

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, as America opens up and we go over 100,000 deaths attributed to the COVID, it is important that we look at all our options to reduce the number of deaths related to this disease.

I feel the government is leaving too much to the pharmaceutical industry to develop a vaccine. Well, the answer may be a more natural one and one that is a lot cheaper for the American public.

Madam Speaker, I strongly believe that we should be looking more at the benefits of vitamin D. Vitamin D is from the Sun. It is free. I encourage people to ignore the politicians who say you have to spend all day indoors, but get out and grab the Sun.

We have been told since we were children that you get vitamin D from the Sun, and that is the way you stay healthy. If you can't grab the rays, grab some vitamin D pills. That is another way to get your vitamin D.

It is not just me saying it. I encourage folks back home to Google "Northwestern University vitamin D," or "Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, vitamin D," and you will see there are a lot of experts outside of the CDC who are already pushing it.

Madam Speaker, I encourage people to use that method to keep the number of deaths from COVID down.

COVID-19 ON THE NAVAJO NATION

(Mr. LUJÁN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LUJÁN. Madam Speaker, since the beginning of this crisis, I have heard from Tribal leaders about the human tragedy of COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation: whole families ravaged by the disease, doctors overwhelmed by the surging cases, and insufficient Federal help.

These leaders are sounding the alarm for a community in crisis, and I have been working to ensure the medical professionals who serve the Navajo Nation have every tool at their disposal to treat patients and protect themselves.

But instead of doing right by the Navajo Nation, this administration, ProPublica found, awarded a \$3 million contract for personal protective equipment to an 11-day-old company headed by a former White House staffer. As a result, the IHS received hundreds of thousands of masks that may be unsuitable for medical use.

This lack of leadership endangers lives. That is why I am working with the New Mexico delegation and our colleagues from Arizona to hold the Trump administration accountable.

The Navajo Nation deserves the full support of the Federal Government during this crisis and not to have this administration turn a blind eye while the Nation loses one more parent, grandparent, son, or daughter. This administration must act as an honest

partner to the Navajo people, and I will fight to ensure that happens.

HISTORIC FLOODING IN MID-MICHIGAN

(Mr. MOOLENAAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the first responders, emergency officials, and the people of mid-Michigan for their swift action, heroic work, and incredible compassion in responding to the flooding in our region last week.

In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, historic rain, and the failure of two dams, they quickly and safely evacuated more than 11,000 people without a single death or injury and provided shelter for those who were displaced.

I have been on the ground meeting with residents who have been affected, especially in Sanford, which took the hardest hit from this heartbreaking event. Residents have lost businesses, homes, and cherished family possessions.

In the face of these challenges, our community is coming together. We are grateful for the overwhelming support that has come from across the State and from nonprofits and businesses. My colleagues here in Congress have also reached out to me, and I appreciate their kind words and offers of assistance.

Madam Speaker, today, I say thank you to everyone in mid-Michigan and across the country for their support during this challenging time.

IN RECOGNITION OF KENNY BELKNAP

(Mrs. LEE of Nevada asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, on behalf of Nevada's Third District, I rise today to recognize Mr. Kenny Belknap, an honors and AP government teacher at Del Sol Academy.

For decades, Clark County schoolteachers have been forced to work with a tight budget. Like Mr. Belknap told me: "We're just trying to keep our head above water."

He is used to parsing materials and assigning two students to one textbook as they fight for space in an overcrowded classroom. And, unfortunately, that was before the COVID-19 pandemic.

The economic fallout of the coronavirus crisis is devastating State and local governments. In my home State of Nevada, the Clark County School District is expecting budget cuts of \$38 million this year alone. It is classes like Mr. Belknap's that will hurt the most from this loss.

Congress can help by prioritizing Federal funding to States, towns, and

communities to relieve budget shortfalls so our education, healthcare, and public services don't suffer.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to help our States and local communities and give teachers like Mr. Belknap a chance to give his students the opportunities they deserve.

RECOGNIZING AMERICANS LOST TO COVID-19

(Mr. SOTO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, today we mourn the lives of over 100,000 Americans who lost their lives and pray for the recovery of over 1.75 million Americans infected by COVID-19. This represents an unimaginable pain, but the numbers really don't tell the story. I want to take a moment to describe four central Floridians we lost by this pandemic:

Rob Carlos, Poinciana, a retired Disney cast member known as Pirate Bob; Dr. Neil Powell, Orlando, an Air Force veteran and dentist who made central Florida smile brighter;

Bill Smith of Lake Wales, an electrician who worked on national launchpads and the Magic Kingdom;

And Virgilio Germán of Kissimmee, a retired carpenter, who loved to sing Mexican ballads to his wife, Gigi.

These and other stories throughout central Florida will continue to be in our hearts as we do everything we can to get beyond and survive this pandemic.

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THE NEED FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

(Mr. SHERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, our work now is to negotiate a new relief bill. So far we have spent trillions of dollars bandaging our economic wounds, yet less than one-half of 1 percent has gone to beat the disease through research on therapeutics and prophylaxes.

All hands should be on deck. Every reasonable idea should be tested. But our professional medical researchers are today sitting at home because their non-COVID research has been suspended and our COVID research funding has been modest.

The HEROES Act provides \$5.5 billion to do this medical research. That is the most important one-quarter of 1 percent of that bill, and we need to fight to expand it in negotiations.

Medical research is the best investment we can make for America. It is also the only way we are likely to provide major help for the billions of people who live in poor countries, and it is the best investment that we can make in America's standing in the world.

Thomas Edison looked at 3,000 different filaments to invent one practical light bulb. It took him 2 years. We need to test 3,000 different combinations of compounds, and we don't have 2 years.

STOP POLICE BRUTALITY

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, I respect those police officers in every community who are there to protect and serve and those who have fallen in the line of duty, but we cannot tolerate police violence, and we cannot tolerate police brutality.

George Floyd was murdered by an out-of-control police officer. When will it end?

Amadou Diallo, 42 shots, police officers found not guilty.

Sean Bell, 50 shots, police officers found not guilty.

Eric Garner, choked to death, police officers let go by the grand jury.

Decade after decade after decade, when will it end?

This time must be different. Those perpetrators must be prosecuted to the full extent of the law, and Congress must do everything in its power to stop this type of tragedy from ever happening again.

WE CAN'T BREATHE

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, "I Can't Breathe" is a poem I delivered on this floor 6 years ago when Eric Garner got choked out by the police.

Today, I am here for George Floyd, another Black man who died facedown on the hot pavement, suffocated to death by a police officer as he begged for his life for 8 minutes.

Black folks in America in 2020 are caught between being suffocated to death by the COVID-19 coronavirus or being choked to death by rogue, uncaring, and unconcerned police officers.

Black folks in America are caught up in three pandemics, when you add the reality that our businesses are getting choked out of PPP. Black people bear an unparalleled burden in this country.

When just 12 percent of Black and Latino business owners who applied for PPP report receiving what they asked for, something is wrong.

When we make up 13 percent of the population but 60 percent of COVID deaths, something is wrong.

When we have armed vigilantes and rogue police officers killing us on the streets, something is terribly wrong.

The American Dream should not be a nightmare for any of her people. It is time to bring an end to open season on Black people in America. We can't breathe.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HAYES). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, I am going to remove my mask as I speak. We are appropriately socially distanced here. I am grateful for the time.

Before I begin my own remarks, I am going to yield to the honorable gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS), a senior member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, who will be departing from us soon. He is in his last term, has announced his retirement.

It has been a pleasure to serve with you, my friend. We have a long way to go, but it is always great to see you, and I look forward to your remarks.

CONGRATULATING REVEREND DR. DALE A. MEYER ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Reverend Dr. Dale A. Meyer upon the occasion of his retirement as president of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

In May of 2005, Dr. Meyer became the 10th president of Concordia Seminary. Over 15 years later, on June 30, 2020, Dr. Meyer will start a new season in life, retiring and turning over the reins of this beloved institution to new leadership.

His contribution to the seminary was immense. During his tenure, Concordia's long-term debt was eliminated, its endowment quadrupled, and it earned top marks from its most recent accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission and the Association of Theological Schools.

From the start of his tenure to the end, Dr. Meyer worked alongside his wife, Diane; the faculty; and key staff to cultivate a culture that was service oriented and external facing. This meant instituting activities designed to instill a spirit of community volunteerism into first-year students. This meant adding benches on campus and expanding holiday displays each year so visitors knew they were welcome at this place.

It meant working with his wife, Diane, and Gayle Zollmann-Kiel, coordinator of campus grounds, to create community gardens for people to enjoy all summer and fall, thereby feeding the community both spiritually and figuratively. And it meant, during the current pandemic, having the bell tower on campus play music to lift the spirits of all those around.

No wonder the seminary received several civic awards, including being named among the 100 Top Workplaces in St. Louis in 2015.

Dr. Meyer's retirement marks a season of change for the seminary. However, it also marks the closing of a chapter of a long career of service for him personally.

While Dr. Meyer's first job was helping his parents, Arthur and Norma

Meyer, deliver milk for Dixie Dairy on the south side of Chicago, he was called to serve on a full and winding professional path. This path was so full of wonder that he would often marvel at the, "milkman moments" that unfolded, remarking: "What am I doing here? God has blessed me so."

Dr. Meyer completed his bachelor's degree in 1969 at Concordia Senior College in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and earned a master of divinity from Concordia Seminary in 1973. He earned a master's degree a year later and a doctorate in 1986 in classical languages from Washington University in St. Louis. He also is a recipient of an honorable doctor of divinity in 1993 from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dr. Meyer first joined the faculty at Concordia Seminary as a guest instructor in 1979, going on to serve as head pastor of St. Salvator Lutheran Church in Venedy, Illinois, and St. Peter Lutheran Church in New Memphis, Illinois, both currently in my district, and at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Collinsville, Illinois, which is my home congregation. These church communities are so beloved by the Meyers that they continue to worship at all three parishes to this day.

It was at Holy Cross Lutheran that I and my wife, Karen, came to know Dr. Meyer and his family. Our lives have been intertwined, to say the least: Diane sold us our first home; I taught the oldest of his two daughters, Elizabeth, civics at Metro East Lutheran High School and ran many of 5k races to come with his youngest daughter, Katie; my own children played music in their daughter's wedding; and my wife, Karen, served as the head organist at Holy Cross with Dale; and so on.

Dr. Meyer moved on from Holy Cross in 1989 after being selected to serve as a speaker on "The Lutheran Hour" radio program at Lutheran Hour Ministries. "The Lutheran Hour" is the world's oldest continually broadcast gospel radio program, first airing in 1930.

Dr. Meyer also hosted a national television show, "On Main Street," for Lutheran Hour Ministries. In 2001, "On Main Street" episodes received two prestigious Emmy awards from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, St. Louis/Mid-America Chapter. During this time, he took part in some of his favorite "milkman moments," including opening both the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives in prayer.

In addition to his published writings, Dr. Meyer served in numerous leadership practices, such as third vice president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, a charter board member of the Association of Lutheran Older Adults, an honorary director of God's Word to the Nations Bible Society, and as a board of trustee of the American Bible Society.

Dr. Meyer finally returned home to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in