

Mr. Speaker, let me get back to the focus of my short message tonight. That is that the Indiana Pacers for the first time in history are going to be playing in the finals of the NBA. They are going to be playing the overwhelming favorite, the Los Angeles Lakers and Shaquille O'Neil, that titan of a man who is so tough to defend.

But I want to tell a little story. I had an opportunity to talk to Jack Nicholson, the outstanding movie star, about another issue on the phone. He has won several Academy Awards. Mr. Nicholson, the first time I called him was at a Lakers game and I mentioned it to him. He said, "Yes, I go to all the Lakers games." And I said, "You know, Mr. Nicholson, it is a shame that the Los Angeles Lakers are going to be playing the Indiana Pacers, because we are going to beat their tail." And here is what he said: "Not in your life, Dan."

I do not know if that imitation was very good. "Not in your life, son."

So all I want to say tonight to Mr. Nicholson, if he happens to be watching in California, Mr. Speaker, is, "You do not know anything about Hoosier pride, because we are going to win. We are going to win. We are going to kick the tail of the Los Angeles Lakers." Go Pacers.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair must remind Members not to address the television viewing audience.

#### COMMON SENSE GUN LEGISLATION AND THE DEATH OF LORI GONZALEZ, GRANDDAUGHTER OF LOS ANGELES POLICE CHIEF BERNARD PARKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to give a tissue to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) after the last game of the Pacers and Lakers, when that happens.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight because I think we were all excited last week as we went to our districts for our District Work Period for a week. And I was excited because first, I received the President and CEO of Amtrak coming in to Los Angeles to show the high-speed rail that we are trying to get to move people and goods throughout the State of California and all across the Nation.

□ 2030

All of California was quite excited about that.

I also had the privilege of opening up a one-stop capital shop for small busi-

nesses to grow, to expand, and to have job creation through the Small Business Administration. The small business administrator, Ms. Aida Alvarez, came to open up this shop. I had the mayor of Los Angeles, Richard Riordan.

I even received an award, Mr. Speaker, on my legislation from pediatric asthma from the Asthma Foundation. I went to Sacramento to talk to the Governor and its people about funding for higher education.

So I thought it was a good week until the moment came where I got the call that one of our young women again had fallen to gun violence. This young woman, Lori Gonzalez, was the granddaughter of our chief of police Bernard Parks.

I guess I stand tonight once again to remind this Congress how important it is to pass meaningful gun safety reform. Because of the recent death of Lori Gonzalez, 20 years old, had not reached her adult life, and of the many who have fallen to gun violence, I urge this Congress to swiftly move to protect our Nation's children and its communities by approving common sense gun safety provisions.

Just a few weeks ago, I joined with other mothers in my community in Los Angeles and the thousands and thousands of mothers across this Nation who marched in Washington and 71 other cities to call on this Congress to finally enact common sense gun legislation.

On Mother's Day, we paused to remember the thousands of children who have been killed by gunfire and to pray that our message would finally move Congress to address this very critical issue before another day passes and another one of our Nation's children would be lost to gunfire.

In the weeks since Mother's Day, Congress has continued to sit idle, refusing to answer the prayers of, not just the Nation's mothers, but of the majority of Americans who favor the passage of common sense gun legislation. Today and every day gun violence continues to plague our communities and has taken the lives of innocent victims like Lori Gonzalez.

With the ineptitude and stagnation that has infiltrated the halls of Congress, I would unfortunately be fooling myself if I thought the death of one individual, Lori Gonzalez, could once again get this Congress to take up meaningful gun legislation.

This is the Congress that has done nothing in the wake of the horrible shootings in Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. This is the same Congress that has ignored every shooting in the past years simply accepting shootings as a part of daily life in America.

Lori Gonzalez, as I said, the daughter of Los Angeles Chief Bernard Parks was gunned down over the Memorial

weekend outside of the fast food restaurant in Los Angeles. This could be any child because our kids do like to go to fast food restaurants, Mr. Speaker, even my grandchildren and even my adult children.

Ms. Gonzalez was a Saddleback College English student, was killed one week shy of her 21st birthday. Her friends and family have spoken about Ms. Gonzalez's high spirit and boundless energy. They spoke of a young woman who, with huge ambitions, urged smaller kids to reach for the stars and have hope in her small acts of kindness like soothing the ache of a burn victim, helping to stucco houses in Mexico and of her passion for helping the children in her community.

I say to my colleagues I call on this Congress to pass the gun safety lock bill that I introduced in the 105th Congress and the 106th Congress. We can ill-afford to have another gun violence victim in this Nation.

#### DISADVANTAGES OF ESTATE TAX BILL

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, we are going to take up a bill to abolish the estate tax, a bill that has about as much merit as the prediction of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) that the Pacers will defeat the Lakers in the upcoming series.

Let us first put this tax in context. Only 2 percent of American families pay a single penny of estate tax. This is because the tax is designed so that a husband and wife can leave their first \$2 million, first \$2 million to their heirs without paying a penny in tax. So this tax is for those who are asked, do you want to be a millionaire, and literally became millionaires, \$2 million. Literally millionaire, that word meaning someone who inherits a million dollars.

The tax, of course, does not fall upon the decedent but rather on their heirs. The tax falls exclusively on billionaires by definition. The tax is an obnoxious tax as all taxes are obnoxious. But if we are going to start to abolish taxes, we ought to start abolishing the ones that hit working families the hardest.

This is a tax that falls exclusively, not on the fruits of the effort of the person paying the tax, but on the fruits of inheritance instead.

Now, we are told that this tax represents double taxation. Let us put one thing in context. When someone makes an investment, buys some stock for \$1,000, holds that stock until the stock is worth \$1 million and leaves it to their children, there is no tax on that \$999,000 profit.

The reason is that there is an estate tax on those assets. Those who propose