

inmates. Thirteen percent of all sexual violence in our prisons is against these young people. They represent 1 percent of the total population. Moreover, and not surprisingly, youth have the highest rate of suicide in our jails. And as we know too well in Connecticut, placing juveniles with adults only exacerbates that problem.

However, I'm hopeful that with this legislation, H.R. 1873, the Juvenile Justice Improvement Act, we can start to reverse these dangerous trends.

Mr. Speaker, by keeping youth out of the adult criminal justice system and by using rehabilitative programs and services that are proven to try to help stop that cycle of crime, youth involved in these systems can emerge as proactive, positive and productive members of our community and of our workforce.

Specifically, this bill would protect youth prosecuted as adults from being held in adult jails or lockups while awaiting trial except in very limited circumstances. In these limited circumstances, youth prosecuted as adults must be sight and sound separated from adults in that facility to help protect their safety. Fortunately, some States already allow youth who have been convicted as adults to serve their sentence in juvenile correctional facilities. H.R. 1873 would remove a provision in current law that penalizes these States for choosing to house youth convicted as adults in more appropriate settings while not endangering other youth in the facility.

The Juvenile Justice Improvement Act would also work to keep youth out of locked facilities for noncriminal status offenses like running away or violating curfew. It would do this by closing a loophole in the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.

This vital legislation would also encourage States to take steps to eliminate the use of dangerous practices such as choking youth or restraining them to fixed objects for the purpose of coercion, punishment or the convenience of staff. These steps would include collecting data on the use of these dangerous practices in prisons, providing training to staff on effective behavior management and creating an independent monitoring system to oversee conditions across the country at juvenile facilities.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the Juvenile Justice Improvement Act would reward States through incentive grants that are implementing ideas that are research and evidence based. Such reforms would include making juvenile justice facilities safer based on this research, improving public safety in the rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents based on research, and better addressing the mental health needs of juvenile justice inmates based on research.

Mr. Speaker, these changes to the juvenile justice system are critical to ensure that all of our youth become law-abiding, contributing members of society. There is not always political util-

ity in government to stand up for youthful offenders, Mr. Speaker. It is not an easy thing for Members of this House or State legislatures to stand up and fight for.

But we need to fight for these kids under the age of 18 who may have made a mistake, maybe a big mistake, to try to give them a second chance or at the very least to try to make sure that when they are in prison, when they are locked up behind bars that they are safe from the ravages that can be associated with incarceration. If we can do those things, we are a better Congress and we are a better society.

With that, I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring H.R. 1873.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

LONE WOLF HUNTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the statements written as part of an assessment by the Department of Homeland Security classifying disgruntled veterans as a threat to U.S. security and potential recruits for right-wing extremist groups. The report was distributed among law enforcement agencies throughout the country earlier this week. When I was back home in San Diego, our El Cajon police department had actually gotten this memorandum classifying me. Because I served three tours overseas with the United States Marine Corps, two in Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom and one in Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom, I am a possible terrorist.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to go over some stuff with this DHS memorandum. It is the "Right-wing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment." And here is a picture of it here. This is an actual Department of Homeland Security memorandum that went out to every local, State and Federal law enforcement agency in the entire country.

I would just like to go over a few points of it. It first starts off by saying that "the Department of Homeland Security Office of Intelligence and Analysis has no specific information that domestic right-wing terrorists are currently planning acts of violence." So they don't have any evidence for anything, but they are still going to call people like me possible "terrorists."

We read further down: "The possible passage of new restrictions on firearms and the return of military veterans fac-

ing significant challenges reintegrating into their communities could lead to the potential emergence of terrorist groups or lone wolf extremists capable of carrying out violent attacks."

I wasn't paranoid before, Mr. Speaker, but if we are going to pass new regulations on firearms, we are going to change the Second Amendment. And the fact that I would like to keep my own guns and that I'm a veteran who has served, that makes me a possible terrorist, as stated by our own government, by our own administration.

I read further down: right-wing extremism—and by the way, it is interesting that they don't talk about left-wing extremism or liberal extremism or progressivists. It is just right-wing extremism, and that is okay to talk about. It is okay to scorn those people that are right wing. They aren't as American as everybody else. "Right-wing extremism in the United States can be broadly divided into those groups, movements and adherents that are primarily hate oriented," I'm quoting here from this memo, "those that are mainly anti-government, rejecting Federal authority in favor of State or local authority." That means every single one of our Founding Fathers was a possible terrorist because they believed in local authority. They believed in States' rights. They didn't want an all-encompassing, dominating Federal Government.

It also includes groups of individuals that are dedicated to a single issue, such as opposition to abortion or immigration. I'm quoting again.

So I'm pro-border security. I think that illegal immigration is called "illegal immigration" because, well, it is illegal. That once more makes me a possible terrorist. I'm pro-life. That makes me a possible terrorist too.

I keep reading down: "Returning veterans possess combat skills." That is me. I possess combat skills. So do millions of other Americans that have served in our Armed Forces since 2001—"combat skills and experience that are attractive to right-wing extremists."

The DHS, our own government, is concerned that right-wing extremists, I guess that's me, will attempt to recruit and radicalize returning veterans in order to boost their violent capabilities.

That sounds pretty scary. I must be pretty scary. I wonder if DHS is on their way here to get me right now. I will stay here and wait for them for a little bit longer.

I read further down: "Many right-wing extremists are agnostic toward the new Presidential administration and its perceived stance on a range of issues, including immigration and citizenship, the expansion of social programs"—that is a new one. If you don't like the expansion of social programs, you're a possible terrorist, too—"and restrictions on firearms ownership and use." If you weren't paranoid before, you ought to be getting paranoid now.

I will keep reading: "Right-wing extremists were concerned during the 1990s with the perception that illegal immigrants were taking away American jobs through their willingness to work at significantly lower wages. They also opposed free trade agreements, arguing that these arrangements resulted in Americans losing jobs to other countries." Are Americans not losing jobs to China, to Communist China, to India and to Mexico? If you believe that American jobs are worth fighting for, then you're a terrorist.

HONORING THE CREW OF THE APOLLO 11 MISSION TO THE MOON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I introduce legislation today to award the Congressional Gold Medal to four brave and exemplary Americans, Commander Neil A. Armstrong, command module pilot Michael Collins, and lunar module pilot Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, the crew of the 1969 Apollo 11 mission to the Moon. Additionally, this legislation would award a Congressional Gold Medal to John Glenn, the first American to orbit the Earth and the man who helped set NASA firmly on the path of human space exploration.

Forty years ago, 500 million people watched as Armstrong took those fateful steps on the Moon's surface, the first time that humans had ever set foot on another world. In words that were as poetic as the occasion was meaningful, Armstrong said, "That is one small step for man and one great leap for mankind." He was shortly followed thereafter on the Moon's surface by Aldrin as Collins circled overhead.

I was 11 years old that day, and I watched the Moon landing, joining much of humanity in celebrating this tremendous collective accomplishment. My family was on vacation, but I persuaded my parents to let me stay in the hotel room alone all day and watch television so that I could see these giant men take those giant steps. Their mission was a landmark for America, for the world, and for all time. Americans are still inspired by these men and their mission to travel over a quarter of a million miles of dead space to reach our closest celestial neighbor. I remember at the time thinking that humankind as a species is capable of true greatness. And while wolves howl at the Moon, humans visit it.

On this journey, the Apollo 11 crew showed remarkable bravery, protected for days from the lifeless vacuum by only a thin metal shell. They collected more than 40 pounds of lunar samples, took photographs and deployed experiments to study the solar wind, lunar dust, enable laser ranging and forever carry out passive seismic measure-

ments that remain measurable to this day.

Their footprints remain on the Moon today and forever. The entire endeavor was a culmination of an intensive effort by tens of thousands of scientists, engineers and other dedicated individuals to meet the challenge laid down by President John F. Kennedy 8 years earlier. President Kennedy encouraged Americans to rise to challenges like this one, and the American people responded with ingenuity, discipline and a spirit of collective effort. This journey took political will, scientific and technological risk-taking, inspiration and the heart and soul of millions of Americans who supported this space program.

□ 1630

And it took the competence and courage of these men, Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins, to make Apollo 11 the success that it was.

As the culmination of the U.S.-Soviet space race that commenced with the Soviet's launch of Sputnik in 1957, Apollo 11's success signified the United States' ability to establish pre-eminence in space.

It also helped to inspire a generation to pursue careers in science and engineering, and to believe in the power of American society and American culture. Alone in that hotel room watching TV, I certainly felt a lasting sense of meaning, that connection to those three brave astronauts.

These astronauts represented in that moment America's destiny, a destiny shared by the thousands of men and women who worked to make it happen.

This includes John Glenn, of course, another brave pioneer of human space exploration who had made their journey possible.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is fitting that on this 40th anniversary year of the Apollo 11 mission, we grant these four brave Americans the recognition only this Congress can bestow, the Congressional Gold Medal. That's why I am introducing legislation to that effect today.

I am pleased to be joined in this initiative by the chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee, Bart Gordon; the chairwoman of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee, Gabrielle Giffords; Committee Ranking Member Ralph Hall; Subcommittee Ranking Member Pete Olson; and Florida Members Suzanne Kosmas and Bill Posey.

I believe this recognition is long overdue, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation so it can be enacted into law.

HONORING JACK KEMP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, a couple of days ago America lost

one of its greatest patriots, and I mean that. Jack Kemp served in this body, and I had the pleasure of knowing him for a long, long time.

He started out his career, as far as I can remember, as a football player. He was at San Diego where he played. As I understand it, the football team out there really didn't think he had what it took to become a starting quarterback, and they sold him to the Buffalo Bills for \$500, I believe. He always laughed about that. And for \$500, the Buffalo Bills got an all-star quarterback. They won several conference titles in the AFC, and he was an All Pro. Jack Kemp was all pro his whole life. When he ran for Congress and came to this Chamber, everyone who knew him and met him knew immediately he would become one of our leaders. He became our conference chairman and a leader in so many ways. Ronald Reagan tapped him to work with him on cutting taxes, which stimulated the longest period of economic growth in our country's history. Jack Kemp, along with Mr. Roth in the Senate, wrote the Kemp-Roth bill, which was the catalyst for the economic recovery under the Reagan administration.

Jack Kemp was a lot of fun to be with. He wasn't just a stuffy guy. He was the kind of guy that you liked to be around, an all-American person as well as an all-American football player and all-American political leader.

He ran for Vice President with Bob Dole, and I truly believe he would have been an outstanding Vice President had he been elected. I also campaigned for him up in New Hampshire when he was running for President. I will never forget the Styrofoam footballs with his name that he threw to us on the plane. I think it was in January, and it was so cold. The thing I remember the most was Jack put me on a plane. He had three planeloads of congressmen, and the only one that didn't have heat was the one I was on. But he was worth it. He was worth campaigning door to door, store to store in New Hampshire because he would have been an outstanding President.

I came down tonight to pay homage to a good friend whom we will all miss, a man who was a great American, a great father and husband, and he is somebody who will be missed by not only the people in this Chamber and the other Chamber and the White House, but he will be missed by everybody in America who knew him. He was a great, great man.

I just want to say to Joanne and his four children, You have our deepest sympathy. Everybody in this body sends their best regards to you and their sympathy to you for this very trying time you are going through.

If anyone gets to heaven, Jack will be up there, and he probably has a football in his hands. I can't wait to see him again.