

CONGRATULATING THE ARCHBISHOP HOBAN BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mrs. SYKES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Archbishop Hoban boys' basketball team from Ohio's 13th Congressional District and the city of Akron for winning the Division I boys basketball championship for the year 2023.

On Sunday, the Archbishop Hoban Knights defeated Pickerington Central 53-47 in the Division I championship, marking the team's first title in 34 years. This was Archbishop Hoban's first appearance at the State championship since they last won the title in 1989.

These student athletes have made the entire Akron community proud and continue to display their excellence, determination, and work ethic both on the court and in the classroom.

I also congratulate head coach T.K. Griffith, who has led the Hoban boys' basketball program for 30 years, as well as the staff, trainers, parents, cheerleaders, and everyone who helped carry these student athletes over the finish line.

They are, in fact, the reason why Ohio 13 is the birthplace of champions.

Congratulations one more time to Ohio 13's Champions of the Week, the fearless Knights, for bringing the Division I trophy back home to Akron.

WE USED TO TRUST OUR EDUCATORS

(Mr. SANTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are begging for a compromise, asking for our trust.

We trusted that our children would be safeguarded from lewd content such as this book. I can't quote a page nor show a page from this book because it is against the decorum for this body. Why is this appropriate in our schools?

Here is the reality. We used to trust our educators. We trusted that our educators respected the boundaries of the home. We trusted that they would leave the rearing of our children to the parents. We trusted that the curriculum was not formulated by bureaucrats and that classrooms would not be transformed into indoctrination camps. We trusted that our school boards would respect children's parents and not refer to them as domestic terrorists when they voiced their concerns.

We were let down.

The Parents Bill of Rights Act will put the power back in the hands of parents and provide them with the information they need to ensure their children receive the best education.

Parents have a right to know what their children are taught. Parents have

a right to see the school budget and spending. Parents have the right to keep their children safe.

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I am so delighted to be joined this evening by women members of the Democratic Women's Caucus.

The chairwoman, LOIS FRANKEL, is here with us this evening. Vice Chairs AYANNA PRESSLEY and KATHY MANNING and other members of the Democratic Women's Caucus, Representatives SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE and EMILIA SYKES, are with us here this evening, as well.

We are celebrating Women's History Month. What we thought we would do today is talk about many of the women who have come to Congress and made history and a big difference in this very male-oriented institution.

We call your attention to this chart. It starts here at about 1917, quite frankly, when Jeannette Rankin was the first woman elected to Congress, all the way back to 1789. We finally elected a woman in 1917. She served 1 year, not even one term, because she voted against the war.

Here we are today. Within 1 hour, Mr. Speaker, we won't have a chance to talk about all of these women, but I think that the women we have chosen to speak about are women who found that they had the same profound challenges in this institution. They were highly educated and very intelligent, yet they faced tremendous hurdles. They overcame them and made a big difference in our institution.

We are going to talk about Bella Abzug from New York tonight. We are going to talk about now-Senator TAMMY BALDWIN from Wisconsin, who was a Member of this body. We are going to talk about Patsy Mink and now-Secretary Marcia Fudge from Ohio, who was Representative Fudge. We are going to talk about Shirley Chisholm. We may mention a thing or two about NANCY PELOSI from California, who is our Speaker Emerita.

We are going to talk about Barbara Jordan; LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD; Stephanie Tubbs Jones; Senator MAZIE HIRONO, who was a Member of this body before she went over to the Senate; Pat Schroeder, who just recently passed; and Geraldine Ferraro.

We are going to talk about now-Secretary Deb Haaland, who was a former House Member, as the first Native American Cabinet Secretary but also one of the two first Native Americans to be elected to this body, along with Representative SHARICE DAVIDS.

We are going to talk about the first Muslim women to join our body, Rep-

resentatives RASHIDA TLAIB and ILHAN OMAR.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL), the chairwoman of the Democratic Women's Caucus.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank my great colleague from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) for yielding and for organizing this session tonight. I am happy to be with all of my colleagues who are here tonight, also.

I am very proud to be a Congresswoman in one of the most diverse Congresses in our history. It is the most diverse. We now have 94 Democratic women. We even have quite a few Republican women, which is great.

Listen, I am here as a mother and grandmother as we celebrate Women's History Month. It is a time to reflect on the historic gains women have made and reclaim our efforts as we march to equity.

This is a time that we pay tribute, sister—I will call you sister; I feel like you are my sister—to the strong, fearless, and selfless women who paved the way for us all.

When I think about it, just about every one of us here was first at something, but we know we are not going to be last. We are first but not last. In that regard, I am going to do a couple of shout-outs.

I want to shout out to our Vice President, KAMALA HARRIS, the first woman Vice President of the United States, who, of course, graced our Senate.

I want to shout out to the first woman of color ever elected to this Congress, Patsy Mink, who was the first Asian American and also the author of Title IX, which has meant so much for women to advance in education.

I am also going to do a shout-out to someone who was one of my very good friends, who I miss already as she retired last year, and that is LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, a very proud California Member, the first Mexican-American woman to be in Congress.

It is not really their ethnic identity that I think about. Because I got to serve with LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, I remember her grit, her determination, the first woman of color cardinal in charge of an Appropriations Committee subcommittee and a lot of battles as chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee.

I want to tell you what she left. She left a quote: "One thing that I hope is that the people that I have represented over the years know that I have worked as hard as I possibly could on their behalf and that I served them honorably and that, hopefully, I made a positive difference in their life."

I will tell you this, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, if you are listening to this: You made a positive difference in many, many people's lives.

□ 1945

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me talk about someone who is a personal heroine of

mine, Bella Abzug. Bella Abzug, what a trailblazer. We know her for her hats. She always wore a hat. She was a giant of the women's rights movement, whose shoulders we all stand on today. "Battling Bella" as she was affectionately known, was on the front line of every issue of her time.

She was born to Russian immigrants in the Bronx, and even as a young girl working in her father's butcher shop, she knew she wanted to be a lawyer. She went to Hunter College where she was on the student council, and then set her sights on Harvard, but the school had other thoughts. They ultimately rejected her because of her gender.

Columbia University was much more astute and she earned her law degree there. She became a lawyer at a time when very, very few women were practicing law. She defended Black clients in the South. She dedicated her time to fighting labor rights, tenant's rights, and civil liberties. She worked with the ACLU and the Civil Rights Congress.

She marched for equal rights, feminism, environmentalism, and the LGBTQ+ community. She organized the Women's Strike for Peace in the 1960s. She brought together tens of thousands of women across America to protest nuclear testing and the Vietnam war.

In 1970, decades into her career, she was elected to the Congress where she served until 1976. In these Halls, she introduced bills to remove troops in Vietnam, she fought for the equal rights amendment, access to abortion care, funding for childcare, and gay rights.

She led the charge to make it illegal for credit companies to discriminate against applicants based on the basis of sex, race, religion, and marital status or age. Believe it or not, sister, there was a time that women couldn't even get credit in their own name.

Outside of Congress, Bella founded the National Women's Political Caucus with other feminist icons: Betty Friedan, Shirley Chisholm, and Gloria Steinem.

Bella Abzug was a true force to be reckoned with, a passionate and compassionate leader who wore many hats—literally and figuratively—and fearlessly stood up for her values regardless of political consequences.

She once said of herself, sister—and I think her description probably describes a lot of the women in this room tonight. She said: I have been described as a tough and noisy woman, a prizefighter, a man hater, you name it. They call me "Battling Bella," mother of courage.

There are those who say I am impatient, impetuous, uppity, rude, profane, brash, and overbearing. Whether I am any of these things or all of them, you can decide for yourself. But whatever I am, and this must be made very clear at the outset, I am a very serious woman.

She was a woman to be taken seriously, and she did not back down from

the biggest fights of her generation. She did not give up creating a better world for her children or her children's children. As women Members of Congress, looking back on her legacy, we take courage from her actions, and we will continue to fight, to build the equitable world that she dreamed of.

Bella never backed down and neither will we.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, that was great. I thank Representative FRANKEL so much for that. I must say that from afar Bella Abzug influenced me. I knew who she was. I knew about her helping to create the feminist movement, and it empowered me as a woman.

With regard to Representative LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, let me just say, not only was she—it was pointed out, of course, she was the first Mexican woman to enter this institution, but it is not enough to just be the first. She came here and she led the way on things like the Violence Against Women Act. She fought and used her post as a cardinal to protect the interests of children, all children. We will truly miss her.

She mentioned Senator TAMMY BALDWIN—no, she didn't mention her. She mentioned Senator MAZIE HIRONO. She was a former House Member, now in the Senate. She went to the Senate and was the first Asian woman elected to the Senate. She is also the first Buddhist who entered this body.

Diversity is important so that all voices are heard in this body. I thank LOIS FRANKEL for lifting up these women.

Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased at this time to introduce one of the people who is younger than me, but that I get so much—much younger than me. I guess people are laughing because that is really not hard to tell. She is someone who inspires, someone who has already made her mark in this body, and she is one of our vice chairwomen of the Democratic Women's Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY).

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for my sister in service here, my indefatigable colleague from Wisconsin, who leads on so many issues of consequence, especially in the space of anti-poverty, the stabilization of family, and women's health. I appreciate her.

I am so glad that we could take the time to pay tribute to the women who have come before us who have kicked open doors, broken ceilings, powered movements, blazed a trail, been role models, mentored us by their example, and more intentionally poured into us, if we had the privilege to serve alongside them. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. MOORE as well for her sisterhood and her mentorship.

Mr. Speaker, neither my mother, Sandy, or my father, Martin, raised me to ask permission to lead. I do believe that a parent is a child's first and best

teacher. Instead of traditional bedtime stories of princes and knights in shining armor, my mother read me the powerful speeches of Black Congresswomen like Barbara Jordan and Shirley Chisholm.

Since my formative years, I have felt this soul tie to Shirley Chisholm, long before my work led me to this Chamber. In fact, my first office here as a freshman in the 116th Congress was formerly Shirley Chisholm's office.

Not only was Shirley—and I don't say that to be anyway disrespectful by not referring to her as a Congresswoman—but she is, in fact, so iconic that you can just say her first name and it is clear who you are talking about. Not only was Shirley a first, the first Black woman elected to the House of Representatives, she was disruptive, she was brave, she was a trailblazer, in fighting injustice she was an inspiration.

Very often, iconic leaders can be singularly defined by one great speech and some powerful quotes. I think it is tempting to do that with Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, but it would be a disservice to do so.

While certainly she was the first Black woman elected to Congress, the first Black woman to pursue the U.S. Presidency, let the record reflect that Shirley Chisholm was an effective legislator in her own right, serving here for seven terms.

She was the daughter of immigrants from Barbados and Guiana. She has blazed the trail for every Black woman in this body, including myself today, as the first person of color and the first Black woman to ever represent the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Everyone, including Vice President KAMALA HARRIS, owes her a debt of gratitude. Her contributions go well beyond that. During her time in these sacred Halls of power, Shirley played a critical role in advancing policies that support our most vulnerable and marginalized communities.

As a member of the Agricultural Committee, Shirley was pivotal in enacting the SNAP program, which helps feed over 42 million people each year. She was also one of 13 founding members in 1971 of the Congressional Black Caucus, which today boasts its largest membership in history. She was also a founding member of the National Women's Political Caucus.

Everyone wants to be a part of something when it is already established, but it takes a certain kind of grit, vision, and determination to be the founder of something. Shirley was both a visionary and a doer, and tenacious in the actualization of these caucuses, which live on today.

Shirley Chisholm was a forceful champion for the equal rights amendment, a cause I am honored to lead, in partnership with my colleagues and movement allies in the House today.

In her words, in the words of Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, spoken

right here in the people's House, she said of the ERA: "It provides a legal basis for attack on the most subtle, most pervasive, and most institutionalized form of prejudice that exists. Discrimination against women, solely on the bases of their sex, is so widespread that it seems to many persons normal, natural, and right."

Mr. Speaker, Black women like Shirley Chisholm have done the work of preserving and defending our democracy for centuries, but for far too often our contributions are ignored, erased, or rendered a footnote in history. It is not lost on me that the first time the ERA was put forward, women of color were not even part of the conversation.

Today, there will be no erasure. We stand on the shoulders of folks like Shirley Chisholm, leading a multiracial, intergenerational coalition to advance this priority.

Mr. Speaker, when asked how she wanted to be remembered, Shirley Chisholm said she wanted to be remembered as a Black woman who lived in the 20th century and dared to be herself—a catalyst for change.

Today, during Women's History Month and every month, we honor women like Shirley, we follow in their footsteps, and we continue running, winning, leading, legislating, and taking up all the space with our full authentic selves, just as Shirley taught us.

May she rest in peace and power. Happy Women's History Month.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative PRESSLEY so much, what a great tribute to a great woman.

Mr. Speaker, let me say that I am so happy to welcome to the podium another woman who is fairly new, but I tell you, she's a powerhouse and full of energy and ideas, here ready to do the work from North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING), one of our vice chairs of the Democratic Women's Caucus.

□ 2000

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congresswoman MOORE for leading this Special Order hour. I want to thank our Democratic Women's Caucus chair, Representative FRANKEL, and my co-chair of the policy committee, Representative PRESSLEY, for being with us tonight to celebrate this important moment.

I rise today to celebrate Women's History Month and to recognize three courageous women from North Carolina who broke the glass ceiling and paved the way for future women in politics.

First, I want to honor a true trailblazer from North Carolina, Gertrude Weil, a Jewish woman from Goldsboro, North Carolina. She was the daughter of immigrants who dedicated her life for fighting for women's equality, labor reforms, and civil rights. Gertrude led the tireless fight for women's right to

vote through an organization she led, the North Carolina Equal Suffragette Association.

In 1920, following years of suffragette advocacy, the 19th Amendment was finally ratified giving women the right to vote. Following the ratification, Gertrude called a meeting at the Guilford County Courthouse to announce that her organization would no longer be the suffragettes but would not become the North Carolina League of Women Voters.

It was at that courthouse in downtown Greensboro where Gertrude famously said: "It is so obvious that to treat people equally is the right thing to do."

I recently had the pleasure of attending the unveiling of a monument in her honor and a mile marker at the Guilford County Courthouse 102 years after Gertrude formed the North Carolina League of Women Voters.

I also want to honor Eliza Jane Pratt. In 1946 she became the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress from North Carolina, breaking down the centuries' old barrier women had to overcome in politics. Prior to her election to Congress, Congresswoman Pratt served as a legislative aide to the four Congressmen who preceded her in representing the district. She was known for having an impressive understanding of her constituents' needs and the district.

Finally, I want to recognize Congresswoman Eva Clayton, the first Black woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from North Carolina. Congresswoman Clayton put the interests of her rural communities above all else as she fiercely advocated for the Black farmers that her district and the State relied upon.

These women were firsts in North Carolina politics, but they were certainly not lasts. Today, I stand before you, Mr. Speaker, as one of the five women representing North Carolina in the House of Representatives. The legacies of the women who came before us cleared a path for other women to legislate, represent, and advocate for their communities in Congress.

This Women's History Month, let's honor the legacies of those who came before us by committing to build a better and more equitable future for the next generation of girls and women.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. I thank Representative MANNING so much for that eloquent presentation, and I just want to thank the gentlewoman for sticking around and believing that someday we would get around to her.

Mr. Speaker, I am so delighted to introduce a new Member from California. She has succeeded our former colleague, Karen Bass, who is now the mayor of Los Angeles. When Karen Bass left, she told us: Don't worry, don't bother trying to miss me, because I am sending in the best and the brightest from my community, and she is going to hit the ground running.

She certainly has been a great colleague.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE).

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. I thank Representative MOORE for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise with all of these other fabulous women in Congress to celebrate female trailblazers in Congress. I am going to speak to many of those trailblazers who hail from California. This is a shout-out to some bad sisters.

I am here to honor former Representative Karen Bass, the now-mayor of Los Angeles. Mr. Speaker, you have to love the people if you want to lead people, and Mayor Karen Bass loves Los Angeles. Stepping into her shoes in Congress has been an incredibly humbling journey.

Ms. Bass has a long history of public service working in the California State Assembly before coming here to Congress. In fact, she was the first female speaker—let alone the first Black woman—but the first female speaker of the California State Assembly—an incredibly powerful body. California, after all, is the fifth largest economy in the world.

When she was first elected to the assembly, she was the only Black woman in the entire State legislature. She then came to Congress and eventually served as the chair of the mighty, moral Congressional Black Caucus from 2019 to 2021 before launching her mayoral campaign.

Mayor Karen Bass is a champion for the people in every single way, leading the charge on foreign diplomacy, criminal justice reform, foster youth, and environmental justice. Karen Bass worked and works in a quiet, forceful, and bipartisan way, and Ms. Bass found results for the people while she was here in Congress.

Following in her footsteps, I support the same issues that matter to Angelenos and Americans across the country.

It is important to note that her work ethic stems from her own journey. She was a caretaker, she was a nurse, she was a nurturer, and she was a problem solver. She started her journey, actually, as a nurse. She eventually became a social worker. She got her degree in that. Then she started Community Coalition, a nonprofit organization that rose from the ashes of the 1992 riots focused on equity, access, and opportunity.

Karen Bass is now the first female mayor of Los Angeles, and she is the second African American to hold the position since the founding of the city. She continues to break boundaries and passionately serve the people addressing critical issues now with laser-like focus, issues like homelessness, affordable housing, and increasing opportunity for all.

Mayor Karen Bass is bringing a new direction to Los Angeles with a vision that advances equity and progress for the people. So I am proud not just to

call her my mayor, but a friend, a mentor, and a guiding light in the fight for justice.

I would be remiss as a Californian if I also didn't pay homage to fellow trailblazers like former Congresswoman Yvonne Brathwaite Burke. She was a Congresswoman who dared to be the first woman in Congress to have and raise a child while in Congress.

Former Congresswoman Diane Watson also served in this very seat and was a staunch advocate for education. She fought against xenophobia, and she was a vocal leader on issues related to reparations for descendants of African-American slaves.

I have to say that I come from a lineage of Black women in this seat, Black women who can't be beat.

They are heroes mostly because they are ordinary women who dared and continue to dare to do extraordinary things sometimes just by showing up, standing tall, leading with constitution, and not taking "no" for an answer.

I am proud to be part of this group of women that celebrates the power—the female power—that comes to us in Congress in these hallowed Halls.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative Congresswoman KAMLAGER-DOVE. Let me just say I knew all of those women from California, and they were California dreams, all of them. I remember when Ambassador Diane Watson became an ambassador, wherever she would take you, she would never ever, ever meet a stranger.

She could stay up all night and all day. I don't know where she got the energy from, but she was a people person. When she left, she told us: Don't worry, I am sending you someone great, and she gave us Karen Bass. Just like Karen Bass said: Don't worry, I am sending you someone great, and we got Representative KAMLAGER-DOVE. We are very, very pleased.

I am so delighted to introduce our next speaker. I met her when she was a candidate. I knew immediately that she would win her race in Ohio because of her determination and her resolve to do it. She didn't have a lot of people at that time who were saying: Oh, yeah, come on. She didn't have a big fundraising base. But I knew that she was resolute to get here. Already she is speaking up, asking questions, and taking names.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the last time you will see Representative EMILIA SYKES, so let me be the first to introduce you to her.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. SYKES).

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman MOORE for organizing this Special Order hour so that we can recognize women who have led the way who are trailblazers, history makers, glass breakers, and overall fantastic human beings.

You may know or you may not know, Mr. Speaker, that Ohio has elected 13

women to Congress. These women have been incredible role models and leaders for girls and women as well as boys and men across this country, but particularly for us in Ohio.

I am going to take a few moments today just to talk about a few of those women, just about eight of them, starting in 1977 with the first Democratic woman elected to Congress from Ohio. Her name was Mary Rose Oakar. She, at the age of 36, was one of the youngest women ever elected to Congress and the first Arab-American woman ever elected to Congress in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the next Democratic woman elected to Congress, you know her, we all serve with her, she is the dean of the Ohio delegation and the longest-serving woman in Congress, MARCY KAPTUR. She has been called the queen of the Great Lakes because of her advocacy. But there is nothing you can mistake about Congresswoman KAPTUR that would make you think that she did not believe strongly in the people of Toledo and the people of northwest Ohio.

Our third Democratic woman from Ohio was none other than Stephanie Tubbs Jones, the first Black woman elected from the State of Ohio.

Unfortunately, Congresswoman Tubbs Jones lost her life in 2008, but I got to know her and my family got to know her very well. Her spirit and her passion were unmatched. The people of Cleveland were the people whom she always, always championed.

Something that she said stuck out to me. I want to read it to you here, Mr. Speaker, because this is a great reminder for all of us who serve in this hallowed institution. She said that if they—our constituents—are willing to stand at the polls for countless hours in the rain, then I should surely stand up for them here in Congress.

The fourth woman from Ohio I would like to acknowledge is Congresswoman—now judge of the Ninth District Court of Appeals—Betty Sutton. She was the youngest woman elected, and I am honored to take her seat, Ohio's 13th District in Congress. Betty Sutton was not only a Member of Congress, now the judiciary, but also local city, county, and State elected office.

□ 2015

Following Betty Sutton, I am going to acknowledge Marcia Fudge, a woman who certainly needs no introduction, who now serves as the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Congresswoman, now Secretary, Fudge served the House from northeast Ohio honorably for seven terms, and we are grateful for her new position where she leads this Nation in affordable housing for all people, no matter where they may reside across the country.

Mary Jo Kilroy, the Congresswoman from central Ohio served one term, and she was a vocal supporter of the Affordable Care Act. It is a fitting tribute to talk about her today, considering it is

the 13th anniversary of that bill passing. She was instrumental in a very important vote ensuring healthcare for people across this Nation.

The first Democratic minority leader in the Ohio House you may not know, Mr. Speaker, was none other than JOYCE BEATTY. She was the former CBC chair, most recently serving, and someone who I was able to follow in the Ohio legislature. She is a towering figure here in Congress, and we are so excited to have her as a leader in central Ohio.

SHONTEL BROWN, who won not one, not two, but three elections in a very short amount of time to make sure that folks knew how serious she was about representing the people of northeast Ohio. She came from Warrensville Heights City Council to the Cuyahoga County Council to becoming the first Black woman to lead the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am number 13, EMILIA SYKES, representing the 13th Congressional District of Ohio and Ohio's 13th female Member elected to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, as I close my remarks, I remind those who may be watching that none of us would be here, none of the women that we have talked about, without the gracious and tenacious activities of the suffragettes who made sure that we even had the right to vote so we could stand here in Congress to advocate for our communities.

I always like to talk about Sojourner Truth. Although she was not a Member of Congress and although she was not a person from Ohio, she gave a very important speech in my district, Ohio 13, called Ain't I a Woman. At the end of that speech, she reminded us that if the first woman that God ever made was strong enough to turn this world upside down, then all these women together ought to be able to get it right side up again.

That is the legacy of the women from Ohio and throughout the Nation who have served in this Congress have done, get this world right side up again.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative SYKES for that very enlightening presentation of the 13 women who have been elected to Congress from the great State of Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, we have spoken about most of the women that we have on this poster board here. We named this little session "A Dozen Women and Then Some" because, as you have heard this evening, there are many, many, many more women that we could have talked about but we could not squeeze it all into one hour.

I would be remiss if I did not mention a couple of other women. Senator TAMMY BALDWIN from Wisconsin. Senator TAMMY BALDWIN served in this body before she was elected to the State senate. She was the first openly LGBTQ person to be elected to Congress. Being her authentic self, not shying away from who she was, and still she was elected to the United States Senate, to the U.S. Congress.

Before then, ladies and gentlemen, TAMMY BALDWIN served on the county board in Madison, Wisconsin, and before that she was appointed to the Common Council to fill an aldermanic vacancy because of someone's absence, and didn't have to face the voters because that is just how much they trusted TAMMY BALDWIN.

TAMMY BALDWIN has a resume that is too long to share with you this evening, but let me tell you some of the things that I rejoice about. TAMMY BALDWIN was the key legislator that put the provision into the Affordable Care Act, also known as ObamaCare, to allow parents to keep their children on their insurance plan until they were age 26.

She did that because of her own lived experience as a person who was in the custody of her grandparents, and her grandparents were unable to put her on their insurance. They had to pay out of pocket thousands and thousands of dollars while TAMMY BALDWIN was in the hospital for months. It is that lived experience that gave TAMMY BALDWIN a passion for healthcare that she brought here to this body.

Now millions of young people who are struggling to get an education, to go to college, who perhaps don't have careers that have come together yet, can have health insurance because of the Affordable Care Act. We can thank TAMMY BALDWIN for that.

TAMMY BALDWIN was also able just recently to pass a bill that was signed into law to provide for same-sex marriage, something that has been a controversial issue in Congress for years, but TAMMY BALDWIN with her very soft demeanor and very understated presentation was able to bring together. I thank TAMMY BALDWIN for being who she is.

Another person who was not an openly gay person was Barbara Jordan, but Barbara Jordan really spoke truth to power during the Nixon administration. Unlike what we have gone through recently, her service on the Judiciary Committee at that time was one of the most powerful voices that enabled the country to realize that they needed to end this Presidency on a bipartisan basis. Mr. Speaker, I thank Barbara Jordan for speaking truth to power.

A person who just passed away recently was Pat Schroeder. I mean, she was Ms. Feminist. She was someone who kept things on boiling hot all the time in this body. She was very antiwar, and she ran on an antiwar platform. She ran on a platform of providing childcare for women, and far before it was talked about, she spoke out on the environment.

She was one of the first people to actually have very small children when she was elected, and someone asked her, "Pat, how can you raise children and be a Congresswoman?" She said, "Well, you know, I have got a uterus and a brain, and I use them both."

She spent 24 years in the House from Colorado. She was the first person to

help get family and medical leave passed, and I think that that was probably her signature achievement in this body. After she left, she wrote a book, "24 Years of House Work . . . and the Place Is Still a Mess." We ought to lean into Pat Schroeder and get busy cleaning up the House.

Geraldine Ferraro was another Member of this body; and, of course, she was the first woman who was a Vice Presidential nominee. She was yet another woman who dared to step into spaces where women had never tread. I thank Geraldine Ferraro for her fierce belief in women.

I would be remiss if I did not mention a few women who are still serving in this body. One is Representative SHARICE DAVIDS. SHARICE DAVIDS is one of the first Native American women, alongside Deb Haaland, elected to this body. When I met Deb Haaland when she was running for Congress, after I hugged her, I looked at her and said: Why the heck did it take you so long to get here?

The voices of native people were desperately needed in this space. Deb Haaland, who is now our Secretary of the Interior and the first native person who has been a Secretary of the Interior, is one of the people who has filled a huge void with regard to protecting the sovereignty of the first peoples of these United States, and I am grateful for their presence.

I also am very grateful for our finally electing Muslims to this body. RASHIDA TLAIB of Michigan and ILHAN OMAR of Minnesota are important voices, particularly since there is so much debate around the world about Muslims and their trustworthiness, reliability, and religious beliefs.

They have shown us that Muslims care very, very deeply about America. There are no two people in this body who care more about America than RASHIDA TLAIB and ILHAN OMAR. ILHAN OMAR was not only an immigrant, she was a refugee to this country. She is someone who loves America because we opened the door of opportunity for her, and she has insights that none of us can see because of the space that she has occupied.

Mr. Speaker, I give honor to all of these women, and of course I adore MARCY KAPTUR. I think Representative SYKES made a great tribute to MARCY KAPTUR, but I would be remiss if I did not tell you how she has influenced me. I love Lake Michigan, which I represent in Wisconsin, and no one is more adamant about protecting this great resource, our Great Lakes, than MARCY KAPTUR.

We have 20 percent of the world's freshwater, more valuable than oil and gas, which people spend so much time protecting, but we have got MARCY KAPTUR to protect the greatest resource that this country has.

Before I close, I just want to mention one other person on here that we have not talked about today, and that is NANCY D'ALESSANDRO PELOSI. As you

know, Nancy was the first woman Speaker of the House of Representatives, and I would argue that history will designate her as the best Speaker ever. I was elected to Congress the term before she became Speaker.

By the time Barack Obama was elected, the first Black President of the United States, I still couldn't pick myself up off the floor, I was just so overwhelmed by what it meant to have this mother and grandmother be able to deal with all of the different factions in the Democratic Caucus and to bring them all together to accomplish our purposes here. I mean, we had the Blue Dogs, the progressives, and the New Dems, and NANCY D'ALESSANDRO PELOSI was the person who could get the vote. You don't bring bills to the floor unless you have got the vote, and NANCY was able to do it.

□ 2030

One of her greatest achievements was the Affordable Care Act, the so-called ObamaCare. The Affordable Care Act has provided 20 million people who were formerly uninsured with affordable, comprehensive healthcare.

I know President Barack Obama gets credit for that, but NANCY is the one that got the votes. NANCY D'ALESSANDRO PELOSI got the votes for the ACA. It was difficult.

This signature accomplishment is right up there with the passage of Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security. This safety net program will be NANCY PELOSI's greatest legacy. After she accomplished her greatest legacy, she wouldn't stop. She kept going.

She shepherded the American Rescue Plan, which got many people shots in arms during a pandemic. She shepherded the American Rescue Plan that kept people from being evicted from their homes, saved small businesses, and saved our economy.

Thank you, NANCY PELOSI.

It was such a great accomplishment, but she didn't stop then. She got the bipartisan infrastructure bill passed in a hugely divided Congress. This bill provided the greatest investment in clean energy that the world has ever seen. It put us on track for meeting our climate goals by 2030. NANCY D'ALESSANDRO PELOSI presided over that accomplishment.

The Inflation Reduction Act supports our environment, but not only that. It provides billions of dollars of relief by finally allowing this Congress to negotiate drug prices for Medicare. One of the biggest expenses this country has is Medicare, a signature program that supports our seniors. While everyone is complaining about how we are going to continue to fund Medicare, this Inflation Reduction Act gives the ability to do what you do in capitalist countries.

If this were IBM, Dell, Starbucks, Amazon, or any other large corporation that purchased as much healthcare for their employees as the United States of America does through Medicare, the VA, and Medicaid, they

would be able to sit down and negotiate drug prices based on the critical mass of people they are serving.

We have lost billions of dollars protecting a rich pharmaceutical industry where Americans have paid five or six times as much for the same drug as people in Canada, France, or other places pay because we were unwilling to deny the fat cats and the shareholders of that company undue remittance.

NANCY D'ALESSANDRO PELOSI, Speaker Emerita—I ran into NANCY in the bathroom right after she had given up the gavel and yielded to HAKEEM JEFFRIES to be our new leader, and I said, “How are you doing, Nancy?” She said: I am free.

She didn't leave. She is still a Member of this body, still providing advice and counsel to our leadership. She didn't leave here in disgrace. She is leaving with a storied legacy of being a great leader.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you and all the staff who has been here to listen to the powerful story of women.

When women lead, America is great.

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

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LALOTA). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, we are going to go after a handful of things, but we are actually going to try something that is somewhat unique for this body. We are actually going to use math. We are going to use facts. We are actually going to get to the way the system actually works instead of doing what seems to be a moniker around here as we make public policy by virtue signaling, by feelings.

Let's actually go over something that has been just grating on me. I am going to try to minimize being a jerk tonight, but if I get one more Democrat running around here screaming at us, “We are going to default,” da, da, da, da. Remember, we got downgraded. That is not what happened.

The language S&P did in 2011 wasn't because of the debt ceiling fight. If you actually read it, “U.S. loses AAA credit rating after S&P downgrade,” it was because S&P cut the long-term U.S. rating by one notch to AA-plus with negative outlook, citing concerns about budget deficits.

It wasn't the debt ceiling. It was the failure of this body to take our demographics and our spending seriously.

This was a decade ago. I believe it was today or yesterday that I heard one of my colleagues on the other side walk behind one of these microphones and lie—excuse me; I take that back—forget what actually happened.

It wasn't because of a fight over the debt ceiling. It was because we didn't

do enough to demonstrate to the debt markets around the world—our own pension systems, your own retirement, others around the world—we didn't communicate to them that we were going to take the debt seriously. This is—what?—a dozen years ago.

The agency said the deficit reduction plan passed by the U.S. Congress on Tuesday did not go far enough. This is from 2011.

We still have Members running around here going: Oh, you are going to default. You are going to do this. Oh, no. Just do a clean debt ceiling.

My argument is very simple. Do you not think the debt markets will punish the United States if we walk in and say we are just going to keep borrowing?

Just raise the damn debt ceiling. Just raise it. Do not take the seriousness of the trouble we are in, the demographic curve we have.

Do you understand? Nine budget years from now, according to the Congressional Budget Office from 3 weeks ago, you can get rid of all of defense; you can get rid of the White House; you can get rid of Congress; you can get rid of the Supreme Court; you can get rid of all of government; the FBI is gone; the Park Service is gone; the Foreign Service is gone; all foreign aid is gone; money to Ukraine is all gone; every dime is gone; there is no discretionary, but you still have to borrow a couple hundred billion dollars. The next year, it is dramatically worse because the Social Security trust fund is gone.

The highway and transportation trust funds are gone. Medicare part A trust fund has long been gone.

This place is an economic fraud. Yet, if you listen to the speeches around here, we do beautiful virtual signaling—my feelings. Screw our feelings. Let's hold out a calculator.

The cruelty that will happen around here if we don't take this seriously—why is this place so terrified to buy a calculator and actually read budget documents?

I want to make sure I get this one right. It was S&P. It wasn't Moody's. I take that back.

S&P downgraded U.S. debt in 2011. The number of times I get from reporters outside: Aren't you fearful you are going to get downgraded like you did a dozen years ago?

That is not what happened. We got downgraded because we didn't take the debt seriously. The numbers today are dramatically worse than in 2011.

Are those the discussions you have around here? Are our brothers and sisters on the left saying: Hey, I care about it.

We have to fix Social Security because, in 9 some years, we are going to double senior poverty if we don't fix it because of that 23, 25 percent cut seniors are going to take.

Do they have a soul? Do they care? If you cared, when the President gave his State of the Union speech, it would not have been you promising not to touch Social Security and Medicare. It would be that we are going to save them.

In the President's budget, a number of my colleagues on the left have been running around saying, oh, they put in all this taxing to raise money for Social Security part A.

Remember, that is only 25 percent of the spending. Three-quarters of Medicare comes out of the general fund. Over 30 years, Medicare is responsible for 75 percent of all the borrowing.

When we get up to close to \$130 billion of borrowed money in 10 years, remember 75 percent of that is just the shortfall for Medicare.

We got old, and we haven't taken on healthcare costs. We are going to finish on that, but it just grates me that this place just makes up stories. We misinterpret because it would require reading and owning a calculator.

We are going to have to deal with the debt ceiling in a serious, adult fashion. I also believe if we do not communicate to the debt markets that we are taking our debt seriously, that they are going to get paid back—just raising the debt ceiling. Hey, it is a clean debt ceiling. Just go borrow more money.

Don't you think the markets are going to not punish the United States? We need to communicate. We need to demonstrate that we are adults, that we understand how ugly our demographics are, how ugly the borrowing is.

Remember, last year, I think, we were borrowing \$48,000 a second. I get the clown show that says: David, if you just didn't have salaries for Members of Congress, that would balance the budget.

I know that is just stupidity. They know it is stupid, but we calculated it. It was like 28 minutes of borrowing over an entire year. A decade from now, it is like 19 minutes of borrowing. I think all foreign aid is like 14 days of borrowing in an entire year.

Remember, in 9 years, you can wipe out almost everything you know as government, and to have enough cash flow to cover all Medicare, all Social Security, all the veterans' benefits, all the things that we have on autopilot we call mandatory spending, we still have to borrow a couple hundred billion dollars.

□ 2045

Getting the math right is moral.

The avoidance and the theater that has gone on around here, where they are saying: We are going to get re-elected because we are going to vilify Republicans for even being willing to take on the discussion of how much trouble we are in. We are going to beat them up because they are talking about these things.

That is absolutely immoral because they are letting it fester, and every single day the math gets harder.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to show some charts.

This isn't what I wanted to talk about tonight but I am finding I am having to react to all the just crazy propaganda out there as my brothers