

there are efforts across the length and breadth of the country to distort history and, in many instances, not to allow it to be taught.

Can you imagine Black history not being taught in this country? That would make Black History Month more important, but my hope is that at some point we don't need Black History Month because history will be taught every day and there won't be a need to accentuate the things that have happened to African Americans in this country. But the notion that we can't teach the true history of what happened to us in the United States of America and what happened to the people in the United States of America is offensive.

And it is not just about African Americans, by the way. It is also about Jewish people, not being able to teach what happened to Jewish people. Can you imagine more than six million people murdered, and we can't teach this in our schools? The number is not known truly. Huge number. And what happened to them? How were they killed? They weren't just murdered in concentration camps. Many of them were murdered in their homes, in their yards, in the ghettos. And that can't be taught?

If we can't teach Black history, we probably won't be able to teach the Trail of Tears and what happened to the indigenous Americans, how they were harmed by virtue of the State itself intentionally causing them to receive certain diseases. We won't be able to teach what happened to the Asians who came to this country, internment camps.

Black History Month is very important to us. We have to have it, but more than have Black History Month, we have got to have the history of what has happened taught because those who don't learn the lessons of history are doomed to repeat the lessons of history.

And finally this: This House needs to go on record. We need to go on record. We need to take a stand. We need to let the world know that we will support the teaching of history in schools. To do anything less is to cause us to be placed in the position of having not lived up to the promises of this country. We should do it. I hope that this House will go on record appropriately doing so.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF CHRIS WALSH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chris Walsh, who tragically lost his long fight against cancer on January 24, 2022. Chris was a dear friend to all, a devoted husband, a father to two beautiful young girls, a Cal State Fullerton graduate, and hardworking public servant who served the 74th Assembly District of Cali-

fornia in Assemblyman Matt Harper's office, the city of Irvine in Councilman Mike Carroll's office, and most recently California's 39th District in my Placentia district office.

While we remain heartbroken that he was taken from us way too soon, all of us who had the pleasure of knowing him remain inspired by his courage, persistence, and integrity in the face of the worst adversity.

I first met Chris when he was a young, impressive, and ambitious young man interning at the office of Congressman Ed Royce, who I was working for at the time. At the age of 25, he found out that he was diagnosed with a terminal cancer and was told by doctors that perhaps he would maybe have only 2 months to live.

This is daunting news for anyone to hear. However, instead of letting this change the course of his life, he took charge and defied the odds over the next several years, having a productive career, meeting his beautiful wife, Amanda, and having two girls.

Chris was gracious to everyone and lit up every room with his kindness, sense of humor, and charisma. He was always willing to pitch in and help out our team, his friends, and loved ones. He made all of us work harder and brought out the best versions of each of us every day. Without Chris, I would not be here in Congress nor would I be the person that I am today.

Chris would often spend his evenings after work cheering on our Anaheim Angels, and I am comforted in knowing that his loved ones, including his wife, Amanda, and daughters, Amelia and Madeline, will have their guardian angel watching over and protecting them.

Amanda, you know that Chris loved you with all his heart, mind, and soul until he took his last breath. You were the light of his life, and he enjoyed talking about you and your beautiful two girls that you created together. You were his everything, and I want to thank you for loving him the way you did, giving him unconditional love.

Crystal and Mike, as a parent and mom, I feel your pain and the sadness of losing a son. And to Katherine, I am sorry that you lost the only sibling that you had. I want you to know that Chris was not just someone who worked for me. I, too, loved him like my own son.

Crystal, I remember you telling me that minutes after Chris passed how you were holding his hand and praying to God to show you some signs that he would be fine, and you thought you saw Chris smile. Yes, I believe that was a true sign that Chris was smiling because he has arrived at the gate of Heaven, and he is now resting comfortably in the arms of Jesus.

My heart remains with the Walsh family, friends, and relatives as we continue to mourn a life that was taken from us too soon. We are grateful for the positive influence that Chris had on so many of us while he lived a full and productive life.

SUPPORTING AMERICA'S SMALLER BUSINESSES

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

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we consider legislation to strengthen supply chains and to stand up for our small businesses. For years, we have been too reliant on goods made in other countries.

The pandemic has exacerbated and exposed that reality. We have seen shortages from personal protective equipment to ventilators and semiconductor chips. Those supply chain weaknesses continue to contribute to rising prices and inflation.

We should be making more in America. We have many small businesses in Kansas and across the country that are willing and able to step up to the plate.

As we take up the America COMPETES Act this week, legislation drafted with both parties and aimed at creating jobs, addressing inflation, and strengthening American manufacturing, it is absolutely essential that we include small and medium manufacturers in our consideration.

In my district, the Kansas Third, we have businesses who pivoted their entire production lines to fill gaps in our medical supply chains, helping protect frontline healthcare workers amid significant shortages in personal protective equipment early in the pandemic. At that time, nurses and hospital staff were having to reuse masks and gowns, putting themselves at incredible risk.

We were slowed by our reliance on foreign-made supplies, and here we had small businesses that were ready to help if we had just given them a chance.

The America COMPETES Act includes a program to build a stable and adaptable supply chain for our national stockpile, one that is flexible enough to react in emergency situations without completely breaking down, as it did before. As we work to build that flexibility, it would be a mistake to shut out the producers we have right here at home.

My amendment is going to ensure that when we are restocking and restructuring our strategic national stockpile that we are working with a range of businesses. It would require that smaller manufacturers get a seat at the table, not just big corporations, because I can tell you from experience that they stand ready to pitch in, ready to train and employ our workers. It is our job to ensure they get the chance to do just that.

The America COMPETES Act is a major opportunity to deal in our domestic industries and workers. It is an opportunity to address root causes of inflation and bring down our costs long term, one particularly important example being incentives for domestic semiconductor manufacturing. And it is an opportunity for us to invest in

our global standing, putting our workers, farmers, manufacturers, and businesses on a level playing field with countries like China and other nations.

I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment and to support small manufacturers.

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CHINA'S PANDA PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shed a very serious light on what appears to be a seemingly light-hearted subject.

As the world prepares for the Olympic Games, I rise to denounce the Chinese Communist Party and its worldwide panda propaganda campaign.

From the COVID-19 fiasco started in a lab in Wuhan to China's coverup, to the ongoing genocide against the Uyghurs and the repeated and increasingly hostile incursions by Chinese fighter jets over the island of Taiwan, including when a bipartisan delegation visited Taiwan just last November, this administration has decided to answer Chinese aggression with a diplomatic boycott of the Winter Olympic Games. I am sure Chairman Mao is trembling in his Tiananmen mausoleum at the thought of our diplomats staying home.

Well, two can play at this game.

Not many people know the Chinese Communist Party has leveraged the cuddly panda in an effort to soften their image around the world. Indeed, Bing Dwen Dwen, the panda dressed in an astronaut suit, is the official mascot of the Beijing Olympics. His costume is meant to demonstrate their embrace of the future and technology. Or perhaps it is a warm and fuzzy attempt to soften China's ambitions in space.

China claims all pandas the world over belong to China, and they charge zoos a half-million dollars per panda per year for the privilege of loaning these gentle creatures to us. Ultimately, every last panda must be returned to China, property of the Chinese Communist Government.

Every year, millions of Americans enjoy these pandas, not knowing the sinister plot behind their all-too-brief stay here. We should not fund China's panda propaganda campaign.

In the words of Sun Tzu: "Begin by seizing something which your opponent holds dear; then he will be amenable to your will." Let's get serious with our diplomacy and hit China where it hurts. Give freedom to the pandas and allow them to stay here in the United States.

HONORING ROBERT SMALLS

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, America has always been a place known for its citizens and its heroes who have gone

above and beyond. In honor of Black History Month, the State of South Carolina and the First Congressional District in South Carolina has one such hero, a citizen by the name of Robert Smalls. Robert Smalls is the epitome of a true South Carolina hero.

Robert Smalls was born a slave in Beaufort, South Carolina, in 1839. Robert Smalls faced countless afflictions in the early years of his life, but he never gave up. During the Civil War, he hijacked a Confederate ammunition ship and turned it over to the Union Navy, delivering its 17 African-American passengers from slavery to freedom.

Robert Smalls then became the first African American to pilot a U.S. vessel taking the helm of a Union warship in the first battle of Charleston Harbor in 1863.

At the war's conclusion, Robert Smalls received a commission as brigadier general in the South Carolina militia and eventually went on to serve the South Carolina State General Assembly and Senate.

But his tireless work for the people of South Carolina did not end there. Smalls would then go on to serve five terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, from 1874 to 1886, for South Carolina's First Congressional District, the district that I represent today.

So, on behalf of the Lowcountry and the people of the First District, I am deeply honored to offer a bill being considered today in committee that will designate the U.S. post office at 11 Robert Smalls Parkway in Beaufort, South Carolina, as the Robert Smalls Post Office.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER CELIZ

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bravery and heroism of Sergeant First Class Christopher Celiz, an Army Ranger and proud son of South Carolina who made the ultimate sacrifice for his Nation during his fifth deployment in Afghanistan.

Christopher was born in Charleston in 1986 and graduated from Summerville High School in 2004. After graduating, Christopher joined the United States Army, where he became a well-respected leader among his peers.

During a mission in the Paktia province of Afghanistan, Sergeant Celiz and the First Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment were taking heavy fire from enemy combatants. When one of his men was hit, Christopher used his own body to shield the wounded soldier as he was being evacuated.

Sergeant Celiz took heavy fire and was wounded multiple times during this moment, but instead of having the evacuation helicopter come back to retrieve him, he instructed the aircraft to leave so his fellow soldier and many other lives could be saved that day.

Christopher's sacrifice is an inspiration to us all. His heroic actions deserve the recognition of our Nation, and I want to thank President Biden for posthumously awarding Sergeant First Class Christopher Celiz with the

Medal of Honor. No one is more deserving.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION LEADS POSITIVE ECONOMIC RECOVERY

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the continued positive economic recovery led by the Biden administration.

In December, the Texas unemployment rate dropped all the way down to 5 percent compared to 12.9 percent at the height of the pandemic.

Service sector employment is now up above prepandemic levels, but a strong economy for the future is only possible with smart investment today. That is why the benefits the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will bring to my home State of Texas are critically vital. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is bringing jobs, opportunities, and a better quality of life for Texans.

For Texas, the infrastructure bill means more than \$35 billion in projects alone, and that is just our State. These projects include replacing old lead pipes from schools, increasing broadband access, road and bridge repairs, and the maintenance of ports. And all this means jobs, jobs, and more jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to outline some of the biggest provisions for Texans.

First, Texas is expected to receive \$537 million to repair 818 bridges across the State, many in my district. This is huge.

Next, Texas will get about \$1.2 billion for infrastructure development for airports. Airports are critical, not just for travelers, but because they are hubs for workers. And, of course, that means jobs.

And Texas will receive at least \$100 million to help provide broadband internet coverage across the State. These dollars will provide access to at least 1,058,000 Texans who currently lack high-speed internet. Mr. Speaker, every time I go back home to south Texas, I am one of those Texans at my sister's house. She has no high-speed internet.

As we have learned from the pandemic, internet is no longer a luxury; it is a necessity. So this funding is critical.

Mr. Speaker, \$2.9 billion is headed to Texas to improve water infrastructure. This will ensure that clean, safe drinking water is accessible in all communities, in their homes and their schools.

For decades, Texas infrastructure has suffered due to lack of investment. We have seen it plenty of times, especially from last year's electrical grid failure to the damage to pipelines, roads, and bridges due to regrettably more frequent natural disasters.

It is time for Texans to have working infrastructure that protects them, not hurts them.