

In each and every moment, my thoughts and prayers have been with all of the victims and their families as they begin the long road to healing and recovery. They must understand that we are with them.

We are with you. You are not alone. We love you, and we are praying for your safety and recovery.

REMEMBERING XAVIER OMARI JOY

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, on a June summer evening in Chicago, Illinois, in my district on the south side, a young man, 23 years old, was shot down, killed, and robbed of his cell phone, which was a nonsensical killing.

Xavier Omari Joy was a teacher of our city, State, and Nation. He was given so much potential. He carried with him so much promise, and in his heart breathed so much purpose and dedication.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, he spoke these words: "Living in Woodlawn and working at the South Side YMCA, I know the pitfalls and challenges my community faces. I strive to help the youth in my community by being a positive role model. I want to tangibly connect and aid youth to positively progress as students."

These were the words spoken by Xavier Omari Joy, a young man whose life was ended last Thursday.

Xavier graduated from one of Chicago's premier high schools, the Whitney M. Young High School. He played football for a year at the Harvard of the African American in the south, Morehouse College.

Mr. Speaker, in the year 2014, Xavier joined City Year Chicago as a volunteer. City Year is a program of AmeriCorps, whose purpose is to send young mentors into underserved communities to be of help, to provide guidance, and most importantly of all, to provide meaningful, substantive examples.

Xavier had so much promise, potential, and so much personality. He could walk into a room and the room would just light up. Friends always knew that they could come to Xavier to get a compassionate hearing of their issues and their problems. If you were down for a moment, hey, Xavier could lift you up for the rest of the day.

He didn't get to be this kind of excellent individual by accident. He was born into a family of community-conscious people. His father, Ra Joy, is the executive director of CHANGE Illinois, a coalition leading systemic political and development action. His mother, Nykea Pippion-McGriff, is the first African-American woman president of the Women's Council of Realtors in Chicago.

Mr. Speaker, I come here today to honor and ask the Members of this Chamber to honor the life and the memory of Xavier Joy.

Xavier, our Nation, our community, and the people in the First Congressional District of Illinois will not let your death be in vain. We want to extend the promise, the potential, and the purpose of your life into the lives of all the young people in our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, "Living in Woodlawn and working at the Southside YMCA, I know the pitfalls and challenges my community faces. I strive to help the youth in my community by being a positive role model. I want to tangibly connect and aid youth to positively progress as students."

These were the words of Xavier Omari Joy who was murdered on the streets of Chicago on June 8th.

After graduating from one of Chicago's top high schools, Whitney Young, and playing college football for a year at Morehouse, Xavier returned home to the South Side.

In 2014, Xavier joined City Year Chicago, an AmeriCorps program that sends mentors into Chicago's most under-served schools to provide guidance and examples for youth.

Just 23 years old, Xavier envisioned a career as an elected official. He saw this as another way to directly impact his community and his city.

He was born into a family of community conscious parents. His father, Ra Joy is the executive director of CHANGE Illinois, a coalition leading systemic political and government reform. His mother, Nykea Pippion-Griff is the first elected African American woman president of the Women's Council of Realtors Chicago.

He further served his community as a tutor and mentor at the YMCA, as well as several schools in the Chicago metropolitan area.

Xavier made his life about giving back and ensuring that children had a positive male role model.

We will always remember Xavier's dedication to others, warmth, confidence, and benevolent spirit.

It is his loss of life that brought me to the House floor today. There are too many names, too many lives taken far too soon in my city, Chicago.

There is a perverse spirit rampant in our nation where life no longer carries its value.

That was demonstrated yesterday with the Alexandria shooting that wounded Majority Whip STEVE SCALISE, Capitol Police Special Agents Crystal Griner and David Bailey, Congressional Staffer Zachary Barth, and lobbyist Matt Mika.

Life is valuable and we need to cherish its meaning.

As a father whose son was also killed by gun violence, I can empathize with Nykea's family and all the families across my district and the Nation who have experienced this tragedy. No parent should have to experience a loss such as this.

Xavier was the type of young man that we all want our children to grow up to be and his life was taken while doing something so many Americans take for granted every day: returning home from work.

My thoughts and prayers are with Nykea's family and the families across America who mourn those lost to senseless violence.

We deserve better. We are better.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 35 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, thank You for giving us another day. In Your presence, dark nights of challenges are dispelled by the dawn of Your love, and You know our needs before we express them.

Thank You for daily providing our lawmakers with guidance and strength.

We pause to thank You for the courage and sacrificial service of our Capitol Police. Forgive us when we take their daily courageous service for granted.

Forgive us also when we seem to forget that words matter and can become seeds that will bring a bitter harvest.

Bring speedy healing to our brother STEVE SCALISE, and all those injured in yesterday's shooting. Bring peace and solace to all those affected by yesterday's tragedy.

Today, use the Members of this people's House as instruments of Your peace, bringing unity from division, light from darkness, joy from sadness, and hope from despair.

Dear God, continue to bless America, and may all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

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 Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CRAWFORD 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

RAISING AWARENESS FOR
ALOPECIA AREATA

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring attention to alopecia areata, a common autoimmune disease affecting almost 7 million Americans today. This disease is characterized by hair loss in round patches throughout the body and can affect everyone regardless of race, gender, or ethnicity.

Alopecia areata can have a devastating psychological consequence on patients, especially children whose confidence and emotional well-being can be severely impacted by the physical manifestation of the disease.

Although there is currently no cure for this disease, we are blessed to have organizations like the National Alopecia Areata Foundation working tirelessly to bring hope to those whose lives have been touched by this condition.

Through its wonderful staff and volunteers, the NAAF is lending essential support to research for a cure, which will happen, and serving as a helping hand to the families as they deal with this overwhelming disease.

Mr. Speaker, there is much that we can do to help patients, and especially caregivers, so I encourage everyone in my community in south Florida and around the Nation to visit naaf.org to learn more about alopecia areata and to find out how you can get involved and help find a cure for this disease.

U.S. EMBARGO ON CUBA

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, soon President Trump will announce plans to reinstitute an almost 60-year U.S. embargo on Cuba. This embargo was lifted by President Obama in 2014, and today, over 75 percent of Americans support continued normalized relationships with Cuba.

The new, open relationship with Cuba has helped grow the U.S. economy, and the President's plan to close Cuba will cost the U.S. economy over \$6.5 billion.

Roswell Park Cancer Institute in my home community of Buffalo, New York, is today partnered with the Center for Immunotherapy in Cuba to clinically test, in the United States, CIMAvox, a lung cancer vaccine giving advanced lung cancer patients new hope.

The Roswell Park-led clinical trial, approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration, was only possible because of normalized relationships with Cuba. President Trump wants to destroy that relationship, and this Congress needs to stand up to this President and on behalf of the millions of Americans who benefit, including

millions of cancer patients, from open relationships between the United States and Cuba.

HONORING LIEUTENANT PATRICK
WEATHERFORD

(Mr. CRAWFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a police officer from my district who lost his life in the line of duty just this week.

Lieutenant Patrick Weatherford was a 15-year veteran of the Newport police force in the criminal investigations division. He graduated from Arkansas State University-Newport, and University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Lieutenant Weatherford, 41, was the husband to Kristen Weatherford and a loving father to his daughter and young son.

At 6 p.m. on Monday, June 12, 2017, Weatherford responded to reports of a vehicle break-in. In pursuit of the suspect on foot, Lieutenant Weatherford was shot and taken to a local hospital where, shortly after, he succumbed to his wounds.

While I did not know Weatherford personally, what I do know is that he was deeply loved by his community of Newport. The police chief, Michael Scudder, described Weatherford as a very good friend and an excellent officer who wanted to make things better for Newport. Others remember him as a mentor and a fair, calming presence on the force at times when things can get tense.

Weatherford had graduated from Newport High School and dedicated his life to learning how to serve the community he loved better and better. Last year, Patrick had graduated from the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. That same year, Weatherford was named the Jackson County Officer of the Year by Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge.

Weatherford's passing should be a reminder of what we ask of our police officers and first responders every day, year in and year out. The work they do is so often underappreciated, and yet their dedication and discipline allows all of us to live in peace and safety.

My thoughts continue to be with Lieutenant Weatherford's family, their police department, and the community of Newport. What our fellow men and women risk to protect us every day should humble us all.

ANGER AND HATRED IN
POLITICAL ISSUES TODAY

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, this is my 29th year in Congress. I have followed the issues since my early teens more than 50 years ago. I have never seen anywhere close to the

anger and hatred there is on political issues today.

Yesterday, on the "Chris Plante Show," he mentioned a professor, John Griffin, from the Art Institute of Washington. Last month, Professor Griffin posted a link to a Washington Post column, with the professor commenting that all Republican Members of the House "should be lined up and shot." He added, "That is not hyperbole. Blood is on their hands."

That was in support of a Washington Post column by Paul Waldman saying the Republican healthcare bill was an "act of monstrous cruelty" that should "stain those who supported it to the end of their days."

Those who have so much hatred and anger in their hearts and minds seriously need to seek religious or psychiatric help.

BRING MORE CIVILITY INTO OUR
POLITICAL DISCOURSE

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in Congress to express my deep sorrow after yesterday's shooting.

At the end of the day, we are not Republicans or Democrats; we are Americans. We may disagree with one another, but we cannot allow those disagreements to change how we treat each other as fellow human beings.

I believe we need to change our tone and bring more civility to our political discourse. Young people across the country look to us to set an example, and we all must rise to the occasion.

This horrible violence will not divide us and it will not stop us from getting back to business on behalf of the American people.

Let us come together as Americans above all else, and, of course, keep our good friend, STEVE SCALISE, and all of those affected by the shootings in our prayers.

SPEAK TRUTH TO THE POWERFUL
LIBERAL MEDIA

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we must speak truth to the powerful liberal media. The invective, spite, and venom they hurl daily at the President contributes to an environment of hatred and violence. The media's constant barrage of personal attacks can incite someone to take irrational actions.

The shooter at the Virginia ballpark yesterday wounded five people. His Facebook page once read: "It is time to destroy Trump and company." That is not much different from the tone of many media articles.

A study last month found that the President had received a higher percentage of negative coverage than any