

will be held at St. Mark's Church near Capitol Hill. The vigil will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m., and I encourage all of my colleagues and staff members to join us.

Mr. Speaker, the Members of this House should spend more time with the families and victims of gun violence. I say that because, in the 3 years since the shootings at Sandy Hook, the majority of this House hasn't even allowed a single vote—not one vote—on gun safety legislation. It has now become the habit that, after every new, tragic mass shooting that claims the lives of more innocent Americans, this House merely acknowledges a moment of silence and then goes back to business as usual.

I am heartsick, and I am outraged. Every time one of these mass shootings happens, people are retraumatized in my communities: the families, the first responders who went into the school, all of us. It is appalling and it is unacceptable that this keeps happening in America, and this Congress, the American Congress, does nothing.

Mr. Speaker, the time has passed for moments of silence. It is time for days of action. As vice chair of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, I am working on several commonsense measures, bills that would help prevent gun violence in this country while respecting and protecting the Second Amendment. It is time for congressional leaders to bring these bills to the floor to allow a vote.

The cost of the inaction is being paid by American families all across this great Nation. The families of victims and survivors of gun violence deserve a vote. They deserve a vote on a bipartisan bill that will close background check loopholes and save lives. They deserve a vote on legislation to end the prohibition on Federal research funding for public health research on our gun violence epidemic, and they deserve a vote on a bipartisan bill this week to close the loophole that allows suspected terrorists to walk into a gun shop and legally buy a weapon.

More than 2,000 suspects on the FBI terrorist watch list have successfully bought guns in the United States in the past 11 years. I am a cosponsor of the Republican bill to fix this. H.R. 1076, the Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act, would bar the sale or distribution of firearms to anyone the Attorney General has determined to be engaged in terrorist activities.

The time for silence is over. We in Congress have a sworn duty to protect and defend the American people, but that is not what we are doing when we observe a moment of silence and do nothing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 1076, the Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the House is in session solely

for the purpose of conducting morning-hour debate. Therefore, that unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I will therefore stand quietly for the remainder of my time to protest the appalling silence and inaction of this House's refusal to take meaningful action to protect the American people from the ravages of gun violence.

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

HONORING KIRK P. GREGG UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, CORNING INCORPORATED

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

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a great company in my district, Corning Incorporated, an American company that has risen over its 164-year history to become one of the most innovative manufacturers in the world. But, Mr. Speaker, in particular, I rise to take a moment to honor one of the individuals of that company that has made it one of the leading manufacturers across the world. That individual is Kirk Gregg, Corning's executive vice president and chief administrative officer, who is retiring from the company after 22 years of executive leadership.

Over his tenure, Kirk has made an enormous contribution to the company's success and to the community's development. I am most grateful to Kirk for his unparalleled commitment to the community. He has had an enormously positive impact on our constituents and our extended family who live in the district.

Mr. Speaker, Kirk joined Corning in 1993 and was named chief administrative officer in 2002. The same year, he was appointed to serve on Corning's management committee, a small, very senior group of executives who lead the company on a day-to-day basis. Over the last decade, Kirk has risen up the corporate ladder to become the third highest ranking executive in the company.

As chief administrative officer, Kirk has built the core infrastructure that makes Corning efficient and effective. He has had global responsibility for the corporate staff, including human resources, information technology, supply management, transportation, business services, community relations, government affairs, and aviation—a long list indeed. In total, he has managed over \$1 billion annually in corporate infrastructure, making Corning's staff one of the top performers among its peers in the country's corporate community.

It has been Kirk's work for the community that distinguishes him among the corporate leaders and for which I am most grateful. He has played a huge

role in meeting the needs of New York's southern tier. For 17 years, he chaired the Three Rivers Development board, attracting tens of millions of dollars of investment to diversify the local community and create jobs. For 15 years, he led the Corning Classic LPGA tournaments, raising millions of dollars for our area hospitals. And statewide, he served for a decade on the board of directors for the Business Council of New York State, 2 years as the board's chairman. Last, but not least, he has been an enthusiastic supporter of our local charities, cultural institutions, and human service organizations.

Mr. Speaker, every Member of Congress seeks the perspective of people with broad insight into and who would contribute generously to the communities we represent. For me, Kirk is one of those rare people. He understands the people, the community, and the responsibility that corporate leaders have to support their local institutions. At the same time, Kirk is modest and self-effacing. Kirk is one of those people who works quietly and effectively to make our communities better.

Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to call Kirk Gregg my friend. I know that I speak for the entire southern tier—Corning, New York, community when I thank him for his citizenship and service. We wish him and his wife, Penny, the very best in a well-deserved retirement. May they enjoy many more happy days entering this new chapter in their great lives.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS THE GREATEST THREAT TO OUR PLANET

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

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, as the world looks to its leaders convened in Paris this month to act on the greatest threat to our planet, I rise today in support of a strong and fair global climate agreement. Now is the time to demonstrate our leadership and our obligation to the security and protection of our communities and our economy by committing to a robust agreement that puts us on a safer path for future generations.

Last week, Mr. Speaker, House Republicans showed the American people, once again, where they stand when it comes to tackling the threat of climate change. By casting political votes against the Clean Power Plan, their message is loud and clear that any meaningful action will be met with attacks and political theater.

Mr. Speaker, political theater does nothing to stop rising sea levels, extreme weather, and land erosion. Failure to act will risk American economic prosperity and will disproportionately impact the poorest and most vulnerable communities across our Nation.

In the American Southwest, Latino and African American populations are