

we heard the first reports that there was a novel virus occurring in China. In early January, we saw China take unprecedented steps to enact containment, locking down Wuhan and large portions of their country.

We had our first briefing about 7 or 8 weeks ago. At that briefing, I identified four areas that the administration really had to focus on:

Number one, you need a command control structure. You have to identify one person who is not political and not partisan but is a public health expert who has that ability to work across the interagency process.

Number two, you had to do an emergency supplemental and get resources out to the hospitals, the public health experts, et cetera, to make sure those who were on the front line had what they needed.

Number three, we had to get our scientists and experts—we have the best in the world at the CDC and NIH—to the epicenter, to the hot zone in China. That was delayed not because we didn't want to get there, but the Chinese would not allow us direct access.

Number four, we had to be transparent with the public. We had to let people know the facts as they were occurring.

Fast-forward, 6 weeks ago, I held the first hearing in my Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation on what was going on. We focused on the first step: containment. It was evident at that hearing with the public experts that we had that you really couldn't contain this novel coronavirus now known as COVID-19. We knew, based on the public health recommendations, that we would likely be seeing community events and community spreading; that was pretty evident.

We lost time. The fact that China tried to contain things gave us a little bit of time, but the fact that we didn't develop a test and we didn't put things in place really set us behind the eight ball.

Two weeks ago, we had the first community case in my home county, Sacramento County. That patient was transferred to UC-Davis, which is my home facility. Based on that, we changed the testing criteria. We still don't have enough tests out there, but we changed the criteria to allow the health professionals, if they suspect a case of coronavirus, to be able to order that test. Now we have got a problem though. We don't have the tests that are available.

We now are moving into the second phase of coronavirus, which is mitigation. In order to do that, Congress took the first important step last week with the \$8.3 billion emergency supplemental. We have to get the resources, the protective gear, the masks, and the tests out to the community who is on the front line.

The reason why I am saying that is, yesterday, we had the first community case in my home city of Elk Grove, in

the school district. We had a grammar school child who tested positive. Both his parents have also tested positive. Elk Grove Unified School District became the first school district in northern California to shut down for a week. I don't know if that is the right move or the wrong move, but I understand, having spoken to the superintendent, the security and health of the children are paramount.

Now we have to make sure that our folks on the front line and the folks who are having to make some of these decisions have the best advice possible. That is why we have got to make sure the CDC puts out guidelines and updates those guidelines on a regular basis.

We have great personnel at the CDC: Director Redfield, Dr. Messonnier, and others. We have got to let them do their work. Even if it is not what the administration wants to hear and even if it is bad news, it is important for us to put out transparent information and guidance to the public.

Now, I also got on the phone and talked to my hospital directors and others. What is concerning to me is they are starting to get those calls, et cetera. They still don't have the testing capabilities that they need. That is of paramount urgency right now.

I applaud Vice President PENCE for allowing the commercial sector to step in here and start developing those tests. Let's remove those bureaucratic barriers and give our private sector, public health labs, and academic health centers the support that they need to get testing capabilities up and running.

Now, I think about this as a doctor. It is important for us at the local level to have good command control structures in place and good lines of communication. Let's let the doctors and the scientists do their jobs. Our job as Congress is to support those on the front line and make sure they have the resources that they need, and we will get through this.

PRECIOUS LITTLE SON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exemplary citizen, Ms. Crystal Skidmore of West Virginia.

Between 2000 and 2001, around 127,000 children were adopted in the United States, one of whom was Crystal's son whom she gave up for a better life. That same year, only 44 percent of the 3.1 million unintended pregnancies ended in birth.

Instead of giving up hope and having an abortion, Crystal looked to Jesus and chose life for her child. To this day, she protects her son's name when she shares her story. But by the grace of God, she still has a close relationship with him and his adoptive family.

Isaiah 40:31 reads: ". . . but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not grow faint."

She has described the miracle of her son in a poem she wrote, titled, "Precious Little Son." It goes like this:

Today's the day that you were made

A new life has been begun

Within the womb inside of me

My precious little son.

From this first day you changed me

Now through your eyes I see

Do I want your eyes to look at

The same things that I see?

I look around at this world of mine

In a way I have never done

I think . . . Is it safe here

For my precious little son?

Sadly I know

The answer is no

So I drop down to my knees

I cry as I ask Jesus

Please help you and me.

Where are the smiling faces

For your new eyes to see?

They are not here in my world

If I die, they may never be.

I can only protect you for a while

While you are safe inside of me

So I search for smiling happy faces

For your brand-new eyes to see.

Again I ask Jesus

To help me find someone

To love this life inside of me

My precious little son.

I know someone is waiting.

God has chosen them

To give you all the love you need

And make you part of them.

How I know you need them

How they have prayed for you to come

So they can share a part of their world with

Their precious little son.

I found the happy smiling faces

That I want you to see

And they can't wait to meet their son

Who lives inside of me.

Their world is so much brighter

So I share my love for you

With lots of happy smiling faces

And they will let me love you too.

I will always love you

I want you to know

You are in my heart forever

You are everywhere I go.

Now we wait on your arrival

We can't wait for you to see

How good it feels to share a love

That only through God can be.

Our happy smiling faces

Stand together now as one

To love this life inside of me

Our precious little son.

May God be with you.

ALL-FEMALE TEAM WORKING ON COVID-19

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

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the all-women team of scientists from the Novavax Vaccine Lab in Gaithersburg, Maryland, who are working to develop a vaccine for the coronavirus.

Nita Patel, the director for vaccine development and antibody discovery at Novavax, is leading the team of scientists who have been working on a

vaccine since January 10. While they still need to be tested, the team has already developed three potential vaccines.

Women's History Month is the perfect time to highlight how women have contributed in our past and continue to contribute to the world now and into the future. Today we recognize this group of scientists and emphasize the importance of having women across all industries and leadership positions around the world.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF DELTA SIGMA THETA

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Montgomery County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority for all of the work they have done for the community over their rich, 50-year history.

The Montgomery County Chapter was founded in March of 1970 by 28 women under past National President Lillian P. Benbow. The organization was founded to help promote the quality of life for both African Americans and the community at large in Montgomery County.

I, myself, am lucky enough to have a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in my office serving the people of Maryland's Sixth District.

Today, as a part of Women's History Month, we recognize the Montgomery County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority for their 50 years of service and the positive impact they have had on the Montgomery County community.

RECOGNIZING ED HARGIS, RETIRING FREDERICK CITY POLICE CHIEF

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Frederick Police Chief Ed Hargis, who just recently retired after 4½ years of service as the top law enforcement officer in Frederick, Maryland.

Chief Hargis arrived in Frederick in 2015 with over 33 years of law enforcement experience from around the country. During his tenure as police chief, he worked with city leaders and citizens to ensure Frederick was a safe, welcoming community for everyone.

Chief Hargis showed tremendous leadership in Frederick, and we would like to commend him for his 37 years of public service to our communities.

HONORING RUBY RUBENS, EDUCATION AND HOUSING ADVOCATE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY WHO RECENTLY PASSED AWAY

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ruby Rubens, a champion for human rights and education in Montgomery County, who passed away at the end of February at the age of 86.

Ruby Rubens was a force in her community. She was a founding member of the Montgomery County Coalition for Equitable Representation in Government and worked extensively on housing rights with the Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission, the U.S. Civil Service Commission, and the Social Security Administration.

She was greatly involved in the education community as a longtime volun-

teer in Montgomery County Public Schools. People were inspired to follow in her footsteps, including her son, Joe Rubens, who is the principal of John F. Kennedy High School.

For her work, she was a recipient of the Neal Potter Path of Achievement Award and was inducted into the Montgomery County Human Rights Hall of Fame.

Ruby was known throughout her community for being a constant advocate for those without a voice. Today, I would like to honor her life and contributions on the floor of the House of Representatives.

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RECOGNIZING INDIVIDUALS FOR HELPING ATTAIN JUSTICE FOR THE CHAMORRO PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam (Mr. SAN NICOLAS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a group that oftentimes doesn't get recognized. I rise to recognize this Congress of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Speaker PELOSI, Leader HOYER, Committee on Natural Resources Chairman GRIJALVA, Minority Leader MCCARTHY, Committee on Natural Resources Ranking Member, ROB BISHOP.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Senate Majority Leader MCCONNELL, and Committee on the Judiciary Chairman GRAHAM, Senate Minority Leader SCHUMER, and Committee on the Judiciary Ranking Member FEINSTEIN.

I rise to recognize the staff of this House: Trent Bauserman, Shuwanza Goff, and Ray Salazar of Leader HOYER's office; David Watkins and Sarah Lim, leading Chairman GRIJALVA's staff on the Committee on Natural Resources; Elliot Waldman of the Senate Judiciary; Sara Zdeb of Senate Committee on the Judiciary Ranking Member FEINSTEIN's office.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise to recognize staff of the administration: Rob Howarth of the Department of the Interior; Michael DiRoma of the U.S. Treasury; and Doug Hoelscher of the White House.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize these individuals because without them, we would not have been able to move forward as expeditiously as we have over the past 13 months with H.R. 1365, which was addressed by this House yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1365 brings closure to a long saga of suffering from the people of Guam at the hands of Imperial Japan during World War II, that finally sees closure with the recognition and compensation—as much as we can try and call it that—for the sufferings of the Chamorro people during the war.

Oftentimes, Mr. Speaker, it gets very, very difficult for us, especially as territories, to be able to find closure on longstanding issues because of the fact

that territories are underrepresented in this body by the very nature of their existence in this country. And yet, despite that, we are able to finally bring this issue to closure by the individuals I mentioned.

Mr. Speaker, I put their names in the RECORD today, because I want the Chamorro people to be able to look back and identify generations from now the individuals who made such justice possible in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I further rise to address another injustice, one that has been longstanding in territories, and one that also addresses a community that, really, in this country should never be ignored.

Mr. Speaker, supplemental security income is something that is afforded to U.S. citizens throughout this country, but once you move to a U.S. territory, you immediately become ineligible for supplemental security income.

Mr. Speaker, as we are aware, that is something that is provided to the most vulnerable in our community—those with disabilities, those who are at certain ages that require that kind of support. Mr. Speaker, for us to be neglecting our very own citizens in our territories just because of where they live, I think is something that this body very much needs to address.

Unfortunately, we run into fiscal constraints and the price tag of having to move forward something of such magnitude. And while we really shouldn't put dollars and cents to the quality of life of those most vulnerable in this country, we still face those fiscal realities as territories, and the fiscal realities that this Congress must grapple with if they were to extend supplemental security income to the territories.

Mr. Speaker, we introduced H.R. 208 in the 116th Congress. That was intended to address the fiscal constraints in a manner that all territories are willing to come to the table and work together on. And rather than having all territories at once try and pursue supplemental security income for their residents, we have decided to try and snowball this and handle it one territory at a time. And Guam has taken the lead with H.R. 208, allowing for supplemental security income in Guam that we may, for just 170,000 people, extend a critical quality of life service that this country has made available everywhere else in the United States.

After we are able to secure this for Guam, perhaps we can move this to another small territory, and to another small territory, and incrementally address this in our budget, that really on the greater picture of the cost of supplemental security income, would be a fractional rounding error for justice for those who so desperately need it in areas that are so highly affected.

Mr. Speaker, Guam, as you are aware, is thousands of miles away in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. We are closer to every Asian city than we are to Hawaii. It is very, very difficult for