

Deutch (Rice (NY))	Kirkpatrick (Stanton)	Neguse (Perlmutter)
Dingell (Kuster)	Langevin (Lynch)	Payne (Pallone)
Frankel, Lois (Clark (MA))	Lawson (FL)	Pingree (Kuster)
Gaetz (Franklin, C. Scott)	(Evans)	Porter (Wexton)
Gonzalez, Vincente (Gomez)	Lieu (Beyer)	Royal-Allard (Bass)
Gosar (Wagner)	Lofgren (Jeffries)	Ruiz (Aguilar)
Grijalva (Garcia (IL))	Lowenthal (Beyer)	Rush (Underwood)
Hastings (Cleaver)	Meng (Clark (MA))	Stevens (Wexton)
Huffman (Thompson (CA))	Moore (WI)	Vargas (Correa)
	(Beyer)	Wasserman (Soto)
	Moulton (Trahan)	Schultz (Coleman (Pallone))
	Napolitano (Correa)	Watson Coleman (Wilson (FL) (Hayes))

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE LOSSES CAUSED BY COVID-19

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, just a few minutes ago, Members stood on the steps of the United States Congress, reminiscent of the unity of this Nation and the words of our Pledge of Allegiance that we stand united.

I rise to offer words of condolence and remembrance for the 500,000 lives taken by COVID-19. The Nation, over the last 12 months, has faced a crucible of suffering, death, and disease that has taken lives, devastated the economy, and put millions at risk of greater hardship due to the death of a loved one, unemployment, loss of healthcare or forgone education opportunities.

I continue to remember the little 4-year-old boy in Texas who lost both of his parents; or those who continue to mourn losing a mom, dad, husband, wife, children, yes, and siblings.

Yesterday, as the news broke that this Nation has lost 500,000—more than World War I, World War II, the Korean war, and the Vietnam war—my heart was heavy, and this loss is a sad mark.

So I come today to this floor to say to those who have lost: You will never be forgotten.

To those who remain: Your loved one will never be forgotten. Their lives will not be in vain. Their deaths will not be in vain.

And though these are staggering proportions, our commitment as the United States Congress should be to ensure this moment.

Madam Speaker, I end by a quiet moment of silence at this moment.

Madam Speaker, I rise to offer words of condolence and remembrance for the five hundred thousand lives taken by COVID-19.

The Nation over the last twelve months has faced a crucible of suffering, death, and disease that has taken too many lives, devastated the economy and put millions at risk of greater hardship due to the death of a loved one, unemployment, loss of health care or forgone education opportunities.

Yesterday, as news broke that the Nation had reached the milestone of losing five hundred thousand people to COVID-19, I was at the dedication of a Community Vaccination Center at the NRG Stadium located in Houston Texas.

Today, with a heavy heart our nation sadly marks the loss of 500,000 American lives to

the coronavirus: an unimaginable human toll in our modern era of medical and technological advances.

These deaths are of staggering proportions and cause incomprehensible sadness, but we cannot think of them as the end of COVID-19. As we have learned COVID-19 can surge again claiming even more lives.

This is why we cannot be complacent by accepting so much death without continuing to fight to save lives and end this pandemic.

Every life lost is a profound tragedy and earth-shattering moment in the lives of families, neighborhoods, and communities that touch each of us in countless ways as we mourn and console our family members, co-workers, neighbors and friends.

Today, I joined my colleagues of the House to observe a moment of silence on the steps of the Capitol for the 500,000 lives lost.

Members of Congress will join tens of millions of Americans in prayer for the lives lost or devastated by this vicious virus.

As we pray, we must commit ourselves to honoring those we have lost by wearing face coverings, observing social distance, washing of hands—and most important getting the vaccine when it is our time to do so as a pledge to all who have been taken from us far too soon that we will act swiftly to put an end to this pandemic and to stem the suffering felt by so many.

My commitment is to save lives and also livelihoods through public and personal action.

As Texans work to overcome the tragic winter disaster that befell the state last week, I wrote to President Biden asking that he grant the state's request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration, which he did and today FEMA is on the ground providing water delivery, food distribution, and other vital services to help Texans get back on their feet.

I also encourage those who have lost health insurance during the economic crisis created by the COVID-19 pandemic to take advantage of the extended enrollment period for getting health insurance through [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov), which is open until May 15, 2021.

Currently, 36 states are using [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov). Since President Biden announced the creation of the Special Enrollment Period for [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov), all 14 states and D.C. that have their own state-based marketplaces have announced that they would also have Special Enrollment Periods.

President Biden has extended a lifeline to struggling small businesses, to save American jobs and power the American economy, while promoting equity and fairness across Main Street.

The reforms he had made will expand access to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to the hardest-hit businesses that anchor our low and middle-income and communities of color.

Importantly, they will ensure that sole proprietors, which are overwhelmingly women and minorities, and which also serve our immigrant communities, are not left behind.

My unwavering support of these Biden Administration reforms will also build on recent PPP successes that increase assistance to businesses with ten or fewer employees in underserved and rural areas.

They also build on the work of increasing assistance through community-based lenders that specialize in serving those markets.

As President Biden advances these actions, I can say with pride that I participated in the

Budget Committee's Markup of the American Rescue Plan intended to end COVID-19 pandemic and save the nation's economy.

Real Help is on the way. We will win this battle against COVID and save the economy by working together.

I conclude with these words "Precious Lord take my hand" and lead me on. We will together win the battle.

PENN STATE THON

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give a big thank-you to Penn State students for their commitment to an incredible cause.

Each year, students spend countless hours raising awareness and money in the fight against pediatric cancer. Every February, these efforts culminate in a 46-hour dance marathon known as THON.

THON provides financial and emotional support to thousands of families across the Commonwealth who have a child battling pediatric cancer.

THON is normally a celebration of thousands in the Bryce Jordan Center on campus—an opportunity for children with cancer to focus on simply being a kid even just for the weekend.

Sadly, the pandemic forced this proud tradition online this year. However, despite a global pandemic, students still managed to raise \$10.6 million this year.

Since 1973, Penn State students have raised more than \$180 million. Those figures, combined with nearly 17,000 student volunteers, makes Penn State THON the largest student-run philanthropic effort in the world.

I am proud of the Penn State students who are so committed to this cause, and I am even more proud of the children and families who keep fighting.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: HONORING COBB COUNTY SHERIFF CRAIG OWENS

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

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month, I rise today in honor of a trailblazer in Black history, Cobb County Sheriff Craig Owens.

This past November, Sheriff Owens made history as the first African American to be elected sheriff in Cobb County, in my district.

Born and raised in Atlanta, Sheriff Owens has served over 30 years in the Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, and Cobb County Police Department. His career in law enforcement utilizes the leadership skills that he gained from his experience serving in our Armed Forces.

Sheriff Owens leads by putting people first, and I am so proud of the work he is doing to unite Cobb County and instill faith and trust in its police department. As one of his constituents and as a partner in service to Cobb County, it is my honor and privilege to recognize Sheriff Owens today.

REMEMBERING TOM SEIPEL, JR.

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Tom Seipel, Jr., who passed away on February 13.

Tom had a heart for enriching the lives of countless children, and it shined in all he did.

After graduating from Ohio State University, he moved to Seoul, South Korea, to teach English to kindergartners. Tom then returned to the U.S. to serve as a children's minister in Kentucky for several years.

He later selflessly moved to Nicaragua, where he opened and operated a children's ministry to provide meals and afterschool tutoring for the poor children of Managua. While there, Tom also taught at Nicaragua Christian Academy.

In his final years before losing his hard-fought battle with cancer, he received treatment in Savannah, Georgia.

Tom's legacy will surely live on for many years to come, and I am thankful for the positive impact he made on countless lives. My thoughts and prayers go out to all who knew and loved him, especially the love of his life, Margarita, and their daughter, Mia Isabella.

RECOGNIZING MACOMB AND OAKLAND COUNTY STUDENTS

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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Macomb and Oakland County students who participated in my inaugural Ninth District MLK Jr. Day Youth Conference. These students brought their whole brilliant, vulnerable, and idealistic selves to the table to zero in on what Dr. King's life is really about: transforming society to be more just.

COVID-19 has exposed deep inequalities in every facet of life, especially for Black Americans, who are nearly two times as likely as White Americans to die of COVID-19. Imagine what we could do to end these disparities if we honor Dr. King by emulating his work.

Having watched these students sponge up lessons on the true premise of MLK Day—achieving social justice—and make plans to fight for change in their own lives and communities, I am

energized and hopeful that we can boldly champion justice and equality in Congress. I can think of no better way of marking Black History Month than that.

RECOGNIZING PARRY McCLUER HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Parry McCluer High School boys' basketball team that won the Virginia Class 1 State championship this weekend.

After trailing by 8 in the first quarter to Altavista, the Fighting Blues lived up to their name and battled back—leading by 2 at halftime. In the locker room, Coach Cartolaro told his team to go out and attack in the third quarter. And attack they did. Quickly outscoring 10-2, the Blues opened up their lead and never looked back. When the final buzzer sounded, Parry McCluer had pulled off a 17-point victory, securing the school's best-ever boys' basketball championship and closing the season with an impressive 12-1 record.

I applaud Coach Cartolaro and the entire team for their fortitude and perseverance these past few months. They overcame every obstacle presented to them and brought home the trophy to Buena Vista.

Congratulations to the Blues. This achievement is well-deserved and their community is proud of their hard work.

EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW

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

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Equality Act.

For far too long our Nation has failed to read and live up to the words that adorn the front of the United States Supreme Court: Equal Justice Under Law.

We now have a rare opportunity to explicitly push our Nation to live up to its founding ideals and make that phrase ring true for all Americans. No matter who you are or whom you love, under the Equality Act you will be guaranteed the exact same protections as everybody else.

LGBTQ individuals should not have to worry when they try to access a small business loan, seek healthcare, or buy a home.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to co-sponsor this historic civil rights legislation, and I look forward to casting my vote in support of its passage.

REMEMBERING RUSH LIMBAUGH

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight in sadness to acknowledge and commemorate the loss of an American icon, Rush Limbaugh, who, since 1985, extolled the virtues of conservatism on radio.

Starting in Sacramento, California, for the first 3 years, 1985 to 1988, he was within range of my tractor and my pickup out in the fields, where I was working at the time. He was really a breath of fresh air for radio, for a different type of talk and a different style.

I know he inspired millions around the country during his many years on radio. With his loss, he won't be replaced. He surely led the way for many others to take on that mantle, but nobody will do it quite like Rush Limbaugh. He did so well at it, and he touched so many that he was even recognized about 1 year ago right here in this Chamber by President Trump with the Medal of Freedom, one of the highest honors anybody can receive.

Mr. Limbaugh may be controversial to some, but he was always coming from truly a humble heart to try to get a message out to what America was about, his love for this country, and a love for its ideals.

So I know that many will miss him, and I am glad to be honored to help touch on his legacy here tonight.

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LIVING UP TO THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM AND EQUITY

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

Ms. NEWMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the millions of Americans who continue to be denied housing, education, public services, and much, much more because they identify as members of the LGBTQ community; Americans like my own daughter who, years ago, bravely came out to her parents as transgender.

I knew from that day on, my daughter would be living in a nation where, in most of it States, she could be discriminated against merely because of who she is. And yet, it was still the happiest day of my life, because my daughter has found her authentic self.

And as any mother would, I swore that I would fight to ensure this country changes for the better. Without the Equality Act, this Nation will never live up to its principles of freedom and equality. The right time to pass this act was decades ago. The second best time is right now.

I am voting yes on the Equality Act for Evie Newman, my daughter, and the strongest, bravest person I know.