

knelt before Ross' remains, put their hands on Ross' remains, and as they told me, they thank God for Ross McGinnis, and they thank Ross for saving their lives.

We should thank God for all of those who have served and protected us and thank the families of those that lost a loved one protecting us.

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

STATEHOOD FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for 30 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the House will not be in session next Monday, Memorial Day. That day has very special meaning for the 700,000 residents in the Nation's Capital.

The District of Columbia is one of the oldest jurisdictions in the United States. That means that residents of the Nation's Capital have fought and died in every war, including the war that created the United States of America: the Revolutionary War.

I have come to the House floor today to particularly recognize, on Memorial Day coming, the denial of full participation in their government through statehood, not only to the District of Columbia's residents, but to our present Active-Duty servicemembers, our National Guard members, our reservists, our many veterans and their families who are residents of the District of Columbia.

Their service and sacrifice, along with that of Americans across the breadth of this land, but especially their sacrifice, is unparalleled and, therefore, deserves special mention: unparalleled because those who served, those who died, those who continue to serve to protect our country do so without full and equal rights in their own country.

Later, I will be speaking about what their sacrifices have meant to our country, but as I come to the floor, I start by paying special tribute to the sacrifices that the residents of the Nation's Capital have made for 218 years.

I will be going, this coming week, with the Mayor of the District of Columbia, with the city council chair, with the entire government, to what is called the D.C. War Memorial. This pristine, beautiful memorial is dedicated to those who lost their lives in World War I.

It is the only memorial—indeed, it is the only edifice—on The Mall that is dedicated to people in one district, and for very good reason: because that district is our Nation's Capital; because those whose names appear on that memorial—I think there are 400- or so names—died without full representation and died giving that kind of representation, the kind of democracy, the kind of democracy that others have.

□ 1315

Our country, of course, prides itself on its democratic traditions, but we must remember that the country was founded seeking democracy, not as a democracy.

When it was founded, only White men who held property could vote. That means that the majority then could not vote and did not have their democratic rights. So we have to, with some humility, approach our own standing as a democracy. May I remind us all today that it took 132 years after the Nation's founding for women to get the right to vote.

When half the population didn't have the right to vote, I am sure Members came to this House floor saying what a wonderful democracy it was. Well, it wasn't.

What is important about our country is our aspiration to become the democracy that the Framers themselves hoped we would come—they hoped we would become because even they had created a constitution where an African American was counted as three-fifths of a man. That was a compromise.

They created this country knowing, believing, that those of us who sit in this House, in the Senate, and Americans throughout the country would make our democracy a real democracy over time.

It has taken 218 years, and still counting, for the District of Columbia and its residents to achieve statehood, including voting rights and all the rights that come with equal citizenship.

We are the only democracy in the world where the residents who live in the Nation's Capital don't have the same rights as everyone else in that country.

I am not pessimistic today. We are just 5 months into the new Congress, and we are already beginning to break ground with those old traditions.

In March, the House passed H.R. 1, as we call it. That is our all-democracy, prodemocracy bill, still trying to achieve full democracy throughout the United States. I will say a bit about H.R. 1 shortly.

It has findings, extensive findings for D.C. statehood, which means, since it passed by more than a majority, that most Members of the House are already on track and on the Record for D.C. statehood.

I am grateful that Speaker NANCY PELOSI 3 days into the new term issued a very powerful statement, the head of the House, endorsing statehood.

I am grateful to Senate Minority Leader CHUCK SCHUMER, who unveiled a sweeping proposal to bring democracy to our country. His proposal is interesting because it included only three issues: combating voter disenfranchisement through the Voting Rights Act, establishing national automatic voter registration laws; and the third one, support of D.C. statehood.

I think that says a great deal about what the priority of bringing full de-

mocracy to the Nation's Capital means to the Nation.

I am grateful to Chairman ELIJAH CUMMINGS, the chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, who has announced that he will hold a hearing on D.C. statehood and will bring the bill to the floor this year.

It is worth hearing a few words from Speaker PELOSI, to show the commitment of our party to full democracy.

The Speaker said: "The right to vote and to equal representation is the foundation of our freedom and a core pillar of our democracy. For too long, the residents of the District of Columbia have served our Nation in uniform, paid taxes, and contributed to the economic power and success of our country while being denied the full enfranchisement that is their right."

I am encouraged today because while it takes 218 votes to pass the D.C. statehood bill, already 5 months into this new majority, we have 204 cosponsors. We are very grateful and very proud of that very strong showing of support for democracy in the Nation's Capital.

To elaborate a bit on the significance of being in H.R. 1, which documented findings for why the District of Columbia should have statehood, to put that in context, just look at the other matters that were in this enhancing democracy bill, because they didn't have anything to do with D.C. statehood.

And yet, D.C. statehood is in this enhancing democracy bill, which includes such matters as supporting the adoption of paper ballots to protect our election infrastructure from cyberattacks, increasing donor disclosure requirements, strengthening campaign oversight, expanding early voting and voting by mail, ending partisan gerrymandering, requiring all Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates to publicly disclose their tax returns—until this President. For decades, others have, of course.

You can see those issues are about enhancing democracy in the larger sense. It says everything about the priority of this Congress that H.R. 1 also includes making sure that the residents of the Nation's Capital have the same and, indeed, equal rights with other Americans.

We are well on our way to nationalizing the fight to D.C. statehood, nationalizing, because my one frustration, that we have faced and continue to face, that most residents, most Americans, think that those who live in their Nation's Capital have the same rights they have. That is what I mean by the need to nationalize this important issue.

What polls show is that it is inconceivable to the average American that there would be any Americans who don't have the same rights that they have. Of course, that is the case.

That is why, periodically, I come to the floor to make sure and remind the House of this anomaly, that we are the only country that does not give those

who live in its capital the same rights as others in their country.

I am heartened by the many national organizations that, as I speak, have come on to endorse statehood for the District of Columbia.

As I was, literally, coming to the House floor, a staff member rushed behind me to add another one. It is up to 20.

I will bet by the time I get back to my office in the Rayburn Building, the number will be even beyond 20 because they have been coming on ever since we put out the word. They represent millions of people and can help Americans to know what they do not know.

These are the national organizations that by the time I came to the House floor had endorsed D.C. statehood: Common Cause, Public Citizen, National Active and Retired Employees Association, Sierra Club, People For the American Way, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Planned Parenthood, Demand Justice, Indivisible, Americans for Democratic Action, Demos, NORML, NETWORK, Stand Up America, Demand Progress, United Food and Commercial Workers, Democratic Coalition, National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund, and Human Rights Campaign.

These are organizations whose numbers go into the many millions that can help us by making sure Americans know what many would be ashamed to find out, that they live in a country where people who live in their Nation's Capital don't have the same rights they have.

What a diverse city this is, about half Black, half White, many high-income people—yes, its share of poor people like every city—top 10 in economic growth, bursting at the seams with more people moving in every day, the kind of National Capital Americans have every right to be proud of.

Until Democrats captured this House, even our self-government, the right to govern ourselves in the District of Columbia, was under attack. I had to fight off bills that eliminate important laws in the District of Columbia. What did they have to say about our local laws?

For example, a favorite has been attempts to wipe out all the gun safety laws in the District of Columbia. I have been able to defeat these bills—almost all of them—even while I have been in the minority.

But why should I have to come to this floor to say to Members of the House that these are local matters?

This is a national body. Stay out of our business.

There were laws that would have repealed our Local Budget Autonomy Act, where we deal only with spending matters resident alone pay for.

A law they tried to erase a recreational marijuana. Ten states allow recreational marijuana, which the House has allowed.

They tried to wipe out abortions for low-income women. They tried to wipe

out our Death with Dignity Act. These, of course, are rather progressive matters.

Death with dignity, for example, after seeking the advice of a physician, and with only 6 months to live, allows people to take their own lives, with pharmaceuticals provided by a physician. That is not the case for every jurisdiction.

By the way, the majority of American people support this right. But if you disagree with it, Congress can't do anything about it anywhere else, only in the District of Columbia.

I could name several other bills. We were able to defeat all of these bills away except two. One is the marijuana commercialization act. We were able to save the ability to possess 2 ounces but not to do what those 10 states already do, which is to regulate it and tax it.

Marijuana should be regulated, not just sold. Why does the House not want that? Of course, to sell and legally tax marijuana, if you don't do that, people will smoking marijuana anyway.

We have six universities here. Do you think people aren't smoking pot?

The Republican priority has always been local control. That is their mantra. They even want the Federal Government often out of the business that the Federal Government must be in.

We have indicated that we would like that mantra to apply to the District of Columbia as well.

□ 1330

At the same time, we are on a dual track. At the same time that we are trying to get statehood, we have not gotten full control of our own city because the Congress, as I have just indicated, can intervene.

So, at the same time that we are trying to get statehood, which would do the whole thing, we are also trying to use the Home Rule Act simply to get what every other jurisdiction has: a local prosecutor, for example; the right to declare clemency for local residents, local control of local courts, etc.

So we are on two tracks: statehood, which would give us the whole set of rights that the rest of the country has; and using the Home Rule Act—and the District has had home rule since 1973—simply getting the kinds of rights that do not require statehood but that other jurisdictions have passed locally.

I have gotten three bills passed this term. I got them passed in the first 3 months. And note that, even when I was in the minority in the last Congress—I was voted the most effective Democrat in the Congress. The commentary noted that NORTON—does not have the final vote on the House floor.

I got back my vote in the Committee of the Whole. I now vote for the District of Columbia when the House meets in the Committee of the Whole. I was able to get that right when I first came to Congress.

And if this is believable, when the Democrats lost the House, Republicans

took back even that vote, the DC vote in the Committee of the Whole, even though it had been approved by the courts of the United States. It was granted by the House; therefore, it could be taken away by the House. It was taken away by the House before.

Getting full and equal rights for the District of Columbia is personal to me because I am a native Washingtonian—indeed, a third-generation Washingtonian.

I cannot help but tell the story of my great-grandfather, a runaway slave from Virginia. He came to the District of Columbia when they still had slavery, when, of course, it didn't have any home rule or statehood.

The District was being built. This Capitol building was being built. Work was being done on the streets, and people were anxious to hire anybody they could find. Richard Holmes got a job working on the streets of the District of Columbia.

And passed down to my family is what happened to Richard Holmes. Richard Holmes that continues to inspire me, even as I am inspired by our veterans as we approach Memorial Day.

Richard Holmes was working on the streets of the District of Columbia, where slave owners roamed the streets, because, after all, valuable property was lost if there was a runaway slave that could be identified.

A man walked up behind Richard Holmes and called out the name "Richard." Richard Holmes kept digging. Then the slave owner went over to the straw boss and said, "That is my slave. I have come to take him back." And the straw boss said, "Well, that man didn't answer to that name," and he let Richard Holmes stay.

I think Richard Holmes must have been a good worker, so he just wasn't going to give him up. I don't know that. All I know is that he did not give him up, and the Holmes family has been very grateful ever since.

This has been the most important destination, not only for people like my great-grandfather who simply walked off of a plantation in Virginia. In telling the story, you will note that I didn't speak about Richard Holmes as some heroic runaway slave, because that is not how the story was told to us. We were told that Richard Holmes simply walked off that plantation when nobody was looking and walked all the way to the District of Columbia from way down in Virginia.

In a real sense, I feel like I am walking. I am continuing in his footsteps as I strive to help my city become the 51st State, no longer be a city where there is taxation without representation.

Imagine the outrage. This is not a Congress which likes taxes, particularly my Republican friends. Well, a lot of us have owned up to the fact that it became a great country because all of us pitched in, including paying Federal

taxes. But imagine paying Federal taxes when you don't have anything to say about the amount of those taxes or anything else about those taxes.

Imagine being number one per capita in Federal taxes to support your country and yet having no final vote on this House floor when those taxes are raised, when, for example, there has been a massive tax cut that went to the great benefit, as it turned out, of corporations and the very well-off.

For the District of Columbia, I could speak on that bill but I could not vote on that bill, even though I represent those who will pay the highest amount in taxes pursuant to that bill.

So taxation without representation is not simply a slogan for the people I represent. It has real meaning, as real for us as it did for the Framers. They were willing to risk treasonous acts in order not to pay taxes without representation.

As the United States stands, today as a Nation, we are in violation of treaties the United States has signed because we do not grant full and equal rights to the residents of the Nation's Capital.

For example, our country, in 1977, signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Human Rights Committee, which has oversight over that treaty, has since said that the United Nations delegation to the U.N. "... remains concerned that residents of the District of Columbia do not enjoy full representation in Congress, a restriction which does not seem to be compatible with article 25 of the covenant," the covenant that the United States has signed, in violation of all our country stands for and in violation of international law.

So, as this Memorial Day comes, I come to the floor simply to remind my colleagues of what it means for those of us who live in our Nation's Capital. Even though on this Memorial Day we recall the Memorial Days that have gone ahead, commemorating the residents of this city who have fought and died in every war, I believe we should particularly note the first African American general, who happened to be born and raised in the District of Columbia; the first African American Air Force general, who was born and raised in the District of Columbia; the first African American Naval Academy graduate, born and raised in the District of Columbia; and the first African American Air Force Academy graduate, born and raised in the District of Columbia.

I cite these African Americans because they served, all of them, when the District was a segregated city. And when I say the District was a segregated city, understand that this was a majority-White city and has been a majority-White city for most of its 218 years as a city.

And yet African Americans and Whites have been treated in exactly the same way, as second-class and perhaps worse.

On Monday, the last Monday in May, Memorial Day will mean perhaps more

to the residents of our Nation's Capital than anywhere else, and particularly to our veterans who are still living here. We cannot help but remember that in World War I the District lost more lives than three States.

And, therefore, on Memorial Day, 2019, as I remember at our casualties, I speak on this House floor for every resident, for every veteran, and, I believe, for every American when I say all Americans, those who live, those who have died, and those who continue to serve, are entitled to full and equal rights.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. JACKSON LEE (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of business in the district.

Mr. JEFFRIES (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of commencement address.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, May 24, 2019, at 11 a.m.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 1716. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to conduct coastal community vulnerability assessments related to ocean acidification, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-81). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 988. A bill to provide for a study by the Ocean Studies Board of the National Academies of Science examining the impact of ocean acidification and other stressors in estuarine environments; with amendments (Rept. 116-82 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. KAPTUR: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 2960. A bill Making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-83). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. VISLOSKEY: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 2968. A bill Making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-84). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Natural Resources dis-

charged from further consideration. H.R. 988 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

CONSENSUS CALENDAR

Under clause 7 of rule XV, the following motion was filed with the Clerk: Motion No. 3, May 23, 2019 by Mr. SCHRADER on H.R. 693.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mrs. MCBATH (for herself and Mr. STEUBE):

H.R. 2938. A bill to exempt from the calculation of monthly income certain benefits paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. NAPOLITANO (for herself, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 2939. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to clarify the use of certain taxes and revenues; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mrs. WALORSKI):

H.R. 2940. A bill to extend the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families and related programs through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Mr. CISNEROS, and Ms. STEFANIK):

H.R. 2941. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretaries of the military departments to encourage female members who separate or retire from the Armed Forces during fiscal year 2020 to participate in the Women's Health Transition Training pilot program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CISNEROS (for himself and Ms. HOULAHAN):

H.R. 2942. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out the Women's Health Transition Training pilot program through at least fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CISNEROS:

H.R. 2943. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make all fact sheets of the Department of Veterans Affairs in English and Spanish; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CISNEROS:

H.R. 2944. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to establish a public-private exchange program for the acquisition workforce; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H.R. 2945. A bill to provide for the indefinite duration of certain military land withdrawals, to improve the management of lands currently subject to such withdrawals, to make the management of such lands more transparent, and for other purposes; to the