

As the youngest speaker at the March on Washington, his was a clarion call to end racial segregation and discrimination in the United States. Over half a century later, as unrest over systemic violence against Black Americans gripped our Nation in recent weeks, John reinforced what he knew was true:

"You cannot stop the call of history," the Congressman said. "You may use troopers. You may use fire hoses and water, but it cannot be stopped. There cannot be any turning back. We have come too far. We have made too much progress to stop now and go back."

John was witness to our Nation's history; he shaped it and his legacy will forever be part of that history. When I think of John and Bobby, I am reminded of Stephen Spender's poem, "The Truly Great."

. . . those who in their lives fought for life,  
Who wore at their hearts the fire's centre.  
Born of the sun, they travelled a short while  
toward the sun,

And left the vivid air signed with their  
honour.

Sincerely,

Ethel Kennedy.

□ 0915

#### 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WELLES DECLARATION

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, in 1939, Hitler's Nazi Germany and Stalin's Communist Soviet Union signed a secret agreement to invade and create spheres of influence. The Molotov-Ribbentrop agreement allowed Hitler to invade the free and sovereign country of Poland, while the Soviet Union invaded the free and sovereign countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

Eighty years ago today the United States responded with the Welles Declaration. Let me read it.

"Department of State, July 23, 1940, Statement by the Acting Secretary of State, the Honorable Sumner Welles.

"During these past few days the devious processes whereunder the political independence and territorial integrity of the three small Baltic republics, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, were to be deliberately annihilated by one of their more powerful neighbors, have been rapidly drawing to their conclusion.

"From the day when the people of these republics first gained their independent and democratic form of government the people of the United States have watched their admirable progress and self-government with deep and sympathetic interest.

"The policy of this Government is universally known. The people of the United States are opposed to predatory activities no matter whether they are carried on by the use of force or by the threat of force. They are likewise opposed to any form of intervention on the part of one state, however powerful, in the domestic concerns of any other sovereign state, however weak.

"These principles constitute the very foundations upon which the existing relationship between the 21 sovereign republics of the New World rests.

"The United States will continue to stand by these principles, because of the conviction of the American people that unless the doctrine in which these principles are inherent once again governs the relations between nations, the rule of reason, of justice and of law—in other words, the basis of modern civilization itself—cannot be preserved."

Mr. Speaker, this declaration here refused to recognize the Soviet annexation of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. This nonrecognition lasted 5 decades.

This declaration enabled the Baltic States to maintain free, diplomatic missions. And with this declaration, Executive Order 8484 protected Baltic financial assets.

Today, the United States joins Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in remembering this declaration and recommitting ourselves to peace, democracy, freedom, and the rule of law.

Subsequently, their entrance into NATO and the European Union assures them of being part of the family of western democracies.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, walking the halls of the United States Capitol this week has felt different, like a piece of what makes this institution great is missing, because he is. It has been a somber reminder that this body and our country will never be the same without our guiding light, our moral compass, Congressman John Lewis.

I have never known someone to be more devoted to our Nation than John Lewis. He demonstrated that devotion by setting standards high and requiring her continuous improvement; calling out when our policies or practices didn't live up to the words written in our Constitution; and never giving up on the pursuit of freedom and equality for everyone in our country.

He committed his life to the fight for civil rights and, along the way, he persuaded a Nation, through steadfast, peaceful protests.

Yes, John Lewis is a hero. He is also the closest example I will likely ever know of a saint. But more than that, he was a friend.

To those of us who are new to Congress, John Lewis welcomed us. He made time for each of us; got to know us and, somehow, made you feel like the only person in his presence. He wanted you to know that he truly heard your words and that they mattered.

Part of what makes this job the honor of a lifetime is serving alongside giants like Congressman Lewis. Like so many in this Chamber, I stood in absolute awe of him. He embodied decency, perseverance, justice, courage, and compassion, traits that he used to

great effect in changing hearts and minds by meeting hate with love, and cruelty with kindness.

I will forever remember and cherish the opportunity to join John Lewis in Selma, Alabama, this past March with my husband, my mom, and two daughters. The time he spent with Grace and Caroline, describing to them what "good trouble" was; walking across the Edmund Pettus Bridge one last time, and reminding us what happened there 55 years ago.

He said: "On this bridge, some of us gave a little blood to redeem the soul of America. Our country is a better country; we are a better people. But we have still a distance to travel to go before we get there."

Thank you, John, for never giving up, for never giving in, for keeping the faith, and for always keeping your eyes on the prize.

We know the work we have left to do, and you gave us the tools and the courage to continue your legacy.

Rest in peace, Congressman Lewis.

#### HIGHLIGHTING CORRECTIONS OF OFFICERS AND STAFF AT FCC ALLENWOOD AND USP LEWISBURG AS PA-12 COVID-19 HEROES

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the work of the outstanding corrections officers and staff at FCC Allenwood and USP Lewisburg during the COVID-19 pandemic and recognize them as PA-12 COVID-19 heroes.

Prior to and during the pandemic, the corrections officers at these two facilities, located within Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District, stepped up in a big way.

These dedicated men and women went to work every day, overseeing Federal inmates, many of whom had been moved across State lines to Central Pennsylvania. In the face of these unprecedented challenges, our corrections officers took on expanded responsibility at great personal risk.

These corrections officers and staff at USP Lewisburg and FCC Lewisburg answered the call and they deployed to other BOP hotspot facilities to assist with diminished staffing capacities due to COVID-19.

Answering the ongoing call to duty, USP Lewisburg was asked to step up in a big way when storms destroyed portions of FCI Estill in South Carolina, requiring nearly 1,000 new inmates to be moved from that facility to Central Pennsylvania.

For dealing with unprecedented challenges under pressing conditions and answering the call to duty, it makes me proud to recognize the corrections officers and staff at FCC Allenwood and USP Lewisburg as PA-12 COVID-19 heroes.

RECOGNIZING ORRSTOWN BANK AS A PA-12  
COVID-19 HERO

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, for their work in facilitating paycheck protection loans for small businesses across Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District, I recognize Orrstown Bank as a PA-12 COVID-19 hero.

Enacted as part of the CARES Act, and later replenished due to its success, the Paycheck Protection Program has been a tremendous asset to small businesses and their employees across the country, and the employees were able to stay employed.

In April, to highlight the success of the program, Orrstown Bank's Executive Vice President, Luke Bernstein, I was welcomed to the White House to discuss the bank's work in processing and facilitating loans.

Asked to facilitate loans with little Federal red tape and even less notice in order to help our economy survive this terrible virus, banks like Orrstown have been instrumental in keeping America employed and small businesses operating. I thank them for their work and again recognize them as a PA-12 COVID-19 hero.

RECOGNIZING PENN STATE UNIVERSITY AS A PA-12  
COVID-19 HERO

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, Penn State University is undoubtedly a PA-12 COVID-19 hero.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Penn State University, one of the world's best research institutions, put their assets to use in a new way. They scoured their campuses and schools for personal protective equipment that might be used in research or other academic endeavors and found 10,000 pieces of PPE they donated to local hospitals to aid in the fight against COVID-19.

Not only that, but Penn State put their academic skills to practice by partnering with local businesses in the State College area to use 3D printing to make PPE for smaller healthcare providers and nursing homes.

While President Trump and his administration worked to make sure our hospitals and healthcare providers had what they needed to meet the surge capacity and combat COVID-19, critical community partners like Penn State helped to meet the need.

For their work in providing needed PPE supplies, Penn State University is recognized as a PA-12 COVID-19 hero.

RECOGNIZING LEWISTOWN PRINTWORKS AS A PA-12  
COVID-19 HERO

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, Lewistown Printworks is a central Pennsylvania small business that is undoubtedly a PA-12 COVID-19 hero.

Lewistown Printworks is a small business in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, that experienced the struggles of operating a small business through the COVID-19 pandemic. This small, family-owned business saw an opportunity to help others. In their "Support Small" project, Michelle and Caleb Fetter, the owners of this small, family-owned business, asked local businesses for logos that could be printed

on T-shirts. Those T-shirts were then sold as part of an online fundraiser with \$20 of each sale going to local businesses whose logo was on the shirt. As of mid-May, the project earned \$5,300 for local businesses to help them weather the COVID-19 pandemic.

For their ingenuity, resourcefulness, and generous spirit, Michelle and Caleb Fetter of Lewistown Printworks are recognized as being PA-12 COVID-19 heroes.

□ 0930

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN  
LEWIS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a joy to acknowledge my one-quarter century relationship with our friend, John Lewis. The better I got to know him, the deeper my respect for his courage, his determination, and his strength.

People have remarked about his gentle spirit, his kindness, and his generosity. I watched countless young people be introduced to him in awe, including my own grandson.

I just heard Leader MCCARTHY acknowledge being in Selma with John on the 50th anniversary of that Bloody Sunday. It was beyond my ability for words to express watching John. On that stage near where he was once almost beaten to death, he spoke as a Member of Congress and then he introduced the first Black President of the United States, Barack Obama.

It is heartening to hear so many who were polar opposites of John politically honor and praise his life and his service. They sincerely mourn his passing and salute his career. I would hope, Mr. Speaker, however, that we would not just repeat his words, but listen and understand and honor his lifework and his lifetime commitment to lifting people up and helping them find their voices and express their wishes by exercising the precious right of voting.

When John started, the vote was suppressed by violence and intimidation. Today people are suppressing the votes using computers, legal challenges, and capricious voting standards against the poor, people of color, the young, and the marginalized. These are people John knew should have special help, but instead he was outraged in his own gentle but forceful way that they got special barriers shutting them out.

I would hope that those who come to the floor to issue their tributes to John Lewis would join me in respecting his life's work. Let's find ways to work together to protect the political process for those whom he fought so valiantly to be able to engage and protect.

I will be forever grateful for his friendship and his example. I hope we will all find it in our hearts to honor his mission which should be the mission of us all.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF RON  
RICE

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life, love, and special friendship of Ron Rice.

He had a heart as big as the Texas Panhandle, and he was a friend as faithful as the west Texas sunrise. His signature contagious laugh can be heard from heaven even in this day of profound grief.

But Uncle Ronnie, Joy, Tracey, Darren, and Rusty know what the Scripture tells us and what God promises: that to be absent from the body as a child of God is to be present with the Lord. So on this day, Mr. Speaker, we don't grieve as the world grieves. As the Scripture says, we should be pitied among all men if our hope is in this fallen world. No, sir. We rally around the Rice family today. We join them in thanking God and worshiping and praising God because Ron is home with his Lord and Savior, Jesus, in eternal happiness, joy unspeakable, and peace everlasting.

God bless the Rice family.

Guns up, Ron. You got the best seat in the House.

REDUCING NATIONAL DEBT

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, Admiral Mullen was asked at a hearing what he thought the greatest threat to national security was. His response was powerful, simple, and very clear. He said the greatest threat to our national security is our national debt. I would add that it is not just a threat to our security, but it is a threat to our prosperity; it is a threat to the blessings of liberty and opportunity for our children; and it is a threat to domestic tranquility.

There is not a greater threat that looms larger on the horizon. There is not a greater challenge in this 21st century and for my generation than the potential and the prospects of a sovereign debt crisis.

We have no doubt experienced an unprecedented public health and economic disaster as a result of the pandemic. But if we don't commit to reducing our national debt, we will indeed face a crisis far graver than what could come out of this pandemic.

We have experienced the largest generational retirement in history, runaway healthcare costs, and record spending. Discretionary, nondefense, and defense spending all have amassed a whopping \$1 trillion in debt. This is pre-COVID. That is \$1 trillion in annual deficit spending, spending \$1 trillion more on our Nation's priorities and our budget over what we have to spend.

We have done that year in and year out, to the tune now of a \$23-trillion debt and climbing. This is pre-COVID, I want to remind you, Mr. Speaker.

Prior to COVID and the trillions of dollars that we are spending, we were