

victims of discrimination and brutality throughout the history of our country.

Two months before her death, Sandra Bland posted a video raising awareness about this important and deadly issue. “Black lives matter,” she said. “They matter. In the news that we’ve seen as of late,” Sandra said, “you could stand there, surrender to the cops, and still be killed.” That is what Sandra said 2 months before it happened to her.

Well, I am here on the floor of the House to say that Sandra Bland’s life mattered, George Floyd’s life mattered, Breonna Taylor’s life mattered, and Black lives matter, and it is past time that the laws of our Nation reflect it.

HONORING GROCERY AND CONVENIENCE STORE WORKERS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, America found itself in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a crisis, the likes of which many have not experienced in their lifetimes. There are those who run from the crisis, those who run toward it, and those who find themselves right in the middle without any say in the matter.

Today, many of those in the middle are the men and women stocking, sanitizing, and serving our communities in grocery and convenience stores throughout our country. These employees are among the unsung heroes in the fight against COVID-19 who have been overlooked not only in appreciation, but also in our support.

Grocery stores and convenience stores play a critical role in our Nation’s food supply chain, and reliable access to healthy foods is essential for all Americans, as we have seen throughout this crisis.

To thank them for working around the clock and putting themselves at risk throughout the pandemic, I would say that the employees working our grocery stores and our convenience stores have probably had more exposure to the public than any other position out there.

To thank them for what they do, I have introduced the Giving Retailers and Our Convenience Employees Relief Act, or the GROCER Act. The GROCER Act would alleviate the Federal tax burden for grocery store and convenience store workers from February 15, 2020, to June 15, 2020, for individuals making less than \$75,000 a year. The bill also gives the Treasury Secretary discretion to extend this benefit for an additional 3 months.

The hardworking men and women stocking our shelves are among the unsung heroes during the COVID-19 pandemic. These frontline workers are putting in overtime to ensure that we have the resources we need to weather this storm.

In times of crisis like these, we learn to fully appreciate these workers who

play a valuable role in our food supply chain. Food is something that connects all of us, and access to food is something we all depend upon.

I am proud that this is a bipartisan bill, and I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman DWIGHT EVANS from Philadelphia, for joining me to lead this effort.

The GROCER Act is a simple way to say thank you to these workers who leave their families each day, risking exposure to the virus, in order to ensure that our families and constituents have access to the food and resources we need. Without these workers, millions of Americans would struggle to access necessities.

The GROCER Act is a commonsense way to compensate and support our grocery and convenience store workers. The Federal tax holiday for these workers would put more of their hard-earned money back into their pockets to support themselves and their families.

I would like to urge my colleagues to join me in thanking these frontline workers by supporting and cosponsoring the GROCER Act.

REBUILDING AND RENEWING AMERICA

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, people every day are struggling to make sense of the most challenging times our Nation has seen in more than a century, and that is saying something.

A hundred years ago, we were recovering from the Spanish flu pandemic that hit America hard and people around the globe. Ten years later, we had the stock market crash, the Great Depression, and massive unemployment.

But today, we have all of those circumstances and more. We are in the middle of a pandemic. We have the resulting economic upheaval. We reached near depression-era levels of unemployment, and rather than take 3 years, as happened in the 1930s, it has happened in a matter of 3 weeks.

We have the climate crisis which my colleagues have addressed so eloquently today both in terms of the challenge and what we can do about it. Luckily, the world is finally acknowledging that, but it is still too slow to respond.

We have some lessons that we, I think, have learned from what we quaintly called the Great Recession of 10 years ago. As somebody who was legislating in the middle of it and watching the impact in my community and around the country, it seemed horrific. But it pales by comparison with what people are facing today and the demands for racial justice.

My colleagues in introducing their handiwork of the Select Committee on

the Climate Crisis all acknowledged that that is at the forefront of our thinking. There is a recognition that demands for racial justice, long overdue and now widely acknowledged, is more than just law enforcement and criminal justice reform.

Racial justice means addressing the dramatic health disparities that have been put in the spotlight as a result of the COVID-19 disaster. It means they must address the housing defunction in this country, the lack of affordable housing, a crisis of homelessness, people on the verge of losing their homes to eviction, and foreclosure that is looming on the horizon.

We need more affordable housing and we need more of it if we are going to deal with those demands for racial justice. We need safer, sustainable communities and economic justice and opportunities.

Luckily, the House this week is dealing with ways to advance a vision that addresses all of those. The climate blueprint that has been acknowledged, the hard work of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis to protect the climate, protect the planet, also has embedded in it: opportunities to improve the quality of life in every community, new economic opportunities that will be widely shared, reducing costs for families, and strengthening the capacity of local government to meet their climate challenge.

H.R. 2, the handiwork of my friend and colleague, PETER DEFazio, the chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, is a modest 1,067 pages. It is full of opportunities to rebuild and renew America in a sustainable fashion, to share economic opportunity, to have a low-carbon future, energy efficiency, and electrification of the transportation system. Part of it rescues the post office, replacing hundreds of thousands of their vehicles with electric cars which will help build the platform for further electrification.

These are a variety of elements that, woven together, is a new vision for Congress and this country. It can start yet before we adjourn this Congress. I hope that we will have some bipartisan cooperation to embrace these critical principles and move that forward.

But the extent to which there is delay, we are setting the stage for the next Congress, for the next administration being able to engage people around the country with a new way of rebuilding and renewing America, making our families safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

RECOGNIZING KIM CHAMBERLAIN

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to recognize my good friend Kim Chamberlain for her service to Shasta County.

Kim was born and raised in a pear orchard just out of Seoul, South Korea,

during the Korean war. She is a refugee and a survivor of the war. Kim eventually married a U.S. Army medic, Paul Chamberlain, and came to the United States in 1971.

As a new resident, Kim's goals in America were to learn English, drive an automobile, and get a job. After working as a strawberry trimmer at Lassen Canyon Nursery for several years, Kim went to school and earned her cosmetology license in 1978. In 1981, Kim opened a beauty salon, a shop she owned until 2012. I wish it were still open right now.

In 2012, Kim was diagnosed with breast cancer, but she is a fighter and a survivor in getting through it—very admirable. After entering remission, Kim became a local cancer awareness activist, helping others and meeting with other breast cancer survivors for encouragement and support.

As the wife of a veteran and a war survivor, you won't find a bigger champion for veterans' issues than Kim Chamberlain. I don't know of anybody who works harder to advance the causes for our veterans and be sure they are properly honored on Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

She is one of the fiercest advocates for bringing a veterans clinic, a veterans cemetery, and a veterans home to northern California in Shasta County. She helped raise funds for an endowment that actually pays for landscaping at the Northern California Cemetery and served on a nonprofit board that built a memorial chapel there.

A 29-year member of both the VFW Auxiliary and Northern California Korean War Veterans chapter, Kim hosts an annual luncheon to honor and thank Korean war veterans in the area. They come from far and wide to be part of this. I have taken part in several of those.

2020 marks the seventieth anniversary of the beginning of the Korean war, and this year would have been the 30th annual luncheon Kim would have hosted to show appreciation for the Korean war veterans. Unfortunately, this is yet another event that has been wiped out by the coronavirus pandemic.

Kim's work on behalf of veterans has been recognized by the city of Anderson, the Anderson Chamber of Commerce, Shasta County, and even the Prime Minister of South Korea.

Kim's story embodies the American Dream. She has worked hard and is always working to help her community many, manifold over.

More than her contribution to local veterans or support of local cancer survivors, Kim is a wonderful friend to me, to many, all who come in contact with her. She, indeed, is a blessing to us who know her and those who have come in contact with her and have been helped by her.

I wish her all the best, and God's blessing upon Kim in everything she does as a neighbor in northern California.

□ 0945

CLEAN ENERGY

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

Mr. LEVIN of California. Mr. Speaker, as a freshman Member of Congress, it has been an honor and a privilege to get to serve on the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, and I am so grateful for that opportunity. I commend Speaker PELOSI and Chair CASTOR for their outstanding leadership.

Long before I pursued public office, I was a proud clean energy advocate, and I knew then, as I know now, that solutions to the climate crisis could also be solutions to many economic challenges we face.

We have seen that come true in my home State of California where we have embraced ambitious measures to combat climate change and have seen strong economic growth, particularly in the clean energy sector.

Last year, California supported more than half a million clean energy jobs in areas such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean vehicles. Through 2019 job growth was nearly 10 percent annually.

Clean energy technology, clean domestic manufacturing, and environmental restoration is already putting Americans to work.

Our report highlights a number of ways that we can combat the climate crisis and create more jobs at the same time. For example, the report includes bipartisan legislation I introduced to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels by promoting environmentally responsible development of renewable energy on public lands.

We can expand those technologies and grow our economy by extending important tax credits like the solar investment tax credit which drives job creation, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and helps level the playing field for clean energy. We will also create jobs with strong Federal funding for infrastructure, investments in new and retooled domestic manufacturing facilities, new buy clean procurement rules, expanded loan opportunities for decarbonization technologies, and the creation of a civilian conservation corps and a climate resilience service corps.

Alternatively, if we fail to act, we will allow other countries to take the lead on developing clean technologies. China, India, and nations in Europe will reap the economic rewards, and we will find ourselves purchasing foreign products that should have been made right here in America.

Some might take issue with the perceived cost of climate action, but it is also important to note the cost of inaction. My friend, Marshall Burke, a researcher at Stanford University, has studied this extensively and found that if we don't take substantial action to mitigate the climate crisis, it will cost the U.S. economy \$25 to \$35 trillion over the coming decades.

That is why we must act. I have a 6-year-old and an 8-year-old at home, and, like any parent, there is a lot that I worry about for their future; but I am most concerned about the planet that we are going to leave behind for them and for their children. The path we are on right now leads to a grim future for our planet. Our report charts a new hopeful course for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues and the outstanding staff who made this report possible. Now let's get to work.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 47 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TAKANO) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

God of us all, thank You for giving us another day. Coronavirus diagnoses and deaths continue to mount throughout our Nation. Please bless with healing and comfort those whose lives have been so severely disrupted. Continue to protect and empower those who tend to the sick and those who seek medical solutions to this dangerous pandemic.

Unfortunately, there are many other issues pressing upon us. Bless the Members of the people's House whose responsibilities press them to address such seemingly overpowering challenges. Help them and help us all to trust that You have not abandoned us but are with us now, as You have been throughout American history.

We thank You for those who live heroic lives during this time. Give them strength and perseverance in their service. May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.