

has risen dramatically during the pandemic, with factors such as increased unemployment, increased alcohol consumption, and increased firearm purchases potentially playing a role.

The fact is that gun violence is rampant in our society and lives will continue to be lost unless we act decisively to stem this tide. I commend my colleagues in the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force for their leadership in advancing the policy discussions surrounding this issue. I was thrilled to see the appropriations committees approve \$25 million for the CDC and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to support gun violence research, finally putting an end to the de facto ban on federal funding for this important area of study.

We are heading in the right direction, but there is much more to be done. We must take a bold, comprehensive approach to grow the field of gun violence research. We need to attract more students to careers in gun violence research and support interdisciplinary collaboration to connect experts in public health with those in criminology and the social and behavioral sciences. We need to support the translation of research into effective policy interventions. We need better coordination among key agencies like the CDC, NIH, the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Standards and Technology, and the Department of Justice.

The National Gun Violence Research Act takes a whole-of-government approach to addressing the paucity of federal funding for research on gun violence by directing the President to establish a six-year National Gun Violence Research Program. To carry out the program, funding is authorized for the National Science Foundation (\$15 M), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (\$1 M), the Department of Health and Human Services (\$25 M), and the Department of Justice (\$3 M) to conduct or support gun violence research. In addition to awarding individual research grants, the National Science Foundation is directed to establish a much-needed national center for violence research to encourage multidisciplinary collaboration and train the next generation of gun violence researchers. Research enabled by this legislation will improve our understanding of gun violence so we can advance effective solutions and save lives.

REVISITING JANUARY 6TH

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, no one is defending the violent riot at the Capitol on January 6th and as more evidence is reviewed, I am grateful for the insight today by columnist Jack Devine in *The Aiken Standard*:

“My column four weeks ago—“The insurrection that wasn’t”—argued that portraying the Jan. 6 assault on the U.S. Capitol as an armed insurrection is simply wrong, unsupported by the facts.

Not surprisingly, many disagree. The armed insurrection label has been repeated so often and by so many that it has become widely accepted as true.

But we’ve learned a great deal since then about what happened on Jan. 6 and what

didn’t—and we’ve watched as the new Democratic leadership takes extreme and disturbing actions to slay the imaginary dragon that they created.

Let’s take another look.

The Capitol insurgents—mainly rowdy protesters caught up in the moment—were not armed in any real sense. Their inventory of “dangerous and deadly weapons,” as classified by DOJ investigators, consist of two baseball bats, a hockey stick, one pocket-sized extendable baton, a few cans of commercially available pepper spray and bear repellent, and other makeshift odds and ends. No knives and no guns. The infamous zip-ties, initially considered to be proof positive that the insurgents intended to take hostages, were later determined to have been carried into the building by police officers.

The myth that Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick was murdered by the frenzied mob has evaporated completely. The *New York Times* has backed away from its bludgeoned-by-fire-extinguisher report; there was no evidence of blunt force trauma; it appears that Sicknick died of natural causes (probably a stroke) hours after returning to the station house under his own power.

Only one gun was fired during the four-hour assault—that by an unidentified police officer who shot and killed Ashli Babbitt, an unarmed female trespasser. While the FBI is still combing videos to find someone to charge for Sicknick’s death, both they and the otherwise pit bull media seem remarkably incurious about Babbitt’s killing.

None of the supposed targets of the Capitol assault—Democratic lawmakers and Vice President Pence—were harmed; and the 2020 election result was not derailed by the attack and was never in serious jeopardy.

Make no mistake. The Jan. 6 riot was reckless, angry and ultimately lethal. It cannot be condoned. But for a supposed overthrow of the U.S. government, it looks pretty lame—and more like the continuing wanton rioting that since mid-summer has taken dozens of lives, destroyed untold livelihoods and cost billions in damage to American cities.

A mindless mob bent on venting its anger? Yes. An armed insurrection? Not even close. And how are we dealing with this non-insurrection?

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is pushing for investigation by a “9/11-style commission”—implying that this bumbling fiasco was somehow comparable to the 2001 terrorist attack that murdered nearly 3,000 Americans.

The U.S. Capitol complex in Washington, D.C., has been turned into an armed camp. It was guarded during the inauguration by 25,000 National Guard troops, thousands of whom still remain. The barriers and checkpoints will be kept in place through September. So far, none of the feared domestic terrorists have reappeared.

The Justice Department has been conducting a nationwide manhunt for the Jan. 6 perpetrators and to date has arrested and charged over 300. Reportedly, dozens are being held without bail—a measure usually reserved for hardened criminals arrested for heinous crimes—in stark contrast to the revolving door treatment of thousands of violent rioters apprehended in recent months and quickly released (and provided bail money if needed by progressive organizations, as encouraged by Democratic leaders including Vice President Kamala Harris).

Prospective U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland promises to prosecute the Jan. 6 perpetrators to the full extent of the law. It would be far better to call that riot what it is, acknowledge the broader issue of escalating American violence and deal with it in an even-handed way.

In my column last month, I characterized our government’s response to the supposed

insurrection as “performance art”—the art form that utilizes dramatic live performance to evoke an emotional response. It’s an apt comparison. The net effect of the actions outlined above has been to cement in the public mind inordinate fear of the risk posed by domestic terrorism, particularly of the white supremacist variety.

Our leadership seems to think that if we’re all terrified enough, we’ll go along without objection to the politicized show-and-tell—Capitol Hill barricaded and patrolled by armed troops, perpetrators hunted and held without bond, suspension of due process, rampant censorship—America on a wartime footing, but without the war.

Any threat of terrorism, foreign or domestic, from left or right, deserves serious attention—not hyperbole and hysteria.”

RETIREMENT OF LIFELONG COMMUNITY ADVOCATE LAURA MARTINEZ

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Laura Martinez, a public servant who has spent a lifetime helping her community, most recently as the Constituent Services Director for the Office of Congressman LUIS CORREA in Orange County, California.

Over her 30-year career in public service, Ms. Martinez has literally helped thousands of individuals and families resolve issues with local, state and federal agencies. Ms. Martinez devoted 20-years of her public service career with the Office of Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez.

Throughout her years of service, Ms. Martinez developed relationships with liaisons representing Social Security, the IRS, Medicare, Immigration and Customs, and other entities.

By using her expertise in navigating the complicated immigration system and overcoming bureaucratic roadblocks, she was able to reunite families during emergencies, obtaining citizenships, visas, and much more.

Born in the Boyle Heights area of Los Angeles, Ms. Martinez grew up witnessing many acts of racial injustice. Her dream and lifelong mission was to help those who did not have the capability to help themselves due to living in poverty, being a minority, and living in other challenging conditions.

She brought heartfelt passion to her work that included positions with such non-profits as the renowned City of Hope and The East Los Angeles Community Union, which helps empower communities and revitalize neighborhoods.

As a breast cancer survivor, along with her mother, she is a decades long participant in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Her team, Laura’s Lifeline, has raised thousands of dollars to battle cancer.

Another passion was working with Latino Advocates for Education, an organization that pays tribute to WWII veterans. Her uncles were all veterans who served in WWII and the Korean and Vietnam wars. She was the only girl in a family of six boys, several of whom served in law enforcement.

Ms. Martinez was honored for her work with veterans by being invited to witness the unveiling of the WWII Memorial in our nation’s capital.

Ms. Martinez also has a background in real estate and is still licensed with the State of California. She has dedicated her time for her community service as an usher with the La Mirada Performing Arts Center. In her retirement, she will be providing care for her extended family and traveling.

Please join me in wishing this good and faithful public servant a well-deserved retirement after a lifetime of serving others.

HONORING THE FOUNDING OF OSCEOLA COUNTY NAACP AND ITS CONTINUED EFFORTS TO ADVANCE CIVIL RIGHTS IN OSCEOLA COUNTY

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2021*

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, founded in 1909 in response to the ongoing violence against Black people around the country, the NAACP is the largest and most pre-eminent civil rights organization in the nation. One hundred and twelve years later, the organization has over 2,200 branches across the nation with more than 2 million members.

The NAACP's mission is to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons. The NAACP is integral to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights without discrimination on race.

The Osceola branch of the NAACP was originally established as the Kissimmee NAACP in 1965 and later changed to its current name in the early 1970's as the Osceola County Branch 5121. Reverend T.C. Callahan served as the branch's first president. The branch is currently led by Deloris McMillon.

The Osceola branch of the NAACP works to promote civic engagement among its community through voter registration drives. It also recognizes outstanding citizens and leaders to inspire younger generations to participate in their community.

The strength of the NAACP is dependent on support from the community. The NAACP seeks enactment and enforcement of federal, state, and local laws securing civil rights. It tirelessly provides for and supports their communities and equality of all citizens.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRAD RICHARDSON

**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2021*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brad Richardson for his 10 years of service as the President and CEO of the Hardin County Chamber of Commerce.

Since 2011, he has worked in his leadership role to promote economic development, advance businesses, and grow the local economy in Hardin County. Brad played a fundamental role in establishing the Knox Regional Development Alliance (KRDA), and in 2017, he was given the Ft. Knox Gold Neighbor

Award for his work in bringing together Fort Knox and nearby communities. He also invested in the next generation of local talent through the Youth Leadership Hardin County and Leadership Hardin County programs.

I want to thank Brad for his work in the Hardin County community.

SUPPORTING TEXAS AFTER WINTER STORM DAMAGE

**HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2021*

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask for continued support of my district, my city and my state, as we recover from the impact of the winter storm. Many Texans are still suffering.

Even worse, many are still grieving the loss of a loved one. In Harris county alone, 25 human lives were lost as a consequence of this storm.

Senior citizens account for more than one third of the deaths in Harris County.

One woman, 100 years old, was taken to a hospital after being found unresponsive in a home with no power.

The youngest victim was just 8, he was found in a home while using a gas-powered generator, dying of carbon monoxide poisoning.

The damage extends far beyond the city of Houston. Over 200 Texans died. Thousands lost their homes, and 390 thousand still lack access to clean water.

I ask my colleagues, and those watching, that they continue to pray for the people of Texas, and that they help in any way they can.

For those who have already helped I thank you. Thank you very much (Muchisimas gracias).

REMEMERING APOSTLE FREDERICK K.C. PRICE

**HON. MAXINE WATERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2021*

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Apostle Frederick K.C. Price of Los Angeles, California, who died on February 12, 2021 at the age of 89.

Apostle Frederick K.C. Price is the founder of Crenshaw Christian Center (CCC) in Los Angeles, California. He began CCC in 1973 and shepherded it into a ministry of world renown, with services held in the 10,000-seat FaithDome.

In 1978, Apostle Price received instruction from God to begin a television broadcast and, as a result, Ever Increasing Faith Ministries (EIFM) began broadcasting in five major television markets. Thus, the television broadcast soon after became global.

EIFM can be viewed on many television stations in all 50 states and in many foreign countries. Apostle Price is also heard on numerous radio programs and 19 Internet broadcast stations. Additionally, he can be seen on most social media platforms, including

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Pinterest, and others. In 1990, Apostle Price founded the Fellowship of Inner-City Word of Faith Ministries (FICWFM), which later became the Fellowship of International Christian Word of Faith Ministries before disbanding in 2017. And in 2001, he established an East Coast church, Crenshaw Christian Center East.

A visionary and prolific author, Apostle Price is the author of some 50 books on faith, healing, prosperity, and the Holy Spirit. How Faith Works is a classic on the operation of faith and its life-changing principles.

Although he had already operated in the fivefold ministry gift of apostle, in 2008 Apostle Price was publicly affirmed as an apostle of faith. Under the mantle of the teaching gift, Apostle Price established several schools for ministry and formal education at CCC. Among them are Frederick K.C. Price III Christian Schools (preschool to 12th grade); the Ministry Training Institute in 1985; a CCC Correspondence School; the Frederick K.C. Price School of the Bible; and in 2008, the Apostle Price Ministry Training Center. Over the years, Apostle Price has received many prestigious awards, most notably the Horatio Alger Award and the Kelly Miller Smith Interfaith Award.

A year after his affirmation and after more than 35 years of service, Apostle Price stepped aside as pastor to formally install his son, Frederick K. Price Jr., as his successor. For years he served as the presiding prelate of both CCC West and CCC East and as the chairman of CCC's board of directors.

A devout husband and proud father, Apostle Price is survived by his wife of 67 years, Dr. Betty Price, four children, ten grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

I am proud to call myself a friend of the Price family, and I extend my deepest condolences to them and to the countless lives touched by the life and work of Apostle Frederick K.C. Price.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 2, 2021*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, the precious right to vote in free and fair elections at all levels in the United States will be seriously jeopardized if H.R. 1 becomes law.

Under an egregiously false facade of reform, the legislation consolidates and conveys new sweeping powers to regulate elections to bureaucrats in the federal government and nullifies existing state laws requiring valid identification before either registering to vote or casting a ballot.

More than two-thirds of states currently rely on voter ID laws to protect the sanctity of the vote. Weakening—even prohibiting—certain safeguards against fraud will make our elections less secure, more vulnerable to fraudulent activity, and will undermine participation in our democracy.

Other safeguards designed to mitigate voter fraud are also abolished, including bans on ballot harvesting.

All states will be required to enable the practice of same day registration and voting