

Assassination Attempt Stuns Nation

Target of attack improves; six others killed

(AP)—One of U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords' doctors declared Tuesday she has "a 101 percent chance of surviving," as she made more progress, moving both arms and breathing on her own for the first time—just three days after a bullet shot through her brain.

Doctors emphasize she is in for a long recovery, and her neurosurgeon repeated his cautionary phrase of "she's holding her own."

But there was no denying what was clearly good news.

Giffords, a three-time Democrat, remains in critical condition at Tucson, Ariz.'s University Medical Center where she was operated on Saturday after being shot during a meeting with constituents outside a Safeway supermarket. The attack killed six and injured 14 others. Six remained hospitalized.

Doctors previously reported Giffords raised two fingers of her left hand and gave a thumbs-up when responding to verbal commands.

The nation got its first look on Monday at the 22-year-old loner



A photo of U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords before Saturday's assassination attempt outside a Safeway store in Tucson, Ariz., where she was meeting with her constituents. Six other people, including a federal judge were killed and 14 others were injured in the attack.

accused of trying to assassinate Giffords. Jared Loughner, head shaved, a cut above the right temple and his hands cuffed, scanned a packed courtroom and sat down.

His attorney, who defended "Unabomber" Ted Kaczynski, whispered to him.

The judge asked Loughner if he understood that he could get life in prison—or the death penalty—for killing federal Judge John Roll, one

of the six who died in the shooting rampage.

"Yes," he said, standing at a lectern in his beige prison jumpsuit. The judge ordered Loughner held without bail.

Hours earlier, the nation observed a moment of silence for the victims of the rampage, from the South Lawn of the White House and the steps of the U.S. Capitol to legislature beyond Arizona and the International

Space Station.

There, Giffords' brother-in-law, Scott, the commanding officer, spoke over the radio. Flight controllers in Houston fell silent.

"As I look out the window, I see a very beautiful planet that seems very inviting and peaceful," he said. "Unfortunately, it is not."

"These days, we are constantly reminded of the unspeakable acts of violence and damage we can inflict upon one another, not just with our actions, but also with our irresponsible words," he said.

"We're better than this," he said. "We must do better."

On a frigid morning outside the White House, President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama stood side by side, each with their hands clasped, heads bowed and eyes closed.

On the steps of the U.S. Capitol, congressional staff and other employees did the same.

At the Supreme Court, the justices paused for a moment of silence between the two cases they were hearing Monday morning. Arizona's chief federal judge, John Roll, was killed in the attack.

The president called for the coun-

try to come together in prayer or reflection for those killed and those fighting to recover.

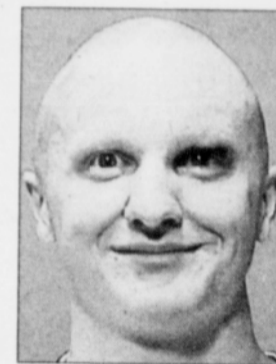
"In the coming days we're going to have a lot of time to reflect," he said. "Right now the main thing we're doing is to offer our thoughts and prayers to those who've been impacted, making sure we're joining together and pulling together as a country."

In total, 19 people were shot in the rampage outside a supermarket where Giffords held her meeting. Giffords was shot in the head, and remains in intensive care.

Among the six people killed were a 9-year-old girl who was born on the day of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and was interested in public service, as well as one of Giffords' aides.

Loughner was tackled to the ground minutes after the shooting began, authorities said. He has been silent ever since.

Loughner is charged with one count of attempted assassination of a member of Congress, two counts of killing an employee of the federal government and two counts of attempting to kill a federal employee. More charges are expected.



Jared Loughner


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