

trail, the national debt was \$7.3 trillion. Here we are, 18 years later, and we are approaching \$31 trillion. I would say he understood a little bit about being responsible with taxpayer dollars.

As you just alluded to, there should be no pride in either one of the parties taking this acknowledgment of having a balanced budget. It should be just what we do as Congress.

This should be a nonconversation. We should produce a balanced budget, as we did under Newt Gingrich's leadership. As he just acknowledged this week, it is time for us to return to the era of the 4 years where we had balanced budgets and a divided government, where the House and the Senate were Republicans and the White House was the Democrat.

President Clinton knew it was the right thing to do. He knew that we had to be more responsible for taxpayer dollars and joined up and created a bipartisan budget that lasted until the attack on us in 2001. We have to get back to that.

Our Nation is under attack by the debt load that we are having. The interest on our debt, much of which we will pay to China because that is who we are getting our money from, is overtaking us. In the next 4 years, the spending on our mandatory interest on our debt will surpass what we spend on protecting this great Nation and the support of our men and women in uniform.

As we look at this, I just want to thank my colleagues from California, New York, and across this great Nation who have worked on this issue, not just on this budget and spending task force, but on this issue. The very core of who they are and why they came to Congress was to be responsible to the American taxpayers, not just to the ones who elected them but to all Americans, Democrat, Republican, to be fiscally responsible for their money, their hard-earned money that they make back home. They go to work every day and send tax dollars up to Congress. We have to do better.

□ 2015

The American taxpayers are much more responsible with their dollars in their pockets than we are here in Washington, D.C. We need to return the American taxpayers' dollars back to them. We need to be less on the spending side and more on acknowledging that American taxpayers are smart. They will spend their money in their communities better than we will. That is why we need to rebalance our government.

So as I hear from constituents back home, they are worried that no one in Washington cares about our spending anymore. They are worried that there is no one left—even Republicans—who care about balancing the budget.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you I do. You heard the Members tonight. You heard my friend from California talk about

how he cares. He has cared since he got here, and all the members on the Republican Study Committee care.

Balancing the budget isn't a conservative idea. This isn't a budget just for one party. This budget is our blueprint to save all Americans—all Americans—not just Republicans. We are not excluding Democrats. This is all Americans.

When Congress spends less, the American people have more. That is at the center of what we do, what we are doing, and what we are here to talk about.

I thank everybody, again, for coming and speaking tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise as the anchor of the CBC Special Order addressing Caribbean American Heritage Month and to welcome my colleagues to the floor to be able to engage in a very important and provocative discussion.

Let me just say that last weekend, in fact, yesterday, was the national holiday, the Juneteenth independence day. All over America this commemoration brought about knowledge, understanding, jubilation, and honor. So we are delighted to be on the floor today to, in fact, provide an opportunity to expand and to talk about the heritage of so many in this Nation.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. It is my privilege now to, first of all, thank the Honorable JOYCE BEATTY, who is the chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, for her continued efforts to ensure that the American people know our message and our power, know the work that we are doing, know the success that we are having, and also give us an opportunity to articulate the historical record of African Americans and those who have heritages from elsewhere.

I also take a moment to congratulate her for receiving the Juneteenth honors in Washington, D.C. last Thursday from the Juneteenth Foundation. It was a privilege not only to be with her and to acknowledge many others who received those honors but to be there on such a special night. She was well-deserving.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY), who is the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate June as Caribbean American Heritage Month, I am proud to stand with our Special Order champion, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, who herself is a woman of Caribbean heritage. She is from the great State of Texas, and her parents were immigrants from Jamaica. So I thank Congresswoman JACKSON LEE again for leading our power, our message, and also I thank her for acknowledging the great honor I received last week.

But, Mr. Speaker, the Congresswoman did not tell you that she too was on that same program as we commemorated and celebrated Juneteenth. She had the distinct honor to present an award to an icon, Maxwell, who is so great he only needs one name. To see her walk across that stage along with another one of our colleagues, Congresswoman FREDERICA WILSON, made me proud to share the stage with her, our other colleagues, and so many icons who have fought for justice. That ties into what we are talking about today. You will hear many of our members come and talk about the beauty of diversity, culture, and their heritage.

I also want to take a moment to celebrate the dedication and all of the work of Congresswoman BARBARA LEE who led the effort to designate the month of June as Caribbean American Heritage Month. You will hear from her today, Mr. Speaker.

Congresswoman BARBARA LEE is always out in the forefront when we are talking about fighting for justice or when we are talking about making sure that we educate our constituency, and, yes, America, on any topic, but tonight this is a topic she knows all so well.

You see, Mr. Speaker, when I think about Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm in Congress and Members like vice-chair of the Congressional Black Caucus STEVEN HORSFORD, Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE, Congressman ANTHONY BROWN, Delegate STACEY PLASKETT, Congressman G. K. BUTTERFIELD, Congresswoman SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, and so many others, it is a rollcall of our Members of Caribbean heritage.

So when we think of this great legacy that we are leaving, Caribbean heritage is one of the most resilient and excellent, and it is full of the tenacity of the people who come to this Congress to be the voice for the people whom they know need us most.

The Congressional Black Caucus has been a longtime fighter for the protection of immigrants of color and for the rights of people of Caribbean descent, such as the Haitian Family Reunification Parole, or better known as HFRP program, which allows eligible United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to apply for parole for their family members in Haiti.

Just think about this, Mr. Speaker, think about this: Some 50 years ago, one woman and 12 men, the founders of the Congressional Black Caucus, one woman making history, the same woman who ran for President of these United States, Shirley Chisholm. So from Shirley Chisholm to—think about it—today in modern times Delegate STACEY PLASKETT to chairwoman of the CBC's Task Force on Immigration, and the only Black woman in the New York congressional delegation, Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE, the contributions of Caribbean-American heritage to this democracy is alive and well, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to also take a moment to commemorate the decades of work that a Dr. Claire Nelson has displayed on behalf of the Caribbean diaspora. Dr. Nelson is the founder and president of the Institute of Caribbean Studies, ICS, the Nation's leading Caribbean-American advocacy group and a good friend to the Congressional Black Caucus and our dear friend, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE. She fearlessly led the advocacy efforts that accompany Congresswoman BARBARA LEE's legislation that was signed into law that we are celebrating tonight. I thank Congresswoman BARBARA LEE. I remember when she came to us in the Congressional Black Caucus meeting and said: We want to make this happen.

So tonight we made it happen.

I thank the gentlewoman, and I thank all of our other Members for being here tonight.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman BEATTY for laying the framework of how enriched the Congressional Black Caucus is with the vast diversity of Members who have these enormous connections and heritage and to honor the leader of this legislation making June Caribbean American Heritage Month and to be astute enough to continue her work as the chair of the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee on Appropriations. She has been a lifeline to the Caribbean and astute on many issues from immigration to disasters to the issues of dealing with democracy and humanity.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership. Might I add that she also has a strong heritage in Texas and was a very powerful contributor to our celebration of Juneteenth in Texas. Along with her relatives she was at the Ashton Villa site where General Granger came to announce the freedom of the slaves. She did that during Juneteenth in Texas. We were glad to have her.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I thank Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE for that very warm and gracious introduction. But also let me just thank the gentlewoman for her steadiness, her persistence, and her perseverance and for

bringing the truth about so many issues about Black people in the diaspora in our own country to the forefront and providing a moment and, yes, being in Galveston for the first time where my grandfather W.C. Parish was born. My great-grandmother was enslaved in Galveston, and I had never been to Galveston except for this weekend. So I thank Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE for her hospitality.

I also thank her—and I must mention this—that after my friend championed the legislation for a national holiday, all of the polls, all of the surveys, and all of the news reports indicate that twice as many people in our country know about the African-American culture, history, and what took place before 1865. So that is in large part due to the tireless effort of Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE. She said over the weekend that Juneteenth provides for a moment of unity and for a moment of healing.

As we move forward now, and the gentlewoman knows I have got to mention H.R. 40 because that is next in terms of understanding and developing the commission to study and develop reparations. But I think this weekend really put us on another path, a more aggressive path now to get that done. So I thank the gentlewoman very much.

Also, let me thank our chair, Chairwoman JOYCE BEATTY, for her kind remarks, but also for really making sure that our message and our power is brought to the forefront in the United States as it relates to the Congressional Black Caucus. I know of no one who really understands the historical context of African Americans and Black people in the diaspora than Congresswoman Chairwoman JOYCE BEATTY.

When I think about Chairwoman BEATTY, I always think about this bird, and I mentioned it to her, the sankofa bird in the language of Ghana, the Ghanaian people. It is a beautiful bird with an egg in her mouth looking backwards and beginning her move forward. Congresswoman BEATTY always works to give reverence and give credit to those who came before us and remind us of our history looking back, knowing how we got here, but also reminding us all that we must move forward until this country provides liberty and justice for all.

So I just have to thank Chairwoman BEATTY for always through her leadership making sure that the whole country understands the sankofa moment for us as African Americans in our country.

Also, all of our Caribbean Members, I see Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE come in. Her ancestors are from Jamaica, her mother and father. She has contributed to this Congress, to her constituents, to the country and to the Caribbean. She is an example of how Caribbean Americans bring forth their wisdom, their passion, and their brilliance, never forgetting their heritage.

We have to thank them also for their tremendous leadership here in this body because they have truly made a major contribution to the United States House of Representatives.

□ 2030

Yes, almost three decades ago, I really fought hard, and we did do this in a bipartisan way, passing legislation to designate June as Caribbean American Heritage Month.

President Bush actually signed this into law in 2006. Since then, June has given us the opportunity to celebrate the tremendous impact that the people of the Caribbean have made on the United States.

Let me also acknowledge Dr. Claire Nelson, who is a great Caribbean-American leader, for inspiring this effort.

Since the founding of this country, Caribbean Americans have contributed to every aspect of our society, including greatly to the fine arts, education, business, literature, journalism, sports, fashion, politics, government, military service, music, science, medicine, engineering, technology, and many other fields.

We enjoy the richness of Caribbean-American culture through the festivals, carnivals, music, dance, film, food, and literature, which can be found across the United States.

Most importantly, a number of Caribbean Americans have been leaders in the civil and human rights movement and other social and political movements in the United States.

It is not surprising that people from the Caribbean are so connected to our country, those who now live in the Caribbean, who are Caribbean residents.

The countries of the Caribbean represent the United States' third border. These countries are important economic and cultural partners of the United States. We share parallel histories informed by struggles against slavery and colonialism and for independence, democracy, and shared prosperity.

We all share the same hopes and aspirations for peace and prosperity throughout the Western Hemisphere and the rest of the world.

In fact, for these reasons and many more, the Congressional Black Caucus and I have been pushing hard for the United States to engage more deeply with our Caribbean neighbors.

We were, a couple of weeks ago, recently, at the Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles. Several members and our chairwoman—Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, Congresswoman STACEY PLASKETT, and others—were in Los Angeles participating at the summit, making sure that the word went out that we are here to do more engagement and work and bring more parity and more focus on the Caribbean.

As chair of the Appropriations' State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee, I have been

working with the CBC and the Caribbean Caucus, led by, of course, Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE, to increase our dialogue and investment in the people and countries of the Caribbean.

As the House takes up the FY23 SFOPS bill, I say to Congresswoman JACKSON LEE that we are working to include further measures to deepen the United States-Caribbean relationship.

Many influential Caribbean Americans are playing key roles in shaping the history and future of the United States. Of course, they include the late beloved Colin Powell, the first African-American Secretary of State; Eric Holder, our first African-American Attorney General; Karine Jean-Pierre, the first African-American White House press secretary; Patrick Gaspard, labor union organizer and social justice advocate; Dr. Garth Graham, public health leader and healthcare expert; Sherrilyn Ifill, social justice advocate; the great Patrick Ewing, star of the NBA's New York Knicks; Harry Belafonte, musician, actor, and activist, and a very good friend to myself and this caucus; Roberto Clemente, the first Latino introduced into the Baseball Hall of Fame; and let us not forget Vice President KAMALA HARRIS, the first African-American Vice President and the highest ranking Caribbean American even in the United States Government.

Finally, I cannot neglect to mention my friend and mentor, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, as JOYCE BEATTY, our chair, mentioned, who was the first African-American woman elected to Congress and also to run for President, and the first African American to run for President.

Born in Brooklyn, of Guyanese and Bajan descent, she spent part of her childhood in Barbados and always considered herself a Bajan American. I had the privilege to go see her schoolhouse very recently in Barbados, and it was quite moving to see where she was raised by her grandmother to be the great woman she became.

With her brilliance and tenacity, she broke through multiple barriers for Black Americans and for women, and I am here today, in part, because of her example. I am proud to celebrate her legacy on this 50th anniversary of her groundbreaking campaign for the President of the United States.

Again this year, I have introduced a resolution, H. Res. 1161, honoring these great Americans and the history Caribbean Americans have contributed to our country. I am honored that several of my colleagues here have joined as cosponsors in celebrating this rich history.

Let us use this month of June to pay appropriate tribute to the breadth and depth of Caribbean-American contributions to the United States. But let us also recommit ourselves to a closer and stronger engagement with countries in the Caribbean. They are our allies. They are our friends, and they deserve

more support and more engagement through trade, investment, development assistance, you name it. There is a lot to do to catch up in the Caribbean.

I thank our Vice President and President Biden, and I thank the Congressional Black Caucus, our Speaker, and many Members here who have been so supportive over the years in increasing this engagement. We see a lot of progress, but we have a long way to go.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE for her leadership on so many fronts and for helping us educate the public about the unfinished business of America.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for capturing so well the unfinished business as it relates to the Caribbean and overall, and I thank her for being the leader of the resolution to establish Caribbean American Heritage Month that we now are able to commemorate year after year.

It is appropriate that the gentlewoman is the chair of the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee because she can have a very large voice on the changing of our treatment of the Caribbean, along with the leadership of our chair of the CBC and CBC members. I thank the gentlewoman so much for that.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege, of course, to now yield to the gentlewoman who hails from Brooklyn that has such a sizable representation of Caribbean Americans. She is a senior member and vice chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the founder of and collaborator with the Caribbean-American Caucus here in the United States Congress, and she has worked on a number of immigration issues that really impact our brothers and sisters in the Caribbean.

I must say that, just a few years ago, I think we were shuttling during the Christmas holiday—it seems like it was near the Christmas holiday—from the Hill to the World Bank, trying to work on redoing the treatment that they were giving to Jamaica. I thank the gentlewoman for that leadership. I was pleased to join her in that effort, and we were successful.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE), and I better say Brooklyn, New York.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentlewoman from Houston, Texas, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, for anchoring us this evening as we commemorate Caribbean American Heritage Month.

Let me acknowledge our chairwoman, JOYCE BEATTY, and, of course, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, who speaks for me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud Caribbean American and on behalf of my fellow Americans of Caribbean descent in celebration and recognition of the National Caribbean American Heritage Month.

Let me take this opportunity to thank Congresswoman BARBARA LEE for her vision in establishing this designation of Caribbean American Heritage Month in June 2006.

I rise today to honor the tremendous contributions Caribbean Americans have made and continue to make in the building of our great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, our contributions are not just reflected in the tapestry of American culture. They are brightly reflected in the heritage of this Nation's first woman Vice President, KAMALA HARRIS. It is reflected in the first African-American woman to serve in Congress, my predecessor, the Honorable Shirley Chisholm.

Mr. Speaker, the list of noble Caribbean Americans is too long to list, and so I rise today as a proud Caribbean-American representative of our sheer glory and significance in American history.

I rise today to remind the world of the continued excellence demonstrated by Caribbean Americans in every sector of our civil society. From government to the private sector, to entertainment and sports, Caribbean Americans continue to exemplify a unique distinction of creativity, innovation, and excellence that engenders a deep sense of pride in our accomplishments.

Let me be clear: We essentially represent our homes of origin as de facto goodwill ambassadors while, simultaneously, we represent some of the best talent that the United States has to offer.

Having a month to highlight our tremendous contributions gives us a special perspective on the collective benefit of such a diverse people of African descent, Latin, Asian, and the European diaspora.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give honorable mention to one of the Founding Fathers of our Nation, Alexander Hamilton, born in the Caribbean nation of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

I rise today to sanctify the Honorable Marcus Mosiah Garvey, a proud Caribbean man from the island nation of Jamaica who formed one of the largest Pan-Africanist movements in our Nation's history. I rise today to call for justice, his exoneration, and his rightful place in our American history.

I rise today on behalf of our ancestors of Caribbean descent, in recognition and in celebration of National Caribbean American Heritage Month.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark this moment on June 22, 2022, to honor and reflect on the lives and contributions of all those who planted the seeds of freedom and prosperity, knowing that they would never live long enough to feel the liberating power of the freedom they fostered. Their fight, now our fight for justice, fairness, equality, and equity, is certainly not over, but thanks to their legacies, the perpetual contributions of Caribbean Americans manifested through us in this generation, we are on our way to fulfilling the American dreams of our ancestors.

Mr. Speaker, as we mark the 16th anniversary of the National Caribbean American Heritage Month, it is with a profound sense of gratitude that we will finally have this opportunity to celebrate our history, heritage, and unique place on our American journey and in our American journey.

During the month of June, we are blessed to celebrate the freedom of Juneteenth and commemorate the lives sacrificed through the indignities of human bondage. But we reclaim the human dignity afforded to the waves of Caribbean immigrants who have been a beneficiary and significant part of the battle from the very foundation of our Nation's existence.

We use the month of June to educate and acknowledge our rightful place in American history.

□ 2045

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentlewoman from Brooklyn, New York. What a powerful display of the richness of the Caribbean, the family connections, her pride for this wonderful opportunity to speak about the people in the Caribbean. I am very grateful to you for relating both your familial connections but your predecessor.

So we all have stakeholders in Shirley Chisholm. I guess my pride is as a very young person having introduced her at a church program and then as a lawyer at a lawyer's program, those moments were very special; working in her district for, you might remember her, Carol Bellamy, and getting to know and be around her during that time.

I am delighted to make mention at this point of Representative JAMAAL BOWMAN, who will be presenting his statement into the RECORD, a very strong, new Member who has exhibited such leadership. He will be one of those that will submit statements into the RECORD along with Representative SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. She will likewise present her statement into the RECORD.

I will proceed now to make my concluding remarks as I celebrate Caribbean American Heritage Month. I thank Congresswoman BARBARA LEE for H. Con. Res. 71. I think it was introduced at that time in 2006, and she has done that every single year. She has made the Congressional Black Caucus better for being worldly enough to acknowledge the connection.

I will build on what you have said, Congresswoman LEE. As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, we considered the Caribbean, just a few years back, after 9/11 as the third border of the United States, and it had key importance for the role it played in the security of the United States.

We have not continued that. And I believe as we look to reenhancing our communications and collaboration with the Caribbean, it is to recognize the important role that they are in securing America and securing the Caribbean and the work that they have done

with our military, but also our drug enforcement, in a way that protects them and protects the United States.

Millions have emigrated from the Caribbean to the United States since our Nation's founding. Congress should continue to recognize the important contributions of Caribbean Americans to our Nation's history and their role in our Nation's future. Those were the words from that legislation and from BARBARA LEE as this bill was introduced.

Today, we celebrate the vibrancy and diversity of the Caribbean-American communities as well as the strong ties reinforced between the United States and our Caribbean neighbors.

We certainly recognize Cuba and know that there are immigration policies that apply to Cuba.

I think at this point, I want to make that sure that all of us in the Congressional Black Caucus continue to work on the issues dealing with Haiti, in particular: The natural disasters, the issues of democracy, the fact that they are a strong and resilient people, that they have many, many needs, but we also want fairness.

As the former ranking member on the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety, working with the Caribbean Caucus, we are looking forward to the administration working on humanitarian parole on some of the persons here of Haitian descent, so there is a balance and a fairness of their immigration status with others.

These are things that we, in the Congressional Black Caucus, are looking to work on as we cite the very strong ties that we have.

Shirley Chisholm certainly represents sort of an iconic figure. Most persons see her from Brooklyn. I remember her saying as she was appointed to the Committee on Agriculture, a tree does grow in Brooklyn.

She was not going to let herself be denied the status of importance, Mr. Speaker, when this urban member was appointed to the Committee on Agriculture as a point of, you better sit here. She made much out of that and was a great leader on food stamps and other issues dealing with the urban community.

We might not know that W.E.B. Du Bois, a prominent African American, the first to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. And, of course, Vice President KAMALA HARRIS, the First African American of Jamaican heritage to serve as Vice President of the United States. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, a Latina of Puerto Rican heritage and the first to serve in the United States Supreme Court.

We have noted Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the Treasury. James Weldon Johnson, the writer of Lift Every Voice and Sing, and a key figure of the Harlem renaissance. I can assure you that he was very prominent. This song was very prominent during the Juneteenth celebrations.

Gloria Estefan, one of the best-selling female artists of all time from Cuba with the hit songs "Conga" and "Rhythm is Gonna Get You."

Then a name that we might not be familiar with: Bad Bunny, Spotify's most streamed artist and album globally of 2020, and the first time a non-English language music artist topped the year-end list.

The history, however, of the Caribbean is many. It is filled with natural resources, natural beauty. It is, along with CARICOM, a perfect partner to the United States.

In addition, I too want to applaud President Joe Biden and Vice President KAMALA HARRIS at the Summit of the Americas. We understand, as we were participating as Members of Congress with Speaker PELOSI, that there was an outstanding meeting that went on with CARICOM to re-cement the relationship between the Caribbean and the United States.

That is important because, as I said, natural resources, natural beauty, a third border against terrorists and against other aspects of danger to the United States, but a partner so that the Caribbean is secure as well as the United States. A bastion of democracy.

That is why we must continue to fight for Haiti as it restores itself, rebuilds itself. We met with the Haitian president there to try to find a pathway for that country to restore itself. As indicated, we can be on the front line working with our Members of Congress, both Democratic and Republican.

I believe that there are a number of codels that have recently gone to the Caribbean, including one led by the chairwoman of the Committee on Financial Services, MAXINE WATERS, who, in fact, is a member and co-chair of the Caribbean caucus.

But as we study the history, let us realize there is much more synergism than one might imagine, because as we celebrated Juneteenth, it is important for America to remember that slaves were also in the Caribbean.

It was a tragic experience. Over 40 percent of all Africans who were enslaved were sent to the Caribbean islands; estimated at 5 million enslaved Africans beginning as early as the 16th century.

Within the Caribbean, the death rates of enslaved populations were extremely high. It was very hot, and there were a lot of insects, if I might say, that took a toll on many, but they kept on surviving. Untold numbers, however, suffered from inhumane working conditions.

However, the rise of abolitionist movements, coupled with anti-slavery sentiment, and several military and political crises, sowed the seeds for prohibition against slavery in the Caribbean countries.

In fact, I believe Haiti was one of the first free countries, securing independence from France at a very, very early stage.

We honor Caribbean heroes who rebelled against slavery which led to official emancipation in anglophone countries in 1823. Major revolts shocked the world: The Tacky's Rebellion in the 1760s in Jamaica; the Haitian Revolution; Fedon's Revolution in the 1790s in Grenada; the Barbados slave revolt in 1860; and the slave revolt in Jamaica led by Sam Sharpe.

What a unique difference and experience, but yet there was slavery. Emancipation was achieved because of the movements and the legal efforts within respective Caribbean countries.

Those revolts inspired the abolitionists in the United States. The parallel histories of Caribbean countries and the United States are rooted in oppression and the ongoing struggle for lasting true liberation, justice, equality, and freedom.

What is good about this discussion is to reflect on the fact that those enslaved Africans that were in the Caribbean, now, their descendants are the heads of state of all the Caribbean countries and our leaders in the CARICOM.

This is an important partnership for the United States, and it is one that we must utilize and teach our children. We embrace them as our ancestors who suffered in hopes that future generations would not; supporting their children so that a time would come when freedom would reign.

We now have the responsibility as we deal with the Caribbean to reflect on the Caribbean immigrants who have come here to the United States. It has already been noted how they have achieved and succeeded.

We mentioned members of our caucus who are Members of the United States Congress who have that heritage. Since 1820, people of the Caribbean descent have immigrated to the United States.

We want to make sure that the process is fair. We want to make sure that these individuals are not deported randomly.

As I said, we hope to have a response to the Haitians as to the Cubans, those who come from Cuba and have the wet foot, dry foot effort that are not Haitians. We see them being deported from the Mexican-U.S. border. That is not fair.

We have had a relationship with Haiti for centuries. Haiti fought alongside of Americans in the Revolutionary War. They came to be at our side.

Since 2000, the population increased 26 percent to 3.7 million Caribbean-Americans in 2010 and grew another 18 percent to 4.4 million in 2017. Today, there are 13.4 million Americans of that heritage; always hardworking, ready to serve, ready to serve in the United States military, and often found at the front line of aid here in this country.

The fight reached its apex with the Haitian Revolution in 1804. As I indicated, the fight did not end with Britain's Slave Trade Act of 1807 that sought abolish the British slave trade.

The point of my comments is to make sure everyone knew that they were always fighting for justice, they were fighting for equality, and their history is worth studying.

I do want to draw to our attention the connection of H.R. 40, the commission to study slavery and develop reparation proposals. Juneteenth: Healing, restorative, repair as well. Know the story.

I can tell you, across America, I heard one colleague, if I might, from Chicago who said there were so many moments of celebration.

Our majority leader indicated in his own home State, there was one event, Mr. Speaker, that had 6,000 people celebrating Juneteenth. It warms my heart. It was a decade-long fight, and here we are today, really in the eye-opening experience of Juneteenth.

I had the privilege of speaking at the Ashton Villa, the place where General Granger came to make that announcement of the No. 3 order. And to have, as well, the statue of Al Edwards, a State representative who was the first probably in the Nation to drive a State holiday in the State of Texas. He achieved that more than 20 years ago.

Being trained up under that kind of leadership, it was instilled in me that we should have a national holiday, a national Independence Day on the Juneteenth basis. I am so excited about the overwhelming support, unanimous in the Senate, 415 votes in the House, if anyone can imagine.

So, as we talk about these issues, I want the world to see and the Nation to see that over this weekend, the Juneteenth events all over the Nation reflected people coming together from many different backgrounds.

There was a degree of excitement. There were children there, families there, and our celebrations were focused around peace and unity, and they were focused around prayer.

That is what we did in Houston, Texas, at the historic—historic—Antioch Baptist Church founded in 1866 by Jack Yates. Can you imagine, only 1 year after the Emancipation Proclamation that was issued in 1865, after 2½ years when the South did not pay any attention to Abe Lincoln's order, President Lincoln's order, that he had to dispatch this general, a West Point grad, a hero on the battlefield, to announce in Texas—I can remember the words. It seems like they are loud in my ears.

To the people of Texas, I now declare that the slaves are free, and they are free to be able to achieve property, they are no longer property, and they are citizens of the United States.

Slavery had not been abolished, but he indicated that the slaves were free and that they could maintain themselves as employer and employee. I would venture to say that even with that pronouncement, most of them, uneducated, had ever heard the words employer and employee. It was master and slave.

The one thing they knew, they were not staying. They were leaving and going up the trail, the Emancipation Trail, into the areas of La Marque in Texas and in Houston, a place called Freedmen's Town and Independence Heights.

They were going under the leadership of Jack Yates, when they got to Houston, who bought in 1872 the first park ever bought in Texas. It was bought by freed slaves, and it was a place where the emancipation Juneteenth celebrations would go for decades and decades and decades.

That history should allow us to pass with ease the commission H.R. 40 that has been percolating now since 1989 and the commission to study slavery and develop reparation proposals. It was modeled after the Civil Liberties Act that was passed in 1988 and signed by Ronald Reagan.

We championed that for the Japanese Americans. It was based on the internment that had happened wrongly of Japanese-Americans, patriots who love the country, who were rounded up, belongings left, take what you can take, properties left to their own devices, if you will, and held in an internment camp.

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To this day, the Japanese-American association is a strong advocate for H.R. 40 because of the friendship and collaboration and the work we did, in particular the late John Conyers, who worked with them and then introduced H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act.

I would imagine most people would wonder where that name came from. It came from General Sherman, who wanted to give 40 acres and a mule to the freed slaves. Unfortunately, this is what happens. Elections count, and the next President after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln did not hold to that commitment.

With that in mind, just know that we have built this Nation on that labor; built this Nation on making cotton king; providing resources to the enriched South, the landed South; creating the Wall Street banks, if you will; and providing an economic engine that propelled this small country into a growing international force.

Mr. Speaker, I think that H.R. 40 is a perfect complement because one of the things it does is it gets a study just to look at the landscape of how slavery impacted this Nation and how it impacted the people, how it impacted New England, the Midwest, California, the South, the Deep South, and the southeastern region where African Americans began to move all across this Nation.

Interestingly enough, California, of course, has already implemented this bill, H.R. 40, and a task force is now working to do enormous work. I refer everyone to a Harvard University medical study that indicated that if reparations had been given preceding COVID-

19, that horrible pandemic would not have so lopsidedly impacted the African-American community.

Let me be very clear that this idea of reparations is a sense of looking systematically at what would be the solutions. The commission is to be able to hear from people across America and to be able to recommend and to engage with people from all backgrounds, not just one background, not just African Americans. I am excited about that dialogue. I think it will be a powerful dialogue.

As we celebrated Juneteenth, as we had this memorial service at the Antioch Baptist Church, what an emotional time we had with song and words and dance and prayer. People left there saying that they were more inspired than they have ever been before to bring us together. It was a diverse audience of people who came even from out of town to do something that was part of my vision that on Juneteenth, and that was happy Father's Day, we would take a moment to honor slaves who were born, who lived and died as a slave and never knew freedom, to give them the honor that they never got.

As I reflect on how this Nation was built by immigrants and how it was built by the ancestors of African Americans today, I do want to continue to emphasize the Members of Congress who have this wonderful heritage and to honor the late Shirley Chisholm, who both became the first African-American woman in the United States Congress and as well became the first African-American person to run for President.

As I do so, let me cite my relatives, Sybil Gooden, Willie Gooden, they excelled as leaders coming from the Caribbean; the Lockets; the Rashfords; and, of course, my grandparents, Olive Clarke Jackson and Albert Jackson, who worked on the Panama Canal. It was so powerful to go to the Panama Canal and see his name written there. It was an emotional experience. Eric Jackson, Allen Jackson, Charles Jackson all served in World War II; Ezra Jackson, my father; and his older brothers who served in World War II. Elaine Oliver and Ollie Oliver, both of those individuals came and made great strides. Their son served in the United States Air Force. An outstanding daughter, Elaine Oliver, worked for me. Of course, Eric Holder, Colin Powell, Patrick Gaspard, Harry Belafonte, many others, our outstanding communications director.

Tonight, we have had a storytelling night of truth. We have had a great celebration of Caribbean American Month, and we have told the history and story of the powerful connection between the Caribbean and the United States of America. That should be a moment of celebration, friendship, unity, heritage, knowledge.

I am delighted to have anchored the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour on the Caribbean American Heritage Month, and I thank the chair-

woman and the officers of the Congressional Black Caucus and all of our members for continuing to tell the truth.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my sincere gratitude to those who came before me who made it possible for us to honor Caribbean Heritage Month in the United States Congress. Today, we celebrate the 16th year anniversary.

June is Caribbean Heritage month, where we celebrate the extraordinary contribution of people of Caribbean ancestry. According to the U.S. Census, almost 13.4 million Caribbean Americans live in the U.S. In Florida's 20th Congressional District, the two largest groups are Haitians and Jamaicans.

These are cab drivers, doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers, and nurses, who, without, our economy cannot thrive. Immigrants found one quarter (25 percent) of new U.S. businesses.

Despite our contributions, we see the mistreatment of Black and Brown migrants who are merely seeking refuge in the U.S. due to political persecution and insecurity.

Since my arrival at the United States Congress, I have called out the Administration for its disparate treatment of Black migrants. We have all seen the influx of Haitian migrants at the Florida shores and the U.S. Mexico border. Many of these migrants are merely seeking refuge and cannot return to their native country due to fear of persecution and immense violence.

I wanted to see the treatment of migrants in detention centers, so I visited the Broward Transitional Center, where I spoke with migrants from Central America, Haiti, and other parts of the world to better understand their journey. I was devastated. My Congressional colleagues and I have since written letters to the Administration to not use private facilities for any detention, including the detention of undocumented immigrants.

Unfortunately, the Administration regularly sends pregnant women, babies, and children to Haiti and other parts of the region without the right to due process or undergo a credible fear interview to determine their eligibility for asylum. As of today, more than 300 flights have landed in Haiti. This Trump-Era public health authority cannot continue to be used as an excuse to turn away and repatriate migrants. It is illegal and unconscionable to repatriate Haitians under these circumstances.

While the Biden Administration did listen to our plea to rescind Title 42, there is now a legal battle. I pray that the upcoming court's ruling will not continue to violate U.S. asylum law and evade U.S. treaty obligations by blocking and returning asylum seekers to places where their lives and safety are in peril.

We have also called on the Administration to invite families to apply for the Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program, which the Administration announced during the Summit of the Americas that the program would no longer exist only on paper. I have demanded that the Administration also enforces provisions in the Immigration Naturalization Act (INA) and provide Humanitarian Parole to Haitian nationals at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Last month, I requested more than 300 million dollars from the House Appropriations Committee to provide pro bono legal services

to immigrants from the Republic of Haiti, Jamaica, Guatemala, Honduras, and nationals from other parts of Central America.

While there's a great need for comprehensive immigration reform, and the House has passed the Dream and Promise Act, which would create a pathway to citizenship for millions of DACA and TPS recipients, the Senate has failed to vote on the legislation.

In the interim, I understand the economic challenges impacting countries in the Caribbean and Latin America, which is why I introduced the Opportunities in Americas Act.

This legislation also represents my unwavering commitment to my constituents from the Caribbean and Latin America, many of whom frequently engage in commerce in the region and need policies that support their expansion and foster business growth. Low-interest loans are vital to promote innovation and competition and eliminate barriers that prevent businesses from developing.

I remain committed to working with the Caribbean community and congressional colleagues to create a more fair and just immigration system and draft robust legislation that can yield economic prosperity across the Caribbean and the diaspora.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. PENCE (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and the balance of the week on account of a health consideration.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

AGGREGATES, ALLOCATIONS, AND OTHER BUDGETARY LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, June 21, 2022.

MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to H. Res. 1151 (117th Congress) and the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, I hereby submit for printing in the Congressional Record: (1) aggregate spending levels for fiscal year 2023 and aggregate revenue levels for fiscal year 2023 and for the period of fiscal years 2023 through 2032, (2) allocations for fiscal year 2023 for the House Committee on Appropriations, (3) committee allocations for fiscal year 2023 and for the period of fiscal years 2023 through 2032 for all committees other than the Committee on Appropriations, and (4) a list of discretionary accounts identified for advance appropriations in fiscal year 2023 appropriations bills. The authorizing committee allocation is divided into current law amounts and reauthorization. Reauthorization refers to amounts assumed in CBO's baseline for legislation that would extend current law provisions.

This filing is made for technical purposes as required by H. Res. 1151 and the budgetary material published herein is for the purposes of enforcing titles III and IV of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and other budgetary enforcement provisions. If there are any questions, please contact Jennifer Wheelock or Kellie Larkin of the Budget Committee staff.

Sincerely,

JOHN YARMUTH,
Chairman.