

state now in Congress, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), in hosting the voting technology demonstration on Thursday, March 22. There we will address our own work at the State level to improve voting accountability and accuracy and demonstrate the various forms of election equipment, including punchcard ballot, optical scan and direct recording electronic systems.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to attend this educational event, as it will help prepare us for a nationwide discussion on election reform. Additionally, I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting this VOTE Act to make voting one of the greatest expressions of civic participation available on an equal basis to all Americans.

REINTRODUCTION OF CHILD HANDGUN INJURY PREVENTION ACT, H.R. 1014

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

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, we continue to observe school shootings, and I am concerned that we have yet to pass strong gun safety legislation.

Despite recent polls by CBS and the New York Times which suggest that 70 percent of American people favor stricter handgun laws, Congress continues to ignore the public's concerns.

January 10, in Ventura County, California, a 17-year-old student held a classmate at gunpoint during the school's lunch break. The gunman was fatally wounded by police.

January 12, 2001, in my district, Indianapolis, Indiana, a 4-year-old boy shot himself with a pistol he found in his mother's pocketbook.

February 7, 2001 in Dallas, Texas, a 14-year-old boy fired a gun in the direction of classmates while on school grounds.

March 6, in Santee, California, a 15-year-old boy took a .22-caliber long-barrel revolver from his father's locked collection of weapons and killed two schoolmates, while injuring 13 others.

March 7, this year, Williamsburg, Pennsylvania, a 14-year-old girl shot a female classmate in the shoulder in the cafeteria of a parochial school.

March 7, Prince Georges County, Maryland, a 14-year-old boy shot and wounded another teenager outside Largo Senior High School.

From 1987 to 1996, nearly 2,200 American children, 14 years of age and younger, died from unintentional shootings. What are we waiting for? We must not allow these tragedies to become an everyday part of American life. We must not be apathetic.

While firearm fatalities cost America more money than any of the other four

leading causes of death, guns are the only consumer product in America, except tobacco, which are exempt from health care and safety regulations. Sadly, guns continue to be exempt from Federal oversight, and consumer protection laws continue to be tougher on toy guns than on real guns.

The history of consumer product regulation teaches us that significant numbers of death and illnesses can be preserved when health and safety regulations exist. The Poison Prevention Packaging Act requires child-resistant packaging. The Consumer Federation of America estimates that more than 700 children have avoided accidental poisonings. Also, the introduction of sleep wear and toy standards have saved children's lives.

I ask my colleagues to join me in the bill that I introduced last week, the Child Handgun Injury Prevention Act, H.R. 1014. It requires manufacturers' safety devices.

We introduced it in another bill that requires training to entitle you to have licenses. H.R. 1014 requires the Secretary of the Treasury to mandate all newly manufactured handguns come equipped with child safety devices, and it would establish a Federal standard for the devices.

We can do nothing less than to ensure the future safety of our children and prevent them from unintentional handgun injury. We need to require safety devices that meet the rigid tests by the Department of the Treasury.

I encourage each Member of the House of Representatives to join me in this effort.

□ 1230

TRIBUTE TO BRET TARVER

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, Phoenix, Arizona, has now grown to be the sixth largest city in our country. Yet over the course of the last 7 days, the entire city and surrounding areas have seen the frenetic pace of life come virtually to a standstill as the community has paused to honor one of our fallen fire fighters.

A week ago today, in responding to a blaze at a supermarket, Phoenix fire fighter Bret Tarver gave his life. For his wife, Robin, for their three young daughters, for the Phoenix Fire Department, for brother and sister fire fighters across the country and for all Arizonans, this is an exceptional loss.

Bret Tarver was born 40 years ago in what is now the 6th Congressional District of Arizona in Cave Creek. He and his wife, Robin, and their daughters recently made their home in another area of the district, Queen Creek, Ari-

zona. That is because Bret was a lifelong outdoors enthusiast. He loved hunting and fishing. He loved nature. But most of all, he loved his family, and he loved being a public servant.

Mr. Speaker, all too often, during the course of political discourse, we describe elective office as public service. Mr. Speaker, how incomplete a definition that is. Public service can take many forms. The citizen can volunteer. He can be involved in civic clubs or spiritual organizations. Yet the ultimate public service all too often comes from our public safety officers who here at home are called upon to put their lives on the line.

So it was one week ago on a Wednesday with the sun shining and the flowers blooming and spring training and all the frenetic activity so common to the desert southwest that an event sadly too common, a fire in uncommon and tragic fashion, ended the life of an uncommon man.

Colleagues describe Bret Tarver as a gentle giant, a man who stood over 6 feet 3 inches, who tipped the scales at well over 200 pounds, who had tremendously big hands, but often would envelope the tiny hands of his daughters and other kids on their soccer team in his own, one who inspired trust, one who worked tirelessly in his chosen profession as a fire fighter.

Mr. Speaker, when so many of that calling have come to Washington this week, perhaps the greatest tribute we can pay to the memory of Bret Tarver is to pause and appreciate the service and the sacrifice of every one of those fire fighters who put their lives on the line who in so many ways, in so many manifestations, work for the public good and the public safety, and who sadly, in the case of Bret Tarver, pay the ultimate sacrifice as a part of public service.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in expressing sympathies and encouraging prayer for Bret's widow, Robin, for his three daughters, for the strapping brothers that made up an active household years ago who mourn his loss, for his parents, for his fellow fire fighters, and for the people of Phoenix and the surrounding area.

Mr. Speaker, we pause to remember Bret Tarver, his sacrifice, his legacy, and the shining example of true public service that he represented so well and so faithfully.

TIME TO MOVE TOWARDS ENERGY INDEPENDENCE IN OUR COUNTRY

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) because, last year, the city of Houston lost two fire fighters. It is appropriate that we remember the Tarver family and their