

Madam Speaker, I yield to my colleague from the Seventh District of Georgia, the Honorable ROB WOODALL.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Georgia for yielding. And I want to welcome our new colleague to the Chamber. This isn't usually the way that it is, and nothing about the path you took to get here is usually the way that it is.

But so often, on this floor, we talk about giving a voice to the voiceless, and sometimes it seems as if it is a simple cliché. I wonder how many of my colleagues would put in the kind of time and effort that we all put in to get reelected to provide a voice, not for 2 years, not even for 12 months, but for the remainder of a cycle.

It speaks to the character of Mr. HALL, and it speaks to his commitment to the Fifth Congressional District of Georgia that he put himself out there and committed himself, as he did throughout that campaign cycle, to be that voice and to make sure that there was not a day that went by that the Fifth Congressional District of Georgia could have been represented but was not.

You are joining, certainly a very special seat, but you are joining a very special delegation here, and I want to, on behalf of all of the Republicans in the Georgia delegation, congratulate you and welcome you here today.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, as dean of the Georgia delegation, it is my pleasure to present and to welcome to this House and to yield to the gentleman from Georgia's Fifth Congressional District, the Honorable KWANZA HALL.

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, to my colleagues from Georgia, other colleagues in the House, I am KWANZA HALL and I am so thankful to be here today.

In July, just before Congressman Lewis passed away, I had COVID, and I spent about 3 weeks lying flat dealing with it, and I didn't know I would be here. So God blessed me with that time to think about what I would do next with my life at the same time Congressman LEWIS had passed away. He was a friend. He was a neighbor. He and my father served in the civil rights movement together. My father, Leon Hall, was in Montgomery at the same time, and Selma.

So I had to think about what was next for me. And God gave me a choice: Do you want to do your business, or do you want to do My business?

And I stepped up and answered the call, and He said: I have a mission for you. The mission is to run for that office and serve District Five.

We have a lot of things on the plate in front of us, and I just want to be a unifier, a person who can help us get some things done on behalf of the least of these, as Congressman Lewis would.

So thank you all for having me. Thank you to my mother, my father, who is not with us, to the Congressmen who have come before me, Wyche

Fowler, and Ambassador Andrew Young.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath of office to the gentleman from Georgia, the whole number of the House is 431.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER). The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

LAST MINUTE COVID-19 RELIEF

(Ms. UNDERWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, it has been 6 months since the President signed coronavirus relief legislation. Since then, the House has passed two comprehensive bills to deliver urgently needed relief. Senate Republicans and the Trump administration need to do the same.

Northern Illinoisans are doing everything they can to be safe and provide for their families, but this is a once-in-a-century pandemic and no community can weather this alone. We must come together.

America is nearing a million new cases a week. Families are struggling and facing an uncertain future. Small businesses are closing their doors. Children are going hungry.

If we, as a Congress do not act now, folks at home will be forced to face their toughest winter yet, without the support they need as human beings and deserve as Americans.

Our communities are working together to help mitigate the spread of this virus. Now Congress must work together to pass a robust, evidence-based relief package. The American people are doing everything they can. Congress must do so, too.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FRED RANDLE

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Fred Randle.

Mr. Randle was a longtime Hot Springs resident who was part of Merrill's Marauders during World War II. Merrill's Marauders were U.S. soldiers who fought in the Pacific Theater, using jungle warfare techniques to penetrate deep behind enemy lines. In just 5 months, the Marauders advanced 720 miles through some of the

harshest jungle terrain in the world. Upon return, each man in the unit was awarded a Bronze Star.

Mr. Randle's book, "Hell on Land, Disaster at Sea—the Story of Merrill's Marauders and the Sinking of the Rhona," described his experience watching the sinking of this ship in 1943. He was one of a handful of men with the Marauders who had been sworn to secrecy about the sinking for 57 years, since it was caused by the world's first guided missile.

Mr. Randle passed away at the age of 97 on November 23, 2020. But before he did, we were able to contact him and his family and let them know that a Congressional Gold Medal will be placed in the Smithsonian in his honor.

Perhaps there is no better tribute to his life than in the words of his family, He loved the Lord and he loved the United States flag.

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PROTECTING THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM ACT

(Ms. CRAIG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because COVID-19 is threatening the American Dream across Main Streets throughout Minnesota and this Nation. Small business relief is needed now more than ever.

Unfortunately, the support we have provided is poised to become a significant tax burden for some business owners due to a misguided interpretation by the Treasury Department. We cannot allow struggling businesses to be taxed on the aid we have provided to them as a lifeline.

Fortunately, there is a solution in place to rectify this mistake. In May, I joined Representatives LIZZIE FLETCHER and ANDY KIM to introduce H.R. 6574, the Protecting the Paycheck Protection Program Act, which would ensure that PPP loan recipients whose loans are forgiven are not required to treat the loan proceeds as taxable income.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in defending our Nation's small businesses by supporting this common-sense legislation.

REMEMBERING SENATOR TOM CASPERSON

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Michigan's First Congressional District in memory of a friend, devoted father and husband, and dedicated public servant, Senator Tom Casperson, who passed away on Sunday, November 29, after a hard-fought and courageous battle with cancer.

Senator Casperson served in the Michigan Legislature for 14 years and

was a fierce advocate in Lansing for our Upper Peninsula way of life.

Tom was a strong and universally respected voice, confronting challenging issues head-on and working across the aisle for the benefit of his constituents. His unwavering commitment to his family, his faith, and his community is unquestionable. The entire State of Michigan is a better place because of him.

To Tom's family and friends, Isaiah 41:10 says:

Do not fear, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

Please join me in honoring the extraordinary life of Senator Tom Casperson.

AMERICAN PEOPLE WAITING FOR COVID RELIEF

(Ms. SCANLON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, this week, December's rent and mortgage payments came due for millions of Americans, marking another gut-wrenching deadline for families who have been forced to make the impossible decision between putting food on the table or keeping a roof overhead.

We have been asking for months for the Senate to take up one of the relief packages that the House has passed and sent for consideration or for the Senate to come up with its own COVID relief proposal. While there has finally been some movement this week, it is way overdue.

My constituents cannot wait any longer. As the coronavirus surges yet again in my region, I hear every single day from folks who have exhausted every resource to scrape by, but they cannot make ends meet without more relief.

These are folks like Denise from Linwood. Last spring, she and her husband both lost their jobs in the hospitality industry. They have two kids at home learning virtually. Now they are faced with the expiration of unemployment benefits, and they fear eviction come January.

Ann from Wayne is a schoolteacher who is trying to get a COVID test so she can take care of her elderly mother and do her job, but she has had to jump through hoop after hoop because we still lack a national testing strategy.

My constituents and our local officials are doing everything in their power to feed their families and stay safe. It is past time that the Federal Government does the same. America is waiting.

HONORING SENATOR TOM CASPERSON

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

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up on the comments from the Congressman from the First District of Michigan.

Today, I recognize a good friend and great American, Tom Casperson, who passed away this weekend. Tom lived in Representative BERGMAN's district in Escanaba, Michigan.

I knew Tom as a State senator when he worked on numerous issues across State lines with me. The Good Neighbor Authority promoting better management of our national forests originated at a hearing Tom and I put together in Breitung Township, Michigan. Tom Casperson may have had a greater impact on Upper Peninsula issues in the Michigan Legislature than anyone who served the Upper Peninsula.

While I knew Tom as a State senator, he will be remembered for far more than that, including as a man of great faith.

Mr. Speaker, I send my deepest sympathies to Tom's wife, Diane, and their family.

It has been a great privilege to have known such a fine man. May Tom Casperson rest in peace.

DECRIMINALIZING CANNABIS

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

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, in my city of Philadelphia and across the country, people of color are thrown in jail more and with harsher sentences than White people for the same cannabis-related crimes.

Cannabis is one of the fastest growing U.S. industries, but Federal law keeps many businesses of color out of this market. That is why I urge my colleagues to support passage of a jobs bill, the MORE Act. It would decriminalize cannabis at the Federal level and expunge prior Federal convictions related to marijuana. Half of all States have already decriminalized cannabis.

This jobs bill would also create the opportunity trust fund, which would generate grant programs to provide services and funds to those most negatively impacted by the war on drugs. This includes the equitable cannabis licensing program that I introduced in the Homegrown Act.

The House and Senate need to pass the MORE Act now, as the growing cannabis industry is an important economic development tool for communities of color like mine. Let's pass this jobs bill.

CONGRATULATING DR. DIANA GREENE

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Duval County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Diana Greene.

This week, she was named the Florida Superintendent of the Year by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents, and we are all incredibly proud of her well-deserved recognition.

Over these last 5 years, including during Dr. Greene's leadership, the Duval graduation rate increased from 76 percent to 86 percent, an amazing accomplishment.

She has also helped to improve safety and security within our schools and fought to secure additional educational funding for Duval County Public Schools. Dr. Greene is an excellent example and mentor to both educators and students alike.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Florida, I thank Dr. Greene for her commitment to education and for working hard every day to make Duval County Public Schools a place where students can learn, grow, and thrive.

CALLING FOR COVID RELIEF

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

Mr. LEVIN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of every American who has lost a loved one because of this pandemic. I rise for those who have lost their jobs or who are struggling to make ends meet in the wake of this virus. I rise for the doctors, the nurses, the caregivers, and the first responders who put themselves at risk every day as they try to save lives.

These folks in my district and across the Nation know that the enemy is not our neighbors or our political opponents. The enemy is this virus. And they are counting on us to come together to provide relief.

We must act urgently to provide State and local governments with the funding they need to maintain essential workers and provide critical services, including in public safety and education.

We must act so that small businesses don't shutter their doors, laying off the good people who live and work in our communities.

The American people cannot and should not have to wait any longer. I urge my colleagues to put their differences aside and treat this emergency like our lives depend on it—because they do.

CONGRATULATING RITEDOSE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Ritedose Corporation of Columbia, a South Carolina company on the front lines of America's spectacular effort to secure a coronavirus vaccine.