

millions of student loan borrowers across this Nation who slept a little easier last night knowing that essential student loan debt relief is on the way.

I am thinking of every person who has pulled me aside in community and dropped their eyes to the floor as they describe the financial burden and shame they were carrying, crushed by student debt—the teachers, the electricians, the nurses, and, indeed, even the grandparents, our elders, some 76 years old on fixed incomes whose benefits were garnished.

The coalition that rallied around our calls to cancel student debt is as broad and diverse as this Nation because so, too, are the families personally impacted by this economic justice issue.

We thank President Biden for taking action. We thank him for listening deeply and responding. With the stroke of a pen, he moved to cancel student debt for millions of borrowers, and this action is going to change and save lives.

In my home State of Massachusetts, the Department of Education reported yesterday that 813,000 student loan borrowers in Massachusetts stand to benefit from student debt cancellation.

I get emotional thinking about the profound impact this will have for our families, especially families that have been systemically denied the opportunity to own or build generational wealth. This is the type of transformative policy that sends ripples for generations. Student loan cancellation will change and save lives.

I thank my dedicated partners in this effort, Senator WARREN and Senator SCHUMER; my colleagues in the House who have worked on this issue for years alongside me: Congresswoman OMAR, Congresswoman ADAMS, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. JONES, and our partners in the Congressional Progressive Caucus and the Congressional Black Caucus, including Senator WARNOCK, Chairwoman JAYAPAL, Chairwoman BEATTY, and Chairwoman WATERS.

Our work to make education accessible and affordable across the Nation continues with urgency, and millions of families are going to start 2023 student loan debt-free thanks to the Biden-Harris administration. That is a beautiful thing.

RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month.

The Massachusetts Seventh is one of the most diverse districts in the country due, in large part, to the rich Hispanic and Latinx communities who reside there: the Colombians, Salvadorans, and Ecuadorians in East Boston and Chelsea; the Dominicans, Puerto Ricans, and Cubans in Jamaica Plain and the South End; and the Mexicans and Brazilians in Cambridge, Somerville, Everett, and beyond.

Many of these champions are on the front lines of fights that matter not just for their own community but for

our very humanity. They are justice seekers and movement builders, and given the number of servicemen and -women and veterans, they are defenders of democracy and freedom.

Their sweat equity makes our country stronger and our policymaking more informed. I am proud to call them partners in the work to build a more just and equitable world because, Mr. Speaker, if the story of America is one of progress, then we owe it to the collective power, resilience, and collective advocacy of our Hispanic and Latinx siblings.

So to those in Massachusetts and across the country, and those on my dedicated staff now and in the past, from Aissa to Lona, to Luz, to Alana, to Ricardo, to Dagoberto, to Kayla, we thank you. This month and every month, we give you your flowers.

RECOGNIZING ALOPECIA AREATA AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. PRESSLEY. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize September as Alopecia Awareness Month.

Across the country, approximately 7 million people have alopecia, an autoimmune disease, which I live with, that attacks one's hair follicles.

People of all ages, genders, races, and from every walk of life are living with this condition. Thankfully, although this does not threaten our lives, it does not mean that it does not impact it.

Collectively, we are fighting for bold investments in skin disease research, comprehensive medical coverage, and meaningful public education to combat the stigma, discrimination, bullying, and, indeed, even depression and suicide ideation that so many of us experience.

Whether we are sharing a meal in the heart of the Massachusetts Seventh or sharing our stories, to someone who is newly diagnosed, we choose strength over shame and purpose over pain.

I can personally attest to the fortitude that defines our community each and every day. Although there is no cure, there is community. We work to create space so that all of us may show up in the world as our full and authentic selves.

This transformation that I live with is not one of my choosing, but it is one that I have learned to embrace unapologetically with the support of my loved ones, team, and broader community in my decision to not wear a wig, recognizing the power of that representation for the 7 million-strong alopecia community in this country.

That is why, this September, on the floor of the House of Representatives, I can affirm that alopecia is my superpower. I am free to be me. I commemorate Alopecia Areata Awareness Month.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of agriculture education.

Last week, we celebrated National Teach Ag Day. This recognition of agriculture education is more important than ever.

The average age of the American farmer is around 57 years old. It is critical for our food security to inspire the next generation of agricultural leaders, and this starts in the classroom.

I have had the privilege of spending time with agriculture educators in Pennsylvania and throughout our country. Programs like the Future Farmers of America and 4-H are strong advocates for advancing agriculture education and exposing our youth to the agriculture industry.

Over the past few months, I have had the opportunity to witness these agriculture programs firsthand. I visited fourth graders at Glendale Elementary School in Cambria County who were working closely with seniors from the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology to bring textbooks to life. The lesson I participated in focused on science, soil, and agricultural operations. I had the opportunity to work directly with the students, where we discussed a plant's journey from seed to full growth. We examined soil, and students made observations of plant growth.

We interact with agriculture at least three times a day, and it is critical that students have the opportunity to really learn about the industry and the career opportunities that it offers.

In July, I joined CenClear and the YMCA of Centre County at the ribbon cutting of the antihunger program at Morgan Run Farm. This initiative will serve as a hands-on, community-centered educational tool to further families' understanding of agriculture processes, farming, nutrition, and community development.

Right now, more than ever, we understand food security is national security, and a country that cannot feed itself often finds itself in turmoil. Programs like the antihunger program at Morgan Run and the science lesson at Glendale Elementary are the first steps in educating our youth about our food sources.

As I mentioned earlier, we are at a critical point in our agricultural future, with the average age of our farmers hovering around 57 years old. It is important that we develop the next generation of farmers. That is why, in August, I held a listening session focused on the next generation of farmers.

We discussed how we can engage and support our next generation of farmers and encourage youth to get involved in the agriculture industry. We had remarkable panelists who were incredibly accomplished in their fields. Together, we highlighted their work to promote innovative technologies that inspire and engage the next generation of agriculturists.

As a senior member of the Education and Labor Committee, co-chair of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus, co-chair of the 4-H Caucus, and proud member of the FFA Caucus, I am passionate about advancing agricultural education in schools.

I take this moment to thank all of our agricultural educators across the country, the Commonwealth, and in the 15th Congressional District. Their work invests in our agriculture education and helps prepare the next generation of farmers, producers, and ranchers.

I always enjoy my meetings with FFA and 4-H students, as they are clearly our future, and our conversations give me great hope in the direction of our agricultural community.

Mr. Speaker, I, once again, thank all those involved in agricultural education and empowering our next generation of farmers.

CELEBRATING ACCUWEATHER'S 60TH
ANNIVERSARY

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate AccuWeather on its 60th anniversary.

Since 1962, AccuWeather has provided trusted and accurate weather forecasts for individuals, businesses, and communities.

AccuWeather is repeatedly recognized as the most accurate weather forecast. Their warnings have saved thousands of lives and have protected people from harm and property from damage. Most notably, Congress cited AccuWeather during Hurricane Katrina for saving 10,000 people, thanks to their accurate forecasts.

Today, more than 1.5 billion people rely on AccuWeather to stay safe and plan their day.

AccuWeather currently has the largest collection of data at its Global Weather Center, which receives more information than any other facility on Earth.

Most importantly, AccuWeather is a proud Pennsylvania 15th Congressional District business with more than 500 employees and is headquartered in Ferguson Township in Centre County.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating AccuWeather; their founder and CEO, Dr. Joel Myers; and their entire team on 60 years of service to our communities and excellence in forecasting the weather.

UNCERTAINTY IN WAKE OF
HURRICANE FIONA

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue to raise awareness to the destruction that Hurricane Fiona has brought about to the Caribbean—namely, to Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

Let me start, Mr. Speaker, by saying that yesterday marked the fifth anni-

versary of Hurricane Maria, a natural disaster that left 3.5 million Americans without power and killed over 3,000 lives.

While hurricanes in the islands are not new, Hurricane Maria exposed the vulnerability of Puerto Rico, and 5 years later, uncertainty remains in the wake of Hurricane Fiona, which occurred this past weekend.

There was a 100 percent blackout on the island when the hurricane landed. As of 10 a.m. yesterday, 73 percent of the island had no power and 60 percent of the island had no water.

I commend the Biden administration for its swift actions to declare a state of emergency for the region, and I am hopeful that they will approve Governor Pierluisi's request for a major disaster declaration soon, which will follow additional lifesaving resources for Puerto Rico.

For this reason, I join Senator SCHUMER and Congresswoman VELÁZQUEZ in speaking with FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell, urging the administration to reimburse 100 percent of the costs, allow document flexibility for accessing aid, and advance funding to Puerto Rico in this critical moment.

We must do all it takes to ensure relief assistance to help residents recover. We cannot turn our backs on our brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico.

Yesterday, I held a strategy planning call with leaders from New York, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and emergency services organizations in response to Hurricane Fiona.

We have witnessed catastrophic devastation across Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, and it will require a multilevel government approach to ensure vital resources to the region in a timely manner.

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As of today, more than 1 million people in the Dominican Republic are without access to utilities and shelter.

At least 1 million people in the Dominican Republic have no access to running water.

More than 700,000 homes and businesses have been left in the dark as they suffered loss of power.

Additionally, at least 3,000 homes were damaged or destroyed, and four bridges collapsed.

The situation is dire. We must do all we can to help the people of the Dominican Republic during this moment of crisis.

For this reason, I am urging the United States Agency For International Development to deploy a Disaster Assistance Response Team and coordinate with other U.S. Government agencies and partners to advance relief efforts.

The Federal response must be swift, robust, and continue for as long as is needed.

The impact of this devastating natural disaster hits close to home, as a multitude of my district—we have many folks in Washington Heights, in

the Bronx, in El Barrio, and Harlem—have family members in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic who are in need of supplies and other disaster relief.

Mr. Speaker, my heart is with the people of the Caribbean, and we will continue to monitor this situation closely.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL
THOMAS CAUTHEN

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Brigadier General Thomas Cauthen, an American patriot who served 38 years in the Tennessee Air National Guard.

He was inspired as a child by watching his dad's career as a pilot in the Tennessee Air National Guard's 134th Fighter-Interceptor Group, which later became the 134th Air Refueling Wing.

In 1984, General Cauthen followed in his dad's footsteps and started his commission right after getting his bachelor of science in civil engineering from the University of Tennessee.

After getting his pilot training, he flew combat support missions during Operation Desert Storm, Southern Watch, Joint Forge, Allied Force, Enduring Freedom, and Noble Eagle. He eventually went to the 134th Air Refueling Wing and ended up serving as its commander for 7 years. He then became the director of staff at the Joint Force Headquarters Tennessee and then chief of staff for the entire Tennessee Air National Guard.

Mr. Speaker, last month, he retired after 38 long years of faithfully serving his country. He plans to spend more time with his wonderful wife, Penny, their two kids, and their grandchild. He also plans to get more involved with the community by volunteering with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and get more involved with the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Brigadier General Thomas Cauthen as Tennessee's Second District's September 2022 Veteran of the Month. I thank him for his incredible service and congratulate him on a well-earned retirement.

CONGRATULATING ETHAN AND ARI KLASKY
POWERLIFTING CHAMPIONS IN EAST TENNESSEE

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to appreciate some powerlifting champions in east Tennessee. That is correct, I said powerlifting.

Last week, I was on the plane back to Knoxville from Washington. This fellow sitting next to me talked excitedly about his set of twins, 17-year-old Ari and Ethan, who go to Webb School of Knoxville. They are powerlifting champions.

Their dad, Scott, used to powerlift as a hobby, and he got his boys into the