

claiming that the son of one of the wealthiest families in Tuscaloosa had raped her.

Despite her insistence that she said “no,” the police did not believe her. She said they didn’t want to believe her. An officer asked her why she didn’t punch or kick the rapist. The police thought it must have been consensual since she did not violently resist the attacker, and they moved on.

But, Mr. Speaker, rape victims can never move on. It is something they carry with them for the rest of their lives. The scars left by the rape do not fade away for victims.

Mr. Speaker, I was a prosecutor and judge in Texas for over 30 years. I met a lot of rape victims, and I learned how these attacks sometimes devastate their lives forever.

Sexual assault is a very different type of crime. It rips the identity, the self-worth, and the very soul of the victim apart. It is the victim’s belief, in some cases, that it is a fate worse than death.

It is easy to second-guess what someone should or should not have done after emotional trauma of sexual assault, but Megan believed she did everything a rape victim is supposed to do.

She sought help, but she found none. The university failed her. The counselor assigned to her knew of the rapist’s family name, so the university wouldn’t give her any assistance and provided no other counselor. Megan was dismissed, ignored, blamed, and forgotten.

In the months following the sexual assault, she was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. She was so depressed, she left the school and returned to Texas. Still feeling like there was no way to escape her pain, Megan took her life.

Rape, Mr. Speaker, is never the fault of the victim. She deserved better.

Now, I don’t know whether the perpetrator in this case is guilty or not. I am giving you Megan’s point of view. But what Megan believed was that she was failed by the hospital, law enforcement, and the University of Alabama.

This past February before her death, Megan filled out a mental health clinic intake form at her new school, Southern Methodist University. One question asked if there had been any major losses, changes, or crises in her life. She wrote: “Raped, bullied by police, and I changed university.”

Mr. Speaker, it is important and it is imperative that we understand victims of sexual assault. She got the death penalty for being the victim of sexual assault. She is not here to tell her story today, and I am telling it for her. And that is just the way it is.

#### ALZHEIMER’S AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the sixth leading

cause of death in the United States, and that is Alzheimer’s disease.

Since 2000, deaths from Alzheimer’s disease have increased by 89 percent. Right now, there are more than 5 million Americans with Alzheimer’s, and that number is expected to grow to 14 million—to almost triple—by the year 2050.

Alzheimer’s and other dementias can be especially devastating both physically and emotionally for those who have these diseases and for their loved ones, your family and my family—for me, too many aunts and uncles, including my mother.

When Lena Costa was diagnosed with the disease, she took it on with the same strength and courage she had used to beat cancer and survive heart disease. She was in her late eighties. Upon hearing the diagnosis, she turned to my sister and to me and said calmly and bravely: “Jim, Bette, I will just do the best I can.”

Today, there is no cure for Alzheimer’s and there is no effective treatment for it. There is no proven way to prevent the disease or no method for slowing its progression.

Unlike my mother, we are not currently doing the best we can. We must come together to support additional Alzheimer’s research—more funding. That is what we did in April when we in the House called for additional support for Alzheimer’s research at the National Institutes of Health. But we must do more.

Alzheimer’s is a devastating disease. We must stand together, calmly and bravely, like my mom and so many of our loved ones who have been affected by Alzheimer’s throughout our country.

Just as importantly, we must fix America’s healthcare system. Certainly, in the last week, we have proved that there is no Republican way or Democratic way, but there is an American way, and that is if we work together as Members of Congress to improve America’s healthcare system for all.

#### EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066—JAPANESE INTERNMENT

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to speak also about Executive Order 9066, which was issued 75 years ago—75 years ago—by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The order authorized the evacuation and relocation of all persons deemed to be a threat to national security. What it did, however, was lead to one of the most shameful times in American history, and that was the internment of Japanese Americans. These were American citizens.

From 1942 until 1945, the U.S. Government detained over 120,000 American citizens of Japanese ancestry and of resident immigrants forcing them to live in internment camps, taking them away from their homes, their farms, and their businesses, many in California, in the San Joaquin Valley.

As American citizens, the internment denied them their constitutional right

of due process. These were U.S. citizens who were robbed of their rights and their freedoms. Yet, some of these Japanese Americans, while their families were forced to live in internment camps, never forgot their patriotism.

Many served in our Nation’s military in World War II in the European theater. The 442nd Infantry Regiment Combat Team was made up of Japanese-American soldiers.

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The 442nd is the U.S. Army’s most decorated infantry regiment ever. We must remember this time in American history and not repeat it.

We had three assembly centers in the San Joaquin Valley under Executive Order No. 9066, locations where Japanese Americans were forced to relocate and stay for weeks before they were finally sent to the larger internment camps in other parts of the West.

The centers in my district were the Pinedale Assembly Center, the Fresno Assembly Center, and the Merced Assembly Center. They were fairgrounds. Today, we have three memorials on these sites to ensure that we will always remember and never again treat Americans in this reprehensible way.

As Americans, let us never again give into our fears and turn our backs on our fellow Americans. Let us never forget the sacrifice of American values in the name of protecting our great country. These are some of the lessons of American history that we should never, ever forget.

#### HONORING ELIE WIESEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act, which I had the privilege of introducing in the House last week, with 27 cosponsors.

Named after the courageous Nobel laureate, Elie Wiesel, this legislation honors the legacy of his life’s work to expose evil around the world.

Mr. Wiesel was just 15 years old when the Nazis deported him and his family to Auschwitz. Rising from literal ashes, he became a writer and spent his life defending the persecuted across the globe. He died nearly 1 year ago, but his passion for victims of injustice lives on.

Elie Wiesel believed that from the Holocaust to South Sudan, from Burma to Syria, the world has witnessed far too many genocides and mass atrocity crimes. The true horror is that most of these devastating crises are, indeed, preventable.

My heart aches for those whose lives are being torn apart, and the fact that over 65 million people are currently fleeing preventable crises makes clear that the U.S. Government must improve its response to these conflicts.

Genocide and atrocity crimes, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing, include

shocking acts of violence perpetrated by governments and nonstate actors, resulting in the murders of millions of civilians across the globe.

The Elie Wiesel Act establishes that the official policy of the United States is to regard the prevention of genocide and atrocity crimes as a core national security interest and moral responsibility. The legislation would establish an interagency mass atrocities task force to strengthen the U.S. Government's prevention and response efforts.

The legislation encourages the Director of National Intelligence to include a review of countries at risk of genocide and mass atrocity crimes in his or her annual report to Congress.

The bill also authorizes training for U.S. Foreign Service Officers on early signs of atrocities and transitional justice measures to ensure that America's diplomats know how to respond to conflict on the ground.

Lastly, the legislation authorizes the Complex Crisis Fund to support programs to prevent emerging or unforeseen crises overseas.

These tools will empower the United States to strengthen protection efforts and protect the innocent.

By supporting civil society, enhancing cooperation among ethnic and religious groups, promoting accountability, and holding murderers accountable, America can promote global stability and fundamental human rights. This time, when America says "never again," our actions will reinforce our platitudes.

#### CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I only have 5 minutes to do justice to a great people, and it is with great honor that I rise today to speak on issues impacting the Caribbean and the contributions of the people of Caribbean heritage to the American fabric.

On June 6, 2006, President George Bush signed a proclamation that was ushered through this House by Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, H. Con. Res. 71, naming June Caribbean American Heritage Month. June allows us to highlight the many contributions of Caribbean Americans to the United States.

The campaign to designate June as National Caribbean American Heritage Month was spearheaded by Dr. Claire Nelson, founder and president of the Institute of Caribbean Studies. Through the commemoration of this month, we hope to ensure that America is reminded that its greatness lies in its diversity, with Caribbean immigrants from Founding Father Alexander Hamilton, sports icon Tim Duncan, and journalist Malcolm Gladwell, who have and continue to shape the American Dream.

The Caribbean region was created through violence and trauma, from the exploration and annihilation by Columbus and his Spanish backers on the native people to the French, English, Dutch, Danish, and American use of African, Indian, and others to create income wealth in their nations.

The sweat, labor, and king sugar of the Caribbean people have shaped this and other nations. Our rebellion, innovation, and ingenuity, as well as our independent intellectual intensity, have benefited this and other countries.

As one of the pillars of American patriotism and democracy, Alexander Hamilton was born in Nevis, and raised and educated on the island of St. Croix, where he learned the theories and financial methods of the English, Danes, as well as the West African counting system that created not just the foundation of our financial system, but our Federalist ideas.

During that same time, Caribbean financiers assisted the American Revolution and gave courage through the example of the tremendous victory of the Haitian people over the French, British, and Spanish armies.

But the contributions of Caribbean Americans to the making of America didn't stop with those heroics. The massive migration of Caribbean people to the United States of America, during the early 20th century, gave us another opportunity to make our impact upon the liberation process that was taking place in this country through politics and the arts.

Who doesn't know Hubert Harrison and Edward Wilmot Blyden, intellectuals of the Harlem Renaissance? Marcus Garvey, Cicely Tyson, Malcolm X, and Harry Belafonte are all of Caribbean heritage and have personified the enormous dignity, revolutionary spirit, and unyielding intellectual gravitas and sense of self worth that hallmarks Caribbean people and has supported the African diaspora pride during times when those attributes would be desired to be denied by others in this country.

We continue to contribute to this country in many ways. Secretary of State Colin Powell is of Jamaican heritage; Attorney General Eric Holder, Barbados; Senator KAMALA HARRIS, Jamaica; and former Governor David Paterson's family is from Grenada.

We see many of them in great places. As a result, we all have families and friends who have emigrated to the north and contribute to the social, political, educational, and economic prosperity of the United States.

Who doesn't know Beyonce, who is of Bahamian background, who was named by Forbes as the most powerful celebrity? We have Gwen Iffill from Barbados; and Dr. Patricia Era Bath of Trinidad, who invented the Laserphaco Probe for cataract treatment. She is the first Black woman doctor to receive a medical patent.

We have Romany Malco of Trinidad, an actor and comedian; Dr. Marcia

Roye, who has done research in HIV/AIDS and infectious diseases; as well as Camille Wardrop Alleyne of Trinidad, who works for NASA and the Department of Defense working on low Earth orbit.

This list does not scratch the surface of those making their mark in the United States. There are so many others that I cannot and do not have the time to highlight.

During this month, we have tried to make others aware of the contributions that the Caribbean has. It is not just the contributions we have made, but the commitment that this country should have to its nearest neighbor, the Caribbean.

The Caribbean and the United States have shared a long and prolific history together. The United States is the largest economic partner of the Caribbean; and the Caribbean, that small region, accounts for the third largest receiver of American goods.

The United States needs to act as a buffer to the increased influence of China and Venezuela in the Caribbean through economic projects the U.S. can continue.

As a Delegate representing the only district in the English-speaking Caribbean, I am committed to working with the Caribbean community.

To those young Caribbean people, I see you. Be strong and of good courage. We are a small people, yet mighty in spirit.

#### WEALTHCARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I love my country and because I refuse to support the Senate "wealthcare" bill. It is not healthcare, but "wealthcare."

It is a "wealthcare" bill because it will cut more than a trillion dollars from healthcare. In so doing, it will transfer approximately \$238 billion to high-income earners.

It is a "wealthcare" bill. It will rob the poor, who need healthcare, to reward the rich with "wealthcare."

I refuse to support it. I refuse to participate in the concentration of wealth that has taken place.

Currently, according to Oxfam, eight people own as much wealth as half the world. This was as of January, 2017. There are eight people with as much wealth as half the world.

Mr. Speaker, Big Business and the super rich are fueling inequality not only in this country, but around the world. They do so by dodging taxes. They don't pay their fair share of taxes. They do so by driving down wages.

Many people assume that the country cannot afford healthcare because the people that we live in and around don't have what the super rich have. My friends, America is not a poor country. The wealth is just concentrated at