

\$18 million in community funding projects that will allow the restoration and preservation of our community's Black history, that will support critical early childhood education programs, that will promote small businesses and innovation and economic development and infrastructure, and that will support a vast array of much-needed mental health and other social service programs in our rapidly growing community.

To my staff, all that we have accomplished would not have been possible without you. Thank you for your hard work and dedication, and I look forward to seeing what you do next.

To the residents of Georgia's Seventh District, thank you again for the honor of representing our community in Congress.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF LESLEE KATHRYN BUHLER ALEXANDER

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

Mr. KUSTOFF. Madam Speaker, many in the Chamber know our friend Senator Lamar Alexander, but many of you may not know that earlier this year he lost his wife of 53 years, Leslee Kathryn Buhler Alexander, better known to all of us as "Honey."

Honey was a household name in Tennessee, not for being the first lady of Tennessee or the wife of a United States Senator, but for being the voice of so many across the State.

Honey grew up in Texas. She graduated high school in Austin in 1963 and received her college degree from Smith College in 1967. Honey later joined the Washington, D.C., staff of United States Senator John G. Tower.

Now, that summer, during a softball game between Senator Tower's staff and the staff of Senator Howard Baker, Jr., Honey met a young Baker staffer, Lamar Alexander. Honey and Lamar dated for about 18 months and married in 1969.

When Honey, Lamar, and their 11-month-old son, Drew, moved to Nashville in 1970, Honey began to focus on the health and well-being of families and children. She said: "Strong families make strong children."

Later, as Tennessee's first lady, Honey led the statewide Healthy Children Initiative with the goal of providing prenatal healthcare for every child. Honey dedicated her life to the well-being of our next generation.

Honey Alexander cofounded Leadership Nashville, served Family & Children's Service as president of its board and chaired multiple events, and additionally served on the boards of the Adventure Science Center, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, the Junior League of Nashville, the Dede Wallace Center, and the Hermitage.

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Honey and Lamar had three more children: Leslee, Kathryn, and Will.

Through it all, Honey was a steadfast and committed partner during her husband's honorable career in public service.

Honey campaigned during Lamar's six races for Governor and United States Senator, served 8 years as the first lady of Tennessee, moved to Knoxville when Lamar was the president of the University of Tennessee, and then moved to Washington when Lamar was the United States Education Secretary and finally U.S. Senator. When Lamar was campaigning for President, Honey traveled on her own to over 80 different Iowa communities.

During the 1996 Presidential campaign in New Hampshire, Honey was interviewed on the Larry King Show on CNN. Larry King asked Honey this question: Do you really want to be the First Lady and live in the White House?

Honey answered in her own way, very succinctly with one word: "No."

That was Honey. It was clear to all of us that Honey was happiest at home with her family. I think that Honey summed it up well when she wrote: "The most important facets of my life remain the same: supporting Lamar; mothering the children; helping others; and nurturing good physical, spiritual, emotional, and intellectual health in me and those closest to me."

When Nashville's Family and Children's Service named its new home the Honey Alexander Center, the organization said, "Honey Alexander has dedicated her life to the service of others." In my opinion, that really is the most suitable statement.

As a child, Honey's daughter Leslee wrote in a school essay: "My mother is the lioness who keeps the family in hand and allows us to live and grow."

We should all be so lucky to have a Honey Alexander in our lives.

As we grieve the loss of one of our favorite first ladies, we know that Tennessee is a better place to live and raise a family because of the work of this wonderful wife, mother, and friend.

From Roberta and me to Lamar, Leslee, Kathryn, and Will: We know your hearts are heavy this holiday season, but we want to say thank you. Thank you for allowing your wife and your mother to be a lioness for us all.

#### SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. KAHELE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on a critical issue for indigenous people of the United States, specifically Native Hawaiians.

Yesterday, in this august body, I introduced H.R. 9614 to amend the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, legislation critical to the preservation, protection, and restoration of the sovereign rights of the Native Hawaiian people.

Madam Speaker, 129 years ago, on January 17, 1893, 13 White men with the support of U.S. troops of the USS *Boston* illegally overthrew the Kingdom of Hawaii. In the years that would follow, the kingdom's beloved monarch, Queen Liliuokalani, was imprisoned; millions of acres of sovereign royal lands were stolen; *olelo* Hawaii, the Hawaiian language, was prohibited to be taught or spoken in public schools; the United States illegally annexed Hawaii via a simple majority joint resolution after failing to gain treaty ratification in the United States Senate; and by 1920, Native Hawaiians—decimated by Western diseases, the loss of their land, culture, and identity—were on the brink of extinction.

Realizing the plight of his people, Hawaii's second Native Hawaiian and territorial Delegate to the Congress, Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalanianaʻole, 102 years ago, authored one of the most important pieces of Federal legislation for Hawaiians, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920.

The act would set aside 203,000 acres to restore land and dignity to Native Hawaiians of 1/32 blood quantum, giving them leasing opportunities for homesteading, farming, ranching, and mercantile purposes.

However, Delegate Kuhio ran into fierce opposition and was forced to compromise with Western powerful sugar and ranching business interests by accepting a blood quantum requirement of 50 percent to qualify for a lease. This requirement would serve as a poison pill in the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act dividing Native Hawaiians—a divide that remains to this day.

Inadequately funded and managed by the United States from 1921 to 1959, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and its day-to-day management was punted to the new State of Hawaii as a condition and requirement of statehood in 1959.

Realizing that Native Hawaiians were being quickly displaced from their land due to interracial marriages, the State of Hawaii and the United States lowered the blood quantum requirement for qualified beneficiary successors to 25 percent.

Madam Speaker, 100 years later, due to interracial marriages and blended families, many descendants of beneficiaries do not meet the 25 percent requirement for successorship.

In addition, the failure of both the State of Hawaii and the United States to meet its fiduciary, execution, management, and oversight obligations to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act has resulted in less than 10,000 Native Hawaiians being awarded a lease while an applicant wait list of almost 29,000 exists to this day.

As the applicant wait list grows, the median average age of an applicant grows, creating a sense of urgency as thousands have died on the wait list, and thousands more will die on the wait list, never fulfilling the true vision of Prince Kuhio to Aina

Ho'opululula, or return Native Hawaiians to their land.

This bill, H.R. 9614, will reduce the blood quantum requirement to Delegate Kuhio's original intent of 1/32 for the successors of those who have, while also addressing the inequity of those who don't have by lowering the 50 percent blood quantum requirement for successorship to 1/32 for the thousands of applicants and their successors on the DHHL applicant wait list.

With the 117th Congress coming to an end in just 13 days, it is my sincere hope that the 118th Congress will address this important issue and that an emerging new generation of Native Hawaiian political leaders in Hawaii will elevate this and the myriad of other issues that continue to suppress and harm the Native Hawaiian community.

Madam Speaker, I am confident that if we do that, we can effectuate sustainable and positive change across Hawaii and our Nation where all of our people thrive, not just a privileged few.

### FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

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

Mr. MEIJER. Madam Speaker, I rise today for the last time as a Member of the 117th Congress. I do not seek to dwell on the circumstances of my departure, although it does bring to mind a few lines from Yeats' "Second Coming":

The best lack all conviction, while the worst

Are full of passionate intensity.

Perhaps it takes a cataclysm like World War I to capture the naked, malevolent cynicism of our politics. Yeats also well captured the harrowing consequence of elite ineptitude that precipitated the slaughter of tens of millions:

Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;  
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world.

I read and re-read those words while flying from Hamid Karzai International Airport last August during the shameful end to 20 years of America's war in Afghanistan.

What I saw on the ground during that waking nightmare exemplified some of the best of the American men and women in uniform, but it also reflected the haplessness and incompetency of American policymaking.

It is easy to question why we are here in this Chamber, what our purpose is, and what it is we seek to achieve. I did not enter this body as some wide-eyed innocent; three years in war zones had stripped me of that.

But what I did not anticipate until I got here was how many of the problems we are confronting are problems of Congress' own making.

Look at Afghanistan. Across the roundtable, we are fighting an uphill battle to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act so that our allies who have risked their lives to support our operations aren't

deported back to the same hell that 13 American servicemembers sacrificed their lives to rescue them from.

This should not be a Herculean task. Yet, Senators have the privilege of wrapping their hands around the neck of critical legislation and strangling it in back rooms. If they want to slit the throat of the Afghan Adjustment Act, then let them do it on the Senate floor in full view of the allies and veterans they are betraying.

The reason in the first place why we have to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act is due to the failure of our war in Afghanistan—a failure abetted by decades of Congress' lax oversight of the President and his Department of Defense.

To solve this, I pushed for Congress to take back its war powers, to take back that constitutional responsibility. But even when it comes to Congress asserting its own prerogative, this body has shown itself unwilling to do its job.

The current budget negotiations taking place on the other side of the roundtable also show a Congress unwilling to confront the very basic task of passing a budget on time. The last time we had a budget passed before the fiscal year started, I was in second grade. And here we sit, 72 hours before a government shutdown, while the Senate pats itself on the back for dropping a 4,155-page omnibus bill at 2 a.m. yesterday morning.

When Congress is incapable of solving problems of its own making, how can the American people have any faith that we can tackle the problems arising from the broader world?

What hope do we have of out-competing China and of winning this coming century if we can't even get out of a mess of our own making?

We need the best to regain their convictions, to set an example of what clear-eyed leadership looks like both at home and abroad. We need to hold the worst to account and reprise the moral resolve that has led us through dark times in this country many, many times before.

Too many have sacrificed too much for us to squander the opportunity before us, the opportunity to rise to the challenge of this moment, to set aside petty squabbles, the opportunity to build on the promise of limited government, economic freedom, and individual liberty—the promise that underpins the American Dream.

While I will not be in the 118th Congress to fight for the government our great people deserve, I remain steadfast to my commitment to make our Nation at last worthy of the sacrifices made in its name. And I pray that the next Congress learns from the mistakes of the last 2 years, that we learn from the mistakes of decades before, and that we have the courage necessary to fulfill the promise of a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

### GREAT LAKES AUTHORITY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise for two reasons.

First, as founding cochair of the Ukraine Caucus, I rise to express gratitude to our Speaker, NANCY PELOSI, for extending the invitation to Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to address our Congress in this beloved House tonight. What a consequential moment in world history his remarks will elucidate.

Our Ukraine Caucus, which is bipartisan, will warmly welcome him as a brother in the cause of liberty.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the names of Members of our bipartisan caucus.

#### CONGRESSIONAL UKRAINE CAUCUS MEMBERS

Ami Bera (CA-07)	Steven Horsford (NV-04)	Nancy Pelosi (CA-12)
Gus Bilirakis (FL-12)	Ronny Jackson (TX-13)	August Pfluger (TX-11)
Jamaal Bowman (NY-16)	Sheila Jackson Lee (TX-18)	Dean Phillips (MN-03)
Brendan Boyle (PA-02)	Hakeem Jeffries (NY-08)	Chellie Pingree (ME-01)
Julia Brownley (CA-26)	Bill Johnson (OH-06)	David Price (NC-04)
Vern Buchanan (FL-16)	Mondaire Jones (NY-17)	Mike Quigley (IL-05)
Michael Burgess (TX-26)	David Joyce (OH-14)	Kathleen Rice (NY-04)
Kat Cammack (FL-03)	Marcy Kaptur (OH-09)	Deborah Ross (NC-02)
André Carson (IN-07)	William Keating (MA-09)	Bobby Rush (IL-01)
Matt Cartwright (PA-08)	Andy Kim (NJ-03)	Tim Ryan (OH-13)
Sean Casten (IL-06)	Ron Kind (WI-03)	Mary Gay Scanlon (PA-05)
David Cicilline (RI-01)	Adam Kinzinger (IL-16)	Jan Schakowsky (IL-09)
Steve Cohen (TN-09)	Raja Krishnamoorthi (IL-08)	Adam Schiff (CA-28)
Gerry Connolly (VA-11)	Ann Kuster (NH-02)	Bobby Scott (VA-04)
Jim Costa (CA-16)	Doug Lamborn (CO-05)	Brad Sherman (CA-30)
Joe Courtney (CT-02)	James Langevin (RI-02)	Mikie Sherrill (NJ-11)
Jason Crow (CO-06)	Mike Levin (CA-49)	Elissa Slotkin (MI-08)
Danny K. Davis (IL-07)	Andy Levin (MI-09)	Adam Smith (WA-09)
Madeleine Dean (PA-04)	Nicole Malliotakis (NY-11)	Chris Smith (NJ-04)
Rosa DeLauro (CT-03)	Carolyn Maloney (NY-12)	Victoria Spartz (IN-05)
Suzan DelBene (WA-01)	A. Donald McEachin (VA-04)	Haley Stevens (MI-11)
Debbie Dingell (MI-12)	Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-05)	Chris Stewart (UT-02)
Lloyd Doggett (TX-35)	Jerry McNerney (CA-09)	Eric Swalwell (CA-15)
Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-01)	Peter Meijer (MI-03)	Ritchie Torres (NY-15)
Ruben Gallego (AZ-07)	Dan Meuser (PA-09)	Lori Trahan (MA-03)
Josh Gottheimer (NJ-05)	Kweisi Mfume (MD-07)	David Trone (MD-06)
Andy Harris (MD-01)	Mariannette Miller-Meeke (IA-02)	Fred Upton (MI-06)
Jaime Herrera Beutler (WA-03)	Joe Murrells (NY-25)	Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL-07)
Brian Higgins (NY-26)	Seth Moulton (MA-06)	Susan Wild (PA-07)
French Hill (AR-02)	Frank Pallone (NJ-06)	Joe Wilson (SC-02)
Jim Himes (CT-04)	William Pascarella (NJ-09)	Steve Womack (AR-03)
Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC-00)		

Ms. KAPTUR. Secondly, I also rise with considerable excitement as the Great Lakes Authority legislation,