

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, rural communities are the heartbeat of America. These are hardworking, God-fearing people, and they deserve access to basic healthcare. And quite frankly, if our Nation is going to reap the blessings of our food supply and food security and our fuel supply and energy independence, we have to work together to make sure that we have that critical access to care, which means sustainable rural communities and a robust supply of ag and energy.

Now, in 1969 in the wisdom of the Texas legislature, they created the Texas Tech University Medical School that became the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. And the mission was not only to train up the next generation of healthcare professionals and develop the next generation of healthcare innovations, it was to plug a gaping hole in rural communities by providing excellent healthcare services to these good people.

The Health Sciences Center has become Texas' center for innovation in telehealth practices.

The Health Sciences Center has pioneered telehealth and paved the way for over 100,000 rural west Texans to access vital healthcare services.

By understanding the needs of rural patients who are at increased risk for physician shortages and have a higher mortality rate than their urban counterparts, the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center was able to provide a blueprint for telehealth best practices that have been essential to our country over the past 2 years.

In addition to protecting patients' physical health, the Health Sciences Center has developed Telepsych, which connects patients, including children, who are having serious mental health issues, to a licensed professional. And unfortunately, with school closures as a result of the pandemic—and I would say later as a result of union-controlled schools—this has become a much-needed and much more popular service.

Thank you, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center for being a beacon of hope for the health and future of our country and especially rural America.

God bless, and go west Texas.

WISHING ELVIN N. HOWELL A HAPPY 108TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and wish Elvin Howell a happy 108th birthday.

Mr. Howell grew up in Snyder, Texas, before hitchhiking to Abilene, Texas, to attend Hardin-Simmons University, where he played football and ran track.

After graduating from HSU, Howell moved to Kermit, Texas, with his wife, Rena.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor during World War II, Mr. Howell heroically enlisted in the United States Navy and served as a commander on a merchant marine ship guarding the United States from a foreign invasion.

Mr. Howell returned to west Texas after the war to raise his family and

educate the next generation of west Texans as a teacher in Tulia, Texas.

Mr. Howell credits his impressive longevity to spending time outdoors, as when he celebrated his 103rd birthday ziplining in the Palo Duro Canyon. What a man.

Elvin Howell has lived a full life of service to his family, community, and his country. He is one of the 20 oldest living veterans in the United States. Elvin is an inspiring coach, a caring educator, and a true west Texan.

Elvin was married to his late wife, Rena, for 60 years. They have two sons, John and Fred, and three grandchildren.

On behalf of my colleagues in this great Chamber, we want to wish Mr. Howell a happy 108th birthday and many more to come.

God bless, and go west Texas.

#### CONGRESS MUST DO MORE TO ENSURE AMERICANS HAVE SAFE DRINKING WATER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, for far too long, countless people across our country have been forced to suffer the effects of lead-poisoned drinking water, especially low-income communities and communities of color. We need to fully fund lead pipe replacement in our country to protect our children and our neighbors.

We simply can't build back better if children are being poisoned.

Water contaminated by lead service lines can be found in every congressional district in our Nation and has proven to cause long-term effects like cancer, brain dysfunction, and more. There is no safe level of lead.

A recent water quality study done by the Environmental Working Group and recently published by the Detroit Metro Times shows that there is an overwhelming number of contaminants in our drinking water, not just lead and PFAS, and they are in every community across the State of Michigan. We need \$1.65 billion to remove those contaminated water pipes now.

I know experts say that we need close to 45 to \$60 billion to basically be able to provide safe drinking water across our Nation.

The U.S. EPA has historically failed to safeguard clean drinking water with regulations that are sorely out of date, but it doesn't have to be this way, Madam Speaker.

We must do more to ensure that we have accessible safe drinking water, and our communities cannot wait. The impact on our children's brain development alone is the reason to move with urgency.

This is why I am proud to have launched the bipartisan Get the Lead Out Caucus with Congressmembers DINGELL, MEIJER, and BLUNT ROCH-ESTER. We are going to provide a working group bringing us all together in this national crisis that we have.

Our children and our families deserve access to safe drinking water, and I look forward to my colleagues' partnership.

CELEBRATING HATTIE WHITE ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Hattie White, a long-term resident of southwest Detroit in Michigan's 13 District Strong on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Mother Hattie White was born on February 23 in 1922 in Alabama and later moved to the city of River Rouge, Michigan.

Hattie married the love of her life, Albert James White, in 1946. They were married for 52 years and raised their seven children in the River Rouge and southwest Detroit communities with love and instilling an ethic of responsibility and kindness toward others.

In 1967, Mother White and her husband started a community church, Love Joy Missionary Baptist Church in River Rouge, which cemented her role as a matriarch of our community.

Mother White shines bright in our community and has brought so much joy to her family, friends, and neighbors.

Please join me in wishing a happy 100th birthday to Mother Hattie White.

CELEBRATING PROJECT WE HOPE DREAM AND BELIEVE

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Project We Hope Dream and Believe from the 13th District Strong on their hard work on getting civil rights leader Malcolm X's home in Inkster, Michigan, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Malcolm X was born Malcolm Little in 1925 in Nebraska. During his childhood, his family relocated many times to communities in our Nation's midwest, including Inkster, Michigan, before moving to Boston and New York City in his teens.

The home on Williams Street where Malcolm X and his family resided from 1952 to 1953 sat neglected for decades until the leadership of local organization Project We Hope Dream and Believe worked to preserve this historic site.

The house will be transformed into a museum that will focus on the life and significance of Malcolm X, his advocacy, and as a youth learning center.

Thank you to the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for their help in preserving our district's Black history and Malcolm X's legacy and impact on our communities.

Please join me in congratulating Project We Hope Dream and Believe on their incredible accomplishment and their hard work in preserving our history.

#### TRIBUTE TO MELISSA MURPHY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Melissa Murphy, my chief of staff, who recently moved on to a great opportunity working for Duke Energy of South Carolina.

After a decade and a half of service here in our Nation's capital, Melissa decided it was time to leave her work here in the U.S. House and head back home. Melissa started her career on Capitol Hill working for her home State of South Carolina in Congressman JOE WILSON's office. There, she worked her way up to deputy chief of staff before joining my team when I was elected to Congress in 2014. As my first hire and chief of staff, she helped me assemble an outstanding team, and she helped me build a culture for an office that has accomplished much.

Melissa has always been a trusted advisor and a great friend to many. Throughout her career on Capitol Hill, she served as a mentor and friend to many staffers far beyond my office. She is always there for her colleagues or anyone else searching for advice or assistance.

As every Member of Congress knows, nothing would get done in this place without the dedicated service of our staff who are always working behind the scenes. Melissa's advice, experience, and hard work have all played a large role in helping me to represent the 7th Congressional District in North Carolina to the very best of my ability.

I congratulate and thank Melissa for her many years of congressional service and for leading our team during my first three-and-a-half terms. May God always bless her path.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO GARRET AUGUSTUS MORGAN, BESSIE COLEMAN, ARCOLA PHILPOTT, AND BENJAMIN BANNEKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, in the past several months, Democrats have advanced the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, along with, most recently, the COMPETES Act, which will increase American innovation, start making more critical products in America, and turbocharge American scientific and technological leadership.

With those bills in mind, I thought it was particularly important during Black History Month to pay special tribute to four bold, brilliant, and Black minds who have contributed in various ways through their inventions to innovation and to infrastructure in America.

First, let's meet the "Father of Transportation Technology," better known as Garret Augustus Morgan. Born in Paris, Kentucky, and later moved to Ohio, Morgan was a Black American inventor. Witnessing a fatal

car crash was essentially the catalyst in Morgan's invention of the three-position traffic signal, which is the predecessor to the modern-day traffic light. Though the stop-and-go signals had already existed, Morgan advanced the invention to include a third position that stopped traffic in both directions and allowed pedestrians to safely cross the road. Talented as he was, Morgan's other inventions included a version of the gas mask, grooming products, sewing machines, and much more.

Madam Speaker, a second inspiration was a Black American, better known as "Brave Bessie," and to others as "Queen Bess." The sky was anything but the limit to this Texas native, Bessie Coleman. Fueled by rejections and constant noes, Coleman's determination and diligence allowed her to soar as she was accepted into the Caudron Brothers' School of Aviation in France, and earned her international pilot's license on June 15, 1921.

Becoming the first African-American woman pilot in 1922, Coleman was best known for performing tricks in the air in both the United States and Europe. She passionately encouraged other women to learn to fly, both figuratively and literally, by touring the country, giving lectures, teaching flight lessons, and performing flight exhibitions.

A real go-getter was Arcola Philpott, who earned her place in transportation history in 1944 when the Los Angeles Railway hired Philpott to be the first Black woman streetcar operator. Philpott opened the door for both women and African Americans to operate streetcars in Los Angeles. Just weeks after hiring her, Los Angeles Railway hired its first Black motorman. Philpott's time as the first Black and streetcar operator represents just a small portion of the impact she had.

Originally from Chicago, she graduated from Loyola University with a degree in social science and performed welfare work prior to moving to Los Angeles. When she returned to Chicago, she worked as a nurse and a researcher at the University of Chicago's history department.

And finally, Benjamin Banneker, the Black architect who helped design the capital city. Banneker was hired by the first President, George Washington, and came highly recommended by Thomas Jefferson. He designed the layout of Washington, D.C.'s, streets, parks, major buildings in two days. Known for many well-deserved accomplishments and contributions through his lifetime, he later became a reputable architect, mathematician, engineer, and even an astronomer.

Black people should be proud of their heritage, and all Americans should celebrate the achievements of Black Americans. Infrastructure within the United States would look incredibly different without the inventions, achievements, and innovations of these Black minds. It is important to document and share stories of lesser-known

historical figures who also contributed their greatest efforts. Happy Black History Month.

#### U.S. PARK POLICE MODERNIZATION ACT

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

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor our brave law enforcement officers at the United States Park Police. From every major protest to every parade that occurs on the National Mall, our Park Police officers answer the call to keep our constituents safe when they are visiting here in the Nation's capital.

However, due to an increase in the number of demonstrations and the fact that they are extremely understaffed, one of our Nation's oldest uniformed Federal law enforcement agencies is now stretched extremely thin.

As of March 1, 2021, there were fewer than 500 Park Police officers. That is significantly lower than the minimum requirement they have of 639 officers. This is alarming, and obviously, among other concerns, this leaves the Nation's most historic landmarks extremely vulnerable. And that is why today, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3924, the U.S. Park Police Modernization Act.

And what is the problem? Why are they facing the issues that they are facing? Well, the bottom line, for whatever reason, is because the pay and benefits are much lower for the Park Police than for other Federal law enforcement agencies. And the big question is why is that the case? That is an outstanding question. Why?

There is no real good reason. And it is for that reason that we, here in Congress, need to immediately improve the Park Police's pay and benefits and to put that agency on equal footing with other similar departments. To do so would incentivize officers to both join the Park Police, but even more importantly, to stay. Both of those issues are huge concerns right now. That is how we will ensure that Washington, D.C., the place where each of us work, the place where our staff works, and obviously, where many of our constituents come to visit, remain safe for years to come.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3924. Let's put our U.S. Park Police on equal footing with other law enforcement agencies in this area so that they can do the job that we all depend upon them to do.

#### GUN VIOLENCE IS RUNNING RAMPANT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I rise today because my district is hurting. Washington Heights-Inwood is