

283 X Gonzalez

I was moved to tears while reading about and watching footage of X's appearance at the first March for Our Lives rally. They described their experience of witnessing the 2018 mass murder of their fellow students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and its terrible aftermath; they called out each of the 17 slain victims by name. A less extraordinary activist would have stopped with that, but X had the courage and audacity to drive home this horrific reality by remaining silent, at the microphone, for the length of time it took to kill and wound each of those victims—six minutes and 20 seconds.

X condemned the NRA, former President Trump and other politicians for their “BS” and support of loose gun safety policies. They explained that tightening gun laws could have prevented hundreds of senseless tragedies. X is only one of many young people with the courage and integrity to challenge the destructive, self-serving actions of gun rights advocates and to seek moral justice for mother earth and humankind.

This youthful figure has been enveloped by righteous indignity and moral outrage. They have shouldered the burden of memory, preserving the legacies of those lost to mass school shootings in America, including those 20 young students at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut. There are now too many for them to hold.