

REMEMBERING THURGOOD MARSHALL

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today is the last day of Black History Month, a month when we reflect back on African Americans who have contributed so much to our country and our world. One man whose life encapsulates the African American struggle was Thurgood Marshall. George Stevens produced a play called "Thurgood" at the Kennedy Center. The play has been put to film on HBO. I think it's still available on HBO; at least on demand.

It is the story of a man who was committed to justice. Through the NAACP, he argued *Brown v. Board of Education*, the most significant civil rights case, maybe the most significant Supreme Court case of all time. He became the first African American solicitor general in this country and the first African American Supreme Court justice and served honorably on that court.

He was a man that never forgot where he came from. His responsibility and duty to see that he carried on justice and the fights that he carried with him as an attorney and on the court to see that social justice and America became the country that was promised in the Constitution and in the Declaration of Independence but had not become except through Supreme Court rulings.

Thank God for Thurgood Marshall. I urge everybody to watch George Stevens' production on HBO and learn about this great man's life.

THE BOOK CLOSES FOR THE LAST DOUGHBOY

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we have come to the end of a long chapter in American history. The lone U.S. survivor of World War I, Frank Buckles, has died at the incredible age of 110.

At 16, Frank Buckles lied about his age so he could join the Army in 1917 and go "over there" to fight for the cause of America. He drove an ambulance in World War I in Europe. During World War II, Buckles was captured by the Japanese in the Philippines and held as a prisoner of war for 3 years. Until recently, Buckles continued to drive his tractor on his farm in West Virginia.

It was Buckles' passion to have a memorial built on the Capital Mall to honor all those doughboys that served in the great World War I. We have memorials for the other three major wars of the last century, but not one for World War I.

I met Corporal Buckles when we introduced this legislation that is named in his honor. It is time we build such a memorial, and it is time we also allow

Frank Buckles to lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda. History must remember this last patriot of World War I and the 4 million other Americans that served.

And that's just the way it is.

HOUSTON DAY CARE TRAGEDY

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, just last week in Houston, Texas, in a private home called Jackie's Day Care, seven babies under 3 years old were subjected to an horrific inferno; a fire. As the caretaker or the owner of this child care facility and as the facts unfold that we believe Federal funding was involved, first there was a representation that she was in the home and had fainted. But over the last 72 hours it was determined that she had gone to the grocery store. Four babies are dead. Two are in a burn unit. And one is fighting for his life in another facility.

I am standing here today—my voice can be heard—to first of all say how many people need day care and have to subject themselves to these kinds of homes. She was 22. Maybe she cared for the children. But right now she has fled the country.

I am asking Ms. Tata to return. I am asking her family members to return so that she can receive justice and so these families can heal. This is not the way to address your responsibility. Four families are burying babies who would have had wonderful futures, who simply attempted to work and have a place safe and secure for them to be. Now they are dead.

Ms. Tata, you're 22 years old. Come back to this country and get in line for the justice you deserve. We are coming after you.

□ 1920

REPUBLICANS' JOBLESS AGENDA

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, we're now going into the 10th week, having been in Congress in session for many days now—we've actually had 7 weeks where we've actually been in Washington working and another several weeks where we've been at home in our districts working—and we haven't seen one single, solitary Republican jobs bill yet.

My question is, when are they going to get to the business the people elected them for? The Republicans ran on a "where are the jobs?" agenda. I remember it ringing in my ears so many weeks ago. And now, here we are 10 weeks in, and they haven't done anything.

Mr. Speaker, I was in my district last week talking to people about jobs and talking about unemployment. I was in

the WorkForce Center. I was at job sites talking to people. And I'm telling you, people with jobs are nervous and afraid that they might lose them. And people without them are losing hope. They are losing houses. They are losing their lives, really.

I implore the majority caucus, Mr. Speaker, to get on the question of jobs and stop this Republican "no jobs" agenda. It's time to bring some jobs bills to the floor and to heed the call of the American people: Jobs now.

HONORING MAYOR RAE CAROLE ARMSTRONG

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Mayor Rae Carole Armstrong of the city of Plantation, Florida. Mayor Armstrong has nearly 30 years of distinguished public service working on behalf of the residents of Plantation and the south Florida community, and we will miss her strong leadership.

Since 1999, Ms. Armstrong has served as mayor of Plantation, promoting and fostering small businesses, revitalizing parks and neighborhoods, and generally enriching the local community. As the first female council member in Plantation—a position she held for 16 years—Rae Carole Armstrong was known for supporting athletic groups and engaging in educational partnerships.

Her special ability to work with a broad array of local interests allowed Mayor Armstrong to shepherd the city into the new millennium while maintaining Plantation's close-knit community appeal. Her coalition-building leadership benefited not only the residents of Plantation, but the entire south Florida community.

In that spirit, all of south Florida thanks her for her many years of service, and we wish her great success in her future endeavors. Thank you, Rae Carol.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUFFY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, it is really an honor for me to join my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus here this evening to recognize Black History Month and some of the people who have written that history through their life contribution, but also to talk about how the cuts the Republicans are proposing to everything except taxes for the wealthy threaten to take us back decades, if not centuries, to a place where America was

not in her finest hour, a time when the poor, the rural, and people of color were denied equal opportunities to education, health care, jobs with decent wages and protections, and the possibility of homeownership. We cannot and must not go back there.

I'd like to invite to start this hour with us a leader in his district in South Carolina, a leader of his faith, of this Congress, and of this country, the assistant minority leader, Congressman JAMES CLYBURN.

Mr. CLYBURN. I thank the gentle lady for yielding me this time, and I want to thank her for organizing this Special Order in honor of Black History Month. But I want to take a few minutes to talk about the future.

Last December, when faced with the prospect that tax rates for the richest 2 percent of Americans would rise to where they were in the 1990s, when we balanced the budget and enjoyed unprecedented prosperity, Republicans decided that extending these unnecessary and unaffordable tax cuts was their number one priority.

As we all remember, they held much-needed relief to the middle class hostage, and they got their tax cut for millionaires and billionaires. According to the Joint Committee on Taxation, this tax is adding \$39 billion to the deficit this year and will add even more next year.

Speaker BOEHNER has said that our national debt is a moral issue, and I agree with him. We need to act to curb our exploding deficits and mounting debt. But Republicans and Democrats have different approaches to the problem. The Republicans' approach is the irresponsible continuing resolution that was passed by this House 10 days ago. Republicans would cut \$600 million from the COPS program and \$256 million from the State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program, which would make our streets less safe. Republicans would cut \$75 million from the Legal Services Corporation, which would deny legal services to the victims of domestic violence. Republicans would cut \$53 million from the Food Safety and Inspection Service, which would threaten public health.

Republicans would completely eliminate family planning funding, which would result in more unplanned pregnancies and more abortions. Adding insult to injury, Republicans would cut \$758 million from Women, Infants and Children, which would deny these mothers and children the nutrition they need to begin life on the right track.

Republicans would cut Pell Grants by 15 percent, which would deny young people the opportunity to get a college education. I could go on, but I think you get my point: The cuts in the Republican continuing resolution are shortsighted, counterproductive, and the wrong way to cut the deficit. And the one community, or the communities, that will suffer the most are minority communities in this country,

and that includes the black communities, black students, black mothers, and black infants, as well.

Mark Zandi, the former economic adviser to the McCain campaign, said that these cuts will destroy 700,000 jobs and stall our economic recovery, which would lessen future revenues and further exacerbate the debt problem. And a Goldman Sachs' economist warned that the Republican plan could reduce our Nation's economic growth by 1.5 to 2 percent in the second and third quarters of this year.

□ 1930

Maybe I should amend my previous statement: the cuts in the Republican CR are shortsighted, counterproductive, and may not even cut the deficit.

We need a smarter approach. We need an approach of shared sacrifice, not sacrifice by the most vulnerable. We do need to cut the deficit. But there are different ways to cut the deficit, and I believe the Republicans have chosen the wrong way.

Democrats offer a better approach. We can cut the deficit by at least \$61 billion in such a manner that helps, doesn't hurt, struggling Americans, our economy, and our shared future. First, as I mentioned before, we need to get rid of, once and for all, the tax cuts for the richest 2 percent of Americans. It is too late to save the \$39 billion that we wasted this year, but we could save more than that next year.

Next, I think we need to get rid of special tax preferences for oil and gas companies, many of which were instituted by Republicans the last time they were in the majority. This would save \$44 billion over the next 10 years.

There is no good reason to keep these subsidies in place. The oil companies have said themselves that they don't need them. John Hofmeister, the former CEO of Shell Oil, said on February 11, "In the face of sustained high oil prices it was not an issue—for large companies—of needing the subsidies to entice us into looking for and producing more oil."

Next, Defense Secretary Gates has called for \$78 billion in defense cuts over the next 5 years, saying that these funds can be cut without putting national security at risk. We should listen to him.

I want to thank my friend from the Virgin Islands for allowing me to speak here this evening. I do believe that if we focus on these continuing resolutions that we have been debating, we can have a much better future than the history has been for African Americans in this country.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Mr. CLYBURN, and thank you for raising what Zandi reported today. I just want to quote Mark Zandi, the chief economist at Moody's Analytics, who said today, "Significant government spending restraint is vital, but given the still halting economic recovery, it would be counterproductive for that re-

straint to begin until the economy is creating enough jobs to bring down the still very high unemployment rate."

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield to the immediate past president of the Congressional Black Caucus who led us with great distinction, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE of California.

Ms. LEE. Let me thank the gentle lady for yielding. I also thank you and your staff for coordinating not only this Special Order but each Special Order each and every Monday night, or the first night when we are in session, but especially tonight as we close out Black History Month. This is such an important time for this discussion. I also thank you, Congresswoman CHRISTENSEN, for your visionary and bold leadership as you continue to make history. Truly, you have done remarkable work here in this body.

It is really especially poignant that this year during Black History Month, the Republican leadership has proposed a budget for fiscal year 2011 that will fall most heavily on the backs of the most vulnerable in our society: African Americans, Latinos, and the poor, those who have been shut out of the American Dream.

At a time when we should be remembering and uplifting the accomplishments and contributions of African Americans to the history, culture, civil rights and economy of America, we are literally during this month debating steps that will severely undercut and undermine that legacy.

Can we, Mr. Speaker, cut nearly \$750 million from the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children, the WIC program, while we have a record high unemployment rate throughout our country, but especially among African Americans? We can't do that. The unemployment rate among African Americans is over 15 percent. Many African American women rely on WIC while they seek jobs which we are trying to hopefully create.

How can we cut \$317 million in funding for vital family planning health services provided through a network of clinics throughout the country that serves nearly one in five women? These programs are vital, not just in saving lives through cancer screening, HIV and STD testing and contraceptive services, but for providing a link for the many poor and low-income women in terms of their link to the public health system. Many of these women are African American women.

And how can we cut nearly \$1.1 billion from the Head Start program, which will effectively knock out 200,000 children from participating in this critical early education program which helps provide health, nutritional and support services to prepare children for school? Many African Americans who were part of the Head Start program are now making history in our country because of this great early childhood education program.

The other side has made it clear that no matter who is impacted by these

cuts—women, infants, children, the working poor, people of color, African Americans—their response consists of only three words: So be it.

So be it if 800,000 jobs are lost. So be it if people are put out on the street with no access to homeless assistance grants or temporary housing. So be it if people don't get enough nutritional support or if kids have to go hungry. So be it.

That is not what the civil rights movement was about. We should be working together to build up a nation, instead of tear down the very programs and institutions that have contributed to our Nation's growth and success.

We should be working together to reduce inequality, help the unemployed, and get our economy moving again. Above all, we should be working to create jobs. That's what so many prominent African American leaders have fought for over the years—from those who are well known the world over, like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to people who are sometimes well known just in their own neighborhood.

Tonight there is one person I want to mention who influenced my life and the direction I took, our late beloved former Congresswoman Shirley Anita Chisholm.

In 1968, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm was the first African American woman elected to Congress, and she was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. We celebrate, this year, 40 years of this great institution in our Congress, the conscience of the Congress.

It is the 42nd anniversary of the election of Congresswoman Chisholm who represented her Brooklyn-based congressional district with grace and distinction for 14 years, earning a reputation as one of the House's most eloquent orators and greatest champions of human rights, social and economic justice.

In 1972, Congresswoman Chisholm again made history when she became the first African American to run for the Presidential nomination of a major party. That campaign captured the imagination of millions and inspired countless individuals to engage in the political process for the first time. And I know for a fact that Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm paved the way for our great President Obama to be able to win the Presidency 2 years ago.

Congresswoman Chisholm was a catalyst for change, giving voice to the overlooked and underrepresented members of our society: people of color, women, children, and the African American community. And she fought for the unemployed. She fought for those who wanted to work; for those who were seeking the American Dream. I can't help but wonder what she would say right now if she knew this was taking place. I'm sure she does know this is taking place, and I can feel her telling us that we have to fight the good fight because her legacy is so important within the context of creating

jobs that we are trying to do for our country.

Later this week, I will be introducing two pieces of legislation to honor the work of Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm. The first would recognize and celebrate the 42nd anniversary of her election to Congress, and the second would call on the Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp honoring the life and accomplishments of Congresswoman Chisholm. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support these bills.

As we work to finalize funding for the 2011 fiscal year, let us remember that budgets are moral documents. And as Congresswoman Chisholm said: "When morality comes up against profit, it is seldom that profit loses." So we have to stand up for morality.

Reverend Jim Wallis and Sojourners challenged us. They asked us: What would Jesus cut? Programs to help the poor or wasteful weapons systems at the Pentagon? Ending the war in Afghanistan or programs to feed and shelter the poor?

This weekend, once again, I will be participating in the Faith and Politics Civil Rights Pilgrimage. We are going to Selma, Montgomery, and Birmingham, Alabama, the epicenter of the civil rights movement. We will be led by our hero, a warrior, a great civil rights leader, our colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, who sacrificed so much for civil and human rights and economic justice.

I have participated in this pilgrimage many times, and I always feel a sense of gratitude to Congressman LEWIS and to Rosa Parks and to Dr. King, to Shirley Chisholm, to all of those who fought so hard for equality and jobs and freedom.

□ 1940

This year, however, I feel that many of these gains, mind you, that all of our great civil rights leaders fought for are about to be eroded due to the increasing income inequality and the reckless budget cuts, which will gut so much in the way of our country's response to the civil rights movement. So, as Republicans fight us so hard to enact budget cuts that will destroy nearly 800,000 jobs, be assured that, in honoring the legacy of our great black leaders, we will fight back.

Thank you.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you very much, Congresswoman LEE, for your leadership and for joining us this evening.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, before I recognize the next Member, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material to the subject under discussion this evening.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Now it is my honor to yield to the gentleman from Texas, a person who has long been a fighter for equality, fairness and justice, not only in his own State but for this country, the Honorable AL GREEN of Texas.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Thank you very much, the Honorable DONNA CHRISTENSEN. I appreciate greatly your organizing this opportunity for us to speak this evening on something that is exceedingly important to this country, and that is the history of African Americans in America.

African Americans are no different than any other Americans. We are all the same. There is only one race—the human race.

To a certain extent, I always have some degree of consternation whenever we have a black history celebration or occasion such as this. I have this degree of consternation because I really think we should just have one history, and it really should be American history; but we have these occasions because some of the accomplishments of some Americans have not been properly acknowledged, and as a result, we want to make sure that American history includes the history of all Americans.

So we talk about the history of African Americans, the history of Africans in the Americas—in the United States of America, if you will. Many names come to mind. We always mention Thurgood Marshall. We always mention Rosa Parks. We always mention the great heroes and heroines who have been on the forefront of making America great.

Today, I would just like to mention nameless faces, persons who have never made headlines, who work full time, who take care of the family, who pay taxes, who have never complained by way of a protest, a march. They have done their duty as citizens in this country, and I want them to know that there are those of us who pay attention to the fact that they, too, have made America great. They are nameless faces in the crowd, but they have made a great statement by being honorable, hardworking, law-abiding citizens.

To those who continue to do their duty as citizens, we thank you for what you have done. We want you to know that we who have been honored to serve in the Congress of the United States of America will not allow the rollback of the clock on many of the programs that are of benefit to all Americans. This will include, of course, those of benefit to African Americans.

We will fight to protect the Department of Education. It means something to have a Department of Education in this country, especially to persons who at one time were lawfully denied the right to get an education. We will fight to protect laws that fight discrimination. Lilly Ledbetter v. Goodyear involved an Anglo lady, but that case had implications far beyond any given ethnic group. We will fight to make sure

all persons are treated equally on jobs, and this includes African Americans.

So, to those of you who work in the trenches, who never or who rarely, if ever, complain, I want you to know that there are people in this Congress who are working every day to make sure that your status as an American is always protected and will always be honored. You, too, deserve the rich and noble history associated with you that we associate with Rosa Parks, that we associate with Dr. King, that we associate with Thurgood Marshall. You are as much a part of this history as they are. We honor you and we love you.

God bless you and God bless all Americans. God bless the United States of America.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Congressman GREEN.

At this time, I would like to yield to one of our newer Members. We are so pleased that he has joined not only the Congressional Black Caucus but the Congress. He represents New Orleans and brings welcomed insights and energy to the CBC and to the Congress.

Congressman CEDRIC RICHMOND of New Orleans.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the distinguished gentlelady from the Virgin Islands, who I have the pleasure of serving with and who has done a remarkable job in planning our hour today, which not only celebrates and reflects but which also charts a path for this future that includes everyone.

As we come to the close of Black History Month, it is appropriate that I remind our leadership and the American people of the sacrifice and determination of great American heroes to make this country a better place and the land of opportunity for all Americans. I would also like to remind our leadership that we don't honor Dr. King because of his dream. We honor him because of his hard work and his dedication in pursuing his dream. His last call was for economic justice.

Here we are in 2011 with a 9.6 percent unemployment rate in this country. However, in the African American community, that unemployment rate is 15.8 percent. We must ask why such a huge gap and what we are going to do to close that gap and bring unemployment down for everyone. At this time and at this moment, we need King-like determination; we need King-like courage; and we need a King-like vision to create jobs in this country, not more campaign rhetoric.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle, show me the jobs. Show the American people the jobs.

The continuing resolution that the Republicans offer will not lower the unemployment rate in this country. It will do quite the opposite. The continuing resolution will eliminate 700,000 jobs. If their plan passes, then 700,000 more Americans will face financial uncertainty. That's 700,000 more families who will depend on unemployment benefits to make ends meet.

That's 700,000 more families who will turn to safety-net programs to make it through the tough times. That's 700,000 more families who might now face bankruptcy.

Those 700,000 Americans are demanding that we show them the jobs. I am here and willing to do that. I now invite my Republican colleagues to join my colleagues on my side of the aisle to do just what the American people are asking.

The House Speaker recently stated that the deficit is a moral threat to the Nation, and I agree. I would also add that abandoning the 24 million Americans who are unemployed or underemployed is a moral crime. Cutting 700,000 jobs in one fatal swoop is a moral crime. Balancing the budget on the backs of working folks is a moral crime.

Mr. Speaker, this Republican continuing resolution is not only a path to family bankruptcies; it is, in itself, an irresponsible plan that is morally bankrupt.

□ 1950

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Congressman RICHMOND, for your contribution to this Black History Month Special Order and for pointing out the injustice in H.R. 1 and the proposed stopgap measure for the next 2 weeks.

At this time, I would like to yield to the gentlewoman from Texas, a person much admired by everyone across this country, who represents her district, this Congress, and this country with outstanding distinction, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I thank the gentlelady from the Virgin Islands. And I will join the accolades of my fellow colleagues to express my appreciation for her leadership, and as well to thank her for leading this 1-hour on the celebration of African American History Month.

I stand to acknowledge that all of us who have this wonderful heritage—and those who do not, who count African Americans as an integral part of the fabric of American culture and society—should really commemorate the history of all people—and certainly, in this instance, of African Americans—the entire year because we are a very relevant and elaborate, if you will, part of American history.

I stand in the United States Capitol, which was built by slaves. Today, Congresswoman, I was in Austin, Texas, this morning, at the Texas Black Legislative Caucus where some 2,000 people gathered under the leadership of the Texas Black Legislature chaired by Representative Sylvester Turner and some members, total members of the Texas Black Legislative Caucus, combined of the House and the Senate. They were there to express their commitment to the values of this country and to lobby the State legislators to do the right thing as it relates to education. And I heard a Member stand up and say that the Texas Capitol was

built by slaves. Representative Thompson said that. And so, clearly, our history goes everywhere.

And as I spoke, I mentioned Texans like Jack Johnson, the first African American heavyweight champion; Dorie Miller, who won the Naval Cross in World War II, a Texan; Bessie Coleman, the first African American to receive a pilot's license; Heman Sweatt, who was the reason for the establishment of Texas Southern University when African Americans—Negroes—could not go to the University of Texas.

So we have a place in this country, a place in this society. And what we do, as we work in the United States Congress, we have become part of the fabric of this Nation and we fight for all people. And so as we begin this budget fight, it is part of our history that causes us to be part of the challenge to make the right decisions on the continuing resolution and to ask our Republicans to read what Mark Zandi has said, the economic advisor to JOHN MCCAIN—not to President Obama, but to JOHN MCCAIN first—who said clearly that we would lose 700,000 jobs if we move in the direction that they want to move in.

Why do you have to have your way or the highway? Why can't you read the data that says—the fiscal bipartisan commission said there is no value to cutting funding in 2011, that we must work together to cut the funding and work together on how it should be cut in 2012 and 2013; that you actually will lose jobs; and that you will stop the moving of the economy, the rebirth of the economy in its tracks. It doesn't make sense to simply be driven and shackled to campaign promises. It doesn't make sense to be able to speak campaign speeches and yet not understand the distinction of governing.

When you come into this body—yes, we have districts, the Senators have States, but we must realize that we come to govern for all of the people. And so if you stop us in our tracks, you deny the richness of diversity of people who are in need in this country. You deny the descendants of slaves. You deny the families of soldiers who are on food stamps and are in Iraq and Afghanistan the opportunity to be able to survive. You take some \$758 million from WIC, women and infant children. You deny dollars going to economic development for minority businesses. You cut COPS by 600 or so million dollars. You take away some \$2 billion from programs that would generate economic opportunity. You cut the legal services. And you are obviously not concerned about how we balance this. This is in the middle of the budget year of 2011.

And so this is not befitting of the final day of African American history, a generation of people who came through the Civil War, Reconstruction, Jim Crow, the second reconstruction—which is the civil rights movement. And now they have traveled a journey,

being Americans, fighting in wars, and not yet 150 years away from slavery, and here we are fighting to equalize opportunities for all Americans. Because if you cut education, if you cut women and infant children, if you cut small business opportunities, minority and women-owned businesses, you are cutting into the future of this country.

We know this is a lopsided process; 16 to 18 percent of the budget and you're trying to get a way to bring down a \$1 trillion-plus deficit, if you will—trillions-plus deficit. And so my plea in this process as we go forward is to remember some of our heroes. Barbara Jordan was a Member of this body. Her birthday was celebrated on February 25. Her 75th year we are celebrating in Houston. And she reminded us that the people drive the Constitution, but that those of us of African American heritage were not in fact citizens as this Constitution was written, nor did women have an opportunity to vote during that time, but now we come asking that we do work together and that we be reminded of her words, "we the people." And "we the people" includes all people. It is not the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, the tea party. It's all the people doing what is best for all of the people. That's the message of African American history, striving to make America better as we cite these great icons who went against the odds.

I pay tribute, in closing, to Ruth Carroll, who passed just a few days ago, a friend of my dear friends, Dr. Natalie Carroll Dailey and Warren Dailey. As I read her obituary—she'll be funeralized tomorrow—close to 93 years old; born in 1918; born to two parents who died 1 year and 2 years after her birth; raised by grandparents; blinded at a very early age by an ophthalmologist who I guess accidentally put acid in her eyes. And then she had to go to the deaf, dumb, and blind school. She graduated magna cum laude—it might have been summa if I'm recalling correctly—but she went on to become a premier educator. She went to the University of Denver in Colorado, worked at the University of Texas, places that were segregated, got her graduate degree and became involved in library science, cataloged large libraries; someone who overcame obstacles.

Congresswoman, my tribute tonight is for African Americans who every day overcome obstacles. That is because they believe in the values of this country. And that is because they believe that, through any mountain or any valley, as Martin Luther King told us about the Promised Land, that we could overcome.

I'm asking my colleagues, as we begin to debate this CR, don't look at us as outsiders, people who are always talking of something that you might not understand or comprehend. Look at us as Americans who have a stake in this country, whose history is embedded in this country. Let us work together. Don't lopsided a cut that hurts

one population versus the other. Remember, 150 years—minimally—out of slavery, African Americans, new immigrants who are working every day, who are in the United States military.

So let me just thank the gentle lady for yielding, and thank you for allowing me to speak to the warriors who overcame adversity and contributed to this society. My commitment to them is that we will fight for fairness and justice in this House and a way to reduce the deficit, but fight for those who cannot speak for themselves.

I salute African American History Month, and I yield back.

□ 2000

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you. And I'm sure they are inspired by the eloquence of your tribute to them.

And before I speak briefly on the proposed 2-week CR, I want to tell my colleagues and my fellow Americans about the first black millionaire. It's my contribution to the Black History Month Special Order this evening. His name was William Alexander Leidesdorff, and he was born in my home island of St. Croix, which was then part of the Danish West Indies. The bicentennial of his birth was celebrated last year.

His family started out poor. He ended up having to go to Denmark to get an education, and he was an immigrant to this country which had not yet bought the Virgin Islands. Yet through education, enterprise, and the opportunity to use that enterprise, he is credited with not only having become the first black millionaire but, more importantly, was named the African Founding Father of California. He also specifically played a major role in the development of the city of San Francisco.

Today, if one is an immigrant, there is no welcome in this country of immigrants, and they are denied access to programs that would help them to transition into this country.

Today, if one is poor, the cuts in the Republican-passed H.R. 1, the cuts to community programs, health centers, access to higher education, job training, and the support for the health of mothers and babies would ensure that the uneducated, the unhealthy, the jobless, and the poor stay that way. There will be few, if any, Leidesdorffs. Not even a black "thousandaire" if the tea party-led Republican majority has their way.

What has happened to the inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness? Does the Republican majority plan to cut that, too, out of the Declaration of Independence?

So here we are just 5 days away—4, really—from a government shutdown if we can't agree on how to pay to keep the government open for the next 7 months. The best, the simplest, and the fairest way to do that, in my opinion, in the middle of a fiscal year when departments are carrying out plans and programs to improve and protect the lives of those who live and work in this country is to continue the spending at

last year's levels—no increases, just last year's levels. That essentially adds nothing to the deficit, and most importantly, it does not destroy the small gains we have been making in bringing this country out of a deep and painful recession.

Countless reputable economists, like Zandi, who's been quoted frequently here this evening, have told us over and over again now is not the time to cut the spending that's required to stabilize and begin to grow our economy again. If the Republican majority is successful with the cuts they want to make, they will destroy hundreds of thousands of jobs and make the already bad situation that they and President Bush created even worse for the American people who are depending on us to bring them relief.

What's happening is that the majority is pretty much demanding that the rest of us accept \$4 billion in cuts over the next 2 weeks in order to keep the government from shutting down. And they do have the votes, especially in this body.

In that \$4 billion, education takes an over \$500 million cut in funding in just 2 weeks. Some of these programs the President plans to end next year. And while I'm withholding judgment on that decision, ending them now means the people working in those programs may be out of work if these cuts are continued. These programs include school improvement, safe schools, and higher education programs. Other cuts are proposed for reading and literacy programs and some that work to improve academic achievement.

I suspect that these programs really need a "mend but don't end" approach, because we need to improve literacy and achievement if we are to produce the number of scientists, engineers, and other workers and entrepreneurs this country will need to win the future.

Given the instability in the Middle East and the terrible turn that pirating has taken, can we afford to cut \$245 million in the Homeland Security programs even for just 2 weeks? I don't think so. And I am sure the American people we have sworn to protect don't think so either. Coast Guard operations? Customs and Border Patrol salaries and construction projects? All of that sounds like less security and the possibility of more people out of work to me.

FEMA disaster mitigation grants? Emergency operations money? We were to have 70-mile-per-hour winds here in Washington this evening. Storms and tornadoes will not necessarily stop for 2 weeks because the Republicans have to kowtow to the tea party.

In just 2 weeks, there would be an almost \$200 million cut in HUD neighborhood and economic development grants. Just in the 2 weeks. And almost \$50 million in job training and unemployment services will be cut. With over 9 percent unemployment in many places, some in the double digits, and

in the middle of a recession that has shown no mercy to the poor and the middle class, I guess there will be no mercy from this body's leadership either.

I left health for last on this stopgap measure where I count over \$460 million in cuts in these 2 weeks. Close to \$400 million of that comes from the agency that provides services, treatment, and trains health professionals. And if the cuts to WIC and Maternal and Child Health were not enough in H.R. 1, children's programs have again been the targets of cuts, including programs in special education. And there would be a \$6 million cut from the Administration on Aging.

I don't understand it. If we're not placing a priority on taking care of our children and elderly, what kind of country are we?

So I say to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: This country's in trouble. It's time to end the politics and do not only what the economists tell us we ought to do, but, more importantly, we need to come together and do what is right. These cuts are not right—not for 2 weeks and not for the rest of this year.

We really need to put the welfare of the American people in our country ahead of party politics. The times require it, and our people expect it.

You know, I think we ought to change the word "spending" and call it "investment," because that's what it really is. Investment is something that's understood and supported, and it's what is on the chopping block.

Investing, not just spending for spending's sake, is what Democrats began to do in the last two Congresses—to invest in health for all Americans, in equal opportunity to a quality education; investing in restoring jobs and building a healthier economy; investing in cleaning up a polluted and unhealthy environment; investing in a better future for us and our children and in a better, stronger, more competitive United States in this world.

We want to win the future.

The Republican agenda looks to the past, not the future. It looks to the past to continue the economic policies that ran our economy into the ground in the first place. It looks to the past to focus on the programs they have long hated: EPA regulations, health care reform that is finally making it possible for many to become insured and secure in that insurance, community programs that help poor areas of our country have a fair shot of just surviving, programs that lift our spirits and call forth our better selves—the arts, the humanities, public broadcasting.

And believe it or not, they're cutting programs like WIC, Head Start, and Maternal and Child Health. We had to fight for these programs every year during the administration of George W. Bush, and so it's no accident that we're fighting for them again.

This whole agenda is not about cutting spending at all. It's a facade for what they are really trying to do; that is, gutting the programs they and their supporters love to hate. And in pursuing this agenda, they are putting the slow recovery that still has to reach urban and rural Main Street in jeopardy, putting us in jeopardy of reverting back to where we started earlier this year, to where their policies took us in 2009, a place that no one wants to go back to.

And my friends, not one thing has this Republican majority done about the biggest crisis facing our country and its families: the economy and jobs.

Talk about the job-killing act of 2011. Well, that was not health care reform, which is actually the biggest job creator we have passed in recent years. The winners in that category clearly are the CR that was forced through this Congress 2 weeks ago and this 2-week stopgap that would cut the Federal budget by \$4 billion.

What we need is a clean CR at 2010 levels to the end of this fiscal year so that we can begin to focus on the 2012 budget, which is the more appropriate place to look at deficit reduction and which is due in less than 2 months.

Let me say a word about what their Governors are doing. It doesn't take 20/20 vision to see that this is a coordinated effort. Unions, which created our middle class in the first place, have always been one of the Republicans' targets. The war against the poor and middle class is not just being fought in Washington, my friends, but also in the States by Republican Governors.

□ 2010

Lastly, please don't let our Republican colleagues fool anyone into thinking that Social Security or Medicare needs to be addressed as part of our need to reduce the deficit. They do not. But they too have always been in their bull's-eye. We need to do what is necessary to protect them for the future generations.

But colleagues on the other side of the aisle, we have seen some of your plans to weaken these vital programs. But seniors, the disabled, and we Democrats want to make sure that the tea party and the Republicans keep their hands off Social Security and Medicare.

Black history is not just the commemoration of how far African Americans have come, but also how far this country has come. Most importantly, it is a reminder that we both still have more to do and further to go. Today's Republican agenda for this country threatens to erase all of the gains we celebrate this month, to put up roadblocks in our road to progress, roadblocks to a better future for all Americans, and to ensuring that this country we love regains and retains its number one position in the world. It's time to stop the madness and time to work together to continue to build a stronger America, one child, one family, one community at a time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor Black History Month.

In February of each year, we recognize the many contributions of African Americans throughout this Nation. It brings to life a rich and vibrant history that was all too often left untold.

Although African Americans were an integral part of the founding of this Nation, it was not until the 20th century that they gained any respectable recognition in our history books. Prior to Carter G. Woodson's passionate efforts to write African Americans into the history of the United States, books largely ignored the African American population except in the context of slavery. That is why it is so important that the full history of African Americans continues to be taught and preserved in order that future generations from all reaches of America will understand our rich heritage.

African Americans have made significant contributions throughout history, and it is clear that we continue to build that rich legacy today. As our nation moves forward, we must never forget the great pioneers of scientific innovation, writing, music, philosophy, and politics. Honoring these contributions through Black History Month has allowed us to expand educational opportunities, enhance economic stability, workforce advancement and training, and community involvement.

Today, we find ourselves facing economic uncertainty. However, we must not lose sight of our current accomplishments and continued progress. The current budget proposal led by Republicans seeks to cut spending without any regard to our economy or the needs of the American people. The proposed budget diminishes our investments in education, job creation, and future innovation. I believe that we can and must do better to serve all Americans. We must fight against immoral and unwise cuts to our budget in order to preserve the heritage of African Americans as well as the United States as a whole.

Black History Month has not only set a precedent by honoring the achievements of African Americans, but it has also paved the way for other nationwide celebrations honoring the contributions of other important races and cultures. Now, we must look to our youth to carry on our history and to create their own legacy.

Long before the election of more than a hundred African Americans to the U.S. Congress, African Americans made a large contribution to our Nation's Capitol by building the Capitol itself as slaves.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HANNA (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

Mr. JONES (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of illness.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and March 1 on account of attending the wake and funeral of a fallen police officer.