

and awaiting cards and packages. Let us not forget the postal workers who deliver more than 155 billion pieces of mail per year, which this year included our ballots in an election that saw the largest turnout in 100 years. For their work and commitment this holiday season and every holiday season, and for their extraordinary service to our country during the pandemic, I support overtime pay for these important civil servants.

Another institution very old in our Republic, while not as old as the Postal Service, is Morris Brown College. Let us resolve to support Morris Brown College and contribute to the revitalization of the Atlanta University Center.

As we seek to revitalize Morris Brown College, let us also consider ways to renew our urban centers. A way to do that is urban farming. It can deliver produce at a lower cost, leaving families to spend on other costs of living, like housing. It can also be good for the environment, as it can reduce CO₂ emissions attendant with transporting food from faraway farms to urban centers.

While we do this and we emerge from this pandemic, we must lift as we rise. That is why we must ensure minority- and women-owned businesses see increased participation in our society.

One of the items I will include in the RECORD is a news story about 27 former African-American franchisees who are suing McDonald's, a legendary business, for discrimination against its own franchisees.

27 MORE BLACK EX-FRANCHISEES JOIN RACIAL DISCRIMINATION LAWSUIT AGAINST McDONALD'S

TOTAL NUMBER OF PLAINTIFFS APPROACHING 80
MIAMI, Nov. 18, 2020—Twenty-seven new plaintiffs, all former Black McDonald's franchisees, joined an ongoing federal lawsuit against the fast-food chain claiming the company engaged in systemic discrimination and denied them the same opportunities as White franchisees.

The new amended complaint now has 77 named plaintiffs in the lawsuit originally filed by 52 Black former franchisees on Sept. 1, 2020.

The claims now include nearly 300 stores with compensatory damages that average between \$4 million and \$5 million per store, exclusive of punitive damages.

The plaintiffs allege McDonald's sold itself as a recruiter and developer of Black talent, profited from its Black consumer base and maintained a two-tier system that pigeonholed unsuspecting Black owners and assigned them horrible locations guaranteed to fail.

This suit comes on the heels of a federal class action lawsuit filed October 29 by current Black franchisees.

"McDonald's is now fighting a four-front legal war. They are being sued by current and former Black operators, Black employees and senior executives," said James L. Ferraro, the lead attorney for both the current and former franchisee lawsuits. "As the pool of plaintiffs grow, there will be more pressure on the company to dispense with the public relations ploys and focus on how it can help its Black employees and franchisees."

At the same time there are calls for state pension funds to drop McDonald's stock.

States like New York, California, Ohio and Florida have massive investments in McDonald's. In Tennessee, Rep. Joe Towns has requested Treasurer David H. Lillard to divest the state's holdings and reallocate the money toward companies "practicing good corporate citizenship."

Ferraro said all these challenges are coming together because the company has turned a blind eye to obvious racial problems while promoting its public image.

McDonald's once boasted a high of 377 Black franchisees in 1998. That number now stands at 186 even though McDonald's has increased its stores from 15,086 to 36,059. The cash flow gap for Black franchisees more than tripled from 2010 to 2019, per National Black McDonald's Operators Association ("NBMOA") data.

Plaintiffs' average annual sales of \$2 million was more than \$700,000 under McDonald's national average of \$2.7 million between 2011 and 2016 and \$900,000 under the national average of \$2.9 million in 2019.

The lawsuit claims McDonald's was ruthless in steering Black operators toward the oldest, most decrepit stores in the toughest neighborhoods routinely rejected by Whites franchisees. This severely limited opportunities for expansion and growth, and far too often set in place a chain of events—low cash flow, decreased equity, debt and bankruptcy—that led to financial ruin.

The plaintiffs argue McDonald's violated federal civil rights laws by:

Excluding Black franchisees from the same growth opportunities found at safer, higher-volume, lower-cost stores offered to Whites. Retaliating against Black franchisees for rejecting strong-arm offers to continue operations in crime-ridden neighborhoods.

Denying Black franchisees meaningful assistance during financial hardships while White franchisees were routinely given such support.

Failing to provide any legitimate business reasons for repeated denials of franchise opportunities over many years.

Unfairly grading the operations of Black restaurants, which resulted in poor internal reviews, effectively pushing Black franchisees out of the McDonald's system by denying them the eligibility for growth and favorable franchise terms.

Providing misleading projections which induced Black franchisees to purchase undesirable franchises.

The amended complaint was filed with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois Eastern Division.

Mr. HALL. We must ensure that all in this Nation have the promise of the American Dream free from discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today mindful that I only have a few moments to address this body from the podium so I ask unanimous consent to place extended remarks and materials into the record on all these topics but I would like to briefly alert to this body the areas of concern that I seek placed into the RECORD.

The first concerns housing. In Atlanta, we have a tremendous opportunity to expedite the redevelopment of vacant public housing sites including: Bowen Homes, Bankhead Court, Hollywood court, Harris Homes, Thomasville, and Jonesboro North and South. And I hope the days ahead achieve that end.

All of these sites have the potential to not only incorporate affordable housing, but the addition of grocery stores in food deserts; healthcare facilities, improved access to public transportation; job and commercial centers, quality schools and parks and greenspace.

And as we turn our attention next week to Christmas, many of us are sending and awaiting cards and packages. Let us not forget the Postal workers who deliver more than 155 billion pieces of mail per year, which this year included our ballots in an election that saw the largest turnout in 100 years. For their work and commitment this season and every holiday season, and for their extraordinary service to our country during a pandemic, I support overtime pay for these important civil servants.

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It can also be good for the environment, as it can reduce CO₂ emissions attendant with transporting food from faraway farms to urban centers.

As we improve our nation's housing, and find ways to revitalize our colleges and seek new ways to grow our food, let us not forget our past. That is why it is important for this Chamber to try to preserve our past. This includes the task of establishing the former headquarters of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, where Dr. King did his work, alongside Congressman Lewis, as national historic sites.

And, while we do this, and we emerge from this pandemic, we must lift as we rise. That is why we must ensure minority and women owned businesses see increased rates in our society.

One of the items I will be placing in the record is a news story about 27 former African American franchisees who are suing McDonald's, a legendary business, for discrimination against its own franchisees. We must ensure that all in this nation have the promise of the American dream, free from discrimination.

We must also ensure that legacy banks and black-owned banks are sources of capital to support financing of projects for minority communities.

And, finally, during my time in here in Capitol Hill, I have introduced many pieces of legislation designed at making our criminal justice system fairer. But during this pandemic, we must also not forget about our brothers and sisters that are incarcerated. A study I will place in the record, from The Marshall Project, makes clear that incarcerated individuals are 4 times more likely to contract COVID-19. As society begins the long process of distributing and administering the vaccine, we must not forget them. They are no less worthy or deserving of medical care and should be protected, for we are all God's children.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ANDY MATSUI

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of floriculturist and philanthropist, Andy Matsui, who recently passed away at the age of 85.

After being born and raised in a family of farmers in Japan, Andy got an educational visa to go to California and study agriculture. He liked it so much that he bought some land and established a nursery in the Salinas Valley, in my district.

Andy produced orchids and pioneered the sale of potted orchids in stores. Today, the Matsui Nursery has one of the greatest selections of orchids in the entire world.

But Andy didn't just grow flowers; he grew the future for many. Andy said

that education is the only way to change things in this world. That is why he and his wife established the Matsui Foundation to provide scholarships to countless students. Andy believed in our home by encouraging those students to not just study, but to stay and give back to the central coast of California.

Our prayers are with his family. May Andy Matsui rest in peace with the satisfaction that he left us with magnifi-

cent beauty from his orchids and magnanimous bounty for our community.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(b) of House Resolution 967, the House stands adjourned until noon on Sunday, December 20, 2020.

Thereupon (at 6 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Sunday, December 20, 2020, at noon.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the third quarter of 2020, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2020

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☐

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ADAM SMITH, Oct. 31, 2020.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-5969. A letter from the Section Chief, Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's Major interim final rule — Implementation of the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention That Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act of 2018: Dispensing and Administering Controlled Substances for Medication-Assisted Treatment [Docket No.: DEA-499] (RIN: 1117-AB55) received December 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5970. A letter from the Section Chief, Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Implementation of the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005; Retail Sales; Notice of Transfers Following Importation or Exportation [Docket No.: DEA-485] (RIN: 1117-AB05; 1117-AB06) received December 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5971. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's Major final regulations — Statutory Limitations on Like-Kind Exchanges [TD 9935] (RIN: 1545-BP02) received December 16, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-5972. A letter from the Regulations Writer — Federal Register Liaison, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's Major final rule — Revised Medical Criteria for Evaluating Musculoskeletal Disorders [Docket No.: SSA-2006-0112] (RIN: 0960-AG38) received December 9, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-5973. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Medicare Program; CY 2021 Payment Policies Under the Physician Fee Schedule and Other Changes to Part B Payment Policies; Medicare Shared Savings Program Requirements; Medicaid Promoting Interoperability Program Requirements for Eligible Professionals; Quality Payment Program; Coverage of Opioid Use Disorder Services Furnished by Opioid Treatment Programs; Medicare Enrollment of Opioid Treatment Programs; Electronic Prescribing for Controlled Substances for a Covered Part D Drug Under a Prescription Drug Plan or an MA-PD Plan; etc. [CMS-1734-F, CMS-1734-ICF, CMS-1744-F, CMS-5531-F, AND CMS-3401-IFC] (RIN: 0938-AU10, 0938-AU31, 0938-AU32, AND 0938-AU33) received December 9, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

EC-5974. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Medicare Program: Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment Systems and Quality Reporting Programs; New Categories for Hospital Outpatient Department Prior Authorization Process; Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule: Laboratory Date of Service Policy; Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating Methodology; and Physician-Owned Hospitals [CMS-1736-FC, 1376-ICF] (RIN: 0938-AU12) received December 16, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

EC-5975. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Fraud and Abuse; Removal of Safe Harbor Protection for Rebates Involving Prescription Pharmaceuticals and Creation of New Safe Harbor Protection for Certain Point-of-Sale Reductions in Price on Prescription Pharmaceuticals and Certain Pharmacy Benefit Manager Service Fees (RIN: 0936-AA08) received December 16, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law

104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

EC-5976. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Medicare and State Health Care Programs: Fraud and Abuse; Revisions to Safe Harbors Under the Anti-Kickback Statute, and Civil Monetary Penalty Rules Regarding Beneficiary Inducements (RIN: 0936-AA10) received December 16, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 733. A bill to provide for the transfer of certain Federal land in the State of Minnesota for the benefit of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (Rept. 116-665). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1031. A bill to take certain land located in San Diego County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Pala Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-666). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1162. A bill to establish a grant program for the funding of water recycling and reuse projects, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-667). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3723. A bill to promote desalination project development and drought resilience, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-668, Pt. 1). Referred to