

“Never forget her please, never forget her.”

We can never repay that debt except to honor her memory, keep her sacrifice always in mind, and to draw inspiration from her dedication and devotion to God and country—to all those who sacrificed everything “to proclaim liberty throughout all the land and unto all the inhabitants thereof.”

MI CASA RESOURCE CENTER

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

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the accomplishments of Mi Casa Resource Center, now in their 45th year of service. Mi Casa was founded in 1976 by a group of eight Latina mothers who dreamed of a better world for themselves and their families. They wanted a safe space to develop skills for employment and education and expanded Mi Casa to include business development—delivering training for low-income entrepreneurs who just needed an opportunity.

Today, Mi Casa is a pillar for women, Latinos, or anyone looking for business or career support in the Denver metro area.

In the midst of the devastating pandemic, Mi Casa launched 45 new businesses, supported 45 Coloradans pivot to new careers, and reached more than 1,800 people overall. The transformational impact of Mi Casa on our community cannot be understated. I commend them for their remarkable work, and I congratulate Mi Casa Resource Center on their 45th anniversary.

COMMUNITY CHURCHES

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the efforts of several churches in my district that worked tirelessly to provide relief, support, and resources to their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. They hosted food banks for those in need, provided financial help to those struggling to make ends meet, and sought out opportunities to support the social, spiritual, and emotional needs of members.

Our community is better because of them, and I recognize the volunteers who sacrificed their time, energy, and own well-being to provide relief to those who needed a lifeline extended to them. In a time of fear, they built a network of hope.

I thank the staff, volunteers, and members of Mosaic Church, Friendship Church, Word in Action Church, City of God Church, Confluence Ministries, Orchard Church, Northern Hills Church, Colorado Multiethnic Coalition, Renewal Christian Center, and Hard Rock Church.

The impact of this outreach in our communities is profound. I commend all involved for their ongoing effort to ensure that no one gets left behind.

CELEBRATING DOUGLAS COUNTY

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Douglas County in

Colorado's Sixth District for being named the second healthiest county in the United States by the U.S. News & World Report.

With all due respect to the rest of my colleagues, there is no State like Colorado. We are home to 300 days of sunshine, the Rocky Mountains, world-class outdoor recreation, and exceptional small businesses.

In a year defined by a devastating public health crisis, our State added another accomplishment: community health.

With six of America's top 257 healthiest communities in Colorado, Douglas County ranks second. Home to countless walking trails, community-building events, and innovative infrastructure solutions, Douglas County is a great place to live.

So come out to see what it is all about. I invite my colleagues to visit Douglas County and the rest of my incredible district to see for themselves what makes the Centennial State one of a kind.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF VITA LANTZ BROWN

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the career of Vita Lantz Brown. In Arapahoe County, the saying goes: If you want something done, ask Vita. And, if Vita asks you to do something, you just can't say no.

A force for change in our community, Vita's faith drives her devotion to good government and diverse leadership. Vita is civic-minded and is committed to ensuring elected officials at every level are working to better the community.

She devotes her time and energy to many organizations, including Moms Demand Action, the Aurora NAACP, and countless others. As a servant leader, she also supports her community by providing free babysitting, tutoring for children, volunteering at a local school, feeding the homeless, and serving as deaconess at Macedonia Baptist Church.

Vita's life work is inspired by 2 Timothy 4:7:

I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness.

I thank Vita for her exemplary leadership, expertise, and commitment to our community.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF AURORA NAACP

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the 30th anniversary of Aurora, Colorado's NAACP branch.

In 1991 Dr. Barbara Shannon-Bannister founded the Aurora branch as an important step in a long career devoted to civil rights. She built upon the legacy of her father's work in her hometown of New Orleans and later moved to Wyoming where she helped form the NAACP Wyoming chapter.

She recognized a need in Aurora. Though Aurora was one of Colorado's fastest growing cities, it lacked essential advocacy on civil rights issues.

Dr. Shannon-Bannister addressed this gap by creating the Aurora branch of the NAACP.

I extend my gratitude to Dr. Shannon-Bannister, current president Omar Montgomery, and all who have dedicated their time and expertise to the Aurora NAACP over the last 30 years. I thank them for their commitment to the residents of my district and for continually working toward this crucial mission.

SERGEANT GEE COMMEMORATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great remorse. Two weeks ago, U.S. Sergeant Nicole Gee, a marine from Roseville, California, was tragically killed in action during the August 26 bombing at the Kabul International Airport in Afghanistan.

As a physician of 30 years, I have written hundreds of letters to families whose loved ones have passed away. The letters that I wrote to Sergeant Gee's family were amongst the hardest I have ever written. She gave her life in service and sacrifice to our Nation alongside 12 other marines and beloved U.S. servicemembers, all of whom we remember fondly with admiration, appreciation, and a deep and humble respect.

Just a few days prior, Sergeant Gee commented upon her life as a marine, and she said: “I love my job.”

Prior to her mission in Afghanistan, Sergeant Gee had been a maintenance technician assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 24 of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Her unit was based out of the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, in my district.

I know I can speak for everyone in eastern North Carolina and the Camp Lejeune community in offering our most sincere condolences to Sergeant Gee's husband, fellow marine Jarod Gee, as well as her family and loved ones during this extremely difficult time.

Sergeant Gee's bravery, empathy, patriotism, and unwavering commitment to others will never be forgotten. Her willingness to put herself in harm's way to protect her country and the cause of freedom is the most selfless act one can commit, and words are not enough to convey our district's sadness and our gratitude.

As a female marine, Sergeant Gee represented one of the fewer, one of the prouder. Women make up less than 10 percent of the Marine Corps, but these women carry the same flag, fight the same fight, and bleed the same red blood as their brothers on the battlefield.

Sergeant Nicole Gee's selflessness reminds us of the many sacrifices our women in uniform make for our country every day. We will never forget her

sacrifice or the sacrifices of her brothers and sisters in arms.

Importantly, she will always be remembered for her compassion and grace. Most Americans have seen this iconic photo of Sergeant Gee cradling and comforting an Afghan child at the Kabul Airport. This image is just a snapshot of her outstanding commitment to others as her loved ones and fellow marines remember Nicole as an outstanding person who always had a positive attitude and never failed to put a smile on everyone's face.

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Her dear friend, Marine Sergeant Mallory Harrison, recently took to social media to say: "I find peace knowing that she left this world doing what she loved. She was a marine's marine. She cared about people. She loved fiercely, and she was a light in this very dark world."

One infantry marine who served in Afghanistan with her, Rowdy Woods, wrote: "Nicole loved what she was doing out here and she knew the risks. She did it anyway because she is and forever will be one badass marine."

For 2 weeks, residents and visitors in Onslow County have been paying their respects to Sergeant Gee and her 12 fallen comrades outside of Camp Lejeune.

Thank you to all the military families and other community members for adorning the gates of Camp Lejeune with flowers, meaningful signs, and combat boots.

The outpouring of love and support that I have seen in the Third District is a true testament to the epic legacy that Sergeant Gee and all of our other lost U.S. servicemen now leave behind.

It is an honor to represent the marines in my district. They represent the very best amongst our steadfast patriots, risking everything to preserve life and liberty for our great Nation. Their commitment is unmatched.

I, again, extend my sincere condolences to Sergeant Gee's family, her friends, her fellow marines, and others who were touched by her wonderful life and valiant service. There is a true void in her absence. Sergeant Gee will be missed, but her sacrifice will never be forgotten.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise, as a liberated Democrat, unbought, unbossed, in the spirit of Shirley Chisholm. And I rise, not as a part-time freedom fighter, but a full-time freedom fighter. I don't do it just because it is convenient, just because it is the issue du jour. I do it because I was born into the struggle. I didn't enlist at a later time in life.

As a full-time freedom fighter, I rise today, Madam Speaker, because Black lives still matter; and they matter,

Madam Speaker, wherever they happen to be. They matter, not because they happen to be in the United States. They matter if they are in Haiti. Black lives matter.

I have been to Haiti. I have seen the conditions there. We need to do something about our friends in this hemisphere. And if they matter in Haiti to me, surely they matter at the southern border.

Black lives matter wherever they are. Black lives matter regardless as to who is in power. They still matter. Changes in the power structure don't change the circumstances. And as long as the circumstances exist, Black lives still matter.

And as a 74-year old Black man, when I see men in uniforms, acting under the color of law, on horses, using the reins of the horses to do what was comparable to that which was done when you were trying to capture a runaway slave, or you were herding slaves in a given direction, Black lives matter. When I see that, I find it more than appalling. It is sinful. It is something that we cannot tolerate.

And you just can't say, well, the circumstances are so bad that we have to use horses now to run down Black people. Black lives matter. That kind of behavior is intolerable. And when I see it, I am going to speak up and speak out.

So here is what I am going to do about it. I am not just going to say Black lives matter. I want justice for the Haitians.

I remember when we had a policy to help the Cubans come into this country. By the way, I never opposed it. But the policy was wet foot, dry foot. You get one foot on dry land, your other foot could be in the Gulf of Mexico, and you had the right to take that other foot out of water, go on into Miami and start a life in this country and eventually become a citizen. I never opposed that policy. We didn't have a similar policy for the Haitians.

And I remember when Castro opened up the jails and let the criminals come down to Florida, we didn't send them back.

Black lives matter. It is not just a slogan for me. So here is what I am going to do. I am going to draft a resolution condemning what we saw.

We need to know whether Black lives matter to this Congress. We need to know. I am going to draft a resolution.

And for those who don't understand the rules, these kinds of resolutions are not privileged, so I can't just bring it to the floor and demand a vote. So I am going to ask that it be allowed to come to the floor because Black lives matter.

And we need to vote. We need to know where people stand on the great issues of our time. This is an issue of all time; it is not just today. We need to know where people stand. We need to vote.

There are a lot of things that we need to vote on. We need to know where peo-

ple stand when it comes to Black lives, and all lives, I might add, but this is the Haitian issue that we are dealing with now.

I have fought for the other persons who have come to the border. I spoke up when little girls were being ripped away from their mothers' arms, so I am not new to this fight.

And I want to assure you that I am going to bring the resolution to my colleagues, and we will find out whether Black lives matter to this Congress.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF RUTHIE KINDNESS' DISAPPEARANCE

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a citizen of the great State of Washington, to share her story and to, once again, urge my colleagues to make it a priority for this Congress to end the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women.

Ruthie Kindness, a native woman of the city of Parkland, turned 31 just last month. Unfortunately, for her family and her loved ones, they spent her birthday just as they have over the last 10 years, without Ruthie, with no idea where she is, or even if she is alive.

Ruthie disappeared on February 7, 2011. For over a decade, her family has gone without answers, and little progress has been made in the investigation.

Ruthie's story is unacceptably commonplace for our tribal communities. She is one of nearly 6,000 women, Madam Speaker, that we know of who have been a victim of this crisis.

Native American and Alaska Native women face a murder rate that is 10 times higher than the national average. Many of their cases go unresolved for years or even decades, as with Ruthie's case.

We made critically important strides in addressing the crisis when President Trump signed Savannah's Act and the Not Invisible Act into law just last year. But Ruthie and the thousands of women whose cases remain unresolved underscore that our work here is not yet finished.

The life of Ruthie Kindness matters. Her family's grief matters. The hole left in her community by her disappearance, that matters. Finding answers for them, delivering justice for Ruthie, and ending this threat for indigenous women once and for all, that matters.

I call on each and every Member of this body to join me in renewing our commitment to our Native communities, and to delivering a lasting solution to protect these women from the disproportionate rates of violence that they suffer.

If anyone has any information about Ruthie's disappearance, please call the