

**CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF PATRICIA CERRO-REEHIL**

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Patricia Cerro-Reehil on the occasion of her retirement from the New York Water Environment Association.

Since 1929, NYWEA has played a leading role in promoting water quality across our State. Patricia's NYWEA career began in 1987, and 14 years later, she rose to become the first woman to serve as executive director.

Her work over the past 35 years has supported training, education, and advocacy for countless utilities, local governments, system operators, and water-sector businesses. This work has been foundational to protecting and improving water quality throughout New York State.

During her time as executive director, Patricia has also embraced NYWEA's educational mission, helping to distribute over \$700,000 in scholarships to some 240 students pursuing environmental degrees.

I sincerely thank Patricia for her decades of service, which have helped provide so many New Yorkers with more reliable, more affordable, and certainly cleaner water. I congratulate Patricia on her well-deserved retirement.

**BEST OF LUCK TO SOAP BOX
DERBY COMPETITORS**

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 43, which authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

The All-American Soap Box Derby, which first began in 1934, is the contest of the year in Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the Birthplace of Champions.

Through ingenuity, teamwork, and determination, more than 350 qualifiers from across the globe make their way to the Derby Downs track in Akron, Ohio, for the Soap Box Derby World Championship, supported by more than 1,000 volunteers and 10,000 spectators every year.

The Soap Box Derby supports education and leadership development for youth across the 13th District and the Nation. The competition empowers young people, who build their own gravity-powered and STEAM-driven cars, to learn about the value of STEM and prepare them to succeed in the future.

Again, I am proud to cosponsor this legislation and so glad to see such an important event to our community in the Nation's Capital. I look forward to welcoming everyone to Ohio's 13th Dis-

trict for the world championship in July. Best of luck to all the competitors.

**CELEBRATING CARIBBEAN
AMERICANS**

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to honor Caribbean American Heritage Month and to express my appreciation to the multiples of talent in the Caribbean-American community.

Over the last decade, there have been approximately 4.5 million members of the Caribbean-American community. Of course, two of those who I am most proud of are my late grandmother and grandfather, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, who migrated from Jamaica, West Indies.

My grandfather worked on the Panama Canal. What an emotional experience to go to the Panama Canal and see his name, Alfred Jackson, listed with those who have worked on the canal.

I also had the privilege of attending the funeral of one of Jamaica's iconic Prime Ministers, Prime Minister Manley, who is beloved around the nation.

Let me salute the Caribbean-American community in Houston, Texas, rich and inviting with their wonderful culture, cuisine, and, yes, the brilliance that they serve in public service, medicine, education, and business.

This is a great moment to be able to celebrate the richness of our diversity in this country. I can assure you, we have often said that we are a melting pot, but really, we are a mosaic. The pieces fit together where all of us are distinguished but yet part of America—part of America's democracy, part of America's work ethic, and part of America's freedom.

I salute my Caribbean-American friends and kinship. God bless you.

**AMERICANS ARE DEMANDING
ACTION**

(Ms. SCANLON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, Americans are demanding action, and we must deliver. Too many lives are being lost to senseless gun violence. Every day, we are retraumatized by yet another shooting.

In school, our children are learning active shooter drills before their ABCs. When families go to a grocery store or the mall, they scan the crowd for shooters rather than sales.

We know we don't have to live this way, fearful for our kids and our loved ones when they leave the house, furious that gun manufacturers are making billions of dollars marketing weap-

ons of war to irresponsible gun owners, and frustrated by lawmakers who lack the courage to pass commonsense gun safety legislation.

We can change this. There are commonsense, constitutional solutions with broad public support that can stem the carnage. Where leaders in my district and across the country have adopted those solutions, we have seen progress. It is not enough, but it is a start.

Above all, doing nothing is not an option. We cannot sit idly by and allow preventable gun deaths to happen day after day. We need to pass policies that will save lives now.

**HONORING MUJERES LATINAS EN
ACCION ON 50 YEARS OF SERVICE**

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor Mujeres Latinas en Accion on their 50th anniversary of serving and empowering Latinas and their families in Chicago.

When it was founded in 1973 to offer support to domestic violence survivors, there were no other services like this for Spanish-speaking women in Chicago. Today, Mujeres Latinas en Accion helps women find pathways to safer and healthier lives by providing wraparound, bilingual, and culturally sensitive domestic violence and sexual assault services, including a 24-hour hotline for crisis counseling and advocacy efforts.

However, the support does not stop there. Their program, *Empresarias del Futuro*, trains women interested in starting and expanding small businesses. By obtaining financial independence, they can break the cycle of codependency from their abusers.

Mujeres Latinas en Accion is a force of change. I congratulate and thank them for serving our community with compassion, care, and courage these past 50 years.

SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, for nearly a century, America has made a sacred promise: People who work hard throughout their lives will benefit from the fruits of their labor.

Last week, Congress passed and President Biden signed into law a bipartisan budget agreement. It protects Social Security from harmful Republican-proposed cuts.

That earned benefit brings peace of mind for millions of families, senior citizens, disabled persons, and children who survive a parent's premature death.

Social Security insurance is a compact of trust between generations and

ensures the safe and secure retirement for tens of millions of Americans during their golden years. It is an earned benefit.

Congress must continue to protect this pact for our citizenry. That is why our recently introduced Social Security 2100 Act is one of the most vital bills before this Congress. It will increase benefits to current and new beneficiaries, protect retirees against inflation, and repeal the windfall elimination provision.

America made a promise to workers and guaranteed workers their earned benefits. Democrats are committed to making good on that promise for Social Security for generations to come.

CELEBRATING CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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

GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is with great honor that I rise today to coanchor this CBC Special Order hour along with my distinguished colleague, Representative SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.

For the next 60 minutes, members of the CBC will spotlight Caribbean American Heritage Month, a celebration of the significant impact Caribbean Americans have made in shaping our Nation.

This occasion isn't just important to the CBC, Congress, and our constituents. It resonates deeply with all Americans.

It is time to appreciate the enduring spirit of Caribbean Americans, whose influence spans across arts, sciences, politics, and entrepreneurship. We aim to heighten cultural awareness, honor the diverse Caribbean cultures, and acknowledge their ongoing contributions.

Ultimately, Caribbean American Heritage Month reflects a vital piece of the American narrative that deserves recognition and understanding for all citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD), the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

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Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, Congressman

JACKSON from Illinois, and Congresswoman SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK for their leadership and for co-chairing tonight's Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus in commemoration of Caribbean Heritage Month.

As we mark the 17th anniversary of Caribbean Heritage Month, I pay special thanks to Congresswoman BARBARA LEE who led the effort in Congress to designate the month of June as Caribbean Heritage Month to make sure that we always honor the rich history and contributions of Caribbean Americans.

As a point of personal pride, I am a son and a grandson of Caribbean immigrants. My mother and grandmother came to the United States from Trinidad and Tobago, and for me to now serve in this body to be able to represent the needs of my constituents and those of Caribbean heritage gives me great pride.

It also reminds me of the great contributions, the curried chicken, the hot pepper sauce, the pelau, and so many other wonderful dishes that I have experienced growing up in my own household based on my Caribbean heritage, and the fact that Caribbean people contribute so much and have contributed so much to the foundation of this country and its success.

This month, we are proud to recognize the millions of Caribbean Americans around our Nation who contribute every day to the fabric of our society in the arts, sciences, business, in sports, education, government, and those who serve in our military.

Those who have made our country better with their gifts and their service like our very own Vice President KAMALA HARRIS, others like W.E.B. Du Bois, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Sheryl Lee Ralph, Grace Jones, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, Marcus Garvey, Usain Bolt, Sidney Poitier, and Harry Belafonte to name just a few.

The Congressional Black Caucus—the conscience of the Congress—has been home to many Caribbean-American trailblazers since our founding in 1971. One of these trailblazers is Shirley Chisholm, a Caribbean American and founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus who became the first Black woman to be elected to the U.S. Congress and the first woman and African American to seek the nomination for President of the United States from one of our two major political parties.

Many of our Members of Congress today are of Caribbean descent, including Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE, Delegate STACEY PLASKETT, and our Special Order co-chair, Congresswoman SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.

Now, more than 50 years after our founding, our Members have continued to shape consequential legislation from voting rights to civil rights, fair housing, and so much more, carrying on the

tradition of Shirley Chisholm, who sought to make America live up to its promise that all are created equal, to challenge the idea of what was possible for Black Americans, and to ensure a future worthy of our struggle.

This month and every month, the Congressional Black Caucus is proud to honor the unique and diverse cultures, languages, religions, art, literature, music, and cuisines from around the Caribbean diaspora because our Nation's diversity is our greatest strength.

I am honored to join my colleagues tonight. I thank our co-chairs and, most importantly, our constituents who work so hard to contribute to this great Nation and to make it continue to live up to its promise.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the honorable gentleman from the State of New York (Ms. CLARKE).

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague, Representative JONATHAN JACKSON, for yielding to me in commemoration of Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening in commemoration and celebration of the designation of Caribbean-American Heritage Month during this month of June. I add my voice to those who have lauded Congresswoman BARBARA LEE for her leadership in ensuring this designation 17 years ago.

It is with an immense sense of pride in this special moment in the lives of those of us in communities across the Nation of Caribbean descent. For nearly two decades, this month has served as a cherished opportunity to honor the boundless contributions of Caribbean Americans to our Nation.

From grass-roots activists, the first Black woman to run for President—the Honorable Shirley Chisholm—the first female Vice President—the Honorable KAMALA HARRIS—to thought leaders, entertainers, entrepreneurs, diplomats, business moguls, Michelin-star chefs, and the brave, highly decorated members of our military, Caribbean Americans compose an integral part of our Nation's legacy, fabric, and future.

It is indeed the honor of my life and the dream of my ancestors to be a woman of Jamaican descent representing my home and my community—the place where I was born and raised—and to carry the torch of my people in the United States Congress.

As we acknowledge the excellence and contributions of Caribbean Americans, let this month remain a beacon for uplifting diversity, the preservation of legacy, the strength of unity, and the undeniable truth that we, the descendants of Caribbean peoples, are a force to be reckoned with, and that our culture and contributions deserve every acknowledgment and all the appreciation of a grateful Nation.

From Jamaica to Barbados and every nation in between: Bless Up, One Love, Walk Good.