

morning, the Marathon takes place, families gather, and again, America faces another tragedy.

Last week, family members from Newtown came to the Hill to lobby Congress, to ask Congress what the President of the United States has asked of us, both in the State of the Union and in his two trips up to Connecticut.

What the President has said is: however you feel about the issue of gun violence, however you feel about the Second Amendment, we deserve a vote, both in the other body, in the Senate, and here, on the floor of the House of Representatives; a vote not only for the 20 children and six teachers and administrators who died in that tragedy on December 14, but for people in Tucson and Aurora and on virtually every street in cities all across America where we have seen this needless and senseless violence take place. Patriots' Day, another act of violence.

Strides are being made in the United States Senate. Compromise is being offered on something that 92 percent of the American people agree with: universal background checks, universal background checks to keep guns out of the hands of terrorists.

The United States of America is currently mocked by Adam Gadahn, an American al Qaeda on the FBI's Most Wanted List, who taunts America and says this, and you can see it on BuzzFeed:

America is absolutely awash with easily attainable firearms, large-capacity clips. You can get them, even without any identification.

This from the most wanted on the FBI list.

We need to vote in the United States Congress. If these young children had the courage to go after their assailant, if the teachers stepped in the way to protect, does Congress have the will and the courage to stand up and merely do what it was elected to do? Cast a vote in both Chambers. Cast a vote on behalf of the American people. Cast a vote on behalf of these children, on behalf of these parents who have come here to beseech the United States Congress only to do its responsibility, to do what we take the oath of office for.

Ninety-two percent of the American people believe that we need universal background checks. We have to make sure that our bodies, both the Senate and the House, take up this legislation. In the aftermath of yet another tragedy, on Patriots' Day, the most patriotic thing we can do is vote.

□ 1030

#### AWARDING THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO PROFESSOR MUHAMMAD YUNUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, for centuries, we have lauded the achieve-

ments of great entrepreneurs, whether the automobile industry of Henry Ford or the iPhone of Steve Jobs. Business was the province of people with money. As the old cynical joke goes, banks would loan money only to people who don't need it.

So throughout the world, and especially in the post-colonial developing world, the chance of escaping poverty and living a dignified life seemed an impossible dream for millions and millions. One person has helped transform the dream into a possibility—in fact, a reality—of family sufficiency for people all over the planet.

When the Nobel Committee awarded Dr. Muhammad Yunus and the financial institution he created, the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, the Nobel Peace Prize a few years back, the Committee made the award for “their efforts to create economic and social development from below.” I'll phrase it differently. Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank received the award for treating people with dignity and giving millions around the world hope.

Today, in the rotunda here at the U.S. Capitol, we honor Dr. Yunus with the Congressional Gold Medal. Muhammad Yunus has shown us being a visionary does not mean promoting the impractical or the impossible. Unlike some economic theories advanced over centuries, Dr. Yunus' theories have been proven to work. To date, the Grameen Foundation and the bank and its partners have helped 9.4 million of the world's poorest people receive microloans. The bank has given loans of a few dollars to millions to those who, by traditional standards, are not worthy of credit.

His idea of a socially conscious business focused on serving the poor flew in the face of conventional economic theory and certainly in the face of existing banking practice. But it worked. Recipients paid back the loans and got ahead financially.

The Grameen Foundation's financial outreach to people living below the poverty level has been life-altering for women in Nigeria and Haiti and Cambodia and Peru. Dr. Yunus has inspired similar local efforts in dozens of nations, including our own. His life and work are a testament to the difference a single person can make here on Earth.

Dr. Yunus' legacy will be measured not simply by the many awards he has won over his career, such as we honor him with today, but by the current and future generations of people who will travel the road from poverty to success and sufficiency because of Dr. Yunus' vision and commitment. He believes that we have the power to end poverty—not just to alleviate it, but end it—and we should take him seriously. Muhammad Yunus is showing us how.

I ask my colleagues to join me in giving Dr. Yunus congratulations on receiving the Congressional Gold Medal today, and join me in giving thanks to him for making many, many lives around the world better.

#### WVON RADIO'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. I rise to congratulate WVON Radio on 50 years of broadcasting.

On April 1, 1963, WVON Radio in Chicago, Illinois, was launched, and since that time has gone from being “the voice of the Negro” to “the voice of the Nation.”

WVON began when two brothers, Leonard and Phil Chess, the owners of a successful music business, Chess Records, with a plentiful supply of local music under their banner such as Muddy Waters, Lil' Howlin' Wolf, Jimmy Reed, and others, needed a way to express their music. Therefore, the brothers bought WHFC-1450 AM, a 1,000-watt station licensed in Cicero, Illinois.

On April 1, 1963, WVON hit the airwaves in Chicago with a group of hand-picked personalities: Franklin McCarthy, E. Rodney Jones, Herb Kent, Wesley South, and Pervis Spann. They became known as “The Good Guys.” Ric Ricardo, Bill “Butterball” Crane, Ed Cook, Joe Cobb, Roy Wood, Ed Maloney, Bill “Doc” Lee, Don Cornelius, Richard Pegue, Isabel Joseph Johnson, Cecil Hale, and McKee Fitzhugh eventually joined the roster.

Under the direction of the station's general manager, Lucky Cordell, and its “Ambassador of Goodwill,” Bernadine C. Washington, The Good Guys held black radio listeners hostage in Chicago for a number of years. It became the hottest station in the market. Not only did it convey music, it also conveyed public information, public events, and what was going on. It was the voice during the civil rights movement, and individuals were often given the opportunity to speak. Dr. Martin Luther King was interviewed by Leslie South, as well as Elijah Muhammad and others.

These personalities became so informational and influential that during the riots after the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, they called for calm and peace. And people began to listen to them. They were very influential throughout what was called the civil rights movement, and individuals often went to them.

They also had a relationship with Berry Gordy in Detroit, when he formed Motown Records; and every time a record would come out, he would send it to the WVON station before sending it anywhere else.

WVON actually was instrumental in electing Harold Washington, the first black mayor of Chicago. Lou Palmer, who had a radio series called “Lou's Notebook,” had a slogan: “We shall see in '83.” And that became the rallying cry. It was also instrumental in electing Carol Moseley Braun to the United States Senate, electing Barack Obama to the United States Senate, and ultimately electing Barack Obama President of the United States of America.