

ports. Lynch took the helm of our Nation's busiest ports in Savannah and Brunswick, and in doing so, has faced some of the hardest challenges in his career.

With the breakout of COVID-19, the Savannah and Brunswick ports were hit hard. But it was Lynch's steady hand that steered them through these turbulent times. If you got your Christmas gifts on time this year, Griff Lynch probably had something to do with it.

He has overseen multiple expansion and enhancement projects in the area, allowing our ports to stay ahead of the increasing demand. And through Lynch's efforts, our ports have seen a 20 percent increase in volume, meaning nearly 900,000 additional containers are coming to the area. This means more jobs, innovation, and growth for Georgia's First District. His experience, guidance, and ability to push the envelope has made him an excellent leader for our ports and a perfect recipient of the Georgian of the Year Award.

HONORING DR. DUDLEY FLOOD

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

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and career of Dr. Dudley Flood, a recipient of North Carolina's highest civilian award, the North Carolina Award for Public Service, for his trailblazing leadership in desegregating our State's public schools.

Born in Winton, North Carolina, and a graduate of North Carolina's Central University, Dr. Flood began his career as an educator teaching grade school and eventually becoming a principal.

Following his teaching tenure, Dr. Flood joined the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, where he made a significant impact during his 21 years of dedicated service. In the years following the landmark 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, Dr. Flood and the late Gene Causby were tasked with facilitating the desegregation of schools in all 100 counties in North Carolina.

In 1969, Dr. Flood and Mr. Causby began to travel across the State to help desegregate North Carolina school systems. Beyond the assistance they provided in navigating this challenging process, it was the visual of these two men—one Black and one White—working closely together that made a powerful impression on teachers and students alike.

Through his honorable work, Dr. Flood became a State hero and North Carolina became a model for school desegregation. By working to ensure that North Carolina is a place where all students can learn, irrespective of race, Dr. Flood helped bring together starkly divided communities and effectively ushered in a new era for public education in our State.

Dr. Flood retired from public instruction in 1990. Since then, he has served as executive director of the North Carolina Association of School Administrators, taught as a visiting professor at multiple North Carolina colleges and universities, and continued to be active in his community, including with the Flood Group, a group of people who meet from across the State.

Now, 90 years old, Dr. Flood has led an incredible career as a champion for equitable education. Today, his achievements can be seen in schools statewide as children of all races are able to learn and play together and support each other's academic success.

As we begin celebrating Black History Month, I am honored to share his extraordinary legacy with this body. He enhanced the lives of hundreds of thousands North Carolinians through his example and his achievements. The people of our State are forever grateful for his remarkable life and lasting legacy.

AMERICA'S FUTURE DEPENDS ON AGRICULTURE

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about my heroes—America's farmers, ranchers, and agriculture producers. These people are my family, my friends, my neighbors, and my ancestors.

I came to this Congress to defend agriculture because the time I spent on the farm with my father, brother, and grandfather growing up taught me the most important lessons I have ever learned. Agriculture's core values are the same as America's—hard work, self-determination, responsibility, creativity, others before self, and prayer.

Therefore, if America is going to thrive, agriculture must thrive. Of all the hardworking, resilient people in our country, agriculture producers face more challenges and uncertainty than most of us can imagine as they strive to feed, fuel, and clothe our Nation every day.

A late winter snow in Washington, D.C., means a frustrating commute to work. In Kansas—where it is snowing right now—it means essential moisture for the soil, better hopes for the spring, profits that might let you buy the tractor you have been needing for 2 years now, and if there is some money left over, an extra birthday present for your daughter in July.

Kansas' own President Eisenhower said, "Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil and you are a thousand miles from the corn field." In Congress, we deal with the laws of our land, and that is important, but the farmers are the caretakers of the land itself. American farmers built our history, sustain our present, and secure our future.

In the early 1930s, America was suffering from food insecurity. That is

when Congress woke up, realized that above all other concerns, we need to eat to survive, and drafted the first ever farm bill.

Now, nearly 100 years later, America is the most food-secure country in the world because of the strength of our ag producers. So when Congress gets the opportunity to reauthorize the farm bill every 5 years, we need to think carefully and critically about the extent and nature of our investment in agriculture because it is an investment in both the immediate and the long-term health of our Nation.

Agriculture is also about freedom. It is extremely difficult for a Nation to be free if it relies on another for its food. Therefore, it is essential to America's future that we get ag policy right, so we never ever have to depend on another for our food or our freedom.

Over the next several months, as we gear up for the 2023 reauthorization of the farm bill, I will be standing to share some of my thoughts, ideas, and amendments on that legislation.

On behalf of my constituents and every American farmer, rancher, and ag producer, I want to say unequivocally that I will do everything within my power to ensure that the 2023 farm bill invests powerfully in agriculture. America's future depends on it.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, the 2020 election brought with it tremendous opportunities for the territories, particularly, after the devastation of unprecedented natural disasters in our global pandemic.

The American Rescue Plan of 2021 offered tremendous promise of full, robust recovery for our islands. Our island governments will now receive full Federal funding for important workforce development tax credits, like the earned income tax credit, child tax credit, and the child dependent care tax credit. This will be significant relief to budget and revenue offices in the territories.

In the Virgin Islands, my home, the earned income tax credit alone accounts for almost 40 percent of our tax returns in any given year. In addition, each of the territories have received at least \$500 million in State and local government fiscal aid. These funds have broad eligibility, including to provide services threatened by declining revenue; make investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure; support public entities involved in transport of passengers or cargo; special purpose units of local government, or nonprofits that aid the homeless.

The Virgin Islands will also receive investments from the bold Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that became law in November. The EPA, FAA,

and the Army Corps of Engineers are agencies providing substantial support.

Much of this funding will take us far, however, aside from supplemental funds made available in the act, in the area of primary formula funds for traditional infrastructure, surface roads and highways, I am afraid the territories remain significantly underfunded or under-included.

The territories have endured severe infrastructure funding cuts since 1998, when the preexisting set-aside formula for the Territorial Highway Program funding was scrapped. Since then, the territorial share of overall Federal highway program funding has progressively declined by 50 percent. These severe cuts have negatively impacted everything from safety to emergency response, law enforcement capabilities, to commerce, to disaster relief management.

The Build Back Better Act would restore the significant equity investment in infrastructure for the territories in the House-passed bill. It contained \$320 million in supplemental funding for the Territorial Highway Program in order to restore the investment in the territories to a similar share of overall Federal highway funding that they once received before 1998. We must continue to fight for those objectives.

The territories will have a hard time competing for any of the billions in funding set up in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for projects of national significance, or the Rural Surface Transportation Grant program because project eligibility under these new programs is mostly tied to States or projects connected to the National Highway System, which by definition, does not include the territories. That impediment, along with having sufficient private partners to allow us to ramp up, have care, capacity and competence, make it hard for us to go after the competitive grants. The territories will need assistance with vying for the competitive funding that they are eligible for, identifying those programs, and connecting those programs to projects.

The viability and sustainability of energy in the territories is of the utmost importance for the well-being of our rural communities. The territories are not connected to the national grid, and energy costs on our islands are higher than anywhere else in the country. Our geographic locations leave us vulnerable to climate change but also provide opportunities for adoption of innovative energy resources.

We need help from the Department of Energy and Agriculture, and many others, for energy efficiency, energy storage, smart grids, microgrids, as well as renewable energy technical training.

Mr. Speaker, Americans living in the territories live in areas with brownfields and are susceptible to climate change unlike other areas. We are rural-isolated and we have unemployment much higher than others. However, we have geographic strategic ad-

vantages for our country. Our young people disproportionately enter the military because they want to work. They want to be productive. We sit in a vortex of alternative energy raw resources, in a majority minority community.

As it says up here on the wall by Daniel Webster, "Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers. . . ." I am asking my colleagues in Congress to ensure that the territories can do that through this Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JAMES ALLAN GUTHRIE

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my longtime friend and community leader, James Allan Guthrie of Pasadena, Texas, who passed away on December 18, 2021, at the age of 70.

James was born in Houston, Texas, on April 27, 1951, to James and Loretta Guthrie. A devoted member of the Zion Lutheran Church in Pasadena, James was baptized on June 5, 1960, and confirmed on June 6, 1965. He attended Zion Lutheran School in Pasadena, graduated from Lutheran High School in Houston, and went on to study at San Jacinto College. At age 18, James became a real estate broker and he worked alongside his father in that industry for 30 years.

On May 6, 1977, James married the love of his life, Ms. Pamela Ann Rothermel. Last May marked their 44th year of marriage. James and Pam were blessed with a daughter, Moriah Ashlee Guthrie, on October 18, 1984.

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James, Pam, and Moriah never missed an opportunity to serve their community. They could often be seen side-by-side at many church, community, and civic functions. James' passion for helping people and supporting his community remained throughout his entire adult life. He served on the following organizations:

Councilman, city of Pasadena, Texas; vice chairman, city of Pasadena's Texas Planning Commission; chairman, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce; board member, San Jacinto College Foundation; board member, Pasadena Independent School District Education Foundation Board; member, Bridge Over Troubled Waters; founding board member, Habitat for Humanity Pasadena; chairman, Pasadena Philharmonic Orchestra; founding board member of the Pasadena Kiwanis Club; board member, Preston Trails Homeowners Association; chairman, Pasadena Salvation Army Advisory Council; chairman, Innovative Alternatives; board member, Pasadena Rotary Club; board member, Pasadena Community Pregnancy Center; board member, Armand Bayou Watershed Partnership;

and board member, Advisory Council of the Methodist Retirement Community—The Crossings. Few have done more than Mr. Guthrie.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize my wonderful friend, James Guthrie, today on the House floor. He was a one-of-a-kind leader in the 36th Congressional District that I have been privileged to represent, who left behind a legacy that will long be remembered.

His loyalty and his friendship will be deeply missed by myself and countless others in our community. My heartfelt prayers remain with his family and friends during this difficult time.

HARDSHIPS OF SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS CONTINUE DURING THE PANDEMIC

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

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, it has been 2 years, image that, since the beginning of the pandemic. Two years marked by hardship that none of us had ever known and hope we never know again. As the world continues to adapt to the challenge, it is my belief that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Yet, as we continue to push toward that optimism, we are reminded every single day that the pandemic is not over. It is not over for us; it is not over for the nurses and doctors who tend to our sick; it is not over for our frontline workers, for teachers, for police, for families, for anyone.

I am here today to speak for a group of Americans who are too often ignored in our pandemic discourse, our Nation's entrepreneurs and small business owners, the bedrock of our economy, particularly those who work in public-facing enterprises, like restaurant owners, gym owners, hospitality owners in the live-events industry. Those whose livelihoods depend on public gathering in person, whether it is to break bread, to work up a sweat, or to enjoy booths that you might see in the Minnesota State Fair, as my friend and colleague, ANGIE CRAIG, would agree is America's finest.

In 2020 and early last year, both parties worked together to pass pandemic aid to help keep the lights on at those businesses. It was an aid that was effective in saving countless jobs, and while not perfect, of course, it did save our country from economic disaster. Unfortunately, for those public-facing industries, that aid has not been enough, not with the rise of the delta variant and then omicron, and potentially future variants that we might face in the future.

Last week, I held a roundtable in Minnesota to hear from entrepreneurs representing those industries in my district. Some had a quarter million dollars in debt, others had lost a quarter million dollars in revenue. Some had taken out government-subsidized emergency loans from the programs