy to you who lost family members. All of you are in my thoughts and prayers.” Cheryl Kenney, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“My prayers are with Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and all who have been injured or killed in this vicious act of violence against persons serving US citizens as part of this great democracy—also with all who love them. To be engaged in dialogue on the issues—to engage civilly in our civic process needs to be returned to our democracy from citizens to the media to the halls of Congress. Committed to civil civic engagement and to prayers for our prayers for our nation as we move forward from this tragedy, I remain,” “Ginger” K. Virginia Hidsfrom, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“My family and I were stunned to hear of this senseless violence. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Our heartfelt condolences go to the families of those killed, and we pray for ongoing strength for those wounded and their families.” Kathleen Proctor, Lauderdale, Minnesota.

“To all in Tucson, AZ affected by this senseless tragedy: You have support from us in Minnesota by way of encouragement during your time of pain and grief. We will advocate for a return to civil discourse in the US rather than vitriolic campaign language that goes on. May your pain and anguish turn into positive communication among people in every community of our country.” Joanne Tromiczak-Neid, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“My heartfelt wishes and prayers to Congresswoman Giffords, her staff, and constituents she proudly represents. My heart, mind, and soul grieve for those who have died and have been injured by this senseless act of violence. May we, as citizens of the United States, and as members of our global world, continue to foster peaceful solutions to violence that surrounds us.” Mary Tacheny, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“My prayers go out to you, you who were injured or killed, your families, your friends, your loved ones. My prayers go out to you, you who witnessed the violence, you whose lives won’t be the same. I pray for the person who did this. Only God understands. I pray for our country to find peace. God bless you all. May somehow, some good come of this.” Laura K. Kochevar, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“I thank all public servants and especially their staff for their dedication to the people they serve. As a former staffer, my heart goes out to all the families directly affected by this tragedy. Also I send the thoughts and prayers to every Member of Congress and their staff to get through this and pray that our country will learn from this and stop the incendiary rhetoric. Thank you.” Kathleen Murphy, St. Paul, Minnesota.

“We are all saddened by this tragedy. As Speaker Boehner said, ‘An attack on one who serves is an attack on all who serve.’ We all stand with you and your staff in solidarity as we grieve this incident and work to make sense of this senseless event. We thank you for your sacrifices in service to the people of Arizona’s 8th District. May you all have a speedy recovery and also never forget those who were lost, and use the memories we have as a guide and inspiration for the future. God-speed, Gabe Zimmerman, Christina Green, Judge John Roll, Dorothy Morris, Dorwan Stoddard, and Phyllis Schneck.” Melissa Jamrock, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Change-makers walk a difficult and scary path. But one that gives us hope and energy. Thank you for walking, for walking yours with courage and pluck. My heart aches for the violence, pain, and fear that has been done to all of you and us. I send you my heartfelt wishes for healing, safety, and peace." Sheri Smith, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Love will conquer all. Remember you have the support of the people. Be well." Chuck Repile, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"My deepest sympathies for Congresswoman Giffords, her staff, and their families during this difficult time. I wish the Congresswoman and all those injured a speedy recovery." Cameron Erickson, Eagan, Minnesota.

"To all parties involved: This is a tragedy in every sense. Not only for Rep. Giffords, Chief Justice Roll, and the other civilians involved. Now, more than ever, it has become apparent we are a broken, divided nation in need of repair and healing. We must disconnect from hateful political rhetoric and campaigns and come together in this time of tragedy. God bless the Giffords." Louise Dickson, North Oaks, Minnesota.

"To all AZ residents: This is truly a tragic time, not only for the families of those directly affected by this horrible incident, but all residents of the 8th district and the state. They have lost their representation and voice in DC and in government—the foundation of our country. That a mentally ill young man did not get the help needed, was allowed to legally purchase a weapon, and used it against innocent citizens—is wrong. That our political discourse has gotten so angry that it fed this young man's delusions is wrong. We must always remember there are other Loughners out there. May all those wounded hail those who died and may we all learn from this." Laura Neritt, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Thank you and thanks to all our U.S. representatives for your dedicated service. Our freedom sits with all of us as you represent we all the people. I pray for your good health and protection." Carol Gariann, Shoreview, Minnesota.

"My condolences to the shooting victims, their friends, and families. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you, and all who feel the pain of this tragedy." Mark Jenkins, Maplewood, Minnesota.

"My condolences go out to the families of the victims of this horrible tragedy. My heart goes out to you all." Kenneth Sinn, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Rep. Giffords—you are right. We will be mellowing the rhetoric. Let's listen to the Pima County Sheriff." Rick Cardenas, St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Like Congresswoman McCollum, I am shocked at this event and want you all to know I am thinking of you. Some good may come from this evil, however, as people are now discussing the role inflammatory speech may play in today's America." Bernice Vetich, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution.

It is with a heavy heart that I come to the floor today to offer these thoughts on the tragic events of this past Saturday in Tucson that took the lives of Judge John M. Roll, Christina Taylor Green, Dorwin Stoddard, Dorothy Morris, Gabe Zimmerman, and Phyllis Schneck and gravely injured Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS and many others.

Just last week my wife Joyce and I had the opportunity to visit with GABBY in Statuary Hall before the ceremonial swearing-in.

As in so many of my other interactions with her, GABBY was gracious, energetic, and willing to offer a lending hand as I got settled.

We took a few photos and talked about ways we would work together in good spirits. Of course, GABBY and I also went back-and-forth about our favorite rivalry, ASU versus U of A.

GABBY takes enormous pride in her job representing the communities and people of the 8th district.

My wife Joyce and I send our thoughts and prayers to Mark during this difficult time. We are deeply appreciative of Mark's generosity in sharing GABBY with us in Washington and Arizona.

It is also important to not forget that these individuals lost their lives or were injured while they were exercising their right to participate and have a say in our nation's republic.

Indeed, they became victims while exercising a fundamental right that has served as the backbone of our nation since its founding—a right our nation's founders sacrificed so dearly for. Just as the victims of this past Saturday's tragedy did as well.

We are stunned by the tragedy, but we remain resolute in our commitment assemble peacefully and engage civilly in the type of discourse that is fundamental to our republic.

Although words may not be sufficient to capture the sorrow and grief we are experiencing, Joyce and I send our thoughts and prayers to GABBY, Mark, Roxanna and John Green, the parents of Christina Taylor Green and the loved ones of Judge Roll, Dorwin Stoddard, Dorothy Morris, Gabe Zimmerman, Phyllis Schneck, and the Tucson community.

Our hearts and prayers are with you.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues and the rest of the Congressional community in extending my prayers and support to the victims of the horrible shooting this past Saturday in Tucson, Arizona, and to their families and friends. Our friend and colleague, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, continues to fight for her life. She and 13 others were wounded in this unspeakable tragedy, in which six people were killed, including three retirees, a nine-year old child, a federal judge and a member of Representative GIFFORDS's staff.

During the past two years it has been my pleasure to serve with GABBY GIFFORDS on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. She is an intelligent and dedicated public servant. During my term in this body, I benefited from watching and working with GABBY. I know that the House of Representatives, and indeed, the entire country have benefited from her work and that this chamber will feel her absence until she fully recovers and is able to return to the House floor.

This past Saturday was yet another tragic reminder of the prevalence of violence in our society. Our primary concern at this moment must be with the victims and their families and friends. We must help them work through their grief. We must help the injured through their recovery process.

There is no silver lining when six people are murdered. However, if we do not learn from this tragedy, then we will be doomed to repeat it. Mr. Speaker, I would submit that our political rhetoric has become grossly overheated,

and it's time for all of us to take a step back and reflect on the effects of the vitriol.

The philosopher, Voltaire, once wrote, "I detest what you write, but I would give my life to make it possible for you to continue to write." He was articulating a crucial component—perhaps THE crucial component—on which our nation was founded: That no matter how much I may disagree with your opinion, it is essential that you have the right to express it.

But too often, lately, it seems that we cannot merely disagree with one another's opinions or policies. Instead disagreements become personal. Verbal attacks devolve into harsh questions about motives and character. Debates about policies or proposals sink to fear-mongering and rhetorical claims that the fate of our Republic lies in the balance.

Those of us in this chamber, and others in elected office, understand the rhetorical nature of such comments, but can we be absolutely certain that such verbal attacks are not being misconstrued in a culture of increasing anger and a greater acceptance of confrontation?

Absolutely, we must preserve each person's fundamental First Amendment rights, but can we not agree that we ought to disagree in a more agreeable fashion? As elected Representatives, our words certainly do have consequences for the policies and actions we are trying to shape, but it extends well beyond these four walls . . . to the thousands of people who provide us with staff support here in the Capitol and in our home districts . . . for the men and women who are the face of our government, performing essential federal work every day in communities across our nation and especially for the public, which has placed its trust in us.

There are sure to be multiple legislative proposals in response to this week's tragedy, but perhaps the best response is more simple and more personal. Speaker BOEHNER said an attack on one of us is an attack on all of us, and it will take a collective response from all of us to temper our rhetoric and return to a level of discourse that honors the victims of this week's senseless tragedy.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in condemnation of the senseless attack that took place on Saturday, January 8th in Tucson, Arizona targeting Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and other innocent men, women, and children.

The families and friends of those victims who died in the attack—Gabriel Zimmerman, U.S. District Judge John Roll, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwin Stoddard, Dorothy Morris, and nine-year-old Christina Taylor Green—are in all of our thoughts and prayers. It is heartbreaking that so many lost their lives as a result of the actions of one highly disturbed individual.

We also hope and pray for the health of GABBY GIFFORDS and fourteen other innocent individuals who were injured in this premeditated and indiscriminate act of violence. I pray that they will gain the strength to recover physically and emotionally from this horrific event.

GABBY GIFFORDS is a warm, kind, and spirited woman and a dedicated and hardworking representative. It is all the more tragic that this violent act occurred as she was fulfilling her most basic duty as a representative—solving government problems for her constituents and listening to their concerns and opinions about federal issues.

I commend the heroes of January 8th. Without the heroic actions of bystanders who subdued the shooter and those who administered first aid to the victims, as well as the first responders and medical personnel who saved victims' lives, the toll of fatalities and injuries surely would have been far worse.

If anything positive could come of this horrifying event, I hope that self-reflection will result in a return to civility in our political discourse. Elected officials, media personalities, and political activists should make a real effort to turn down the temperature in heated rhetoric, carefully considering the actions it could incite, even if unintended, and the public at large must reject the incendiary language that has become too common.

Those who died in Tucson on Saturday will not be forgotten, and justice will be served for the attacker who caused such heartbreak for so many. We all pray for the families of the victims, the recovery of the survivors, and a more civil and peaceful tomorrow.

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, just days ago, our nation was shaken by the brutal act of violence committed against Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and the constituents waiting in line to speak with her.

The shots fired in Tucson claimed the lives of several Americans, from a federal judge with decades of service to our country, to a young child participating in our great democracy for the very first time.

Tragedies like this one tear at the fabric of our democracy, which is woven together by the everyday conversations that take place between ordinary people and those they elect to represent them in government.

What started out as a routine morning in American political life—an elected representative listening to the thoughts and concerns of her community—ended in senseless bloodshed.

As we pay tribute to those who fell victim to this violence, and as we pray for the swift recovery of Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, we must also reaffirm ourselves to the work being done that morning before those shots rang out.

Congresswoman GIFFORDS enjoys such respect in this body not only because of her intellect and warmth but also because of her commitment to directly engaging with people. She believed—and every day put into action—that with sincere, hard work we can forge common ground, in our communities and as a nation.

In a few days, when this body reconvenes and we resume the business of moving our nation forward, let us honor Congresswoman GIFFORDS by keeping that sense of common purpose in the forefront of our minds as we work to overcome the many challenges faced by our nation.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, the shooting of Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, and the killing and wounding of members of her staff and community attending her “Congress on your Corner” event, was a national tragedy.

It is most appropriate that we speak out to share our sadness, sorrow and grief as well as our hopes for healing and recovery.

I am encouraged that GABBY continues to defy the odds and is showing signs of progress. She is truly a survivor, with a strong will to live. I know that she faces a long and difficult path to recover from her injuries, and

I hope that our support—together with the prayers and well wishes offered by the people of Arizona and indeed all of America—will help her and her family now and in the weeks and months ahead.

Even as she copes with her own severe injuries, I am sure that GABBY is thinking of all the others who were killed and injured during the attack on her. Gabe Zimmerman, her director of community outreach, was killed. Two more members of her Congressional staff, Ron Barber and Pam Simon, were injured in the shooting. Congressional staff members help us, to help our constituents, but they often are not recognized or appreciated. Let us all remember that our staffers—and government workers generally—are committed to public service. They work hard, make many sacrifices, and they provide valuable, essential service.

We are thinking also of residents of the Tucson community who attended this event to meet and speak with their elected representative, never sensing that they would be in harm's way.

Christina Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, John Roll, Phyllis Schneck, and Dorwan Stoddard were all killed in this senseless, brutal attack.

I join my colleagues in expressing condolences to their families, friends and loved ones.

In a matter of seconds, the gunman recklessly and viciously sprayed bullets in all directions. In addition to killing six people and wounding Congresswoman GIFFORDS, he injured thirteen other people. We pray for their full and speedy recovery.

In a democracy, it is not only common but moreover essential that citizens and their representatives freely communicate and exchange ideas, even opposing opinions. Unfortunately, violent events like the shooting in Tucson have a chilling effect on our ability to engage in our civic duties without fear. We must not give in to fear. At the same time, we absolutely must all do whatever is necessary to restore safety and security. We must re-dedicate ourselves to ending violence and promoting peace, and we must take necessary, commonsense steps to reduce the potential for killings like this.

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to strongly support the resolution honoring the victims of the Arizona tragedy.

I condemn the senseless act of violence that ended six lives too soon and injured many others, including one of our colleagues, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS of Arizona.

Representative GIFFORDS is an indefatigable advocate for her constituents and a strong believer in the value of public service. She has worked day and night to improve her community and help those around her in need. Even when she's had a strong disagreement with a colleague—on either side of the aisle—she was always willing to work with those colleagues again. For her, disagreements do not foreclose cooperation. She truly embodies what it means to be a public servant.

I want to commend the quick and heroic actions of the brave citizens who responded that day. In a frightful situation, when the natural response is to run in fear, Patricia Maisch, Roger Sulzeber, Joseph Zimudie, and Daniel Hernandez, Jr. took actions to help the injured and stop the attack. They risked their lives for

the safety of others, and without their actions, it is likely many more lives may have been lost.

Acts and threats of violence such as these have no place in our society and the voices of the American people will not be silenced or diminished because of these acts.

As we pause to reflect on the tragic events of Saturday, we should make special efforts to remember those whose lives were senselessly taken: Gabe Zimmerman, Christina Taylor Green, Judge John M. Roll, Dorwin Stoddard, Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck. We should remember their families in our prayers—and ask that they be comforted in their grief.

Like so many others, words cannot adequately express my shock and sorrow over this tragedy. My thoughts and prayers are with all the affected families.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, last Saturday our country suffered a terrible blow. In a senseless and despicable act of violence, a crazed gunman attempted to kill one of this body's finest members and our good friend, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS, while slaying six others and wounding many more.

GABBY was gunned down while doing the very thing she was elected to do—listening to her constituents and soliciting their feedback. She was participating in a proud tradition of representative democracy, where democratically elected representatives interact with the constituents they represent in Washington.

When the gunman pulled the trigger he was attacking not just a good and decent Member of Congress and her constituents, he was also attacking the freedom-loving people of America who every two years send public servants like GABBY to Washington to handle their interests in the Capitol.

We must not tolerate this violence and the assault it represents on our democratic way of life. Make no mistake; there is no room for violence in our vigorous national debate.

I pray for God's peace for all the victims of this tragic attack and swift healing for all those, especially GABBY, who are still fighting to recover. The House of Representatives is not whole without the smiling face of GABBY and I eagerly await the day when she returns to work on behalf of her constituents. They could ask for no finer person to represent them in Congress.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. I rise today on behalf of my district in Orange County to offer my prayers and condolences to all those wounded and killed in the recent and tragic shootings in Tucson, Arizona. I want to honor my colleague and dear friend, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, who remains in critical condition and those who lost their lives, Gabriel Zimmerman, Christina Green, John Roll, Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck and Dorwin Stoddard.

GABBY was doing what all Members of Congress must do, interact with their constituents and provide a venue for them to petition their government. It is a sad day in America when the basis of our democracy, the interaction between elected officials and those they represent, is put into jeopardy by those who wish to do us harm.

Those lost on that day were robbed of life too early, like nine-year-old Christina Green, whose life was bookended by tragedy. She was born on September 11, 2001, but strove at such a young age to be engaged in her community. Or the life of GABBY's close aide,

Gabriel Zimmerman, who at 30 years old had made public service and helping those in the Eighth District of Arizona his purpose in life for the last 4 years. Judge John Roll dedicated his life to public service and understood the risks associated with controversial issues. And to remember those that left so many loved ones and memories behind, Dorwin Stoddard, Dorothy Morris, and Phyllis Schneck.

I await the day that we welcome our colleague back into the House chamber and will continue to pray for those still in the care of doctors and those who have passed on.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution before us honoring the victims and heroes of the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona, this past weekend.

Today's action is a reflection on the victims of a deeply tragic, singular incident which changed so many lives forever and to renounce the barbaric actions taken by a single individual. We also honor those bystanders and first responders who reaffirmed our faith in humanity by risking their lives to save others.

Today marks a time of healing as we celebrate the lives of those who were lost. GABBY is a colleague and a friend who is known for her civility and willingness to reach out. Her office was just a couple of doors down from mine on the fifth floor of Cannon our freshman year and I was her colleague on the House Science and Technology Committee through the 111th Congress. She is a consummate professional who is dedicated to her constituents and her country.

Our prayers are with her and the other victims as they recover from this horrifying event. As we move forward, we should take strength in the outpouring of support from all corners of our country.

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, this weekend, a horrible tragedy befell the city of Tucson, the State of Arizona and the Nation. One of our own, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, was doing her duty as a Member of Congress. She was out in the neighborhood, talking face to face with her constituents about their concerns and their problems. "Congress on Your Corner" was an event she had done before with success and she wanted to start the New Year with an open door to her constituents.

When she arrived at the local Safeway, dressed in a red blazer, black slacks and black pumps, she greeted those in attendance, hugged each of her staff and gave a short speech. Then, constituents began asking questions, getting their photo taken, and asking for help. It was then, only minutes after the event began, that a young man, armed with a semiautomatic handgun with 33 deadly rounds, directly faced GABBY and shot her point blank in the head. But he didn't pause; he kept shooting. With such rapid fire, those waiting in line to speak to GABBY had no chance to escape his wrath.

What happened in Tucson was not just about unspeakable tragedy. It was about heroic actions. When the gunman turned to flee, a brave but wounded bystander grabbed the shooter, as others came to his aid. One courageous older woman, Patricia Maisch, tried to wrestle a second magazine full of another 33 deadly bullets from him to protect others from his indiscriminate gunfire. She began shouting at him, even as she remained in danger. She raised the questions many of us asked when

we heard of his horrible actions: "How could you be so hateful? How could you do this?"

As the paramedics and emergency responders attended to the scene, the true sorrow of the event became clear. Twenty patriotic Americans were shot, many severely. Six of them lost their lives for no reason other than that they participated in the democratic process.

This tragedy has touched our Nation to its very core. The fact that this horrific event would occur during such an open democratic event has chipped away at our innocence as a country. The fact that some would rather turn to bullets instead of words to address differing opinions makes us feel as though our democratic process is under siege.

However, it is my hope that the lives of those six brave souls will not be lost in vain, and that we can become even stronger as a Nation. Our Nation was founded on the premise that the American people have the right to elect their own leaders, to have their voices heard, and have a say in their own government. We fought, and many died, to protect that right. And no one is allowed to take that away from us.

The American democratic process should not be one of anger and hateful words, but of discourse and discussion. After all our country has been through to protect our freedoms, we must maintain respect for one another and understand that the ability to share differing opinions is at the core of what makes our Nation so great.

So it is in the spirit of respect and democracy that I support this resolution. My prayers go out to the families of the victims, all of the survivors, and to my friend GABBY GIFFORDS, for a speedy and full recovery. To those who lost loved ones, words simply cannot express my feelings of sadness at such a devastating loss.

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the many victims of Saturday's tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona, and to voice my hope for a full recovery for each of the survivors, particularly my colleague and friend, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS. On behalf of me, my family, my staff, and the constituents of New Mexico's First Congressional District, I express our heartbreak at the attempted assassination, the devastation of so many innocent lives, and the senseless attack on our nation's Democratic process.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all the victims of this senseless tragedy, and especially to the friends and families of Judge John M. Roll, Gabe Zimmerman, Christina Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck and Dorwin Stoddard. We are grateful for the heroes who courageously intervened, the first responders and health care professionals and those who continue to assist the survivors in their recovery.

Though she remains in critical condition, I know GABBY, and can attest to her nature as a fearless fighter. We've worked closely together on the House Armed Services Committee as clean energy advocates and as New Democrats. As the only member of Congress with a spouse on active-duty, she is a tireless advocate for military families and is unquestionably one of the most talented Democratic leaders of my generation. With all of that in mind, I am optimistic and hopeful that she will overcome this tragedy. Her recovery is important to our nations' future.

Sadly, Saturday's assassin took advantage of an event which embodies the very essence of public service and the right to assemble without fear. Like GABBY, I hold these kinds of "Congress On Your Corner" events in my district to hear directly from my constituents, whether they agree with me or not. Listening to our constituents is a fundamental duty of each Member of Congress and provides an extraordinary opportunity to talk one-on-one in an inclusive and equitable environment. That our constituents would have to worry about violence as part of that process is unthinkable. We must continue to remain accessible to our constituents while taking appropriate measures going forward to protect their safety.

As we pray for GABBY's recovery and for the families and friends of all of those impacted by Saturday's tragedy, let us honor their legacy by striving to reinforce the spirit of Democracy in which the victims sought to engage in on Saturday in Tucson. Together as a nation, we can have a vigorous debate without compromising the civility and respect for one another's human dignity that is core to our great Nation's principles.

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of my friend and colleague, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, who four days ago was the target of a malicious, senseless attack in Tucson, Arizona. In the aftermath of this tragedy, 6 have lost their lives, 12 were wounded, and GABBY is still in the hospital fighting for her life. She is a dear friend, and one of the most sincere, conscientious, and thoughtful members I have had the pleasure of working with.

GABBY has so many friends in Congress and is an outstanding Congresswoman for her district and for the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. She has served the last 2 years as the chairwoman of our Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee and has done a magnificent job overseeing our Nation's space program. The passion that she brings with her is always evident and she has been willing to ask the tough questions and work across the aisle in support of what she believes.

GABBY loves her district and her constituents, and she is always finding a way to work her home state of Arizona into the discussion. I have been to her district with her to support solar energy and to the Cape with her to support the Shuttle flights. Perhaps it hurts even more that this shooting took place at an event that was organized so she could listen to her constituents and discuss how she represents their interests. She was doing her job, being accessible, and listening to the people she represents.

GABBY is a beautiful young lady with a beautiful family, and a stepmother of two young children. It's hard to understand how someone could do something like that. In a moment's time, one person destroyed the lives of so many innocent victims. Events like this remind us of how fragile life can be and how in the blink of an eye, everything can change.

I've been around a long time and have seen too many terrible senseless events; these are times when you feel helpless, and all you can do is pray and come together to display solidarity and support for those who have been affected. I will continue to pray every day for GABBY, her husband Astronaut Mark Kelly, her family, her staff, Judge John Roll, little 9-year old Christina Green, and the families of all the victims in this tragedy.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, last weekend, the world watched as what began as a sunny Saturday morning in southern Arizona ended in tragedy and horror for our Nation. Violence of this kind has no place in America, and our grieving Nation will spare no expense to find out how this tragedy happened and ensure that it can never be repeated.

Last Saturday was a dark day in our Nation's history and a day which I will never forget. My thoughts and prayers are with Congresswoman GIFFORDS, her family and her staff. My staff is my family, and I cannot comprehend why anyone could or would hurt a group of honest, hard-working people united in their desire to serve the people of southern Arizona.

I also join the Nation in honoring the lives of the six brave Americans who lost their lives in this senseless act of violence and in offering my support and best wishes for a speedy recovery to all those affected by this tragedy.

GABBY GIFFORDS is a good heart, a great mind, and one of the nicest Members of Congress with whom I have had the honor of serving. When I last saw her, at the airport just hours before the attack, she was going home to do exactly what we all do—what we were elected and what the people of this country expect us to do—working with constituents, listening to their concerns and being responsive to their needs.

Saturday's attack came as a shock to me not just as a member of Congress, but because the violence reached beyond the realm of politics, and took the lives of innocent, ordinary Americans who took time out of their busy lives to participate in our democracy.

As Members of Congress, when we sign up to serve our country we understand there is an inherent risk. But we never imagine our mere presence could so endanger innocent constituents wishing to voice their opinions. An attack at an event of this kind is an attack against that which makes our Nation great and must not be tolerated.

GABBY is famous for her smile that could light up a room and her fearless tenacity to reach across the aisle to find solutions for the problems facing this Nation. In a tight race in a politically diverse district, GABBY was reelected three times because of her ability to find consensus in a sea of chaos and her willingness to fight, not for the left or for the right, but for what's best for the people of Arizona. If we, as a nation, can learn from our mistakes and take something away from this tragedy, let it be that we follow her footsteps and use our office and our government to unite rather than divide our healing Nation.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a dear friend and colleague Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, as well as all of those who lost their lives or were injured during the tragic events of January 8, 2011, in Tucson, Arizona.

Today the House gathers at an incredibly sad moment for our country. The events of January 8, 2011, are reprehensible and truly heartbreaking. I speak today of my close friend and an esteemed colleague in the Blue Dog Coalition, GABBY. Her leadership and compassion for the people she represents is a testament to the meaningful work she has accomplished during her tenure as a United States Representative. The legacy she has created is one of moderate and pragmatic leadership—qualities that are essential to the

people of Arizona she so strongly represents, and to our country as a whole.

In 2009, I had the opportunity to visited GABBY in her district. It was apparent how many folks she has touched with her work in the Arizona State Senate and the House of Representatives. Her passion for public service is truly an example we should all embrace.

I would also like to recognize and honor the victims who lost their lives during this horrible tragedy: Christina Green, Dorothy Morris, Judge John Roll, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard and Gabriel Zimmerman, the Congresswoman's aide.

I pray for a speedy recovery to everyone injured during this tragic event and hope for GABBY's quick return to Congress to do what she loves most, represent the people of Arizona's 8th.

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I am extremely saddened by the senseless act of violence that occurred in Arizona. My thoughts and prayers go out to my close personal friend, Rep. GIFFORDS, her family and all the victims of this terrible tragedy.

Rep. GIFFORDS is a hard-working, compassionate Member of Congress. This past weekend's event is particularly tragic because she was doing what all Members should be out doing, showing her dedication to her constituents and out listening to folks back home.

During her time in Congress, I have worked with her on various initiatives through the efforts of the New Democrat Coalition. I have always been particularly impressed with her commitment to fiscal responsibility, deficit reduction, and advancing innovation and technology. She is a long-term thinker who has worked to promote initiatives that are important to both her district and the country.

I would like to send my deepest sympathies to the families of Gabe Zimmerman, a committed member of her team in addition to Judge John M. Roll, Christina Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck, and Dorwan Stoddard. These individuals were engaging in the political process in the best way possible, by speaking directly to their representative. The exchange of ideas is critical to our democracy and it's important that Members of Congress continue to provide forums in which to meet with and listen to constituents. I have and will continue to make town halls and listening sessions a priority in western Wisconsin. At this time, we should also take this moment to remember that we can fight hard for the principles in which we believe with civility and consideration without compromising our values or the values of others.

I also want to thank all the first responders, law enforcement and medical personnel whose quick actions helped prevent further loss of life. These individuals provide an invaluable service to all of our communities and I thank them for their dedicated work.

I wish GABBY and all others involved a speedy recovery.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I have come to the well today, not to make a long speech, for my colleagues have spoken so well, but to extend the heartfelt tribute to the affected families on behalf of the people of the first district of North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, we must seize this senseless and tragic event as an opportunity for us to reconcile our differences and reduce the political tone in this country. The American people are demanding that we represent them

with civility and a sense of enforcing the Constitution to keep America strong and provide for the general welfare.

I pledge my part in making that happen.

To those families who are living this unspeakable tragedy, we extend our condolences and prayers to your family. And we pray for a speedy recovery for our dear Colleague, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS, and the other great Americans who are victims of this tragedy.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Congresswoman GIFFORDS, her staff, the injured, those who lost their lives and all of their families and loved ones—all of whom remain in our thoughts and prayers following this past Saturday's horrible and tragic event. Having the opportunity to serve with GABBY on the Science and Technology Committee in Congress has truly been a blessing as she embraces the human spirit in all her work.

GABBY is not a weathervane politician—she takes courageous votes that are supported by her keen intellect and engaging personality. Her quick wittedness and joy in providing service through her work as a Representative stands as testimony to us all.

She is one of our Nation's brightest young leaders—intelligent, dedicated, effective and fair.

I wish her and all the other injured victims in this senseless tragedy a quick and speedy recovery.

Mr. WALZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise after some of the saddest days I have ever lived through. A friend and a colleague, an exemplary member of this body was gunned down while doing her job. Innocent lives were lost and a Nation grieves for their family and friends.

GABRIELLE is one of the finest public servants I have ever had the privilege of knowing. When GABRIELLE and I first arrived here in the beginning of 2007, it was with a deep pride in our home districts and the commitment that we would do whatever it took to work hard for the people we were so honored to represent. GABRIELLE's passion for her job and her constituents is an inspiration to me and to this Congress. My greatest hope is that she will recover as quickly as possible and come back to join her colleagues who miss her. My wife Gwen and I are praying for her recovery and our thoughts are with her wonderful husband Mark and her wonderful family.

Gwen, my staff and I all grieve for the loss of her Director of Outreach, Gabe Zimmerman and we are praying for the speedy recovery of Ron and Pam, two staffers who are still recovering from gunshot wounds.

In a Politico story this week, Doug Hart, president for the Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans said of Gabe, "He just had a heart for people." Politico also reported Gabe told the Tucson Citizen in 2007, "We serve who walks into our office and we don't even ask what party they belong to." In Gabe's memory, let us continue to serve our constituents to the best of our ability, regardless of their political beliefs. And today, let us remember Gabe and all those members of our own staff who come to work every day dedicated to helping the Americans we serve.

I also want to express my deepest condolences to Judge John Roll's family. In the stories that have emerged in recent days, we can see he was a dedicated public servant and a distinguished member of our judicial system.

My thoughts and prayers are also with all the families of GABRIELLE's constituents who were victims in this horrific attack. They were doing what we hope our constituents will do every day. Come to our events and lend us their wisdom and ideas. These civic minded Americans make our jobs possible and we grieve over losing them.

As I think about the event that GABRIELLE hosted on Saturday and the kind of Arizonians who attended her event, I am reminded of the very best in the American people. A young girl born in the depths of tragedy who wanted to make the world better for her classmates and her generation. A husband who's final act was protecting his wife. A passionate advocate for justice who wanted to share his thoughts with his Representative. They were all people who wanted to make a difference in the direction of the country they loved and their attendance at Saturday's event was no less than the dream and vision of our founding fathers.

I don't know whether the heated political rhetoric caused the terrible events on Saturday. We may never know the answer to that question. But surely we can all agree that our politics have been too divisive, our debates too heated and our words too harsh.

In the honor of the victims of Saturday's attack, we must rededicate ourselves to civility. To passionate, but never angry, public debate. To respectful disagreements. To rededicate ourselves to accessibility to the people we represent and to the notion that debate without violence is the cornerstone of our representative democracy.

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in honoring Representative GIFFORDS, mourning the victims of this senseless shooting, and lauding the heroism of those who endangered themselves to help those who were injured.

Saturday's horrific shooting in Tucson of Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, members of her staff, a federal judge, and innocent bystanders should never have happened. Representative GIFFORDS was performing the most fundamental duty of a Member of Congress—she was making herself available to her constituents. It is something we all do—and something I strongly believe we must continue to do.

My thoughts are with the victims, their family members and their friends at this time.

I hope that we can learn from this tragedy. Violence has no place in our democracy. While the details of the shooting are still coming to light, we can all agree that political rhetoric and imagery that condones or encourages violence—whether from activists, party organizations, or politicians—is unacceptable. We can have differences of opinion on policy and still treat each other with humanity.

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, who is a courageous leader and fierce ally for her State of Arizona and for all Americans. Congresswoman GIFFORDS, her staff, and her constituents were subjected to a tragic act of violence on January 8, 2011, when a gunman opened fire at a public event for the Congresswoman in Tucson, Arizona. The entire State of Iowa is praying for her recovery, and for the family members and loved ones of every American affected by the Arizona shooting.

Madam Speaker, Congresswoman GIFFORDS and I served on the House Armed

Services Committee and are both members of the Blue Dog Coalition. I know firsthand her commitment to making our Nation better for all Americans. She is a tireless advocate for every man and woman in uniform and their families. Today, we are all praying not only for her recovery, but for her return to Congress.

When Congresswoman GIFFORDS, her staff, and her constituents gathered to participate in one of the most basic American rights in our great Nation—the right to civil discourse—no one expected the day to end tragically. The shooting on January 8, 2011, is a national tragedy and an attack on the right of every American to participate in free and open dialogue with the men and women they elect to represent them in Congress.

I would like to recognize Congresswoman GIFFORDS's staff members who were wounded in the shooting, including Gabe Zimmerman, who lost his life, and the five other Americans who were killed: Christine-Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, U.S. District Court Judge John Roll, Phyllis Schneck, and Dorwin Stoddard. We are all praying for their families and loved ones.

Madam Speaker, today, our hearts are with our friend, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, along with members of her congressional staff and constituents, were senselessly shot while attending a "Congress on Your Corner" event in Tucson. Those killed by the gunman—U.S. District Judge John Roll, Gabe Zimmerman, Christina Green, Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck and Dorwin Stoddard—were citizens participating in the democratic process, meeting and speaking with their Member of Congress.

Like everyone else, I was shocked by the news. This kind of deadly violence shakes a community and a nation to its core. The rapid, life-saving action of Tucson's emergency responders and medical professionals and the acts of courage displayed by those at the event do, however, serve to remind us that the kindness of the human spirit can fight back in even the darkest of moments. My thoughts and prayers are with all those in Tucson, in particular the families of those who were injured or killed, and especially with my friend and outstanding colleague in the House, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

In the four years I have served with Congresswoman GIFFORDS, she has been a stalwart supporter of her district, her State and America's interests at home and abroad. It is impossible not to admire her commitment to the job of Representative and the passion with which she pursues her interests and policy agenda. I am proud to serve on the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition, where GABBY is an influential advocate for renewable energy. She is a positive, moderate, thoughtful voice in our Caucus, and it is my greatest hope that she will recover from this terrible tragedy and return as soon as possible to her job. We certainly need her and miss her.

I don't believe that I have ever seen her without a smile on her face, which is quite a feat for someone working on Capitol Hill. She is a wonderful, upbeat and remarkable person.

It is imperative that we begin to learn everything we can from what happened in Tucson. If we do not take what measures we can to prevent such violence from occurring in the fu-

ture, we not only do a disservice to those who were harmed and killed on Saturday, but we betray our commitment to the participatory principles on which our democracy, which must serve as a political and social example to other nations, was founded. We should re-examine how we treat and care for those suffering mentally in our country. We must thoroughly discuss how individuals become eligible to purchase automatic weapons. And we must learn to communicate about our differences in ways that are more thoughtful and civil and that better promote aspiration to those qualities in all who hear or read our words.

I continue to hope and pray for a full recovery for Congresswoman GIFFORDS and the other injured victims and for a healing within for all those hurt internally by Saturday's events. Our Nation must continue to grow and become stronger in the face of this tragedy.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I solemnly rise in support of this resolution.

We come together today in tribute to Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS and all of the innocent victims of a deranged gunman's actions in Tucson, Arizona.

This past weekend, our Nation witnessed a horrifying and tragic act of violence that took the lives of six, and left many others wounded, including our friend and colleague, GABBY.

GABBY is one of my closest friends and my thoughts and prayers are with her husband Mark, GABBY's parents, and their family as they struggle to get through this unimaginable tragedy.

I pray for her full recovery and the recovery of the other victims of this horrific act of senseless violence. I also pray for the Tucson community and for our Nation.

While she and the others wounded in this attack struggle to recover, we pause to honor those we have lost.

They were Americans from every walk of life, and from every season in the journey of life. They died exercising freedoms that make this country so special—the freedom to petition their government and speak freely to their elected representatives.

They include:

Christina Taylor Green, a 9-year-old girl just elected to her student council who wanted to see her Congresswoman in action;

A Federal judge—John McCarthy Roll—who stopped by to thank his colleague for working with him on immigration matters;

Gabe Zimmerman, a 30-year-old congressional caseworker who brought compassion to his community outreach work; and

Three additional victims who were vibrant and active retirees like so many in my home district in South Florida—Phyllis Schneck, 79, Dorwan Stoddard, 76, and Dorothy Morris, 76.

Now, anyone who knows GABBY, knows that she is one of the most kind, thoughtful, and optimistic people you will meet. She has the sunniest disposition and sees the good in everyone—even people who most wouldn't. So it is particularly unbelievable that she would be the target of a deranged individual with anti-government views. When I heard the news, I thought, "Not GABBY?"

She is also deeply committed to the principles of public discourse and vibrant democracy that brought her face to face with her constituents on Saturday. She simply represents the very best of what a public servant should be.

So I would be misleading you if I said I understand why this happened, I do not. Perhaps it is impossible to make sense of a mind so full of hate, so deranged and so broken.

And I cannot tell you with any certainty that the acrimony and political vitriol that are so prevalent in our society today contributed to spurring this madman. But I fear that his deep-seated distrust of our government contributed to his actions.

We must move forward—but how? How do we honor the victims of this tragedy? How do we protect our society from such hatred?

I have looked in my own heart, and what I know is that we need each other right now. Though our hearts are heavy, we must be steadfast in our determination to uphold the American spirit and the principles of our democracy for which GABBY has so vigorously fought.

I believe we should use this moment to remind each other, remind all Americans and remind the world that the strength of our convictions, the strength of our democracy, comes from our unity of purpose.

Yes, as public servants and passionate advocates we have, and we will, disagree on policies of the day, sometimes vigorously. That is as it should be.

But I have no doubt that every person in this chamber loves our country, staunchly defends our Constitution, and brings to this body a desire to see a more perfect union. Let us show the world the truth of these words.

I can say it no better than the words that conclude our Declaration of Independence. In this sacred document, our founding fathers call for us to “mutually pledge to each other our lives, our Fortunes, our sacred Honor.”

Indeed—if we are not joined in the united effort to strengthen our democracy—then we risk allowing those that hate all that we stand for, rip us asunder.

As Speaker BOEHNER so eloquently said, “An attack on one who serves is an attack on all who serve.” So we must pledge to come together, to work together, and to be together.

Let us rededicate ourselves to doing so with a new tone of civility in our public discourse. Let us show the world that there is so much more that unites us than divides us.

And when we do disagree, we know that we solve those differences not with violence, but with words and with our vote.

We are united in the pursuit so eloquently put by President Abraham Lincoln, “that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

I finish by noting that GABBY has always exemplified the Jewish ideal of *tikkun olam*—repairing and healing the world. May we all come together in this beautiful message of healing—for our wounded world, our beloved friend, and all the victims of this tragedy.

May the strength with which GABBY has healed the world, and the spirit of *tikkun olam* in turn heal her, the other wounded, and the families of those who lost loved ones.

Madam Speaker, it is with a somber heart that I rise to voice my strong support for H. Res. 32.

This resolution condemns the horrific attack that took place in Tucson this past weekend, honors the memory of all those who lost their lives in the attack, and expresses hope for a complete recovery for all those wounded in the attack, including our friend and colleague, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

Today—we recognize and honor the service of Representative GIFFORDS, a dedicated public servant and truly exceptional Member of Congress.

We also recognize the bravery of those heroes and first responders, who saved lives and prevented the deranged gunman from doing further damage.

The ability to resolve problems and conflicts in a non-violent manner is a bedrock value of our system of government.

Saturday’s cowardly attack is an assault on the very principles that we as Americans hold dear.

I urge my colleagues to cast a vote to condemn hatred, and honor those innocent individuals who were impacted by this heinous act of violence.

The thoughts and prayers of Barbara and I go out to the families of those who lost their lives in this terrible tragedy, and we continue to pray for a full recovery for Representative GIFFORDS and all other victims.

Madam Speaker, I rise to add some additional remarks to my earlier statement in support of H. Res. 32.

In this time of grieving for all of us, it is important we take this moment to recognize and honor the six individuals who lost their lives in this heinous crime.

Christina Taylor Green was a 9-year-old child, recently elected to the student council at Mesa Verde Elementary School.

Dorothy Morris, 76, was married to her husband George for over 50 years. George was also at the shooting and courageously tried to shield his wife from the attack.

John Roll, 63, had an outstanding legal career, culminating in his service as Chief Judge for the District of Arizona. He and his wife Maureen had three children and five grandchildren.

Phyllis Schneck, 79, a New Jersey native, was spending the winter in Arizona. She was a church volunteer and a proud mother of three, and grandmother of seven.

Dorwan Stoddard, 76, was also a church volunteer and also shielded his wife, Mary, during the attack.

Gabriel Zimmerman, 30, was engaged to be married and was known throughout the community as a man of great character for his work in Representative GIFFORDS’ office.

Let us stand together to honor the lives of these individuals, and offer our heartfelt condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones they leave behind.

I urge my colleagues to reaffirm our commitment to a democracy in which all peoples can participate without intimidation or fear of violence, and support today’s resolution.

Again, the thoughts and prayers of Barbara and I go out to the victims and families impacted by this tragedy, and we continue to pray for a swift recovery for Representative GIFFORDS and all others wounded in this terrible tragedy.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in supporting the Resolution before us today, and to express my deepest condolences for the families of those killed in the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona, on January 8. I also offer my prayers for a speedy and full recovery to my friend and colleague, GABBY GIFFORDS, as well as to all those wounded in the attack.

This past Saturday was a dark day for this chamber and our nation. GABBY GIFFORDS is

one of the hardest-working members of this House, and has proven herself to be an energetic representative of her district’s interests and a thoughtful stateswoman. She is loved and admired by her colleagues and her constituents in the Eighth District of Arizona, who are fortunate and grateful that she survived this terrible attack.

But there are six others who will not be returning to their families and friends as a result of this tragedy, and I know GABBY would want the focus to be on them. One of the six, GABBY’s Outreach Director Gabriel Zimmerman, was a Federal employee killed while helping GABBY better represent her constituents.

Madam Speaker, I grieve for our nation when a 9-year-old girl seeking to meet her Congresswoman becomes a target for murder. I fervently hope that all Americans, especially those of us honored with the public trust, view this tragedy as a moment to take personal responsibility for building a safer, more civil and better future.

We are praying for you, GABBY, and for the families of all those affected by this senseless tragedy.

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, her staff, and all the victims of the Tucson tragedy.

On January 8, Representative GIFFORDS was hosting an event to simply engage with her constituents. At that event, a man fired shots at the Congresswoman, her staff, and the assembled crowd.

Due to this senseless act, six people are dead and fourteen others are injured, including the Congresswoman, who remains in critical condition.

I have had the pleasure to serve on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs with Congresswoman GIFFORDS, and it has been nothing less than an honor to work with her. Her passion and commitment to her constituents and her country is unyielding, and she has always approached her work in Congress with the attention and respect that it deserves. I was shocked and saddened to hear of this attack.

On Saturday morning, six people attended an event held by their local representative, and for this, they lost their lives. In a democratic country that symbolizes hope and freedom for so many, it is difficult to witness and impossible to understand this hateful act.

My thoughts and prayers, along with those of all Americans, go out to the Giffords’ family, the families of the Congresswoman’s staff, and all those impacted by this tragedy.

I would also like to thank that day’s heroes for their quick reactions that undoubtedly saved many lives. The actions of these individuals and the outpouring of support from around the country give us all strength during this difficult time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues to honor those who died and were wounded in Tucson, Arizona this past Saturday. The senseless rampage took the lives of six remarkable people and forever altered the lives of their families, 13 other people who were wounded, and each of their families. This tragedy has touched the soul of our Nation and we will not forget it.

Like my colleagues and Americans throughout our country, I am deeply saddened and



disturbed by the events that took place as our colleague, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, conducted her outdoor constituent town meeting in Tucson. To the families of those who died I offer my heartfelt condolences. And for my colleague, GABBY, as we call her, and her family, and to the other victims and their families, I offer my prayers as they receive urgent medical treatment and begin their recovery.

I share in the comments that so many of my colleagues have already made about GABBY. She has worked hard and contributed much. She is a highly respected colleague and a courageous representative for Arizona and our country. The attack on Congresswoman GIFFORDS and her staff and constituents is deplorable and represents an attack on all Americans.

I also join my colleagues in saluting the heroism of four men and women who subdued the shooter and attended to GABBY immediately after she was shot. These men and women truly made a difference on that Saturday. They deserve our praise and admiration.

Madam Speaker, the responsibility for this tragedy lies with the shooter, someone who had earlier been identified as needing mental health care and who should never have been able to obtain a gun. Thankfully, he is in custody and his fate is now in the hands of our law enforcement and judicial system.

But while he will be tried for his act, this attack has raised in all of us a deep and gnawing question that must be unanswered. How can we improve ourselves after this tragedy?

Everyone who meets Congresswoman GIFFORDS knows she is not an angry woman. She has sought to balance the diverse interests of her district while doing what she believes to be in the best interest of our country. Yet she was attacked, vilified and denounced by extreme political factions who sought to demonize her for what she believed as a member of Congress.

We cannot undo the events of Saturday, January 8, but we can and should commit ourselves to a more responsible level of political discourse in America. I hope we can all learn from the events in Tucson, that in the name of GABBY and all of the victims of this deadly shooting, we can commit ourselves to strengthen our Nation, not fight each other, to be able to disagree with each other without hating or demonizing one another for it.

Madam Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to pay tribute to Congresswoman GIFFORDS, her staff, her constituents, and everyone touched by the tragedy that unfolded on Saturday in Tucson.

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 32.

I am pleased that Members of the House of Representatives came together today to speak with a unified voice in both condemning this heinous attack, and expressing our condolences to the friends and families of all the innocent victims that were killed or wounded due to this horrific act of violence.

This resolution reaffirms the democratic principles that Congresswoman GIFFORDS herself espoused when she read the First Amendment of the Constitution during the opening week of the 112th Congress—the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

It is critical that we send a message that threats of violence and intimidation will not

prevent Americans from participating in the democratic process.

It is my hope to once again work alongside my colleague, Congresswoman GIFFORDS, as we seek to find solutions to problems that we face as a nation.

May God bless the victims of this tragedy, their families and all Americans.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 32 to honor the victims of the senseless act of violence that took place in Tucson on Saturday.

Six members of the Arizona community lost their lives and one of our own, GABBY GIFFORDS, has been gravely injured. It's hard to find the words to describe the deep sorrow we all feel for the families and friends of the shooter's victims.

His actions have shown us human behavior at its darkest, but the heroes of the day represent our society at its best. The innocent bystanders quickly rallied to curtail the gunman and perform triage on the victims. The American people are humbled by the bravery of those who put themselves in harm's way and grateful for the talented first responders and medical professionals who have compassionately cared for the wounded.

As we've all come to know, GABBY is a fighter. With the help of the thoughts and prayers of millions of Americans who are wishing for her speedy recovery, GABBY has beat the odds and has thus far made a remarkable turn for the better. We should all be inspired by GABBY's strength.

Madam Speaker, we cannot forget that this tragedy occurred as GABBY was performing her most fundamental duty as an elected representative: listening to the people. This attack is quite literally an assault on the very democratic values which we seek everyday to uphold in this Chamber. As we struggle with how to handle the aftermath of this tragedy, let us reflect on the values that make our country great.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, my heart goes out to all of the victims of the terrible tragedy—those that were killed or injured, their families and the entire Tucson community. I extend my condolences to all of the members of the Arizona delegation.

My thoughts and prayers are with GABBY. I know she is a fighter. I recall our trip together to the Middle East. We met with the presidents of Israel, Lebanon and Syria before we traveled to Iraq, where we walked down the streets of Baghdad together. I was so impressed by her courage and commitment to the troops on the frontline.

It is unthinkable to me that GABBY was safer in Baghdad than here in her own country. Every American has a right to express their opinion on whatever issue they choose, but there is no place in our society for this kind of hatred and violence. No one should have to think twice about their safety when they go to speak to their Congressman or attend a town hall meeting. This has been an attack not only on GABBY, her staff and her innocent constituents, but the democratic process itself.

With every negative, we should put forth our best effort to find a positive. It is my hope that this horrific tragedy will bring our country and our Congress together. Our forefathers created a great system of government. Unfortunately, I don't think the spiteful partisanship of today is what they had in mind. We must be tolerant of other views—to tone down the ill-

natured rhetoric—and discuss our opinions respectfully. The negative and personal attacks against one other must stop.

I hope that GABBY makes a speedy recovery and can soon return to this floor where she will continue to be an example of courtesy and civility to us all. I yield the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of the people of New York's 11th congressional district to offer my thoughts and prayers to Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, her staff, constituents, and all those affected by this tragic shooting. I am truly shocked, horrified and deeply saddened by this senseless act of violence. I take time to reflect on those who lost their lives, including a Federal judge, a 9-year-old girl, and one of Congresswoman GIFFORDS' staff. I pray for a swift recovery for the wounded and offer my heartfelt thanks to those who rushed in to offer aid.

I consider GABBY, as she is affectionately called, to be a wonderful colleague whom I have the pleasure of serving alongside on important issues such as immigration reform. She has demonstrated exemplary leadership and is a very well respected Member of the House of Representatives.

While we do not know the motive, we do know that the time has come for us to tone down our rhetoric and partisanship. We are responsible for our words and must respect those who hold different points of view. Our constituents and the world at large should see us as examples of civility, peaceful debate and democracy. Regardless of one's political affiliation, we must learn to respectfully agree to disagree. There are several issues before Congress that would benefit all Americans and many people overseas but often times have been marginalized by partisanship. Our constituents expect us to work for them and not allow politics to get in the way of governing.

Finally, this shooting has many of us thinking about the security and safety of our constituents when we are back home holding town hall meetings, meeting with constituents and doing the people's work. Many people die or are wounded daily from gun violence and many suffer from mental illnesses that are either not properly diagnosed or treated. This tragedy provides the opportunity to further discuss mental health and gun control legislation.

Madam Speaker, let us, as Members of Congress, reaffirm our commitment to work on behalf of our constituents—those who sent us here to represent their interest. Let us do our part to build a better Nation and world.

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I join our colleagues today in offering my condolences to the victims and families of last weekend's shooting in Tucson, Arizona. They are in our thoughts and prayers during this extremely difficult time. Our friend Congresswoman GIFFORDS remains in the hospital, and we are hopeful that her recovery will continue to progress and that she will be back here on the House floor in the near future.

The passage of a few days has done little to make this attack any more comprehensible. As much as anything, it is a chilling reminder of the fragile nature of our lives. It gives us all pause that GABRIELLE was hurt doing the same things that we do every day as part of representing our constituents, that staff members were killed and injured as part of their service, and that in a public setting such as this we cannot absolutely guarantee anyone's safety.

As I said immediately after the event, without drawing conclusions about what happened here, I hope that as a country we agree to tone down the volume and animosity that has become so much a part of our political discourse. We can disagree without being enemies.

Madam Speaker, contrary to popular belief, most, if not all of us, ran for office because we want to help people—because we believe we have something to offer through public service. That is certainly true for GABRIELLE. Through our grief, despite the potential risks, I think we still all agree that this work is worth doing, that we can and do make a difference, and that with GABRIELLE as our example, we must push ahead as a country, as a society, to help each other the best that we can.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the previous question is ordered on the resolution and on the preamble.

The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, pursuant to clause 11 of rule X, clause 11 of rule I, and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, and notwithstanding the requirement of clause 11(a)(1)(C) of rule X, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

Mr. THORNBERRY, Texas;  
Mrs. MYRICK, North Carolina;  
Mr. MILLER, Florida;  
Mr. CONAWAY, Texas;  
Mr. KING, New York;  
Mr. LOBIONDO, New Jersey;  
Mr. NUNES, California;  
Mr. WESTMORELAND, Georgia;  
Mrs. BACHMANN, Minnesota;  
Mr. ROONEY, Florida;  
Mr. HECK, Nevada.

There was no objection.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 1, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 p.m.), pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 1 and pursuant to House Resolution 32, the House adjourned until Tuesday, January 18, 2011, at 2 p.m., out of respect for the victims of the attack in Tucson, Arizona.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

64. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "Report to Congress on Head Start Monitoring for Fiscal Year 2008", pursuant to Section 641(e) of the Head Start Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

65. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Alaska: Adequacy of Alaska Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Permit Program [EPA-R10-RCRA-2010-0953; FRL-9247-6] received January 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

66. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Testing of Certain High Production Volume Chemicals; Second Group of Chemicals [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2007-0531; FRL-8846-9] (RIN: 2070-AD16) received January 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

67. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Revisions to Rules and Regulations for Control of Air Pollution; Permitting of Grandfathered and Electing Electric Generating Facilities [EPA-R06-OAR-2005-TX-0031; FRL-9248-9] received January 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

68. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the 2010 annual report on the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program, pursuant to Public Law 106-309, section 304; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

69. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting a report entitled "Whistleblower Protections for Federal Employees", pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 1204(a)(3); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

70. A letter from the Director, Office of Special Council, transmitting the Office's Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2010; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

71. A letter from the Director, Peace Corps, transmitting the Inspector General's semi-annual report to Congress for the reporting period April 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

72. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Steller Sea Lion Protection Measures for the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Groundfish Fisheries Off Alaska [Dock- et No. 101006495-0498-01] (RIN: 0648-BA31) received January 6, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

73. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Guidelines for Awarding Clean Water Act Section 319 Base Grants to Indian Tribes [EPA-HQ-OW-2011-XXXX; FRL-9247-8] received January 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following

titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California (for himself, Mrs. ADAMS, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. AKIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. AMASH, Mr. AUSTRIA, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. BASS of New Hampshire, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. BERG, Ms. BERKLEY, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. BLACK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BONNER, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BUCHSHON, Ms. BUEKLE, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. CANSECO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. CARTER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. COBLE, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. COLE, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. CRAVAACK, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CRITZ, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. DENT, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. DOLD, Mr. DREIER, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. FLORES, Mr. FORBES, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Ms. FOX, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. GERALACH, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GOWDY, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. GUNTA, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HALL, Mr. HANNA, Mr. HARPER, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Ms. HAYWORTH, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. HERGER, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. HURT, Mr. ISSA, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. JONES, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. KLINE, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LANCE, Mr. LANDRY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. LATTA, Mr. LEE of New York, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. LONG, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MACK, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MARINO, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MICA, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. NUNES, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. OLSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. PENCE, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. PETRI, Mr. PITTS, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. POSEY, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. QUAYLE, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. REED, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. RIVERA, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky,

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. ROSKAM, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. ROSS of Arkansas, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. RUNYAN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. SCHILLING, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TERRY, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. THORBERRY, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. TIPTON, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. TURNER, Mr. UPTON, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. WEBSTER, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. WOLF, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. YODER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. WEST, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Mr. WALSH of Illinois, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. HECK, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. MICHAUD):

H.R. 4. A bill to repeal the expansion of information reporting requirements for payments of \$600 or more to corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCALISE (for himself, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. PETERS, Mr. ROSS of Florida, and Mr. CRAVAACK):

H.R. 262. A bill to require any amounts remaining in a Member's Representational Allowance at the end of a fiscal year to be deposited in the Treasury and used to reduce the Federal debt; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. ACKERMAN:

H.R. 263. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to restrict the ability of a person whose Federal license to import, manufacture, or deal in firearms has been revoked, whose application to renew such a license has been denied, or who has received a license revocation or renewal denial notice, to transfer business inventory firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 264. A bill to permanently prohibit oil and gas leasing off the coast of Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte Counties in the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 265. A bill to provide for the admission of the State of New Columbia into the Union; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 266. A bill to provide for the treatment of the District of Columbia as a State for purposes of representation in the House of Representatives and Senate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 267. A bill to provide for the treatment of the District of Columbia as a State for purposes of representation in the House of Representatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 268. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reduce the limit on the amount of certain contributions which may be made to a candidate with respect to an election for Federal office; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 269. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit the conversion of leadership PAC funds to personal use; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado:

H.R. 270. A bill to provide for a 10 percent reduction in pay for Members of Congress, to make Federal civilian employees subject to a period of mandatory unpaid leave, to reduce appropriations for salaries and expenses for offices of the legislative branch during fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 271. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program to provide covered institutions loans for conversion to use of biomass for energy generation; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 272. A bill to amend the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act to exempt ordinary books and paper-based printed material from the lead limit in such Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 273. A bill to amend section 520 of the Housing Act of 1949 to revise the requirements for areas to be considered as rural areas for purposes of such Act; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 274. A bill to rename the Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska, as the Homestead National Historical Park; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 275. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to expand the boundary of the Homestead National Monument of America, in the State of Nebraska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY (for himself, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, and Mr. KISSELL):

H.R. 276. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow for the transfer of educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program to certain dependents to be used for special education; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 277. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exception to the reduction of renewable energy credit for certain authority under the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 278. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for tax exempt

qualified small issue bonds to finance agricultural processing property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 279. A bill to prohibit any Federal agency or official, in carrying out any Act or program to reduce the effects of greenhouse gas emissions on climate change, from imposing a fee or tax on gaseous emissions emitted directly by livestock; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GALLEGLY (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. SHULER, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. CAMPBELL):

H.R. 280. A bill to prohibit offices of the legislative branch from entering into a contract for the provision of goods or services within the Capitol Complex with any contractor who does not participate in the E-Verify Program for employment eligibility verification, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. GALLEGLY:

H.R. 281. A bill to provide for an exchange of lands between the Secretary of Agriculture and the United Water Conservation District of California to eliminate certain private inholdings in the Los Padres National Forest, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GALLEGLY (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. SHULER, and Mr. CALVERT):

H.R. 282. A bill to require Federal contractors to participate in the E-Verify Program for employment eligibility verification; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. BACA):

H.R. 283. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act to provide for the calculation of the minimum wage based on the Federal poverty threshold for a family of 2, as determined by the Census Bureau; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. HONDA, Ms. MOORE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DICKS, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 284. A bill to authorize funds to prevent housing discrimination through the use of nationwide testing, to increase funds for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 285. A bill to designate Pakistan under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Pakistan to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself and Mr. OLSON):

H.R. 286. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Commerce to create a job training program and an economic stability program to stabilize the workforce and promote economic growth in the Johnson Space Center region; to the Committee

on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SUTTON, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. STARK, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. HONDA):

H.R. 287. A bill to provide housing assistance for very low-income veterans; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. HIRONO:

H.R. 288. A bill to establish a pilot program to provide assistance for partnerships supporting applied sciences in renewable energy; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. REYES):

H.R. 289. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage teachers to pursue teaching science, technology, engineering, and math subjects at elementary and secondary schools; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. BILBRAY, and Mr. ISSA):

H.R. 290. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to ensure that memorials commemorating the service of the United States Armed Forces may contain religious symbols, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 291. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the availability of the Internal Revenue Service's Taxpayer Assistance Centers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LEE of New York:

H.R. 292. A bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to eliminate the mandatory printing of bills and resolutions by the Government Printing Office for the use of the House of Representatives and Senate; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. STEARNS:

H.R. 293. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude executive branch officers and employees from non-recognition rules relating to the sale of property to comply with conflict-of-interest requirements; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STEARNS:

H.R. 294. A bill to create a commission to develop a plan for establishing a Museum of Ideas; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 295. A bill to amend the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 to authorize funds to acquire hydrographic data and provide hydrographic services specific to the Arctic for safe navigation, delineating the United States extended continental shelf, and the monitoring and description of coastal changes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 296. A bill to resolve the claims of the Bering Straits Native Corporation and the State of Alaska to land adjacent to Salmon Lake in the State of Alaska and to provide for the conveyance to the Bering Straits Native Corporation of certain other public land in partial satisfaction of the land entitlement of the Corporation under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTER:

H.J. Res. 19. A joint resolution disapproving a rule submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services relating to "Health Insurance Issuers Implementing Medical Loss Ratio (MLR) Requirements Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BOEHNER:

H. Res. 32. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona, on January 8, 2011; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HENSARLING:

H. Res. 33. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia):

H. Res. 34. A resolution expressing condolences to and solidarity with the people of the Commonwealth of Australia as they struggle against deadly floods that began on December 24, 2010; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. WATERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. COHEN, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FARR, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RUSH, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SIREN, Mr. STARK, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. WATT, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. WOOLSEY):

H. Res. 35. A resolution recognizing the anniversary of the tragic earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010, honoring those who lost their lives, and expressing continued solidarity with the Haitian people; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. BACA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. RUSH, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. ROSS of Arkansas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SIREN, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. MOORE, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. COHEN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RANGEL, Mr.

CUMMINGS, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. ELLISON):

H. Res. 36. A resolution recognizing the significance of Black History Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California:

H.R. 4.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill makes changes to existing law relating to Article 1, Section 7 which provides that "All bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives."

By Mr. SCALISE:

H.R. 262.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ACKERMAN:

H.R. 263.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3; Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 264.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, and Article IV, Section 3, of the Constitution of the United States grant Congress the authority to enact this bill.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 265.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 1 of the Constitution.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 266.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 17 of the Constitution.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 267.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 17 of the Constitution.

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 268.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 4, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 269.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 4, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado:

H.R. 270.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authorities on which this bill rests are: the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution; and the power of

Congress to make law regarding the compensation for the services of Senators and Representatives, as enumerated in Article I, Section 6, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, as amended by the 27th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 271.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 272.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 273.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 274.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 275.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 276.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 277.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 278.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 279.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GALLEGLEY:

H.R. 280.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 & 4 of the U.S. Constitution, giving Congress the power to regulate interstate commerce and exclude illegal aliens.

By Mr. GALLEGLEY:

H.R. 281.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution, relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress. Also this legislation can be enacted under the authority granted in Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2, relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States.

By Mr. GALLEGLEY:

H.R. 282.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 3 & 4 of the U.S. Constitution dealing with the ability to

regulate interstate commerce and exclude illegal aliens.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 283.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Commerce Clause (Art. 1 sec. 8 cl. 3); Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 sec. 8 cl. 18).

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 284.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 sec. 8 cl. 1); Commerce Clause (Art. 1 sec. 8 cl. 3); Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 sec. 8 cl. 18).

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 285.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Naturalization Clause (Art 1 sec. 8 cl. 4)

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 286.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 sec. 8 cl. 1); Commerce Clause (Art. 1 sec. 8 cl. 3); Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 sec. 8 cl. 18); Property Clause (Art. IV sec. 3 cl. 2).

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 287.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 sec. 8 cl. 1); Commerce Clause (Art. 1 sec. 8 cl. 3); Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 sec. 8 cl. 18).

By Ms. HIRONO:

H.R. 288.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: "The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Ms. HIRONO:

H.R. 289.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

Sixteenth Amendment: "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration."

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 290.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority for the War Memorial Protection Act is found in Section 3, clause 2 of Article IV, which states in part that "the Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory and other Property belonging to the United States." Constitutional authority is also found in Clause 18 of Article I, Section 8, which states that Congress has the authority to "make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 291.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution (Clause 1), which grants Congress the power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. LEE of New York:

H.R. 292.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 5, Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings.

By Mr. STEARNS:

H.R. 293.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. STEARNS:

H.R. 294.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 295.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 296.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2.

By Mr. CARTER:

H.J. Res. 19.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Amendment X of the United States Constitution.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 2: Mr. CRAWFORD and Mr. QUAYLE.

H.R. 21: Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. LONG.

H.R. 44: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 59: Mr. WITTMAN, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. LATTA, Mr. COLE, Mr. KLINE, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 61: Ms. HAYWORTH.

H.R. 68: Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. HERGER, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. OLSON, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. RIBBLE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Ms. FOXX, and Ms. HAYWORTH.

H.R. 69: Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. HERGER, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. AKIN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. RIBBLE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Ms. FOXX, and Ms. HAYWORTH.

H.R. 97: Mr. PENCE, Mr. CANSECO, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. KING of Iowa, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. Renacci, Mr. HENSARLING, Ms. HAYWORTH, Mr. GOODLATTE,

Mr. McKEON, Mr. LONG, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. CARTER, and Mr. HUELSKAMP.  
 H.R. 103: Mr. LAMBORN and Ms. FOXX.  
 H.R. 104: Mr. RIBBLE.  
 H.R. 111: Mr. DICKS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. CHU, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. ADERHOLT.  
 H.R. 121: Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. LATTA, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. PETERS, Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. HAYWORTH, Mrs. McMorris RODGERS, Mr. CRAVAACK, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. CRAWFORD.  
 H.R. 122: Mr. CALVERT, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. JONES, Mr. LONG, and Mr. WOODALL.  
 H.R. 125: Mr. REHBERG and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.  
 H.R. 126: Mr. FORBES, Mr. FLEMING, and Mr. MCCOTTER.  
 H.R. 127: Ms. BUERKLE, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. WALSH of Illinois, Mr. REED, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. CANSECO, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. FLORES, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. NUGENT, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. DENHAM, and Mr. BRADY of Texas.  
 H.R. 140: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. SCALISE, and Mr. CULBERSON.  
 H.R. 143: Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Ms. BUERKLE, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. WITTMAN.  
 H.R. 155: Mrs. BLACKBURN and Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.  
 H.R. 166: Mrs. BLACKBURN.  
 H.R. 171: Mr. WITTMAN.  
 H.R. 177: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. JONES, Mr. CRAVAACK, and Mr. ROSS of Florida.  
 H.R. 198: Mr. Daniel E. LUNGREN of California.  
 H.R. 206: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.  
 H.R. 212: Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mrs. ELLMERS.  
 H.R. 217: Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Ms. FOXX, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.  
 H.R. 236: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.  
 H.R. 247: Mr. RENACCI.  
 H.J. Res. 1: Ms. HAYWORTH, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, and Mr. WALBERG.  
 H.J. Res. 2: Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. ROONEY, and Mr. WALBERG.  
 H.J. Res. 4: Mr. WEST.  
 H.J. Res. 9: Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mrs. SCHMIDT, and Mr. LONG.  
 H.J. Res. 11: Mr. WESTMORELAND.  
 H. Con. Res. 3: Mr. CHAFFETZ and Mr. WALBERG.  
 H. Res. 11: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. MORAN, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.  
 H. Res. 15: Mr. TURNER, Mr. WITTMAN, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. HANNA, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Mr. LONG.  
 H. Res. 23: Mr. POMPEO, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. CARTER, Mr. GOHMERT, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. FLORES, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, and Mr. HUELSKAMP.  
 H. Res. 25: Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. MCKINLEY.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF PAUL OYASKI

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring to your attention the 33-year public service career of Paul Oyaski who is retiring from his post as the Director of Cuyahoga County's Department of Development on January 14, 2011.

Director Oyaski has directed with distinction the Department of Development since 2004, leading a staff of 62 in Ohio's largest county which serves all the people of Ohio's 10th Congressional District and surrounding districts. He has administered federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for 51 Cuyahoga County municipalities with fewer than 50,000 residents. His department has managed a \$75 million budget supplemented by the CDBGs, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Department of Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency. Through Paul's leadership, the people of Cuyahoga County were served ably and the federal dollars we appropriated were used wisely and with the people's needs first and foremost on the agenda. During his tenure as Director, he received numerous awards from the public and private sectors.

Prior to his service at the county level, Paul Oyaski served as the Mayor of Euclid, Ohio from 1996 to 2003. As mayor of a city with a population of 53,000, Mayor Oyaski became familiar with the administrative responsibilities associated with the CDBG program. He led Euclid to receive the Livable Cities Award from the U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2000 for positive race relations. He was also spokesman for the First Suburbs Consortium which represents Euclid and 14 other inner-ring suburbs of Cleveland.

Before his election as Mayor, Paul Oyaski served the City of Euclid with distinction as a member of the City Council, the Director of Community Services and Development, and as Law Director. Paul graduated from the Ohio State University School of Law with honors, earned his Bachelor of Arts Magna Cum Laude from Cleveland State University, and is a proud graduate of Euclid Senior High School where he was a member of the National Honor Society and received his letter for varsity soccer.

Mr. Speaker and honored colleagues, please join me in wishing Paul Oyaski well as he retires from a long and illustrious career in the public sector working with the people of his hometown of Euclid, and Cuyahoga County for these many years.

RECOGNIZING MR. FRANK EDWARD EMORY, SR. ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM ELECTED OFFICE

**HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an extraordinary American who has devoted his life to building the community in which he lives—Wilson County, North Carolina. As a passionate, empowering and inspirational leader, Frank Edward Emory, Sr. has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of those around him.

Mr. Emory is a native of Johnston County, North Carolina. He received his college education at A&T College—now A&T State University—in Greensboro, North Carolina. After completing his education, Mr. Emory became a distinguished extension agent and later served as assistant director of Urban Affairs at North Carolina State University.

In 1970, Mr. Emory was elected to the City of Wilson Board of Education (later Wilson County Board of Education) and remained in this capacity until 1984 when he was elected to the Wilson County Board of Commissioners. He was the first African-American to serve on these boards.

Mr. Emory has been a wonderful example of faith in God and community, and faith that we may someday realize a place where equality and opportunity flourish. He has been a special friend and leader who truly understands people and their issues. He is always ready to work with anyone willing to improve the total community.

After 40 years of continuous service, Mr. Emory has decided to retire from elective office. And while his retirement will be a tremendous loss, Mr. Emory leaves a great legacy that will continue to enrich and strengthen the community for many years to come.

Mr. Emory's remarkable tenure included the development and construction of numerous county facilities as well as the expansion and development of critical emergency services including emergency disaster response, centralized communications, rescue services, and full countywide paramedic services.

Mr. Emory was a key leader in expanding recreation opportunities, improving services for seniors, enhancing cable television services, improving health care facilities and the county's road system.

Mr. Emory has also been a strong and consistent supporter of economic development throughout the region, and a tireless advocate for improving education. He strongly supported funding for the Wilson County Public Schools and Wilson Community College. He also supported state and local bond issues for school and community college construction, which included the renovation of multiple schools and the construction of the Darden Middle School and the John W. Jones Elementary School.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to his countless gifts to our community, he has given me true friendship, by which I have been enormously honored. He has been married to Athalene Dancy Emory for more than 50 years. They are the proud parents of two sons, Frank, Jr. and Randolph, who have blessed them with four grandsons.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the commitment, dedication and success of Frank Edward Emory, Sr. on the occasion of his retirement from elective office.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,019,559,567,587.86.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$3,381,133,821,294.06 since then.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

THE STEM EDUCATION TEACHER TAX INCENTIVE ACT OF 2011

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, the latest results of international tests just came in. On the Program for International Student Assessment, PISA, 15-year-olds in the United States rank 25th in math—below average—among their peers in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD, nations. Our 15-year-olds rank 17th place—only average—in science. To compete for the jobs of the future, the United States can and must do better.

Today I introduce the Science, Technology, Education, and Mathematics, STEM, Teacher Tax Incentive Act of 2011, one small step to help restore our strength in STEM education and our nation's economic competitiveness.

Research has shown that teacher quality is the most important factor affecting student achievement. We need more highly effective teachers to help excite and inspire our students about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. This bill will provide a tax credit to encourage those who major in STEM fields to join and stay in the teaching profession. The tax credit can be used to help repay undergraduate tuition, and is 50 percent greater for qualified STEM teachers who teach in high-needs schools.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

In Hawaii, I have visited dozens of schools and STEM teachers who are working day in, day out to inspire the next generation of leaders. These teachers engage their students through innovative programs like Waianae High School's Searider Productions and robotics initiatives, where our students compete successfully across our islands, nationally, and internationally.

The Hawaii Department of Education's winning Race-to-the-Top plan outlines efforts to increase students' access to highly qualified teachers in STEM and other hard-to-staff subjects. This bill can help supplement Hawaii DOE's efforts.

For his work on this bill in past congresses, I thank my former colleague Congressman Vern Ehlers, Republican of Michigan. Although he retired from his role as a legislator in December 2010, I look forward to his continued contributions as a nuclear physics professor. Thank you also to the other members of the Congressional STEM Education Caucus for their partnership in this and other initiatives to promote STEM Education.

MERCER ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL  
MARCHING BAND

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an outstanding marching band in my district—the Eighth District of Washington—that recently returned from a once-in-a-lifetime trip to London to perform in the invitation-only New Year's Day Parade there. It isn't the first time the band has performed on a grand scale and to a grand audience and it most certainly won't be the last.

The Mercer Island High School marching band, composed of approximately 200 young people, returned from their whirlwind trip to London just a few days ago. And although the winter storms slowed down 87 of the band's members, Mr. Speaker, their performance went off without a hitch. They marched from Trafalgar Square to Big Ben and on to the steps of Parliament. The bells of Westminster Abbey sounded out and the entire experience was, as their director Parker Bixby put it, "surreal."

One of the more notable things about the Mercer Island High School marching band's trip to London, Mr. Speaker, is that this is not the first time the band has performed at such a prestigious event. In 1996, the band performed at the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena and played there again in 2006. What's more, the band will return to Pasadena for the Parade next year, as well. The band's engagements are well documented and internationally known.

The community of Mercer Island, with a population of 22,890, is remarkably supportive of the arts. The City's Arts Council, the Rotary Club, the Schools Foundation, other community groups, and many individuals comprise a community dedicated to young musicians and artists. It is indeed a testament to the community, Mr. Speaker, that the trip to London was even possible. Raising money is never easy, especially in our economic climate. However, the people of Mercer Island generously gave to help make the dream trip a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate director Bixby for his tireless efforts, Mercer Island Superintendent Gary Plano for his support, Mayor Jim Pearman and the City Council for their support, and the people of Mercer Island for their generosity. Above all, I would like to thank the members of the band for working every day to create a product that is respected and admired around the world.

NEWTON HOUSING AUTHORITY  
HONORS JONATHAN HACKER

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, after 39 years of dedicated service in the important cause of providing housing for people in need in our society, Jonathan Hacker is retiring next month as Director of the Newton Housing Authority.

Throughout the period when many in this country mistakenly put excessive focus on pushing homeownership for lower-income people in cases where it was not appropriate, Jonathan Hacker worked tirelessly on behalf of providing decent rental housing for people in that category. As he noted recently, "When I first assumed my position at NHA, our housing portfolio consisted of 226 units of federal public housing located in 4 developments along with 223 units of subsidized housing. Today, the NHA portfolio consists of 1,034 units of affordable housing operated under federal, state, and management portfolios." This feat—more than doubling the number of rental units available—is a rare example, unfortunately, of work by someone who understands the best way in which to respond to housing needs.

Public housing has not been a fashionable cause for many years, and our society has suffered from that. Jonathan Hacker was never deterred by these attitudes from working hard on behalf of people in need, and not just people in that sector but the entire City of Newton benefitted greatly from his work. As NHA Chair Tom Turner said in the announcement of Mr. Hacker's retirement, "Jonathan will be greatly missed. He has an amazing background and work ethic as well as 39 years of housing authority experience."

Mr. Speaker, in the hopes that Jonathan Hacker's example will inspire others to work as he has on the best solution to our housing needs, I ask that the statement from the Newton Housing Authority on his retirement be printed here.

JONATHAN HACKER, NEWTON HOUSING  
AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO RETIRE

Jonathan L. Hacker, Executive Director of the Newton Housing Authority has announced his intention to retire in February after 39 years with the Authority.

Mr. Hacker began his career with the NHA in 1972 as Administrative Assistant. He was elevated to Assistant Executive Director in 1983 and to Executive Director in 1999.

When asked to reflect upon his career he stated, "When I first assumed my position at NHA, our housing portfolio consisted of 226 units of federal public housing located in 4 developments along with 223 units of subsidized housing. Today, the NHA portfolio consists of 1,034 units of affordable housing

operated under federal, state, and management portfolios. New housing opportunities have always been difficult to obtain in Newton due to factors that we are all familiar with. Our accomplishments have been extraordinary.

"We have received over 7.5 million dollars since 1992 for capital improvement funding from HUD to renovate and support our federally funded portfolio. Some of the work items include Section 504 handicap modifications at our developments, replacement heating plants, replacement windows, roofs, kitchen and bath modernizations, new fire alarm systems, balcony and canopy repairs, an emergency fire stopping project, and other improvements that make the lives of our residents easier and safer. During the initial years of the federal capital improvement program, these grants were competitive in nature. Our competitive proposals generated HUD grants in excess of 4 million dollars.

"On the State side, funds have been more difficult to come by. However, we managed to accomplish a one million dollar building envelope project, an emergency generator project which provides emergency electricity to our disabled residents at the New Hyde apartments, a replacement window program, building re-siding project, electric baseboard replacement project, drainage and surface improvements to the New Hyde site and have additional projects currently in the planning and design stage. State funded projects that are presently in the process of being federalized (Echo Ridge and Nonantum Village) are receiving significant infusions of funds, which will improve the infrastructure of these properties and enhance the lives of our residents.

"Our real property acquisition program has been amazingly successful, recently yielding 48 units of affordable housing with local inclusionary zoning funding, Community Preservation Act participation, and conventional bank financing. The Newton Housing Authority with the Commissioner's support elected to receive 6 million dollars in cash payments from developers of two luxury developments which would have otherwise provided 9 units of family housing for a finite period of time. Our election to receive cash has created appropriate sized housing conveniently located close to public amenities, which will remain affordable in perpetuity. NHA has demonstrated that it is the low cost producer of affordable housing acquisition in our city. This program creates the quickest path to creating permanently affordable housing.

"On other fronts, great accomplishment and personal satisfaction has come from our actions on behalf of victims of Hurricane Katrina, bringing Habitat for Humanity to Newton, devising an emergency management and evacuation plan for our residents, implementing and upgrading our Information Technology systems, dedicating units in our Wyman Street property for temporary emergency housing, federalizing two state funded developments, being named by HUD as a High Performing Housing Authority on multiple occasions, and being honored in November 1999 when HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo named us as '... the nation's finest ...' in a Washington, D.C. awards ceremony. We were instrumental in gaining the necessary support from the Nonantum community to allow Nonantum Village Place, a HUD 202 development to become a reality. We have had numerous financial audits including the recently completed FY 2009 A-133 audit which have all been without finding or recommendations.

"We provided much comfort to Mr. Bill Britt, the 'Hermit from Chestnut Hill'. He along with a number of truly homeless individuals residing outdoors received our care



and personal resources. Although for the most part we were unsuccessful in encouraging these folks to obtain our public housing units, we provided clothing, bedding, meals and financial assistance where we could during the coldest times of the year.

"During the blizzard of 1978, we provided food, water, and medical supplies including prescription medications to our residents. Since motor vehicles were not permitted to be on the streets during this emergency we received special authorization to carry out our mission. We made the necessary arrangements with local family owned businesses to open their doors to us, extend credit, and provide emergency supplies so that we could bring sustenance to our residents.

"There have been so many important accomplishments over the years, each that impact our residents. It would not be possible to highlight them at this time."

Mr. Hacker acknowledged the current members of the NHA Board of Commissioners for their commitment, dedication, and professional manner in which they have approached their positions. "Howard Haywood, Rick Kronish, Mary Panaggio, Jeff Sacks, and Tom Turner have each made a difference in the lives of those under our umbrella. It is, after all, about those under our care. I am pleased with the recent appointment of Rick Kronish to our Board as the representative of organized labor. Rick's background in finance and his affiliation with the New England Council of Carpenters will be an asset as the Newton Housing Authority moves forward.

"As I move into retirement, I am comfortable knowing that I have done the best job possible in my capacity of Executive Director. I leave the Newton Housing Authority with solid financial reserves, a caring and dedicated staff, and innovative and progressive programs in place. The overall excellent health of the Newton Housing Authority will afford my successor the ability to move forward with the strength to address the challenges that lie ahead."

When asked to comment on Mr. Hacker's retirement, NHA Chair Tom Turner stated, "Jonathan will be greatly missed. He has an amazing background and work ethic as well as 39 years of housing authority experience. I am hopeful that his relationship with the NHA can continue on some level going forward."

Mr. Hacker plans to spend more time with his family, including two wonderful grandchildren, improving his golf game, enjoying the outdoors and developing new interests.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN ROLAND  
SALCER

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Captain Roland Salcer, the longest working policeman in Ohio's history. Captain Salcer retired on January 1, 2011 from the Cleveland Heights Police Department after 60 years of dedicated service.

Born on December 27, 1924, Captain Roland Salcer was raised in East Cleveland and knew at an early age that he wanted to work as a policeman. Before achieving his goal of becoming a police officer, Captain Salcer served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army's tank corps for three years during World War II. During his stint in the Army he fought in the historic Battle of the Bulge.

On January 1, 1951 Captain Salcer began his career with the Cleveland Heights Police Department as a third-class patrolman. For the past 33 years he has served as a captain. During his tenure with the Cleveland Heights Police Department, Captain Salcer formed Ohio's first suburban police narcotics unit, played an integral role in a 1971 drug bust, and only used his firearm once. He has a stellar reputation as a reliable officer who has always treated people with dignity, fairness and respect. Not only is Captain Salcer the oldest and longest working police officer in Ohio's history, he is also the second longest working officer in the country's history.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Captain Roland Salcer. At the age of 86, Captain Salcer has served and protected the people of Cleveland Heights with courage for 60 years.

HONORING THE CAREER OF MINNESOTA TWINS PITCHER BERT BLYLEVEN

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Minnesota Twins pitcher and 2011 inductee into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame, Mr. Bert Blyleven.

Mr. Blyleven pitched for 22 years at the major league level, including 11 seasons as a member of the Minnesota Twins. During his career, he amassed an astonishing 3,701 strikeouts and used his magnificent curveball to help pitch two teams to World Series victories, including the 1987 Minnesota Twins.

Since 1996, Bert has been a proud member of the television broadcasting team for the Minnesota Twins and has delighted hometown fans with his color commentary.

Mr. Blyleven is a mainstay of the Minnesota sports community and his election to the Hall of Fame is long overdue. He is hereby circled.

HONORING WILLIAM (BILL)  
NESMITH

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William, Bill, Nesmith, who will retire from his position as Hillsborough County's fire chief on January 15, 2011.

Mr. Nesmith has provided Hillsborough County with 41 years of service in the fire community. After spending 24 years with Tampa Fire Rescue, he joined the Hillsborough County Fire Rescue as assistant chief in 1994 and just 2 years later became fire chief.

Under his leadership, the Hillsborough County Fire Department merged with Hillsborough's Emergency Medical Services to become Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, which he oversaw. Hillsborough County Fire Rescue saw immense growth after this, more than doubling its number of firefighters.

During Chief Nesmith's tenure as Fire Chief, eight new fire stations were opened and

equipped with state-of-the-art equipment. In addition, he was instrumental in ensuring that all engines and ladders were staffed with paramedics, providing Hillsborough County's residents with the highest level of pre-hospital care.

Mr. Nesmith has a quite impressive repertoire of accomplishments that coincide with his career. He was able to continue his formal education, receiving a bachelor in arts and a master in arts in industrial technology education from the University of South Florida. He served on numerous boards and committees, including the International Association of Fire Chiefs and Florida Fire Chiefs' Association, and has been the recipient of the Harvey Grant Excellence in Rescue Award and Hillsborough County's Distinguished Service Award.

Public servants like Mr. Nesmith keep our communities safe in our most pressing times of need. His talents will be missed, and I wish him the best in the future.

JAMES MANNING, JR.

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Mr. James Manning, Jr., to the people of Neptune, NJ. Mr. Manning stepped down from his position on the Neptune Township Committee on January 1st of this year after 15 years of dedicated and uncompromised service to the people of his hometown and the people of Monmouth County and our great State of New Jersey.

As a lifelong resident of Neptune, Jim, as he is known to his friends, joined the Neptune Township Committee on January 1, 1996, as one of the youngest elected officials in the history of the Township. But this was not the first act of public service for Mr. Manning. Jim was already living the words of the great President Abraham Lincoln who said, "He has the right to criticize who has the heart to help." By the time of his first successful election, he had already served on a number of municipal boards and worked in many campaigns and volunteer organizations. His election was recognition and reward for his service to the residents of the Township; recognition which was reinforced five more times as he continually won reelection no matter the political environment.

Mr. Manning during his 15 years of service was honored by his peers to act as mayor in 1998, 2003 and in 2007. He also served numerous times as deputy mayor and police commissioner and served on many boards as a governmental representative and liaison to departments such as Administration, Finance, Police, Courts and Public Safety as well as the Board of Health and Welfare. He also made great strides in increasing the service while controlling the costs associated with the Department of Public Works to which he served as liaison during his entire tenure on the Township Committee.

But as any great public servant, his service did not define him but was a compliment to the individual. A native of Neptune and son of Flo and James Manning, Sr., Jim worked for 12 years for Jersey Central Power and Light and today is employed serving the citizens of

the State of New Jersey in the Department of Labor in the area of Workforce Development. During his time with Jersey Central he also served his brothers and sisters in the labor movement for 5 years as the vice president of IBEW Local 1309.

Mr. Manning has two children, son Michael, 19, and daughter Melanie, who is 15, in whom he takes great pride. He also over the holidays asked Ms. Lori Davis to become his wife and join him as he embarks on this new phase of his life.

I know that though Jim has left elective office, he will not leave the service to the people of his hometown. I want to add my thanks to those of the citizens of Neptune Township for his years as a dedicated public servant and my best wishes for his continued success.

CONGRATULATING THE VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM OF BYRON P. STEELE II HIGH SCHOOL IN CIBOLO, TEXAS

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the varsity football team of Byron P. Steele II High School in Cibolo, Texas on winning the 2010 University Interscholastic League 5A Division II Football State Championship. This is Steele High School's first state championship. The Steele Knights football team victoriously ended a long season on December 18, 2010 at Dallas Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

A crowd of more than 37,000 watched the Steele Knights varsity football team win 24–21 over the Wildcats of Denton Guyer High School. In their extremely competitive 14 win, two loss season, this outstanding football team proved that hard work, dedication, and skill are the perfect recipe for champions. These football players were led to the championship title through the tireless leadership of their head football coach, Mike Jinks and his commendable staff. I congratulate the educators and leaders of this superb team, including the leadership of athletic director Robert Lehnhoff. Key players on this team include Malcolm Brown, running back and Most Valuable Player during the championship game and Ryan Simmons, linebacker and Most Valuable Defensive Player during the championship game. Although these young players stood out during the final game, it was the hard work and commitment from the entire team that lead Steele to their first title. This is not only a victory for the players, students and faculty, but for the parents, community and fans as a whole.

Steele High School is part of the Schertz Cibolo Universal City Independent School District and opened in the fall of 2005. By 2006, this school set the area record for most wins by a new school and has continued this winning tradition since its inception.

I am honored to praise the accomplishments of Cibolo, Texas' home team, the Steele Knights varsity football team as the 5A Division II State Champion. Congratulations.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLENE JOHNSON

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a trailblazing woman in the field of athletics, who represents our shared alma mater with tremendous leadership. Charlene Johnson is being honored by the Baltimore Alumni Chapter of South Carolina State University on January 16, 2011 for her 28 years of outstanding contributions to the University's Athletics Department. It is my honor to join my fellow alumni in applauding her great work.

Charlene Johnson is currently serving her seventh season as athletics director at South Carolina State University. After guiding the Department in an interim capacity in 2003, Johnson was elevated to the athletics director on a permanent basis in the spring of 2004. Her influence is being felt well beyond the Orangeburg campus. In 2007, Johnson became the first female to serve as chairperson of the Directors of Athletics in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. She has also served on several NCAA committees.

The 2010–11 athletic season marks Mrs. Johnson's 28th year as a member of the SC State Department of Athletics, making her one of just three athletics staff members with more than 25 years of service to the University's athletics department. During her tenure as director of athletics, three different SC State teams have brought home conference championships, with three earning NCAA tournament appearances. The Bulldog football team won the 2008 and 2009 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference titles and made back-to-back trips to the prestigious FCS playoffs, and was league Co-Champion in 2004.

The women's tennis team has won the last six MEAC tennis crowns and made as many appearances in the NCAA Tennis Championship, while the men's squad has earned six of the last seven MEAC titles and as many berths to the NCAA Tournament. Prior to being named director of athletics, Johnson served seven years as the senior woman administrator and associate athletic director for the university. During that time she helped usher in a new era in SC State Athletics, assisting in the planning, directing, and coordinating of all areas of the department of athletics.

Johnson began her illustrious career in athletics at SC State in 1983 when she became the first woman to be appointed to a full-time coaching position as an assistant on the Lady Bulldog basketball team. Since that time, she has served the university in a number of capacities, including head volleyball coach, head women's tennis coach, and assistant women's basketball coach. She also spent two terms as the school's interim director of athletics.

Johnson's success as a leader in athletics is grounded in her success as a player. On the basketball court she became a part of SC State history early on when, she helped the Lady Bulldogs capture the 1979 AIAW National Championship with a 73–68 win over Dayton in Fargo, North Dakota. After her playing career, Johnson continued to help her alma mater and the women's basketball program. As a member of the coaching staff, she was instrumental in keeping the Lady Bulldogs among the top teams in the Southeast.

In 1990, Johnson guided the Lady Bulldog volleyball team to its sole Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference championship, earning MEAC Coach of the Year honors for her efforts. She also earned MEAC Coach of the Year accolades for women's tennis in 1986.

In recognition of her efforts, Johnson was inducted into the SC State Athletics Hall of Fame in 1998 as an administrator and received special recognition in 2000 as a member of the 1979 AIAW National Championship team. Mrs. Johnson, who earned both her bachelor's (1980) and master's (1987) from SC State, is married to Virgin Johnson, Jr., and they are the proud parents of two children: Taylor and Virgin (Trey) III.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing the significant contributions of Charlene Johnson as an athlete, a coach and an athletics administrator. She has built an outstanding legacy at South Carolina State University, and is a trailblazing role model for women pursuing careers in university athletics. I congratulate her on a job well done and thank her on behalf of all South Carolina State alumni for her many contributions to the university.

IN HONOR OF JUDGE JEAN MURRELL CAPERS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Judge Jean Murrell Capers, a courageous woman whose very productive life serves as example of what can be accomplished through determination and dedication.

Judge Capers will celebrate her 98th birthday on January 11, 2011. Her 98 years have been filled with selfless service to others.

From 1949 to 1956 she served on the Cleveland City Council, becoming the first African-American woman elected to the city council of a major city. Between 1960 and 1964 she worked as assistant attorney general and from 1964 to 1966 she was special counsel to the Ohio Attorney General. In 1977, she was appointed as an Ohio Municipal Judge and was subsequently reelected to a 6 year term. Judge Capers fulfilled her campaign promises by assisting many black Clevelanders in finding positions with the city and by speaking out against injustice, including segregation in the local taxi cab industry. She continues today to work as an attorney with a special focus on elder law, advocating for victims of social injustice.

Judge Capers is one of the original members of the Women's Advisory Council of the Women's Division previously known as the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, now the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. In 1941, she won Cleveland's tennis championship which was organized by the city recreation department. She went on to teach health and physical education at Central High School and has worked throughout her life to support youth, encouraging them to strive to achieve academic and social success.

She was elected to the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame in 1997. In 2010, she received a Cleveland Marshall College of Law honorary doctorate of laws degree, 64 years after graduating from that institution. That same year,

she was named one of Cleveland's "Most Interesting People."

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Judge Jean Murrell Capers.

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.  
MEMORIAL BREAKFAST**

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Dr. King's life, and, unfortunately, his untimely death, reminds us that we must continually work to secure and protect our freedoms. Dr. King, in his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in the citizens of communities throughout our Nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. In particular, several distinguished individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District will be recognized during the 32nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Saturday, January 15, 2011, at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana. The Gary Frontiers Service Club, which was founded in 1952, sponsors this annual breakfast.

This year, the Gary Frontiers Service Club will pay tribute to several local individuals who have for decades unselfishly contributed to improving the quality of life for the people of Gary. Those individuals who will be recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marchers at this year's breakfast include: Karen Freeman-Wilson, the late Reverend Dr. Benjamin J. Holmes, Robert L. Nichols, Bishop Benjamin A. Sanders, William A. Shields, Ph.D., and Deputy Mayor Geraldine Tousant. Additionally, Martha Morgan Naylor will be honored with the prestigious Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award, an award given out annually to outstanding individuals of the Gary community. Ms. Johnnie Rogers will be recognized as the 2010 Frontier of the Year, which marks the first time a woman has been honored with this distinguished award.

Though very different in nature, the achievements of each of these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and faced them with unwavering strength and determination. Each one of the honored guests' greatness has been found in their willingness to serve with "a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." They set goals and work selflessly to make them a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Gary Frontiers Service Club officers: President Oliver J. Gilliam, First Vice President Sean Jones, Second Vice President James Piggee, Treasurer/Seventh District Director Floyd Donaldson, Recording Secretary Melvin Ward, Financial Secretary Sam Frazier, and

Corresponding Secretary Ferba Hines, as well as Breakfast Chairman Clorius L. Lay, Videographer Otho Lyles, Master of Ceremony Clause Dowers, the honorees, and all other members of the service club for their initiative, determination, and dedication to serving the people of Northwest Indiana.

**CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. ALBERTO CARRILLO**

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and accomplishments of Mr. Alberto Carrillo, Sr. a dedicated employee of the Office of Human Relations of Santa Clara County.

Prior to our election to the House of Representatives, I served 14 years on the Board of Supervisors for the County of Santa Clara and so I am well aware of the important work done by the County's Office of Human Relations. They work diligently with our extremely diverse community to build positive inter-group relations, to eliminate prejudice and discrimination and to foster the peaceful resolution of conflict.

Alberto has worked tirelessly advocating for civil and human rights in our community. Both with the County and in his capacity as a community activist and volunteer, he has worked toward building opportunities in housing, employment, education, business and government for Santa Clara County's diverse community.

His experiences outside of the County speak to his dedication. He began his career with the Mexican-American Chamber of Commerce, held leadership positions in the Mexican-American Political Association, and has served on many non-profit boards of directors and advisory boards.

The Congress wishes Mr. Carrillo the very best as he continues this new chapter in his life in retirement.

**IN HONOR OF SARAH BRACHMAN'S  
ADVOCACY FOR DOWN SYNDROME**

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sarah Brachman, the National Down Syndrome Society's 2011 Advocate of the Year.

Sarah Brachman has interned countless hours for my office as well as our colleague Congressman BEN CHANDLER. Some of her duties have included, but not limited to, the expansion of membership for the Congressional Down Syndrome Caucus while garnering support for legislation important to the caucus' initiatives. Sarah single-handedly recruited over 30 Members of Congress to join the caucus.

Sarah courageously speaks with individuals and groups about her daily life as an individual who lives with Down syndrome. As a direct re-

sult of Sarah's dedication and leadership, countless individuals have been educated on the concerns of the individuals with Down syndrome.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating Sarah Brachman for her devoted service as an advocate for Down syndrome.

**HONORING JOSE F. ALIAGA**

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Jose F. Aliaga for his outstanding work as a civil servant in his home country of Peru and the United States of America.

Jose Aliaga first arrived in the United States to pursue a college education at the University of Michigan, where he recently earned his diploma this past December. As a political science major, Mr. Aliaga learned about the democratic process in America and looked for ways to use this knowledge to strengthen the diplomatic and economic relationship between Peru and the United States. He worked to promote trade between America and Peru and led one of the first trade missions from the United States prior to the Free Trade Agreement.

In addition to his diplomatic work, Jose Aliaga has continued to further his role as a leader to children in Latin America. He founded the Aliaga Foundation to provide impoverished children in the jungle of Peru with books, pencils, food and medicine and continues to foster positive relations between the United States and Peru by promoting student exchanges between universities.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jose F. Aliaga. I commend Mr. Aliaga on his dedication to strengthening ties between America and Peru. He is to be applauded for his continuous contribution to the lives of children in Latin America.

**IN RECOGNITION OF MR. KENNETH  
PRINGLE**

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Kenneth Pringle, mayor of Belmar, New Jersey. Mr. Pringle will be retiring from his position as mayor after serving for 20 years. Surrounded by family, friends and colleagues, Mr. Pringle's efforts and dedication will be recognized at an awards dinner on January 22, 2011. This celebration is well-deserved in light of Mayor Pringle's 20 years of service as an admirable public servant to the constituents of Belmar.

Mayor Pringle has served as the mayor of Belmar from 1990 through 2010. The longest serving mayor of Belmar, Mr. Pringle is a staunch advocate for environmental issues and maintaining clean beaches. He has successfully sought the implementation of a smoke-free policy along the beaches in

Belmar. This policy acts as a model for various towns throughout New Jersey. During his tenure, Mr. Pringle has also supported the implementation of “green” and “sustainable” living throughout Belmar. He has also advocated against offshore drilling, hosting numerous events and press conferences in Belmar relating to this topic. Mayor Pringle’s outstanding contributions to the borough of Belmar continue to resonate and positively affect the lives of the residents.

Mr. Pringle has served on various committees, enhancing his experience and ability to assist constituents. Mr. Pringle served as chairman of the Belmar Charter Study Commission from 1989 through 1990, past chairman of the Belmar Housing Authority and a member of the Belmar Planning Board and counsel to the Red Bank Planning Board. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Monmouth Ocean Development Council and has served on the Board of Directors of New Jersey Transit Corporation. Mr. Pringle is a founder of the Belmar Improvement Fund. He was also instrumental in the forming of the Belmar Arts Council. Mr. Pringle’s unending advocacy and hard work have undoubtedly helped countless people throughout Belmar.

Mr. Pringle is a graduate of Mount Saint Mary’s College in Emmitsburg, Maryland and Georgetown University Law Center, where he was the criminal procedure project editor of the Georgetown Law Journal. From 1982 through 1983, Mr. Pringle served as law clerk to the Honorable Clement Haynsworth, Jr. of the fourth circuit. He also worked as an associate at the Washington, DC law firms of Hogan & Hartson and Ross, Dixon & Masback but soon returned to Belmar, New Jersey in 1987 to open a solo law practice. Mr. Pringle is currently the managing partner of Pringle Quinn Anzano, P.C., a 25 person law firm with offices in Belmar, Morristown and Trenton, New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mayor Kenneth Pringle’s 20 years of service to the borough of Belmar. Mr. Pringle’s achievements make him a deserving recipient of this body’s recognition.

HONORING JONATHAN D. OLSEN

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jonathan D. Olsen for his involvement in the San Diego community. Jonathan is a lifelong resident of Santee, California, having graduated from Santana High School and finalizing his bachelor of arts degree in 2011.

Jonathan has served as the president of the Santee Chamber of Commerce, is leading a successful organization and serves the community with distinction. He is a thriving businessman in Santee, having worked in the Santee community management and operating several business endeavors. He has great abilities in working and managing his family’s doughnut shops and other businesses.

Jonathan also has been active in the development of the special edition of the Echo, the Santee Street Fair, Business Expos, the Santee Car Show, and the Santee Chamber of

Commerce Awards Night. Under his leadership, several successful community events were organized. These include the Miss Santee-Teen Pageant, Sunrise Santee Morning mixers and programs, business-after-five monthly business networking meetings, Santee Day at the County Fair, Fall Frenzy-City Wide Sale and Craft Fair, SCORE Counseling-SBA counseling, installation and retreat planning and numerous ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremonies. Jonathan is also involved in speaking to high school and college students concerning their goals and aspirations.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to stand in recognition of Jonathan Olsen for his tireless work as a member of the San Diego community. Such an extraordinary level of dedication serves as an example to others and showcases the goodness that community service, charity and strong local leadership could have on impacting the lives of others. I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Jonathan and wishing him continued success in the future.

HONORING STEPHANIE AUER

**HON. STEVE STIVERS**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio’s 15th Congressional District and the citizens of Columbus, Ohio, to honor the life and memory of Stephanie Auer. Stephanie will always be remembered for her willingness and commitment to serve others. Her positive outlook and sunny disposition brought great joy to those who knew her, and the many contributions she made as a volunteer to a number of worthy causes improved the lives of people both here and around the world.

Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Stephanie graduated from Manicatt High School and attended The Ohio State University. Upon graduation, she was employed in the insurance industry as an underwriter and worked at Wells Fargo Insurance Services. Along the way, Stephanie touched the lives of many of us, and I am fortunate to be among those to call her friend.

Stephanie made her family and friends a priority in her life and was always there for others. She led by example and inspired others to step up to the plate. Whether it was teaching young girls, volunteering at a local clinic or sharing the Gospel in Cambodia, she demonstrated her faith and values through her actions and in the way she lived her life.

Stephanie touched the lives of so many people and she will be missed by all those who knew her. Her devotion to her family, friends and church will be long remembered.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, on January 6 and 7, 2011, I was out of town due

to a family situation. Unfortunately, I was not present for rollcall votes 8, 9, 10, and 11.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on all four.

HONORING JONATHAN SANFORD

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I want to honor the career of Jonathan Sanford, an international trade and finance specialist in the Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Division of the Congressional Research Service. Mr. Sanford is retiring after 39 years of federal service, including the last 38 years as a CRS expert where he became a serious student of the Congress and demonstrated a capacity for integrating substantive knowledge on a wide range of issues with a practical understanding about how to move things forward.

Mr. Sanford’s combination of personal skills, high professional capacity, mastery of a very complex set of international financial issues, and his sophisticated understanding of the political process made him ideally suited for his work teaching, informing, and advising policy makers and their staffs—and he did this throughout his career with unflagging enthusiasm and without any trace or pitch, of course, of partisanship.

Over a span of almost four decades, Mr. Sanford has helped keep Members of Congress and their staff well informed through his prolific written work—which was consistently thoughtful, responsible, and balanced in its analysis—and by his readiness to engage in active policy discussions that were so evidently shaped by a creative mind and a vast institutional memory.

His expertise on international financial issues include exchange rate systems, bilateral and multilateral debt relief efforts, reconstruction of the Iraqi economy, a thorough understanding of the international financial and multilateral development institutions, as well as the central role of Congress in the formulation of U.S. policy at these institutions, and countless others.

To many of his colleagues and the people with whom he’s worked most closely over the years, Mr. Sanford is nearly an institution himself within this venerable institution of Congress, and that seems appropriate to me because of the passion with which he was dedicated to the role and responsibilities of this legislative branch, and to its people, and its purpose, and to everyone we all work here together to serve.

I want to take this moment to congratulate and to thank Mr. Sanford not only for his many contributions to the Congress for so many years but also for his legacy of service to public policy and to the public good. His many decades of close support to the Congress, his work ethic, his standards and his character all come together to me in a way that I think best exemplifies the meaning of public service.

HONORING DALE MAJERCZYK

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dale Majerczyk as he retires as city manager for the city of Essexville Michigan. After 15 years as city manager, Mr. Majerczyk's last date will be on Friday, January 14th.

During his tenure as city manager, Mr. Majerczyk has worked to improve the city of Essexville. He was instrumental in securing funding to reconstruct streets, upgrade the waste treatment plant, develop the industrial park, build a new Department of Public Works facility, develop a brownfield plan for the city, fund landfill testing, and secured funding for a sewer project. He has represented the city with various local, state and national organizations. He helped start Kids Fest and assisted local businesses with expansion and development.

Prior to his work with the city of Essexville, Mr. Majerczyk worked for the city of Petoskey, the city of Traverse City and the Teamsters State, County and Municipal Workers Local 214. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Central Michigan University and has several public service and mediation certifications.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Dale Majerczyk as he retires as the city manager of the city of Essexville and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

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**ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI**
**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the one year anniversary of the horrific earthquake that struck our neighbor Haiti last year, killing over 200,000 men, women, and children including U.S. citizens. I join my colleagues in commemorating this somber event and in reaffirming the commitment of our nation to continue to work with the Haitian people and government to not only rebuild Haiti, but make a better Haiti.

There has been progress in the recovery from the devastating earthquake and I applaud the individuals within the State Department, USAID, the U.S. embassy in Haiti, and the many people from communities throughout our country, including my district in Wisconsin, who have volunteered, donated money, and gone to Haiti in the past year to try and make life a little better for those who have suffered so much. I also want to highlight and applaud the brave men and women in our military who were our nation's first responders during the deadly and dark first days of this catastrophe and in the months following the earthquake. For many Haitians, these men and women were the first face of hope in a hopeless situation.

Nonetheless, we are all aware of the various challenges that Haiti continues to face and will face for the foreseeable future. We all

see the tent cities. Over a million people are still waiting for both "temporary" and permanent housing solutions. Dozens of issues, from resolving disputes over land ownership to rubble removal still need to be addressed. For far too many, permanent housing solutions are no closer today than they were on January 13, 2010.

Other challenges remain. A cholera outbreak has killed over 3,500 people and affects over 150,000 more. Millions of cubic meters of rubble still remain in Port Au Prince. Add to this mix the controversy and "irregularities" surrounding the recently held Presidential and Parliamentary elections and there are plenty of obstacles to rebuilding Haiti. These come on top of the challenges existing pre-earthquake.

Additionally, I am distressed and disgusted by the recent reports about the continuing sexual violence and assault being committed in these camps against women and girls. When displacement occurs, whether because of conflict or natural disaster, women almost always suffer the most severe deprivations and consequences. According to UNICEF, a lack of security and the "hard living conditions" in the camps have been major factors increasing the risk of violence against women and girls.

Our Haiti efforts must prioritize—less with words and with more deeds and actions—the rights of vulnerable Haitian women and girls. And first and foremost, must be their immediate protection against these despicable assaults which violate basic human rights. We must strengthen the UN peacekeeping mission and the Haitian police so they can make stopping these attacks a priority.

According to Amnesty International, the risk of rape and other forms of gender-based violence in Haiti's camps has increased "dramatically" in the past year and "Women and girls, already struggling to come to terms with the grief and trauma of losing their loved ones, homes and livelihoods in the earthquake, are living in camps in tents that cannot be made secure, with the constant threat of sexual violence. Without access to medical care and with little prospect of receiving any support or seeing their attackers brought to justice, survivors see no end to their plight."

The U.S. and international community then must drastically increase their attention and focus on preventing this violence against women and girls immediately. It is also critical for the U.S. to push the Haitian government and other international donors to include women and girls in the rebuilding and recovery decisionmaking process and plans.

They have also been reports of significant delays in moving the aid that Congress approved for Haiti relief, recovery, and rebuilding out of the federal agencies and into the hands of partners on the ground in Haiti. What we need to see in 2011 is not a trickle of assistance but a downpour and I hope that these unnecessary delays have been resolved and the Administration will move to ensure that this relief gets to the Haitian people.

We also need to continue to make efforts to strengthen the ability of the Haitian government to take the lead in responding to the long-term rebuilding and recovery needs of the Haitian people. U.S. aid to Haiti, to the maximum extent possible, must be directed through or with the input of the duly-elected Haitian government. While the well-documented problems with recent elections make this goal even more difficult in the short term,

I think we all understand that the future for Haiti depends on it having an effective, accountable, and transparent government that responds to the needs of its people.

Ramping up housing efforts is also critical at this moment. More than 1 million people—approximately 380,000 of whom are children—still live in crowded camps. USAID has reported that it has spent over \$100 million for emergency and transition shelters, including temporary shelters designed to last up to three years. By the end of 2010, its temporary solutions were able to house almost 60,000 Haitians. It is an understatement to say more needs to be done.

Additionally, in the mix of all this, sometime this year, the President must also decide whether to continue Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitians in the U.S. After the earthquake, at the urging of a number of Members of Congress including myself, President Obama extended TPS for Haitians in the U.S. preventing them from being deported to the devastated country citing among other reasons, that these individuals "personal safety would be endangered by returning to Haiti." That original order will lapse in a few months. It is clear however that Haiti is still in the midst of the earthquake caused crisis that led to TPS being granted.

Lastly, even with the best intentions and the most diligent of efforts, problems and challenges will continue to affect the rebuilding efforts in Haiti. A cholera epidemic, Hurricane Tomas, highly controversial recent elections, you name it, it appears it will happen to Haiti. Therefore patience is crucial. We must rededicate ourselves to a long-term commitment to our neighbors in Haiti.

Mr. Speaker, we all have an important role to play in Haiti's recovery as it continues on this long road from tragedy to triumph. We know that many hard months remain ahead and much hard work needs to be done.

I want to make clear to the Haitian people that the U.S. government commitment to helping them rebuild is no less clear or strong today than it was on that terrible January day one year ago. This is a key moment for Haiti and for testing our commitment that was so evident in the days following January 12, 2010. Normal will not come soon enough for the Haitian people. As we commemorate the tragic events that took place one year ago, let us redouble our commitment, support, and efforts to rebuild Haiti.

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**HONORING THE SERVICE OF BONNIE ANN HEATH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CORTLAND COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT**
**HON. RICHARD L. HANNA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House join me in recognizing the service of Bonnie Ann Heath, executive director of the Cortland County Chapter of the American Red Cross upon the occasion of her retirement after outstanding leadership in this capacity from May 14, 1984 to December 31, 2010.

We celebrate the collective combined years in which Bonnie Ann Heath began her career as a volunteer with the American Red Cross in 1973, as secretary-bookkeeper from 1977–1979 and worked for the RSVP Program from 1979–1984 before being named the executive director in 1984.

Bonnie Ann Heath inspired, taught, nurtured, encouraged, showed great compassion, direction and organizational skills to countless numbers of youth, members of the Armed Forces and their families, community volunteers with the American Red Cross, in both programming and in the face of disaster.

We remember the active involvement of Bonnie Ann Heath in Red Cross programs such as Blood Services, Disaster Services, Health and Safety Training, Youth Program, First Aid and Babysitter Training, Free Learn to Swim and the Aquatics Program, First Aid Demonstrations, Wellness Days, Health Fairs, Care and Share, Project SHARE, and her work with FEMA and the 2005 Flood Disaster and the outstanding work during the 9/11/2001 disaster organizing response volunteers.

In addition to the passion of her career, Bonnie Ann Heath counts the greatest joys in her life as those of her loving husband Malcolm, her children Alene, Mellora, Derron; her four grandsons, Colby Matthew, Noah and Zachary; other family and friends; for they have been steadfast in their support and love during the countless hours of work as a professional woman.

I ask that this House once again join with me in celebrating and honoring the accomplishments of Bonnie Ann Heath. The Cortland community, this country and our world are better places thanks to the great work and dedication of Bonnie.

COMMEMORATING THE ONE-YEAR  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAITI  
EARTHQUAKE

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Haiti earthquake, to remember those who died, and to pay tribute to the remarkable perseverance of the Haitian people.

A year ago today, a massive earthquake caused almost unimaginable loss of life and devastation in Haiti. Some 250,000 people were killed, over a million displaced from their homes, and much of the capital was reduced to rubble.

I traveled to Port au Prince in early March, and I was inspired by the hope and courage of the Haitian people, even in the face of unimaginable loss. In the days and months after the earthquake, Americans responded with immense generosity, donating their money, time, and expertise to help alleviate human suffering in Haiti. More challenges followed, however, in the form of violent storms, political upheaval, and a cholera epidemic that has already claimed the lives of over 3,500 people and sickened 150,000 others.

Today is also a somber reminder of how much more we must do. The heartfelt outpouring of support from around the world in the days following the earthquake has not

translated into meaningful progress toward reconstruction and development on the ground. One year after the earthquake, it is simply unacceptable that over a million displaced people still live under tents, while much of the capital is still covered in rubble. It is unacceptable that so many Haitians lack access to clean drinking water, sanitation supplies, and medical care.

Recently, my good friend Dr. Paul Farmer published an article in *Foreign Policy* magazine outlining five lessons of the Haiti earthquake. I hope my colleagues will have the opportunity to review this important article below.

We must work to build capacity in Haiti; work with the government to provide real, long-term development; create real jobs and viable homes; and foster economic growth and vitality for Haiti and the Haitian people.

Mr. Speaker, today we remember those who were killed. We must also re-dedicate ourselves to providing real, long-term assistance and support for Haitians looking to rebuild their country.

[From *Foreign Policy Magazine*, Dec. 2010]  
5 LESSONS FROM HAITI'S DISASTER: WHAT THE  
EARTHQUAKE TAUGHT US ABOUT FOREIGN AID  
(By Paul Farmer)

1. JOBS ARE EVERYTHING

All humans need money—they need it to buy food and water every day. And no matter how hard the government or the aid industry tries, people will want for all three things until they are employed.

The world pledged some \$10.2 billion in recovery aid to Haiti after Jan. 12's devastating earthquake. Imagine how many people that money could employ, putting them to work on tasks like removing rubble (only 2 percent of which has been cleared to date), rebuilding key government buildings, and planting trees in a country that is almost entirely deforested. And yet so far, just 116,000 people have been employed in this way. Haiti has 9.8 million people, and at least half were unemployed even before the earthquake. If we focused our efforts on the singular task of getting them jobs—even if we did nothing else—Haiti's reconstruction could be a success.

2. DON'T STARVE THE GOVERNMENT

The international community doesn't know best. Local people do. NGOs like the one that I am lucky to work with cannot replace the state—nor can the United Nations or anyone else. We don't have the expertise, and we won't stay forever. We don't have the same stake in building a community that the locals themselves have. And if aid is to work, it can't fall apart when the experts leave.

On this, almost everyone agrees. But the opposite approach has characterized Haiti relief. The dollar figures tell the real story: A mere 0.3 percent of the more than \$2 billion in humanitarian aid pledged by major donors has ended up with local authorities. That money will hardly compensate for the 20 percent of civil servants who died in the quake.

Some donors argue that the Haitian government is rife with corruption and mismanagement—and that infusing it with money will only make matters worse. But we need to strengthen the public sector, not weaken it. And that will take a working budget. It's impossible to be transparent and track your budgets when you lack computers, electricity, and even the personnel to do so. Until the government has the resources it needs, Haiti will remain the republic of NGOs.

3. GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO GO HOME TO

Today, some 1.3 million Haitians live in tent camps amid often squalid conditions—

yet no one has been able to convince them to resettle. Why don't they want to leave? Because there is nothing to draw them back. Many of these displaced men and women didn't own the houses that collapsed around them; they rented them—often under very unfavorable conditions. They were in debt to bad landlords. They had no schools or clinics.

Enticing them to return home will mean providing exactly what they lacked before: housing, education, and health care. Ironically, Haitians are getting some of those things now in the camps. They have shelter in the 69,700 tents distributed by donors; they have the food and hygiene kits that NGOs offer. The tent camps may well become semipermanent homes if those services don't also exist in the cities, villages, and towns.

4. WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

At least half of aid money probably never reaches its recipients, eaten up by overhead; often it's even more. I know of no other business or enterprise in which this would be an acceptable operational strategy. Equally frustrating, sometimes the money doesn't show up at all. Of the donor dollars promised for 2010, Haiti has so far received a mere 38 percent, or \$732.5 million, excluding debt relief. Nine months after the disaster, not a cent of the U.S. donation for Haiti's reconstruction has been disbursed; it's tied up in appropriations. Imagine trying to re-engineer a devastated country when your budget is at the mercy of political whims in foreign lands.

5. RELIEF IS THE EASY PART

Disaster relief is not reconstruction. We haven't rebuilt Haiti despite giving 1.1 million people access to drinking water; we didn't remake the country with the 11,000 latrines that have been installed. "Building Haiti back better" means sustaining those temporary gains and adding education, health care, services, and good governance.

What's most important in getting started? Economic growth. Yet it is a challenge hardly mentioned in aid documents or strategies—coming up only twice in the United Nations' most recent 44-page report. Poverty of the kind that was so acutely revealed this January can't be defeated until there is a brighter economic future for the millions of Haitians who are ready to seize it.

ON THE OCCASION OF MS. JOSEPHINE F. EDWARDS' RETIREMENT FROM ELECTED OFFICE

**HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an extraordinary American who has devoted her life to building the community in which she lives—Wilson County, North Carolina. As a caring, thoughtful and passionate leader in the community, Josephine Farmer Edwards has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of those around her.

Mrs. Edwards is a native of Nash County, North Carolina. She graduated from Nash County Training School, earned a bachelor's degree from Fayetteville State College (now Fayetteville State University), and a master's degree from Pennsylvania State University. She put that education to work as a classroom teacher for 38 years in Nash and Wilson counties, and later taught adult education.

In 1986, Mrs. Edwards was elected to the Wilson County Board of Commissioners and

has distinguished herself as an elected official for the past 24 years. Mrs. Edwards has now retired from elective office but leaves a great legacy that will continue to enrich and strengthen the community for many years to come.

Mrs. Edwards' remarkable tenure included the development and construction of numerous County facilities as well as the expansion and development of critical emergency services including emergency disaster response, centralized communications, rescue services, and full countywide paramedic services.

Mrs. Edwards was a key leader in expanding recreation opportunities, improving services for seniors, enhancing cable television services, improving health care facilities and the County's road system. She has also been a strong and consistent supporter of economic development throughout the region, and a tireless advocate for improving education.

With her background in public education, Mrs. Edwards was a tireless supporter of funding for the Wilson County Public Schools and Wilson Community College. She also supported state and local bond issues for school and community college construction, which included the renovation of multiple schools and the construction of the Darden Middle School and the John W. Jones Elementary School.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to her countless gifts to our community, I have been blessed with her lifelong friendship, by which I have been enormously honored. Mrs. Edwards was married to the late James Edwards and continues to own and operate the family business, Edwards Funeral Home of Wilson. Mrs. Edwards has two adult daughters, Angela Edwards Jones (Tyrone) and Carla Edwards Williams (Daryl). She is also a proud grandmother and great grandmother.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the hard work, dedication and success of the Honorable Josephine Farmer Edwards on the occasion of her retirement from elective office.

#### HAITI EARTHQUAKE ANNIVERSARY

### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, January 12, 2010, Haiti was devastated by the most powerful earthquake to strike that nation in over 200 years.

The wave of destruction to follow was unprecedented.

In just 35 seconds, one-third of the country had been directly impacted by the worst natural disaster to ever hit the Western Hemisphere.

Today, one year later, we mark the somber anniversary of this tragedy and honor those who lost their lives that day.

Remarkably, in the midst of such devastation, the people of Haiti have forged on.

And yesterday, I was honored to have the opportunity to travel to Haiti and visit with some of these men and women as they work tirelessly to rebuild their lives, their communities and their nation.

I was struck by their enduring resilience and inspired by their perseverance.

Sustainable recovery in Haiti will depend on strong leadership by the Government of Haiti, a concrete effort to stop corruption, and the implementation of accountability and transparency measures, as well as the involvement of the people of Haiti in the design and ownership of their future.

It will also be important going forward that there be a transition away from dependency on traditional U.S. government assistance and instead a renewed focus on innovative public-private partnerships and grassroots, civil society efforts.

To ensure that U.S. foreign assistance to Haiti remains transparent and effective, I also plan on introducing legislation to that end this Congress, calling for increased and sustained oversight over U.S. funding to Haiti.

Finally, though the official OAS report has not yet been released, it appears that certain changes will need to be made to ensure that the true will of the Haitian people in electing their future representatives is honored and respected.

The Haitian people deserve a leader who believes in effective, good governance and the rule of law.

And it is only in adherence to these principles, that Haiti's recovery may be successful.

#### FEDERAL FURLOUGH BILL

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, as a former small businessman and former state legislator, I am horrified at the unlimited ability of the federal government to deficit spend. Small businesses have to balance the books, or they go out of business. And unlike the spendthrift ways prevalent in this building, state governments generally have to balance their budgets.

Recently, at least 24 states, and nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a million workers, have undertaken a budget-cutting maneuver that I believe we should consider at the federal level: short term employee furloughs. These states, across the nation, along with city and county government counterparts, recognize that occasional worker furloughs are necessary to cut budgets and hold down spending. It also has the benefit of ensuring that federal workers are not sheltered from the realities of life in today's economy.

The federal government continues to grow, and continues to rack up debt. I would like to make the U.S. Government as cost conscious as the states. My legislation is a start. It will make Federal civilian employees subject to a non-consecutive two week furlough next year, correspondingly reduce appropriations for salaries and expenses for offices of the legislative branch, and provide a 10 percent reduction in pay for Members of Congress. An exception is provided for national security or reasons relating to the public health or safety, including effective law enforcement. This bill will save the federal government over \$5.5 billion.

Furlough Fridays and other such ideas are becoming a common occurrence for state and local governments. They present slight problems but they provide large solutions to the budget troubles we face. I believe that managed appropriately, with due allowance for

vital and national security implications, as specified in this bill, they can do the same for the federal government.

#### TRIBUTE TO CORONA CITIZEN OF THE YEAR PAT MILLER

### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California are exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to make their communities a better place to live and work. Pat Miller is one of these individuals. On January 15, 2011, Pat will receive a prestigious honor when the Corona Chamber of Commerce names her Citizen of the Year for 2010 at the organization's 96th Annual Awards and Installation dinner at the Eagle Glen Golf Club.

Pat Miller and her late husband, Roger, owned and operated the Thomas Miller Mortuary for many years before they turned over day-to-day operations to their son Chris and his wife Rhonda. The mortuary has been an integral part of the community of Corona, and has provided care and solace to many families who have lost loved ones.

In addition to her role as a business owner in the community, Pat Miller exemplifies the word "volunteer." She has spent her life donating her time and attention to various clubs, organizations and activities. In 1985, she served as the President of Soroptimist International of Corona, and remains a life member. Through Soroptimist she became involved with the Riverside County Coalition for Alternatives to Domestic Violence.

Thanks to the diligent efforts of Pat, and a group of core volunteers, the services provided by this organization have expanded tremendously. The organization is now known as the Corona Outreach office, and the facility has grown from one small shelter to a 45-bed facility. Pat also served on the Board of Directors and Advisory Board for many years. Her accomplishments did not go unnoticed, and Pat was awarded the Women Helping Women Award in 1985 and the Golden West Regional Award Program.

Additionally, Pat donated much of her time to volunteering with the school district as she raised her children, Chris and Stephanie. She has remained active member of the PTA, the Corona-Norco School District Advisory Committee, and now has a renewed interest now that her grandchildren are in school.

For many years, Pat served on the Corona Regional Medical Center Foundation Board and chaired the main fundraising black tie dinner several times. In fact, she is now in her 15th year serving on the Corona Regional Medical Center Governing Board of Directors.

Other organizations fortunate enough to have Pat's attention include the Women's Improvement Club of Corona, Navy League, Children's Home Society, Pink Ladies Hospital Auxiliary, Boys Club Auxiliary, The United Way, Catholic Daughters, Corona Chamber of Commerce and St. Matthew's Church.

In light of all Pat Miller has done for the community of Corona, the Corona Chamber of Commerce is honoring Pat as Citizen of the Year. Pat's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. She has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events and I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she receives this prestigious award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW COLUMBIA ADMISSION ACT, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA EQUAL REPRESENTATION ACT AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOUSE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce three bills that provide different approaches for obtaining congressional representation and full democracy for the more than 600,000 American citizens who reside in the nation's capital and pay the full array of federal taxes that support the government of the United States, but have no voting representation in Congress. These bills are the New Columbia Admission Act, the District of Columbia Equal Representation Act (formerly titled the No Taxation Without Representation Act) and the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act. These are the first bills of our Free and Equal D.C. series—bills that address the missing rights to self-government and democracy that other American citizens enjoy—to be introduced in the coming weeks. I have introduced all three of these bills during different periods in the past. I introduce them today after listening to residents at the many Community Conversations I have held in each ward of the District since a dangerous gun amendment—which would have eliminated all of the District's gun laws and would have done much more—forced delay of the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act in April 2010.

These Community Conversations, as well as other constituent meetings and correspondence, have indicated that these three bills have significant support among D.C. residents. I introduce them today, a week after the new House majority eliminated the District's vote in the Committee of the Whole, despite a finding by the federal courts that this vote is constitutional. Recognizing that the House would not consider any approach to representation and full democracy for D.C. residents at this time, I am introducing bills that each had majority support in the District among residents during the years that each was under consideration. D.C. residents, in their quest for full democracy, have always embraced the approach that appeared most timely and possible. Because we are blocked from pursuing any approach at this time, I am introducing the bills that residents have indicated would have their continued support. These bills send a direct message to Congress that residents are undeterred in the pursuit of our rights, and the bills also will help ensure no weakening in the

momentum residents have built here and throughout the country over the past several years for full democracy. However, I have not included a bill to fully or partially retrocede the District of Columbia to the State of Maryland, ideas that also have been mentioned for many years. Few District residents have indicated support for retrocession approaches, and, in our experience, even fewer Maryland public officials and residents support them. It is inconsistent with the District's pursuit of self-determination to impose upon another jurisdiction without consent from that jurisdiction.

D.C. residents are entitled to nothing less than full and equal citizenship, which can only be achieved through statehood. Accordingly, the first bill I introduced when I came to Congress in 1991, the New Columbia Admission Act, would have made the District of Columbia the 51st state, the State of New Columbia. The New Columbia Admission Act would create a state from essentially the eight hometown wards of the District. However, the state would have no jurisdiction over the federal territory in the District of Columbia, consisting of most of the Washington that Members of Congress and visitors associate with Washington, DC, the capital of our country. The U.S. Capitol premises, the principal federal monuments, federal buildings and grounds, the National Mall and other federal property here would remain under federal jurisdiction, as elsewhere. Our bill provides that the State of New Columbia would be equal to the other 50 states in all respects, in that the residents of New Columbia would have all the rights of citizenship they are entitled to as taxpaying American citizens. New Columbia would have two senators and, initially, one House member.

The New Columbia Admission Act has received significant support in the House in the past. In 1993, we got the first vote on statehood for the District of Columbia, with nearly 60 percent of Democrats and one Republican voting for the New Columbia Admission Act. The Senate held a hearing on its companion bill, introduced by Senator Ted Kennedy, but declined to hold a markup in committee or to consider it on the floor. Soon thereafter, the District, which is the only U.S. city that pays for state functions, found it necessary to ask the federal government to take over the cost of some state functions, posing fiscal barriers to entry into the Union on an equal basis, and the Democrats lost control of the House. This temporary setback led me to introduce the second best option then available, a bill for Senate and House representation for D.C.

Today, I also introduce the District of Columbia Equal Representation Act, which would give the District of Columbia two senators and, initially, one House member. With statehood delayed, Senator JOSEPH LIEBERMAN and I introduced this bill for several years as the No Taxation Without Representation Act. The House, which was controlled by Republicans, did not act on the bill. The Senate held hearings and marked up the bill in 2002, but did not bring it to the floor.

Today, I also introduce the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act, a bill for one House member, initially, for D.C. residents. In 2005, when I continued to be in the minority, then-Representative Tom Davis and I partnered on a bipartisan bill, the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act, giving House votes to Democratic D.C. and Republican Utah. The D.C. House Voting Rights Act

marked the first time in decades that we achieved large House and Senate majorities for voting rights for D.C. residents, and brought the city closer than we have ever come to voting representation in more than two centuries. This bill likely would be law today had the gun lobby not insisted on adding an amendment that would not only have eliminated the District's gun laws, but also would have added measures making the nation's capital a virtually gun law-free jurisdiction.

In introducing these bills, we lay down a marker of our determination to never relent or retreat until we have obtained each and every right to which we are entitled, whether through the frustration and anguish of the incrementalism that Congress has always forced upon us or with the full and complete set of rights, which would be achieved through statehood. We will be watchful to both make and seize every opportunity to pursue our rights, regardless of who controls Congress. We accept no imposed limit on our equal rights as American citizens, and we will pursue them all until the day when there is no difference in citizenship between residents of the District of Columbia and other American citizens.

IN HONOR OF LENA BAKER  
(POSTHUMOUSLY)

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lena Baker. Today, her family dedicates her tombstone, 65 years after she was laid to rest at the Mt. Vernon Baptist Church in Cuthbert, Georgia.

She was born June 8, 1900 near Cuthbert, in the small community of Cotton Hill where her family worked as farmers. Ms. Baker worked as a maid, cleaning houses and doing laundry to support her three children. She also was employed by Ernest B. Knight, a local gristmill owner.

On April 29, 1944, Ms. Baker was forced from her home by Ernest Knight and taken to the gristmill, where she was held against her will. According to court testimony, Knight brandished the iron bar that was used to lock the door. Ms. Baker, fearing for her life, attempted to leave and the two "tussled" over a pistol. During the struggle, the gun went off, killing Knight. Ms. Baker testified that she walked immediately to the house of County Coroner, J. A. Cox, and confessed to the accidental death of Ernest Knight.

Her trial convened on August 14, 1944 at the Randolph County Courthouse, which was then presided over by Judge Charles William "Two Gun" Worrill, who kept two pistols on the bench. With an unconcerned lawyer by her side, a jury of twelve Caucasian men—hardly a jury of her peers—found her guilty in a trial and deliberation that, together, lasted less than four hours. Judge Worrill sentenced Ms. Baker to be executed. However, Governor Ellis Arnall granted Ms. Baker a 60-day reprieve so that the Board of Pardons and Pardon could review the case.

In January 1945, the board denied clemency. She then was taken to Reidsville State



Prison on February 23, 1945. Ms. Baker's execution date was rescheduled for March 5, 1945. She is the only woman to be executed by electrocution in the State of Georgia.

She went to the electric chair calmly and bravely. Her last words were, "What I done, I did in self-defense, or I would have been killed myself. Where I was I could not overcome it. God has forgiven me. I have nothing against anyone."

Ms. Baker is buried in the cemetery at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church in Randolph County, where she once worshiped. In 1998 a group of church members finally marked her grave.

In August 2005, the State Board of Pardons and Paroles posthumously pardoned Ms. Baker, acknowledging that the 1945 decision to deny clemency to Ms. Baker was "a grievous error" and that she could have been charged with the lesser crime of voluntary manslaughter, which would have prevented the sentence of capital punishment.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that the dedication of her tombstone today can heal the wounds of the past. May Lena Baker now truly rest in peace.

THE RENEWABLE ENERGY APPLIED PARTNERSHIPS (REAP) ACT

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, Hawaii, like the rest of the United States, is entirely too dependent on imported fossil fuels. We must speed up the development of renewable energy technologies that can help wean us from our oil dependence and create economic growth at home. If we sow the seeds of renewable energy innovation today, we will be able to reap the benefits for years to come.

Today I introduce the Renewable Energy Applied Partnerships (REAP) Act. This bill will create a Department of Energy pilot program to provide grants to partnerships which will include community colleges and universities, businesses, nonprofits, labor organizations, state education agencies, National Academies, and other public agencies. These partnership grants can be used to train teachers, recruit students, design renewable energy instructional programs, and encourage collaboration between faculty and industry partners.

The bill builds on the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act to help students learn practical skills for future careers in renewable energy and STEM fields. Partnerships will also receive priority if they can demonstrate long-term sustainability without continued federal funding.

Hawaii is at the forefront of innovation in the renewable energy sector, and I have visited many existing cross-sector partnerships in wind, solar, biofuels, and other renewable energy technology. It is my hope that this bill will help support the very best of these collaborations in Hawaii and around the country, to create jobs and train the next generation of renewable energy workers.

For his work on this bill last Congress, I thank my former colleague, Congressman Patrick Murphy of Pennsylvania, the first Iraq War veteran in Congress and a fighter for STEM education in Pennsylvania and nationwide.

HONORING THE LIFE OF A HISTORIC HMONG LEADER: GENERAL VANG PAO

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 12, 2011*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, service and sacrifice of Gen-

eral Vang Pao, who passed away yesterday evening in Clovis, California. General Vang Pao was a historic Hmong military leader who led his people against communist forces during a turbulent time in Laos from 1961 to 1975. In this country, General Vang Pao served as a civilian leader who continued to lead the Hmong American community for nearly four decades.

My heart-felt sympathy goes out to General Vang Pao's family and to all the Hmong-American families in Minnesota and across the U.S. Over the years, I had the honor of joining General Vang Pao at many events such as: the Hmong American New Year celebrations and the July Soccer Festival celebrations in St. Paul, as he had always come to the Twin Cities to join the Hmong community for those events. Most recently, I had the great honor of joining him for the grand opening celebrations of the Hmong Village Center on the Eastside of St. Paul on October 30, 2010. Although frail from his failing health and sitting in his chair, the General was in good spirit and spoke eloquently to a large gathering crowd at the celebrations. Sadly, this was the last time I saw him.

General Vang Pao's influence has touched the Hmong-American community deeply, and I know the community will continue to share and cherish the memories of his legacy for future generations to come. In honor of General Vang Pao's lifetime of service to his people and loyalty to the U.S., I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

The Senate stands in recess pursuant to the provisions of S. Con. Res. 1, until 10 a.m., on Tuesday, January 25, 2011.

### Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

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## House of Representatives

### Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 36 public bills, H.R. 4, 262–296; and 6 resolutions, H.J. Res. 19, and H. Res. 32–36, were introduced.

Pages H200–02

**Additional Cosponsors:**

Pages H203–04

**Reports Filed:** There were no reports filed today.

**Committee Elections:** The House agreed to H. Res. 33, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. Pages H143–44

**Order of Business:** Agreed by unanimous consent that it shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of January 12, 2011, to consider in the House without intervention of any point of order a resolution relating to recent events in Tucson, Arizona, if offered by the Speaker or his designee; such resolution shall be debatable for six hours equally divided and controlled by the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader or their respective designees; and the previous question shall be considered as ordered on such resolution and any preamble thereto to final adoption without intervening motion. Page H144

**Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona, on January 8, 2011:** The House agreed to H. Res. 32, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona, on January 8, 2011.

Pages H144–60, H160–H200

**Recess:** The House recessed at 12:42 p.m. and reconvened at 1:55 p.m. Page H160

**Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Representatives Thornberry, Myrick, Miller (FL), Conaway, King (NY), LoBiondo, Nunes, Westmoreland, Bachmann, Rooney, and Heck. Page H200

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** There were no yea-and-nay votes, and there were no recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and at 6 p.m., pursuant to S. Con. Res. 1, the House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on January 18, 2011, and pursuant to H. Res. 32, the House stands adjourned out of respect for the victims of the attack in Tucson, Arizona.

### Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2011

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

#### Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, January 25

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 p.m., Tuesday, January 18

Senate Chamber

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will be in a period of morning business.

Program for Tuesday: To be announced.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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 Visclosky, Peter J., Ind., E51



## Congressional Record

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