

Again, these are collected taxes for which, by law, only authorized Federal navigation maintenance work is eligible. That the unspent balance has been allowed to accumulate and sit in the Federal Treasury as ballast against budget deficits is especially disturbing at a time when Congress and the White House have rightly talked about the importance of tending to the country's essential infrastructure. In the case of port channels, the money exists. That is an important consideration. No new revenue stream is required.

As a final note, and for clarity sake, this issue is unrelated to the funding of the inland waterway system. There vessels, including as tug and towboats, are charged an excise tax on fuel expenses. That revenue is accounted for in the Inland Waterways Trust Fund and is spent on construction work such as lock and dam improvements. It is noteworthy that unlike the case with the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, the Inland Waterways Trust Fund resources are fully spent on that system's navigation projects.

Please vote for the Full Utilization of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund legislation.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM D. FRIEDMAN,
President & Chief Executive Officer.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR FLORIDA'S SEASONAL GROWERS

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

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness about an issue that is important to our Nation and essential to my district. Strawberry growers in Plant City, Florida, are under attack.

For years Mexico has spent millions subsidizing their strawberry production. This has allowed them to export strawberries at a cost our local growers cannot compete with. Consequently, imports of Mexican strawberries have increased by approximately 80 percent since 2010. Furthermore, current trade agreements don't allow seasonal growers to bring antidumping claims. This means our growers are left with a right against unlawful dumping but no means of enforcing it.

Plant City, Florida, is known as the Winter Strawberry Capital of the World and produces more than 85 percent of all the winter strawberries grown here in our Nation. It is imperative for Congress to correct the situation and pass legislation that gives our growers the protections that they need and deserve.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JOHN CONYERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mrs. LAWRENCE: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Congressman John Conyers. He was one of the 13 founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus. I stand here today joining the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, KAREN BASS, in recognizing that he served for 53 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, making him one of the longest-serving House Members in history and the first African American to hold the title of dean.

Congressman Conyers was born in Detroit on May 16, 1929, the eldest of four sons of John and Lucille. He attended Detroit public schools and graduated from Northwestern High School. After graduating he served in the National Guard and then joined the U.S. Army.

He was inspired by his friend, Dr. Martin Luther King, to run for office and was elected to the House of Representatives in 1964. His first hire was civil rights hero, Rosa Parks.

As a human rights and civil rights champion, Mr. Conyers opposed the death penalty and fought police brutality. He also co-led and was a cosponsor for the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Mr. Conyers also assisted in passing the Help America Vote Act, the Violence Against Women Act, the motor vehicle bill, the National Jazz Preservation, Education and Promulgation Act, and the Martin Luther King Federal Holiday Commission Extension Act.

Today I am joined by a number of my colleagues who will be giving remarks.

Mr. Speaker, it is with honor that I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE). My colleague and my colleague's father both served with John Conyers.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank the gentlewoman from Detroit for her leadership on this issue tonight. We felt it was only fitting that she lead us in this Special Order hour for Mr. Conyers.

I rise to honor the former Congressman, John James Conyers, after his passing on October 27, 2019. I would like to start by offering my thoughts and prayers to his wife, Monica, and his sons, John and Carl, during this time of loss.

Mr. Conyers spent 53 years as a Congressman from Michigan, mostly from districts in and around the Detroit area. Mr. Conyers was the third longest-serving Congressman and the longest-serving African American Congressman in United States history.

He helped found the Congressional Black Caucus with some of our Nation's most prominent civil rights leaders and colleagues such as Shirley Chisholm and William Lacy Clay, Sr., the father of my esteemed colleague, WILLIAM LACY CLAY, Jr., from Missouri's First District.

During his life he had several accomplishments in and out of Congress. He

joined voter registration drives in Selma, Alabama, in 1963, a year before the landmark 1964 Civil Rights Act even became law. As a Congressman, he led the drive to help make Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a national holiday and succeeded through perseverance and continued efforts to make that happen despite insurmountable odds. He helped calm revolters in his district during Detroit's racial strife of 1967. He was a vocal opponent of apartheid in South Africa, a political system of legal racial discrimination that he just—as many of us in this great Nation—would not tolerate. He fought for restrictions on gun ownership to prevent violence, because he knew what it meant in so many of our communities to have these lax laws.

At one point Mr. Conyers was called the leading Black voice in Congress. He was also known as one of the best dressers on Capitol Hill and a lover of jazz. He even got the Congress to declare jazz a national American treasure in 1987.

He was a dedicated public servant, an honored Korean war veteran, a champion of racial equality, and a strong figure in this House for half a century. His legacy will be remembered long after his passing. The work that he has done on this floor and in these Halls is second to none. He cared about this Nation, he cared about his colleagues, and he cared about his constituents in his district.

We will miss him dearly. Mr. Conyers was one of a kind. We are saddened by his loss, so we are here to honor him in the manner in which he should be as an esteemed former Member of this House.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, there are so many facts that we need to share about John Conyers, including the fact that in his 52 years in office he represented Michigan's First Congressional District, Michigan's 14th Congressional District, and Michigan's 13th Congressional District. Also during his time in Congress he chaired the House Oversight and Reform Committee and also the House Judiciary Committee and served as dean of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) who is my amazing colleague and who will have comments about the passing and honoring of our colleague whom we all are mourning, John Conyers, who impacted so many of us in this country.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the young lady from Michigan—Mrs. LAWRENCE. I love that.

Mr. LEWIS. Well, you are still very young—for bringing us together to honor John Conyers.

The former dean of the House of Representatives and the cofounder of the Congressional Black Caucus, John Conyers, was born at a time when we needed someone to stand up and to speak up and speak out and to get in the way of getting what I call good trouble, necessary trouble.

As a matter of fact, John Conyers and Martin Luther King, Jr. were born

the same year, so maybe history, faith, and maybe God Almighty placed the two of them here to work together.

Before being elected to Congress, Mr. Conyers served in the Korean war and on the staff of Representative John Dingell. When the people of Michigan elected Mr. Conyers in 1964, he brought Congress to the front lines of the civil rights movement, and he took civil rights, voting rights, labor rights, and human rights to the United States Congress.

John Conyers, perhaps more than any other Member of Congress, made trips over and over and over again to the South to identify with the struggle going on in the South. He came to Alabama, to Georgia, Mississippi, and other parts of the Deep South.

Mr. Speaker, Representative Conyers was one of two Members of Congress, both from Michigan, who voted on the original and every single reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act. He could give us the backstory of every major law from the Civil Rights Act of 1968 to the 20-year effort to establish a National Day of Service honoring my friend and leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

When Rosa Parks, a person I got to know so well, was forced to leave her home State of Alabama after the Montgomery bus boycott, Mr. Conyers more than anyone else gave her a position on his staff, and she was very proud and pleased to work in the office of John Conyers. She served in his district office for 23 years.

The record should be clear: John Conyers loved music, but he loved jazz. He loved jazz more than any other form of music.

□ 2015

He loved this institution, and he dedicated his life to realizing the dream of what our Nation could be. He was of the people, and he was for the people.

On this difficult day, I offer my deepest condolences to his beloved wife, sons, family, and the people of Michigan who mourn his loss.

May he rest in peace and in power.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman LEWIS.

Some other facts that people may not know about John Conyers: He worked for the Lincoln auto factory and was a member of the UAW. He became the director of education for UAW Local 900. He was the first African American to chair the House Committee on the Judiciary. He also sponsored the Racial Justice Act and the Police Accountability Act during that time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), a Member of Congress who has fought many fights and has stood up and knows the story of justice in our country.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentlewoman, first of all, for organizing this

Special Order that gives all the rest of us the opportunity to come to pay tribute to my hero.

As a matter of fact, I am old enough to remember in a very vivid way the late 1950s and early 1960s with people like John Conyers, Martin Luther King, JOHN LEWIS, Whitney Young, and other heroes of the period.

Although John was elected in Michigan, he was really all of our Congressman. He was the Representative for all of us. We didn't have 55 African American or Black Members of Congress at that time, but we had those voices that were strong and vibrant, those voices that gave hope.

There was so much hope and possibility being expressed during that period that those of us who were emerging had no idea that there was anything that we couldn't accomplish, any changes that we couldn't bring about, any possibilities that did not exist. And that, to me, was the true essence of John Conyers.

I was tremendously impressed with John because he was always for the underdog. He was always for the little guy, always for the little person, always representing those who were left out, those who were unheard, even those who were unheard of.

I don't think there was any place in America where action was going on that John didn't go. As a matter of fact, at the time when we were electing the first African American mayor in the city of Chicago, John was there every week. We thought he had moved to Chicago, that he didn't live in Detroit. I mean, every week, from the time, I guess, he left here, in churches and churches and block parties and everyplace that you could possibly turn, there was John Conyers.

John has given the very best that you can give.

To his wife and sons and other members of his family, we say thank you for lending John to all of us.

I guess the poet Walter Foss maybe had John in mind when he penned these words that I end with.

There are hermit souls that live withdrawn in the peace of their self-content;
There are souls, like stars, that dwell apart, in a fellowless firmament;
There are pioneer souls that blaze their paths where highways never ran;
But let me live by the side of the road and be a friend to man.
Let me live in a house by the side of the road, where the race of men go by;
The men who are good and the men who are bad, as good and as bad as I.
I would not sit in the scorner's seat, or hurl the cynic's ban;
Let me live in my house by the side of the road and be a friend to man.
I see from my house by the side of the road, by the side of the highway of life,
The men who press with the ardor of hope, the men who are faint with the strife.
But I turn not away from their smiles nor their tears, both parts of an infinite plan;
Let me live in my house by the side of the road and be a friend to man.

So let me live in my house by the side of the road where the race of men

go by, men who are good, men who are bad, wise, foolish, but then so am I.

So why would I sit in the scorner's seat or hurl the cynic's ban? Let me live in my house by the side of the road, like John Conyers, and be a friend to man.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. That was beautiful.

We continue in our effort to capture the life of a great man who served in this House.

Again, another fact: Since 1989, John Conyers had introduced H.R. 40, the Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act. This bill would establish a commission to examine the institution of slavery in the United States. The legislation has now been taken up by our colleague from Texas, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS), my colleague who has shown to be a voice of reason, hard work, and compassion in his service to Congress.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my honorable friend, Congresswoman LAWRENCE, for her leadership on someone who really set a tone, not just in Detroit and Michigan, but the entire Nation. I thank her for her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I knew Chairman Conyers, not as well as some of the Members who have spoken, but I did know him. We each represented the largest city in a large northern industrial State. Philadelphia and Detroit have many of the same problems, such as poverty, gun violence, a loss of good manufacturing jobs, and access to healthcare.

I didn't tell my colleague, Congresswoman LAWRENCE, that when she mentioned May 16, I was born on that same day, so there is that connection there.

The chairman was one of the 12 founders of the Congressional Black Caucus. From Pennsylvania, the person who was one of them was Robert N.C. Nix, who was elected in 1958.

So 48 years ago, as a result of the chairman, we have built on the backs of those founders. Today, there are 54 of us in the caucus, including the House majority whip, two Senators, four chairs of House committees, and one of our former members who became a two-term President of the United States.

The chairman helped to lay the groundwork for this progress. When he cosponsored the Voting Rights Act of 1965, I was 10 years of age. In 1965, the Voting Rights Act banned discrimination at the ballot box. He was a fierce critic of the Vietnam war that led to a clash with President Lyndon Johnson. It even won him a spot on President Nixon's enemy list.

It is rather interesting to have this conversation today because, as I recall, he played an important role in the impeachment proceedings. Mr. Speaker, I want my colleagues to know that I saw that on my black-and-white TV.

Once again, we are building on the back of the work that he and other Members did in 1973 and 1974.

We should thank the chairman for his leading role in creating the Federal holiday that honors Martin Luther King. He introduced a bill 4 days after Dr. King was murdered. When Congressman LEWIS talks about that, he knows what he is talking about. The fight took 15 years, but he succeeded.

The chairman also played a leading role in another long fight, the struggle to end apartheid in South Africa, with a Congressman from Pennsylvania by the name of William Gray. I recall, Mr. Speaker, meeting President Mandela.

I say all of these things because there is a connection to all of us who are here today. I think that we should honor the chairman for all that he has contributed to this Nation.

I want to close with how I recall the chairman urging skeptical African Americans to get involved in politics. He used to say, “Register, vote, run for office. It is power that counts.”

He used to say, “Register, vote, run for office. It is power that counts.”

There is an election, Mr. Speaker, 8 days from now. An important way for all of us to honor the legacy of Chairman Conyers, to honor everyone who has worked for civil rights, is to vote.

I recall him loving music so much. I heard him talk about John Coltrane.

I think it is important to recognize that the chairman did so much for all of us. I feel really a sincere obligation and a commitment to add my voice to the foundation that he has laid.

As a person who has been a Member of the Congress for only 3 years, because of the foundation he laid, I have the opportunity to stand here today. So many of us not just in the Congressional Black Caucus but Members who are in this House, he has contributed to all of us.

I want you to use your voice and be heard. As he would say, “Vote.”

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for mentioning so many of the accomplishments that John Conyers had.

I want to add to that his legislative record extends to introducing the Medicare for All Act, legislation to establish a government-sponsored single-payer healthcare option to control costs. Additionally, he championed the issues of reparations to establish a commission that I had mentioned earlier.

He fought for justice that also extended to international issues. He was an early leader in the anti-Vietnam war movement in addition to the anti-Iraq war movement.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD), my colleague and a hardworking freshman. It is hard to recognize that he is a freshman.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair and the anchor for this Special Order hour, Congresswoman BRENDA LAWRENCE, for her commit-

ment, dedication, and service, not just to the people of Detroit but to the people of this great Nation.

□ 2030

I join with my colleagues, not only in the Congressional Black Caucus, but this body of government as a whole, in mourning a giant in the legacy of Representative John Conyers.

Representative John Conyers was a force to be reckoned with, a leader of the civil rights movement who stood tall in the House of Representatives for more than a half century, the longest serving African American Congressman.

During his 53 years as the Representative for the part of Michigan encompassing Detroit, Congressman Conyers fought for the people of his State tooth and nail.

Congressman Conyers was known as the dean of the House of Representatives, and he paved the way for all of us who are here this evening. I really believe that we stand on his shoulders.

Speaking to his legacy, he was a co-founder of the Congressional Black Caucus. So, the fact that we are now 54 members in number representing more than 84 million people across the country, it was the vision of people like Congressman Conyers and others that allowed the Congressional Black Caucus to come forward.

He also led the charge to declare, as has been stated, a national holiday in honor of the great Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., a day Congressman Conyers fought for tirelessly that we now hold in our hearts as a day of remembrance for the legacy of another fearless leader.

He also served on two powerful committees as chairman: the House Committee on Oversight and Reform—and we just mourned the passing of the chairman of that great committee, Chairman Cummings—and the House Judiciary Committee, which has great responsibility; and, in both, he never shied away from speaking truth to power.

As has been stated by my good friend Congressman EVANS, one of his early mottos was: Register, vote, run for office. It is power that counts.

So we will continue to harness this power to promote the ideals that Congressman Conyers espoused during his career.

I want to note, and I don't think I shared this with Congresswoman LAWRENCE, but there is a group called the Detroit Connection. Because so many people tend to come to Las Vegas to retire, we have a big contingency of Detroit people, and they have an event every year called the Detroit Connection. They raise money. They provide scholarships.

I was so honored one year to have Congressman Conyers come to Las Vegas and attend the event for the Detroit Connection, and it made that group feel so good to know that their champion and their Representative was still there.

So, we will use the privilege of serving—I know I will as one of the new, younger Members—to continue to fight for equality and justice for all, just as Congressman Conyers did during his 53 years here on Capitol Hill.

Tonight, we honor him with our words, but tomorrow we must honor him with our actions.

Congressman Conyers, we will continue the good work you started all those years ago. May you rest in power.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to read a statement by the Honorable EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON about the Congressman.

She said: I pay tribute to the life and legacy of a distinguished public servant and colleague, John James Conyers Jr., who passed away this weekend, and she asked that her colleagues join her in extending sympathies to Congressman Conyers' wife, Monica; Conyers' sons, John Conyers III and Carl Edward Conyers; and all whom he influenced over the course of his life. May he rest in peace.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring forth my Michigan delegation colleague. It is significant to note that RASHIDA TLAIB, Congresswoman TLAIB, actually represents the seat from which John Conyers retired.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan, RASHIDA TLAIB.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart in joining my beloved colleague, who also represents the city of Detroit, in paying tribute to our wonderful, late Congress Member John Conyers, the longest serving African American in the United States Congress, a true civil rights icon and visionary, and the man who will forever be our Congressman.

The Honorable John Conyers Jr.'s mission to make sweeping changes in civil rights by fighting on behalf of the people started well before he ever stepped onto the United States House floor. One of the things that he said at the passing of Rosa Parks, his dear friend, was: “We've got a tremendous legacy to fulfill. You can't maintain a democracy and an empire simultaneously.” And he said, “Rosa, you taught me that.”

But, when he first was sworn in to the Congress in 1965 during a time of great social unrest in our country's history, he embarked on what would become a 50-year tenure of service to our people that would result in that mission being accomplished, and then some.

Indeed, his more than 50 years of service brought forth the vision of reparations for African Americans, the centering of voting rights, a continued push for universal healthcare, the creation of the Congressional Black Caucus, and the inspiration of not just those in Detroit for whom he worked tirelessly, but he directly impacted many, many countless Americans across the country.

When I first was elected to succeed Congressman Conyers, I knew that I

had a tremendous legacy to carry. It is that tremendous legacy that propels my work on behalf of Michigan's 13th Congressional District that I fight for every single day.

I remember when I was in his presence of greatness, he never exhibited anything less than grace and kindness. He always paused and took time to talk to the residents. He taught me that.

Sadly, the last time I spoke to him was at his 90th birthday celebration in Detroit. He was joyful and, yes, he still had the presence of greatness, as Congresswoman BRENDA LAWRENCE saw for herself as well.

Detroit and our district will sorely miss him.

May he rest in peace as we continue to fight for what he fought for for so long with unwavering strength: for jobs, justice, and peace.

I pray that his wife, Monica Conyers, and the family find strength during this difficult time.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman as we share the amazing honor of representing the city of Detroit, a place that John Conyers loved and gave his life to.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to also read from a statement from our chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, KAREN BASS. Her statement outlines his life and his history.

It also talks about how he fought apartheid and that he confronted President Nixon about imposing sanctions against South Africa; and, when it became clear that the President wouldn't act, he joined Congressman Dellums in introducing legislation to that end and was even arrested at a protest, in front of South Africa.

He impacted so many people in his district and throughout the country. America is a better country today because of the legislative and advocacy work of Representative John Conyers Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring forth a chair of this amazing body—a chair, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, and an amazing leader, Congressman SCOTT.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for holding this Special Order and recognizing the legacy of Congressman John Conyers. I want to join those who are honoring his legacy.

He served in Congress longer than any other African American. He represented Michigan and the Nation for over 50 years. He was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, and he served as dean of the House.

He was a giant in civil rights. He often bragged about being the only candidate for elective office ever endorsed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Also, for many years Rosa Parks worked in his Detroit district office.

As a legislator, he was a true champion of civil rights and leaves behind a

legacy of fighting for transformative change that continues today. His five decades of service in Congress are marked by a core fundamental belief in equity and justice for all.

For many years, I worked with Congressman Conyers on the Judiciary Committee, and most recently, we worked together to address segregation in our public schools. We also fought together for equity in education, as well as criminal justice reform, voting rights, and breaking down barriers to employment.

I want to send my condolences to his family, his loved ones, the entire Detroit community, and all who are mourning the loss of a lifelong champion for a better America.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for those kind words and informative message.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to bring forth a woman in our Congress, the longest serving woman in Congress, MARCY KAPTUR, who served with the dean of Congress and would like to reflect.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman BRENDA LAWRENCE for inviting us to come to the floor this evening to share our sorrow with the Conyers family and the people of Greater Detroit that Congressman Conyers represented here so forcefully throughout his entire career.

I would like to extend sympathy to his wife, Monica, and to his sons, John and Carl, that he used to come walk through Congress, even when they were small. He would take them on the train from one side of the Capitol to the other. I can still see him doing that.

As others have mentioned, he served from 1965 to 2017. So, from the civil rights movement at its apex, that fervor came into this Chamber, and John served over half a century in furtherance of America's betterment.

He was the 44th dean of the House. He became its most senior member and, certainly, the longest serving African American in the history of the United States of America.

I think most Members would agree, he truly was a drum major for justice and also a drum major for jobs and fair wages for all workers.

His service was anchored by those parallel visions, and I can still remember coming as a new Member to Congress. There were three men who were serving at that time: John; another John, John Dingell; and a man named William Ford.

The three of them together, in my mind, actually formed the northern apex of the civil rights and labor rights movement in this country, and America was bettered by all of their services. They worked in tandem.

They had been forged by the same set of experiences and came to us from what we in the Midwest call Motown, Motor City. That is a place that is unlike any other in the United States of America.

It has a rich history. It has a history of struggle. It produced famous singing groups like The Supremes, contemporaneous with John's adulthood, the Detroit Tigers, and lots of jazz. John loved jazz.

If you think about what he represented, Detroit is not really a tea and crumpets city. My apologies to all those who enjoy tea and crumpets. It is really a heavy-duty town, a very pluralistic community where the fight for organized labor was rooted and, something that we know well in our region, the strike at a place called River Rouge that began the work in our country to value labor through contract—not just happenstance, but by an actual contract.

And John Conyers was a part of the development of the law that allowed for the dignity of labor, but it was born out of the struggle in Detroit, a very rough-and-tumble world.

One of his early jobs was with the United Auto Workers, in which our family has had members for many generations now, and he and I shared that affinity.

□ 2045

He was not an arrogant man, but he was rooted, again, in the fight for justice during the best years of his life.

When he arranged for the funeral in Detroit of Rosa Parks—and the history of the Montgomery Bus Boycott is written, I don't think a lot of people really know that he actually had hired Rosa Parks in his office from 1965 to 1988. I can recall, in 2005, attending the funeral of Rosa Parks—what a central role John Conyers played in that magnificent ceremony. But through it was the continuing education of the people of the United States of America as to what the civil rights struggle, and our struggle as a people, has actually been comprised of, a constant struggle.

I have to say, on the humorous side, he loved cars that drove fast. I happened to be in one of those cars one time, 90 miles an hour on I-75. I don't know how we ever didn't get a ticket.

But he was always moving forward. I would guess we shared thousands—I started adding it up today—thousands of airplane flights between Washington and Michigan, as we went to our respective hometowns. And I always found him to be very cordial, very friendly, full of good humor.

He was a perpetual anchor for us on moving American forward, a leading strategist in that endeavor.

So I hope it is of some comfort to his loved ones and to the people that he represented that his being and his indefatigable spirit are now freed from Earth's binds; and that his soul may rise high and shower our precious world with peace and justice from sea to shining sea.

With heavy heart, golden memories, and abiding gratitude may I extend deepest sympathies on the passing of Congressman John Conyers of Detroit, Michigan to his family, his loving wife Monica, sons John and Carl, his

constituents and colleagues who honor his life and service to our nation.

An accomplished lawyer and passionate civil rights and labor leader, Rep. Conyers rose through the ranks of Congress to become Chair of the powerful House Judiciary Committee. In 2015, he became Dean of the U.S. House of Representatives. His contributions to advancing the cause minority and labor rights as intertwined is legendary. He was a founding member of the Black Caucus, along with Rep. Bill Clay of Missouri and Rep. Louis Stokes of Ohio now 54 members strong. When Rep. Conyers arrived in Congress, and helped create The Congressional Black Caucus, there were only 13 African American Members. He authored and passed legislation creating the Martin Luther King holiday in 1983, and by 2000—17 years later—all 50 states had adopted it.

John Conyers served as a perpetual anchor in the North for the burgeoning Civil Rights movement of the 1960's and became a leading strategist. His deep commitment accompanied by an affable nature drew people to his cause. A lover of jazz and the arts, Rep. Conyers never lost his joy of living despite the serious obstacles he confronted. Along with his Michigan barrister colleagues Rep. William Ford and Rep. John Dingell, the three formed a triumvirate that defined the value set and meaning of "Democrat" from the industrial, pluralistic cities of middle America.

May it be of comfort to his loved ones that his being and indefatigable spirit are now freed from earth's binds, May his soul rise high and shower our precious world with peace, and justice from sea to shining sea.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for his remarks.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, when I was a freshman, in 2007, I was the only Member of the House who chose Judiciary as their first committee choice, at least the only Democrat. That gave me the opportunity to be on John Conyers' committee, him being my chairman for 10-plus years, and that was a blessing to me.

He taught me much. I would consider him my mentor. He taught me about life; he taught me about Judiciary issues in the Congress. He taught me about life.

John Conyers was a spirit. I sometimes thought of him kind of as like a hippie because he had these ethereal thoughts about the way people ought to be, and about caring about people, and about justice, and about civil rights that was unlike thoughts you would hear from most people.

But he was ahead of the hippies. He was ahead of BERNIE SANDERS. He was ahead of so many people.

And we talk here today, so many people, about him being—which is all true—the longest serving African American Member of Congress. But it was more than that. He was a voice for truth on this floor before people realized the truth was the truth. He was a voice for truth when people just thought it was an African American guy talking about African American issues. But it wasn't African American issues, it was human issues. It was the

essence of America, about justice, and freedom, and opportunity, and right, and he espoused it at an early time, when a lot of people didn't get it. People get it now.

Dr. King got a holiday. Dr. King was great, but people hated Dr. King for years.

People didn't know about Rosa Parks, *per se*. He gave her a job, and he put her on a pedestal, which she deserved to be.

I will tell you a story about John Conyers. When I was a freshman, and I have an African American district, and some people weren't so crazy about me being up here. John Conyers took me under his wing from day 1.

I had a resolution to apologize for slavery and Jim Crow. I had that resolution because I had suggested it to Bill Clinton in 1997 and wrote him a letter when I was a State Senator and suggested he should sponsor such a thing and have a dialogue about race in America. I got a response from Bill Clinton, but it was gibberish and he didn't act upon it.

But when I got elected to Congress and I was going through my letters as a State Senator in my office, I came across that letter; and I said to myself, I am a Congressman now and I can do something about it. I don't have to write Bill Clinton and get a meaningless response.

So I introduced that resolution, heartfelt, and appropriate. Some people didn't want it to come to the floor. Some didn't want a White person to sponsor it. Some thought I was using it for politics to get re-elected.

The fact is, my political consultant told me not to do it. He said: "You've got this race won. Don't do it. It can only hurt you."

I said: "You don't get it. I'm doing this because it matters to me, to make it happen. It has mattered to me since 1997 when I was a State Senator."

So one day, I had my cell phone, low on power; and I had a staffer bring from Longworth, where my office was, a charger, and I charged it up in the Judiciary Committee.

I went back to Longworth and I couldn't find my cell phone. I had forgotten where I had left it. I realized I left it charging in the Judiciary Committee, so I went over there at the end of the day. That is the only time that ever happened to me. It was about a week or 10 days before my election in August, just to put it in perspective. I went there, and John Conyers was having a meeting with his staff on what to do the next week.

We were in the midst of interviewing people on the Bush team, Alberto Gonzales, and some lady from Liberty University who had done some stuff that was questionable; and we were taking on the Bush Justice Department which had done some egregious things.

I was a freshman, and pretty much in awe of John Conyers, and so I was in the back room and he was in his office and he said: "Steve, come on in."

Well, I was 10 feet high. I was going into a meeting with John Conyers of what was going to go on that next week. They were tossing about ideas about maybe bringing up an impeachment of George Bush and some other issues. And I decided to throw out kind of a Doug Flutie Hail Mary pass. I said: "Well how about if we have an apology for Jim Crow and slavery?"

And without a blink, John Conyers said: "That's a great idea. Put it on for next week."

That is how it got scheduled. We came here, John Conyers managed the time. It passed on a voice vote. I regretted that because I wanted to have everybody vote on it, but John Conyers said, and properly so, take your victory when you can get it.

We had a man on the other side, a Republican, who brought up some insane babble about some Christians being thrown off a boat in the Mediterranean by some Moroccans or something. What this had to with slavery and Jim Crow was beyond any of us, and I wanted to respond to it.

Mr. Conyers said: "Let him be. Let's just pass this and move on." And he was right.

My proudest accomplishment as a freshman, and one of my proudest accomplishments in this Congress, was the passage of that resolution. It would not have happened but for John Conyers' sponsorship and support. So I thank him for being a mentor, and teaching me so much, and giving me that opportunity.

He did love jazz. We talked about jazz all the time. He played jazz in his office. He had jazz musicians come up to any proceedings he had in Washington and had them perform. And I learned about different jazz people that I had previously not known about.

He came to Memphis to support me in my first term as the first Congressperson to come there. He was honored with an April 4th Foundation award, which goes to great, courageous leaders in civil rights on the anniversary of the assassination of Dr. King. He was given that award.

He came to Memphis also just to support me. He was a proud Kappa, coming in his red coat. And all the Kappas were there with him, and the Kappas loved him. He was a Kappa, and they loved it.

I thanked him for his service. I think about him almost every day up here. We used to sit here together on the floor.

He would ride the escalators when he would leave the Judiciary Committee. Sometimes I ride the escalators now, and I think about John Conyers. It is not really the quickest way to go, but John Conyers did it, and I do it.

So thank you, John Conyers, for teaching me so much, and for being a great leader, a man beyond his years in terms of his knowledge, and his spirit, and ahead of his time with his ideas of civil rights and justice and fairness for all people.

God bless you.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, as I wrap up now in our tribute to John Conyers, the dean, he was many things: He was a UAW labor member; he was a military veteran; he was a fighter for voters' rights, for healthcare, for reparations, for racial justice. He was a lover and promoter of jazz.

But most of all, I stand here today, as a Member of Congress representing Michigan's 14th District. He was Detroit. He was Motown. He was a person whose thumbprint will remain throughout history as a political voice, a leader, and a beloved man in the history of our city and of metro Detroit.

I want to say to the family, we send all the love and respect; and to say, in closing, John Conyers, rest in power.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am very saddened to hear Congressman Conyers passed away. He was a champion for racial equality and changed Congress for the better by co-founding the Congressional Black Caucus. John was a powerful and effective legislator who never stopped fighting to improve our nation, which he served longer than any other black Member of Congress to date. His career helped pave the way for the thriving Black Caucus we now enjoy.

John lived through many pivotal moments in our nation's history. When Rosa Parks struggled to find a job after her historic protest, John rushed to hire her. She worked in his district office for 23 years until her retirement. When Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated, John began to fight for a holiday to honor him 4 days after Dr. King's death.

It took him 15 long years, but John kept pushing to honor King's memory and the battle for civil rights.

Vivian and I send our condolences to his wife, children, and all loved ones as we keep them in our prayers in this difficult time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of a distinguished public servant and colleague, Congressman John James Conyers, Jr., who passed away this weekend.

Congressman Conyers was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, to parents Lucille Janice (Simpson) and John Conyers. He graduated from Northwestern High School before answering his country's call to service and joining the military. Congressman Conyers served three stints in the military; in the Michigan National Guard from 1948 to 1950; in the U.S. Army from 1950 to 1954; and in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1954 to 1957. Following his military service, he attended Wayne State University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws.

Congressman Conyers had the opportunity to represent three Congressional Districts in the U.S. House of Representatives during his 52 years in office; Michigan's 1st Congressional District, 14th Congressional District, and 13th Congressional District, respectively. During his time in Congress, he chaired the powerful House Oversight and Judiciary Committees, served as Dean of the House, and notably hired Rosa Parks as a staffer in his district office. Additionally, Congressman Conyers is marked as an original co-founder of the Congressional Black Caucus and was the first to

introduce a bill calling for the recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday as a national holiday. At the time of his retirement from public office, he was the longest-serving African American Member of Congress in our history.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in extending sympathies to Congressman Conyers' wife, Monica Conyers, sons John Conyers III and Carl Edward Conyers, and all whom he influenced over the course of his life. May he rest in peace.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congressional Black Caucus for convening anchoring this Special Order in remembrance of Chairman John Conyers, Jr., the tireless fighter for justice and equality, Chairman of House Committees on Oversight and on the Judiciary, founding member of Congressional Black Caucus, Member of Congress, Member of Congress from Michigan for 53 years, my mentor, a beloved colleague, and dear friend who died on Sunday, October 27, 2019, at his home in Detroit, Michigan at the age of 90.

Mr. Speaker, John Conyers, Jr. was a statesman and strong and supporter of equality, economic and social justice, civil rights, and human dignity for all.

John Conyers, Jr. was born May 16, 1929 in Highland Park, Michigan to Lucille Janice and John Conyers, Sr., a union organizer in the automotive industry and an international representative with the United Auto Workers.

After graduation from Northwestern High School, John Conyers dutifully served his country in the Michigan National Guard from 1948 to 1950, the U.S. Army from 1950 to 1954, and the U.S. Army Reserves from 1954 to 1957, serving during the Korean War and as an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers where he was awarded combat and merit citations.

Following his military service, John Conyers earned his Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor from Wayne State University and was admitted to the Michigan State Bar.

Chairman Conyers began his legislative career on the staff of the late Congressman John Dingell and during this time he also served as counsel to several Detroit-area labor unions and was referee for Michigan's workmen's compensation department.

In 1964, John Conyers was first elected to represent the First Congressional District of Michigan and was reelected to the succeeding 90th Congress and the following 15 Congresses until he retired on December 5, 2017.

On the retirement of Congressman John Dingell at the end of the 113th Congress in December 2015, John Conyers became the longest-serving Member of the United States Congress, serving as Dean of the House from January 3, 2015 until December 2017.

Mr. Speaker, John Conyers was also the third longest-serving Member of the House in history and the sixth longest-serving Member of Congress in history; the second-longest serving Member of either the House or Senate in Michigan history, trailing only his former boss, Congressman Dingell; and was the last member of the large Democratic freshman class of 1964 to serve in the House of Representatives.

In the more than half century he served in Congress, John Conyers was at the forefront of most of the seminal moments in American political history, such as working to enact into law this partial list of landmark legislation:

Voting Rights of 1965, Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (Medicare), Fair Housing Act

of 1968, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Help America Vote Act, Affordable Care Act, Dodd-Frank Act, Americans With Disabilities Act, Assault Weapons Ban, Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1982, Drug Kingpins Act, Fair Chance Act.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Social Security Amendments of 1965 (including Medicaid and Medicare), Voting Rights Act of 1965, Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965, National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act, Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, Heart Disease, Cancer, and Stroke Amendments, Freedom of Information Act, Child Nutrition Act, National Historic Preservation Act, National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act, Cuban Adjustment Act, Public Broadcasting Act of 1967.

Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, Bilingual Education Act, Civil Rights Act of 1968, Consumer Credit Protection Act, National Trails System Act, Gun Control Act of 1968, National Environmental Policy Act, Organized Crime Control Act, including the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act ("RICO"), Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1970, National Cancer Act, Federal Election Campaign Act, Equal Employment Opportunity Act, War Powers Resolution, Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act, District of Columbia Home Rule Act, Endangered Species Act, Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, Legal Services Corporation Act, Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974.

Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, National Mass Transportation Assistance Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Privacy Act of 1974, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Copyright Act of 1976, Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Water Resources Development Act of 1976, National Forest Management Act.

The proposal to expand Medicare to all, a political idea gaining increasing popularity daily, was first introduced by John Conyers in 2003 as the United States National Health Insurance Act.

John Conyers served on the Judiciary Committee that investigated Watergate and voted articles of impeachment against President Richard Nixon in August 1974.

John Conyers marched in the historic March from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and later employed civil rights legend Rosa Parks in his congressional office until her retirement in 1988.

John Conyers was loved by his constituents, regularly winning reelection with 80 percent of the vote or more.

John Conyers is one of the 13 founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus in 1971, which has worked diligently to strengthen African-American lawmakers' ability to address the legislative concerns of African American and minority citizens and has now increased to 55 members in the House and Senate, including myself.

While in Congress, John Conyers chaired the prestigious House Judiciary Committee from 1989–1995 and Oversight from 2007–2011, the first African American to hold these coveted positions.

Throughout his career, John Conyers used his influence to push civil rights; in 1968, only days after the assassination of the Rev. Dr.

Martin Luther King Jr., Chairman Conyers began a long and ultimately successful effort to make Dr. King's birthday a national holiday, which was enacted in 1983.

John Conyers also cosponsored and worked tirelessly to pass the Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986, which help topple South Africa's system of apartheid and free Nelson Mandela from prison.

In the 101st Congress, John Conyers introduced legislation to study the issue of reparations for slavery and was the original sponsor of H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act.

I am proud to have assumed principal sponsorship of this piece of landmark legislative proposal and continuing the fight for justice.

John Conyers was dedicated to justice for all, he supported legislation to generate the Justice Department's national study on police brutality.

John Conyers was opposed to the imposition of the death penalty and began a series of hearings on police brutality.

As Judiciary Committee Chairman, John Conyers also worked to create and enlarge

federal death benefits for police officers and firefighters who died in the line of duty.

Mr. Speaker, John Conyers dedicated his life to serving his constituents and the citizens of the United States; his persistence for justice and his fight for equal rights is a testament to his character.

Chairman John Conyers will live forever in the hearts of the people of Detroit, his State of Michigan, and the United States.

John Conyers was a legislative lion whose presence will forever be missed, and we all mourn his loss and extend our deepest sympathies to his wife Monica, his children, and family and friends who loved him so dearly, my deepest sympathies go out to and I hope you find consolation in the certain knowledge that John is now resting peacefully.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2065. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to publish an annual re-

port on the use of deepfake technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

S. 2107. An act to increase the number of CBP Agriculture Specialists and support staff in the Office of Field Operations of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security; in addition, to the Committee on Agriculture 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, October 29, 2019, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 1865, the National Law Enforcement Museum Commemorative Coin Act, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 1865

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—											
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2020–2024	2024–2029
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	0	-5	-2	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 2423, the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commemorative Coin Act, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 2423

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—											
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2020–2024	2024–2029
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	-2	-1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 2514, the COUNTER Act of 2019, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 2514

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—											
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2020–2024	2024–2029
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	2	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	-24	13	0

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 3942, the Preventing Online Sales of E-Cigarettes to Children Act, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 4067, the Financial Inclusion in Banking Act of 2019, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.