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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 20, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHNNY ISAKSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4475. An act making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 4475) "An Act making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. SHELBY, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BOND, Mr. GORTON, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. BYRD, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. REID, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. INOUE, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Janu-

ary 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

PUTTING A FACE ON THE VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have spent my adult life in public service, but one element that disappoints me is the failure of our society to address the critical problem of reducing gun violence in our society.

Since I started my career, over 1 million Americans have become victims to gun violence. This is more than all the Americans who have died in all the battles since the Civil War.

One of the reasons, I think, that we have failed to make progress in reducing this epidemic of gun violence is because we have failed to put a face on a million victims. One of the things that I would like to do, as a small contribution towards the reduction of this gun violence, is to help put faces on those victims. We cannot afford for them to be anonymous.

Today I would like to spend a couple of minutes talking about young Kevin Imel. He was visiting a school mate during spring vacation. The evening before, an 11-year-old friend had been playing with his parents' gun. The guns were not safely stored. They did not have trigger locks. They had bullets. Kevin was not comfortable and would not play with his friend and made it clear to him.

The next morning as they were watching Saturday cartoons, the friend suggested again that they play with this gun. Kevin was evidently forceful in indicating that one should not play with guns. It angered his 11-year-old classmate, who went to his parents' room while his mother was putting on makeup, marched out of the room with a rifle, announcing, "Kevin, you are dead."

He fired a bullet that went through Kevin's shoulder. His little sister who was there helped carry him to the car, and Kevin bled to death on the way to the hospital.

Kevin Imel's parents are well-known in my community. His mother is characterized with courage and warmth, who helps others by deed and leads by example in terms of leadership of what people in the disabled community can do.

Lon, the father, was a labor leader. He worked for our former colleague, Congresswoman Elizabeth Furse, and he too has been active in the community. Their service is all the more poignant, I think, because their son Kevin today is a series of warm memories and a life tragically cut short rather than growing into adulthood and being productive and carrying forward himself.

It is time for America to remember the Kevin Imels of this world, to put a face on those million victims. I do think that it is time for our friends in the Republican leadership in this Congress to allow us to deliberate on items that would reduce gun violence. For almost a year now, the conference committee on juvenile crime has not met. The provisions that have passed the Senate, three simple common sense provisions that would help reduce gun violence, that are supported by the overwhelming majority of the Americans and indeed of American gun owners, have not been deliberated. It is time for the Republican leadership to

□ 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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