

be seeing under budget reconciliation is that we want to put the power back with the people, for the people, and not have it just be vested in government.

Government run amuck becomes abusive. Your rights are limited and your property rights abused, as we see so much of in the West where people are being sued for a 150-year-old fence and charged criminally for a fence line that has been undefined, for example. This is in South Dakota. The Forest Service is going after them for that when it was unsettled. They hadn't even done a survey on it to see if there was something right or wrong with that particular fence line. Property rights are being trampled and people are being intimidated by their government in this sense.

Let's reset on this and put government back in a position where it is accountable directly to those who are elected, who are accountable directly to the people. We will be much better off with that. It is moving in a good direction, I certainly believe, as we have more accountability for the spending. Where is it going? Is it something that is effective? Is it a good value for the American people?

That is why I am happy with the DOGE process. There are some imperfections in it. We will figure that out. We will hammer that out.

The budget reconciliation process will be underway very soon and, hopefully, will be successful. This is something that Republicans have stood for for a long time, the accountability to the American people, accountability for how their tax dollars are being used, and accountability for those working in the government and who are supposed to be showing up and providing a service. Government jobs are not supposed to be a jobs program. They are there to deliver a service to the people that give us the charge to bring them aboard and start these agencies.

Somehow, they think it is supposed to be 100 percent job security. That isn't available anywhere else in the country in the private sector, especially when overactive government and overactive regulators can sweep away your right to farm, to mine, to ranch, to have a business or have it taken away by eminent domain, such as we have seen on the Point Reyes National Seashore, where 12 ranching families there, dairy and beef ranchers, have had that swept away from them after they finally relented back in the early sixties to sell the land, because the government came and bullied them off of it. Now they are kicking them off all the way, if that is allowed to stand. I hope we can put a stop to that, because that is not right and that is not the American way of doing things.

There is a lot of energy to do the right things for the American people coming from the administration and from this House. Hopefully, the Senate can take up what we send over there and have success on that. It is really

about, again, resetting and making government accountable to the people and doing what is best for them, not what is best for the expansion of the government and the furthering of the little fiefdoms that go on in it.

Mr. Speaker, I am really grateful for the opportunity here. I am grateful that our House was able to pass the budget resolution and continue the process. It is going to be one I think we can ultimately be proud of.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California, and I always appreciate his participation.

I thank the rest of my colleagues for being here tonight and taking time to speak on the horrific assault against our ally and the Jewish community.

On October 7, 2022, the world was shocked at the atrocities carried out by Hamas terrorists against Israel and the Jewish community. Nearly 3,000 Hamas fighters crossed into Israel by land, air, and sea, killing around 1,200 people and taking more than 250 Israeli and foreign hostages.

October 7 will forever be a turning point in history.

As we reflect on the events of that day and the 500 days that have followed, it is imperative that we also recognize the broader implications of this attack.

It was not just an assault on Israel. It was an attack on the American vision for a safe and secure Middle East, which was led, perpetuated, and financed by the Iranian regime.

The Hamas perpetrators not only set out to destroy the very existence of the State of Israel, but they sought something larger. They wanted to prevent a seismic shift in the region from taking place. I am, of course, referring to the early success of the Abraham Accords, negotiated by the first Trump administration, and the long-term goal of a Saudi-Israeli peace and normalization agreement.

Iran and its terrorist proxy groups, like Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis, could not bear to see Israel accepted by its neighbors or folded into the community of nations where it rightly belongs. Instead, they chose to commit unspeakable acts of violence, rape, terror, and slaughter.

As we mark 500 days since the October 7 attack, we must also look at the ongoing suffering of those affected by this violence. There are countless families and individuals living with the scars of that day. It is our duty to honor their memory and ensure that attacks like this never happen again.

We must remain vigilant against the threats posed by extremist groups and continue to champion freedom and democracy around the world. We must also work to strengthen the Abraham Accords, push hard for Saudi-Israeli normalization, and ensure that Iran's plan to destabilize the Middle East fails. We have a plan. We have a vision for success in the region and now is not the time to take our foot off the gas pedal.

House Republicans will remain steadfast in maintaining a strong relationship with Israel to continue to ensure that freedom and democracy endure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HIGHLIGHTING NOTABLE BLACK LEADERS FROM MICHIGAN'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SCHOLTEN) for 30 minutes.

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I welcome my friends, family, and constituents back home in west Michigan to my Special Order hour honoring notable Black west Michiganders and the impact they have made on our wonderful community.

Black History Month is not just about reflecting on the past. It is also about acknowledging the incredible individuals who have shaped our communities and continue to inspire future generations.

Black history is woven into the very fabric of America, and it is our duty to honor it, not just in February but every single day of the year.

As the Representative of Michigan's Third Congressional District, I am privileged to highlight some of the remarkable Black leaders, educators, athletes, activists, and artists who have left their mark on west Michigan. Their stories are ones of perseverance, excellence, and resilience in the face of adversity. They remind us that history is not just something written in textbooks, but it is alive in the people who have worked tirelessly to break barriers and uplift their communities. I want to first tell you about Lyman Parks first.

Lyman Parks, Grand Rapids Mayor: After moving to Grand Rapids to serve as a pastor of the First Community AME Church in 1968, he was elected as the first Black commissioner in the city's history.

Lyman Parks holds a special place in our history as the first and only Black mayor of Grand Rapids. His leadership throughout the 1970s marked a turning point for the city, proving that Black leaders could and should have a seat at the table in shaping the future of our communities.

In 2003, Parks was awarded the GIANT Among Giants Award, an annual award presented by the city of Grand Rapids since 1983 to recognize exceptional contributions by African Americans to the greater Grand Rapids community.

Rillastine Wilkins, City Council: At age 18 and with \$3 in her pocket, Wilkins made her way to Muskegon, where she had an aunt. She became active in the civil rights movement and attended school board meetings and Muskegon Heights City Council meetings.

Rillastine Wilkins shattered glass ceilings, becoming the first female city

councilmember in 1974. Her husband, who went by the nickname Peaches, accompanied her to every single council meeting to prevent the male councilmembers from harassing or intimidating her.

In 1999, she was elected as the city's first Black female mayor. Her leadership spanned decades, influencing local government and paving the way for future Black women in politics throughout west Michigan.

Hattie Beverly, Teacher Extraordinaire: In 1899, Hattie became the first African-American woman to teach in Grand Rapids Public Schools, a feat that did not come without struggle.

Despite her remarkable academic achievements, she faced resistance from those who believed a Black woman should not teach White children. Yet, she persevered, and we are so much better because she did.

Though her teaching career was tragically cut short when she passed away at the tender age of 30, Beverly's impact resonated beyond her lifetime. Her legacy of determination and excellence paved the way for future Black educators, ensuring the doors she opened would remain open for others to walk through.

Jimmy Carter, Basketball: No, not that Jimmy Carter, but still, he looms large in west Michigan as a basketball phenom and a name truly synonymous with basketball excellence in Grand Rapids.

Jimmy Carter dedicated his life to shaping young athletes. From his high school days at South High School to coaching and mentoring multiple children and young athletes at various schools, Carter's influence in the sports world has been profound.

Carter's contributions extend far beyond the court, as well, proving that mentorship and investing in young athletes can transform lives. He was recently inducted into the Grand Rapids Sports Hall of Fame, and that solidifies his place in history.

Helen Claytor, Activist: Helen Claytor's work with the Young Women's Christian Association extends far beyond Grand Rapids. She was the first Black woman to serve as president of the national YWCA board of directors. Under her leadership, the organization embraced the fight against racism, making racial justice a core tenet of its mission.

Her work reminds us that institutions have a responsibility to be antiracist and that leadership must reflect the values of equity and justice.

Today, her legacy stands tall in Grand Rapids, both figuratively and literally, with her statue near GRCC's campus.

Dr. Patricia Pulliam, Publisher: As an educator, Dr. Pulliam worked tirelessly to uplift students in Grand Rapids, serving as an adviser, mentor, and leader in higher education.

Beyond the classroom, she became a publisher and, later, owner of The

Grand Rapids Times, ensuring that the stories of Black residents were not just heard but celebrated. She also co-founded the GIANT Awards, an annual ceremony recognizing Black excellence in our community.

Her contributions continue to inspire. While the media has often ignored or misrepresented Black voices, thanks to leaders like Dr. Pulliam, those voices are amplified and preserved.

Dr. John Butler, Boxing Champion: In 1953, Dr. Butler became the first Grand Rapids boxer to win a National Golden Gloves title, an accomplishment that cemented his legacy in the sport.

Dr. Butler was not just a fighter in the ring. He was also a fighter for education and equality.

Growing up in Mississippi, he faced the harsh realities of poverty and racism. His mother, determined to give her family a better future, moved them to Grand Rapids, where Dr. Butler found his passion for boxing.

Through the mentorship of his trainer, he not only honed his athletic abilities but also understood the importance of education. That discipline led him to earn a Ph.D. from Michigan State University.

Dr. Butler dedicated his career to the Grand Rapids school system, serving as a teacher and assistant principal and eventually training city employees in public service. He provided guidance to young Black students who faced adversity, making an impact far beyond the classroom.

Today, his legacy is forever etched in the Grand Rapids Sports Hall of Fame, a testament to his dedication to both sports and education.

Paul Collins, Artist: Paul Collins has spent his life using his artistic talents to tell the stories of those often overlooked.

Born in Muskegon and raised in Grand Rapids, Collins was drawn to art from a young age. Despite initial discouragement, he pursued his passion, eventually traveling to West Africa to immerse himself in his cultural roots.

Collins' work has been displayed worldwide, from exhibitions in Africa to murals honoring historical figures in the United States.

He was the first Black artist to paint a sitting President when he painted President Gerald R. Ford.

His contributions to the art world also include designing the Martin Luther King Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize Medal and the Challenger 7 space shuttle logo.

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us remember that these stories are not just relics of the past, but they are living legacies that continue to shape our community.

It is our duty to ensure that these trailblazers live on, that we continue the fight for equality, and that we uplift and support Black voices in our community.

It is our duty to ensure that we continue to tell these stories.

Black history is American history, and it is a history that deserves to be honored not just in February but every single day. These achievements are proof that progress is possible, but only if we remain committed to justice, inclusion, the power of education, and advocacy. I am proud to continue to carry on their legacy through this Special Order hour today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET BETRAYAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. CARBAJAL) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise on behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. A number of members are going to come to provide testimony tonight about what we perceive is a betrayal of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle of the American people with the recently passed budget resolution that really is going to provide tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans in exchange for cuts in vital, essential programs for working- and middle-class families.

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Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here with my colleagues from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to call out the partisan Republican budget resolution that passed last night for what it is. It is a rip-off of the American people. Their budget proposes reckless spending to support billionaires and make everyday Americans foot the bill.

It cuts over \$1 trillion, including \$880 billion from Medicaid, in order to partially pay for trillions of dollars in tax cuts for the wealthiest people.

These tax cuts would not go to help everyday Americans. Instead, they would go to the richest 1 percent.

Apart from that, it also increases the deficit and the national debt to the tune of \$4 trillion.

What happened to fiscal responsibility?

This is a betrayal of the American working middle-class families. There are 80 million people in this country who rely on Medicaid. In my district alone, over 236,000 people on Medicaid are at risk of losing their healthcare. This includes nearly 100,000 children and 24,000 seniors.

Not only that, but the budget resolution would also go after the Affordable