

115th largest export market for U.S. goods. Corresponding U.S. imports from Sri Lanka were \$2.88 billion;

Whereas, as Sri Lanka celebrates seven decades of freedom, this is a wonderful opportunity for us to pay tribute to all of her national heroes and freedom fighters who fought for independence and extend congratulations to the approximately 100,000 Sri Lankans in the U.S., whose communities have made economic and social impacts throughout various communities across America;

Whereas, Sri Lanka's rich history of over 2,500 years, and its tremendous progress as a nation in 70 years alone, proves Sri Lanka's tremendous potential for the rest of the 21st Century and the future beyond; now be it *Resolved*, That in commemoration of Sri Lanka's 70th year of independence, members of the United States House of Representatives congratulate the government of President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and look forward to working with the government of Sri Lanka, Sri Lankan Americans, and the Sri Lankan community in the United States for years to come.

RECOGNIZING TEENS AGAINST DIFFERENCE AND PALM BEACH COUNTY SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION YOUTH IN ACTION

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, opioids are prescribed to reduce acute pain and are used as anesthesia during surgery. But, as we are all too aware, they have a high potential for abuse. Approximately 2.4 million Americans are currently battling an opioid-use disorder.

In 2015, over 33,000 Americans died from an opioid-related overdose. In 2016, this number jumped to over 42,000. These tragic numbers show a worsening epidemic, which has been declared a national public health emergency.

Mr. Speaker, this epidemic significantly impacts our nation's youth, with the rate of non-medical use of opioids by adolescents and teens doubling from 1991 to 2012. The rate of teen drug overdose deaths skyrocketed 19 percent from 2014 to 2015, with 772 drug overdose deaths reported nationwide for teens aged 15 to 19.

Students throughout Palm Beach County, Florida have responded to this emergency in an effort to save lives by raising community awareness of the epidemic and by reaching out to elected officials to urge them to action.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these students and the work they have done to address this national public health emergency.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY

SPEECH OF

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2018

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, February is Black History Month. It is a time

to reflect on the progress we have made in this country in the pursuit of equality and justice and to honor the people whose hard work and sacrifice contributed in that endeavor.

While we certainly have made progress in many areas, I think it is also important to acknowledge the problems that still persist so that we may continue the work of those who we honor, not just in February but throughout the year.

We will hear a lot about 2018 being the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., but it is also the 50th anniversary of the Poor People's Campaign, which Dr. King championed before his death.

The Poor People's Campaign came to Washington in the spring of 1968 and set up a shantytown called Resurrection City where thousands lived on the National Mall, just a short distance from where I stand here tonight.

A central part of the Campaign was the drafting of an Economic Bill of Rights, which called for:

"A meaningful job at a living wage;"

"A secure and adequate income for all those unable to find or do a job;"

"Access to land for economic uses;"

"Access to capital for poor people and minorities to promote their own businesses;" and

The "ability for ordinary people to play a truly significant role in the government."

Fifty years later, we are still fighting for these same economic rights.

In 1968, a nonwhite family in America had a median wealth of about \$3,000 while white families had a median wealth of around \$60,000.

The wealth gap since then has only expanded, with black families holding a median wealth of \$17,000 versus \$171,000 in white families—a wealth gap of a factor of ten.

Homeownership—an important tool for wealth creation—is only 42 percent for black families but 68 percent for white families.

Retirement savings for black families is now around \$25,000 but over \$157,000 for white families.

It is important to note that Hispanic families have to deal with a wealth gap just as bad as black families.

In the greatest country in the world, your economic security should not be so closely tied to your race or your zip code.

In his Nobel Prize address in 1964, Dr. King noted: "There is nothing new about poverty. What is new, however, is that we have the resources to get rid of it."

Mr. Speaker, we, as members of Congress have a responsibility to use those resources to address the problem head on.

Certainly, we in the Congressional Black Caucus are committed to solving the problems of the wealth gap and economic inequality to bring our country closer together.

We must promote policies that increase job creation in low-income communities; strengthen our social safety nets, not take away benefits; invest in training programs so workers can transition to high-skilled, high-wage jobs, and make investments in revitalizing schools, infrastructure, and neighborhoods.

Families of color, and all American families, deserve equal access to economic opportunity. They deserve better jobs, better wages, and a better future.

HONORING MARGOT CISNEROS TORRES WHO IS RETIRING

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the distinguished career of Executive Director of Human Resources for San Benito Consolidated Independent School District (SBCISD), Margot Cisneros Torres who is retiring. As a director, principal, assistant principal, and educator, Mrs. Torres dedicated her life to bringing knowledge to others.

Mrs. Torres received her Bachelor of Arts degree from The University of Texas Pan American and her Master of Education in Educational Administration from the University of Texas in Brownsville. She holds Provisional Secondary Teaching Certificates in Secondary English and Spanish Grades 6–12, Mild Management Certificate PK–12, and Professional Superintendent Certificate PK–12.

Prior to serving as the Executive Director for Human Resources at SBCISD, Mrs. Torres worked for the Brownsville Independent School District for 26 years in many positions including high school English teacher, Assistant Principal, Human Resource Specialist, and Principal. Additionally, she served as a school principal at Point Isabel Independent School District for three years. Mrs. Torres will be completing an impressive 31 years in education upon her retirement at the end of this academic year.

The presence of Mrs. Torres will be missed at San Benito Consolidated Independent School District, but her legacy as a leader will be felt for years to come. Please join me in wishing Mrs. Torres and her family all the best as she begins the next chapter in her life.

HONORING DR. CARTER G. WOODSON OF HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Carter G. Woodson and to celebrate his legacy with my friends at Marshall University. Dr. Woodson is a former resident of Huntington, West Virginia, and is known as the "Father of African-American History." He believed in the importance of education, served as a principal of his alma mater Douglas High School, and later earned a doctorate in history from Harvard University. Dr. Woodson pioneered the observation of Black History Month and devoted his life to documenting the important contributions African Americans have made to our nation's history.

The Carter G. Woodson Lyceum at Marshall University has the great honor to welcome Librarian of Congress Dr. Carla Hayden who will speak directly to the community and students of Marshall University. I extended my wishes for a successful event celebrating the life of Dr. Woodson and all that he has achieved.

I want to thank Professor Morris for his continued dedication to honoring the work of Dr. Woodson every year. He continues to ensure

future generations and students at Marshall have the opportunity to learn about the legacy of this remarkable historical icon. Dr. Woodson's legacy and his work to ensure that African-American history is preserved and recognized in our community will continue to inspire the students of Marshall University for many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote for Roll Call votes 51 and 52 on February 5, 2018. Had I been present, my votes would have been the following: Nay on 52, and Aye on Roll Call vote 51.

HONORING THE GRADUATING SENIORS ON THE BUFFALO STATE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two exceptional members of the senior class at Buffalo State College, Mariah Rosario and Caleh McLean. As members of the Buffalo State women's basketball team, these students are known as gifted athletes and scholars. I commend these young women for their academic and athletic dedication and congratulate them on the completion of their college careers.

Mariah Rosario played for Buffalo State as a forward and majored in Criminal Justice. Mariah comes from Flushing, New York where she attended Robert F. Kennedy High School.

Caleh McLean comes to Buffalo State from her hometown of New Rochelle, New York. A graduate of New Rochelle High School, Caleh played guard for the Buffalo State Bengals. She will be earning her degree in Economics and Finance.

Handling the responsibilities of being a student athlete is an incredible challenge, and both of these students handled this challenge exceptionally. As an alumnus of Buffalo State, I will be proud to call them fellow alumni.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing my colleagues to join me in recognizing these extraordinary Buffalo State Bengals and in congratulating them as they obtain their undergraduate degrees. Their dedication and drive will propel them to success, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF BRIGADIER GENERAL VERNON RODNEY TATE, SR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on February 3, 2018, a memorial service

was conducted at the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Annapolis, Maryland, to honor the life of Brigadier General Vernon Rodney Tate, Sr.

I include in the RECORD the following obituary published in The Post and Courier on February 1, 2018:

Brigadier General Vernon Rodney "Rod" Tate, Sr. passed away peacefully on January 28, 2018, in his home on Daniel Island, South Carolina, with his beloved wife, Lynn, his children and two faithful rescue cats, Frankie and Cooper, by his side. He celebrated his 80th birthday this past November with family. Rod was born on November 18, 1937, in Washington, D.C. to Dr. Vernon Dale Tate and Katherine Ann (Moore) Tate, and lived his childhood years in Hingham, Massachusetts. Rod earned his Eagle Scout rank as member of Troop 25 in Hingham, Massachusetts. He moved to Annapolis with his family in 1954 when his father began serving as Director of Libraries at the U.S. Naval Academy. Rod graduated from Cushing Academy, Ashburnham, Massachusetts, in 1957. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Maryland in 1961, where he was a member of the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity and the University of Maryland Swim Team. He later received a Masters of Business Administration at George Washington University with a focus on International Marketing in 1967. Rod began his career working at Xerox Corporation. He later founded Nationwide Fulfillment Systems located in Ridgely, Maryland, serving Fortune 500 companies. During this time, he served in the U.S. Air Force and spent his last five years in service as a Brigadier General, USAF, working in the Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI), which included duties at the Pentagon, Office of Secretary of the Air Force. He was also a Mobilization Assistant to the Inspector General (SAFIG). Upon retirement from the Air Force, Brigadier General Tate received the Distinguished Service Medal.

Rod and his late wife, Missy, founded Weems Creek Nursery School and Kindergarten, Annapolis, MD in 1972, which, 46 years later continues making a difference in children's lives. They also established Super Skate roller rink together in 1979. During retirement, Rod and his son, Vernon (Skip) Rodney Tate, Jr. founded Recreation World RV Center, Annapolis, MD. Over his lifetime, Rod was involved in many philanthropic causes, serving in various capacities including Anne Arundel Medical Center, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Annapolis, the Annapolis Area Christian School, the Summit School, Cushing Academy, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and other organizations. Rod was a member of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Annapolis, the Annapolis Yacht Club (AYC), the Rehoboth Beach Country Club, U.S. Naval Academy Golf Club, and the New Providence Club in Annapolis. Most recently, he has cherished his time attending East Cooper Baptist Church, Mount Pleasant, SC and hosting weekly Bible studies with his wife. He was an active member at the Daniel Island Club. Rod lived a full life and enjoyed sailing and Wednesday Night Races at AYC, traveling, golf, restoring historic homes, was an automobile enthusiast, and most of all, cherished spending time with his family.

Rod is survived by his wife, Lynn of 10 years; his sons, Vernon Rodney (Skip) Tate, Jr., (Katharine), William Paul Tate; his daughters, Hilda Margaret (Maggie) Tate Riith (Michael), all from Annapolis and Elizabeth Downing Jowett, (Marshall) of Yale,

Michigan, from his 43 year marriage with the late Missy Tate; ten grandchildren; and a sister, Charlotte Tate Bendell (Alfred) of Hagerstown, MD. Visitation will be held on Friday, February 2, 2018, from 5:00pm-8:00pm at the John M. Taylor Funeral Home, 147 Duke of Gloucester Street, Annapolis, MD. The service will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at 2:00pm at the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Annapolis, 710 Ridgely Avenue, Annapolis, MD. Interment will follow at the St. Margaret's Episcopal Church Cemetery, 1601 Pleasant Plains Road, Annapolis, MD.

Those wishing to do so may make donations to one of the philanthropies mentioned above, Respite Care Charleston, Dementia & Alzheimer's Support, the Charleston Animal Society or the Senior Dog Sanctuary of Maryland. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.johnmtaylorfuneralhome.com.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, due to a flight delay on February 5, 2018, I was unable to vote on Roll Call numbers 51 and 52. If present, I would have voted yes on H.R. 4547, and would have voted no on approving the journal.

INTRODUCTION OF THE KEEPING SALVADORAN FAMILIES TOGETHER ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill to provide Salvadorans who have Temporary Protected Status (TPS) lawful permanent resident status and a pathway to citizenship after five years.

Of the 200,000 Salvadorans living in the U.S. with TPS, nearly 30,000 live in the Washington, D.C. metro region, the largest concentration in the nation. This bill would change the status of Salvadoran TPS holders to lawful permanent residents and allow them to apply for naturalization after five years. Deporting Salvadoran TPS holders raises unique issues because of the great number of years they have spent in the U.S. and the large number of their children who were born in this country and are American citizens. The Trump Administration's callous and unnecessary decision to end TPS for Salvadorans requires immediate pushback. I am also pleased to be a cosponsor of the American Promise Act (H.R. 4253), which would protect from deportation all individuals currently receiving TPS or Deferred Enforced Departure.

My bill would begin the effort to protect from deportation Salvadorans who have lived here for nearly two decades and have made long-term contributions to our region and to the nation. I urge its adoption.