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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Illinois).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
June 6, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARY E. MILLER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Caribbean American Heritage Month. This June, we acknowledge and celebrate our diverse Caribbean-American contributions to this Nation's history for the 17th year.

Personally, I am so proud of my Caribbean lineage and want to honor the universal pride that all Caribbean people share across the United States.

Historically, Caribbean Americans have been key players in the development, growth, and richness of this country.

Originally entering the United States in bondage, Caribbean people endured the brutalities of chattel slavery for centuries but fought for and attained liberation.

My home, the Virgin Islands of the United States, and Haiti are the only two places to organize a slave revolt that led to successful freedom from that revolt in the history of the Western Hemisphere.

Caribbean-American history is one of struggle and of triumph. Descendants of these heroes and heroines would later search for greater opportunities here on the mainland, as well as elsewhere.

Wherever we have gone, we have led to become pioneers and revolutionaries of our times. Some of the most influential Caribbean-American figures have indisputably driven change and progress in this Nation and continuously aid in its endeavors to achieve freedom and prosperity.

Our unique and colorful cultures, traditions, and stories have enriched and helped transform U.S. history such as the invaluable contributions in government, academia, athletics, business, the arts and sciences, and so many more which have shaped the fabric of this Nation.

Members of our leadership, such as Colin Powell, a descendant of Jamaican parents, who shattered racial barriers as the first Black National Security Advisor, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Secretary of State. The son of Jamaican immigrants, Powell was a dedicated Army general, awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom twice, following in the footsteps of the first notable Caribbean American, Alexander Hamilton.

Susan Rice, Shirley Chisholm, and, of course, our present Vice President, KAMALA HARRIS, all share Caribbean heritage and have served this country

as political figures. We honor them and the legacy they have left.

Journalists like Karine Jean-Pierre, who is the first Black and Caribbean American ever to become a press secretary for a U.S. President, and others such as Joy Reid, Yamiche Alcindor, and Abby Phillip are Caribbean-American women who continue to disrupt the media by uplifting and amplifying Black voices.

Our contributions are not limited to those within the rule of law. Caribbean Americans have a long history of social activists, free thinkers, and revolutionaries.

Everyone recalls Denmark Vesey who led the slave revolt in South Carolina, a free man who died to free others.

Hubert Harrison, a fellow Virgin Islander and New Yorker who was often left in the shadows, was considered the father of Harlem radicalism.

Men like Malcolm X, whose mother was from Grenada; Marcus Garvey of Jamaica; Kwame Ture, formerly known as Stokely Carmichael, founder of the Black Panthers, was from Trinidad; and James Wendell Johnson, who wrote "Lift Every Voice and Sing," whose family was from the Bahamas, all played crucial roles in the civil rights movement, and they left lasting impacts on this country.

The Caribbean-American experience has inspired countless works of art. A people rich in imagination, they are continuously at the forefront of exceptional and innovative artistic expression.

Jean-Michel Basquiat, a Haitian of Puerto Rican descent, was a leading figure in the neo-expressionism movement.

Musicians and actors such as Harry Belafonte, Cicely Tyson, and Hazel Scott are visionaries in their field.

We continue to credit much of our scientific advancements to individuals

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g.,  1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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such as Neil deGrasse Tyson, who everybody looks to and applauds, the son of a beautiful Puerto Rican sister, a renowned astrophysicist, author, and science communicator, recognized for his "extraordinary role in exciting the public about the wonders of science."

In athletics, an abundance of individuals have had monumental success and shown grace and leadership, such as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, a son of Caribbean immigrants.

Two other athletes, in particular, that I cannot stop mentioning from the Virgin Islands are: Tim Duncan and Aliyah Boston.

This month provides an opportunity to reflect on the past, act in the present, and envision the future. We applaud Caribbean American Heritage Month.

#### CELEBRATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF LITTLE SAIGON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. STEEL) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate an important milestone for the Vietnamese community in my district and across the United States.

This week marks the 35th anniversary of Orange County's Little Saigon, which is now home to the largest concentration of Vietnamese anywhere outside of Vietnam itself.

To this day, many of Little Saigon's residents are first-generation Vietnamese who fled communism to find freedom in this country. They brought with them a rich heritage, a beautiful culture, and a proud history.

They are small business owners, public servants, community leaders, educators, healthcare professionals, lawyers, journalists, parents, and everything in between.

The Vietnamese community in Orange County is a shining example of a fundamental American truth that no matter who you are or where you come from, if you work hard and stay true to the principles of liberty and justice for all, you can achieve success for yourself and your family. Southern California and America are stronger because of their contributions.

I am proud to represent the Vietnamese Americans living in California's 45th District, and I am committed to ensuring that each of them can build and enjoy their own American Dream.

#### CELEBRATING FILIPINO INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Filipino Independence Day.

The history of Filipino independence is a story of a people who remained tirelessly committed to democratic values of self-determination and freedom, even amidst the most challenging circumstances.

On June 12, 1898, the Philippines declared their independence after a long history of occupation. However, the country remained a territory of the

United States for many years, even after Congress enacted the Philippine Independence Act of 1934.

It wasn't until the Fourth of July in 1948 when President Harry S. Truman issued Proclamation 2695 that the United States recognized Filipino sovereignty, officially marking the nation's independence.

Both during and since its independence, the Philippines has been one of the United States' most important allies.

My district in southern California is home to around 30,000 Filipinos. They are an integral part of our communities, touching every aspect of our way of life with an entrepreneurial spirit, a respect for their traditions, and a love for America.

I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress, and I will always fight for a better life for them and for all of my constituents.

To the Filipino community in southern California and across the country, I wish a very happy Independence Day.

#### JUSTICE FOR ARMY SPECIALIST ENRIQUE ROMAN-MARTINEZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to demand justice for a family still in search of answers.

Over 3 years after his murder, Army Specialist Enrique Roman-Martinez' mother, Maria, and sister, Griselda, still don't know what happened to their beloved son and brother.

Before he was even old enough to vote, Enrique felt called to serve a purpose much greater than himself. His dedication to our Nation compelled him to enlist in the Army when he was only 17 years old.

While stationed at Fort Bragg in North Carolina, Specialist Roman-Martinez went camping in the Outer Banks with seven of his fellow soldiers. On May 22, 2020, he disappeared. Seven soldiers camping with him failed to report him missing. They failed to provide information that could lead to solving his murder. Instead, they claimed that he was suicidal.

However, a week later, when his head surfaced, Specialist Roman-Martinez was found washed ashore—only his head.

He was only 21 years old, just old enough to order a beer for himself. He had the rest of his life ahead of him, a life he chose to begin by selflessly serving his country.

His family deserves the truth. As the mother of an Air Force veteran, I will never forget that awful feeling of waking up every day and not knowing whether my son will ever come home.

Our military makes a sacred commitment to never leave a servicemember behind, and it is their moral obligation to inform families if their loved one is killed.

It is an impossible, unthinkable conversation, a conversation that I feared

every single day during my son's deployment, but it is essential closure for the families of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

It has been over 3 years, and the murder of Enrique Roman-Martinez remains unsolved. The Army's failure to provide his family with the answers they deserve is unacceptable.

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Last year, I introduced The Enrique Roman-Martinez Military Cold Case Justice Act to reform how the military handles cold cases and ensure that a tragedy of uncertainty like this never happens again.

I am pleased that my legislation was included in our annual government funding law and that I recently had the opportunity to visit the new Army cold case unit to monitor the Army's improvements to their cold case review process.

However, the harsh truth remains: Enrique's family is still waiting for answers they may never find. They are also still waiting for the remains they may never find.

I call on anyone with information on Enrique Roman-Martinez's murder to come forward and shed light on what happened. As the Roman-Martinez family's voice in Congress, I will continue doing all I can to deliver justice for them.

Enrique was one of the Inland Empire's best and brightest, and we feel the pain of his loss every single day.

Maria and Griselda's lives will never be the same after the murder of their son and brother, and the very least that we can do is grant them closure.

#### ADDRESSING THE MASSIVE PROBLEM OF HEALTHCARE

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

Mr. MCCORMICK. Madam Speaker, we have a massive problem. We just got done talking about the budget and the deficit, but there is no possible way to address that without addressing healthcare.

Healthcare is the biggest spending item for the government. Madam Speaker, \$1 out of every \$5 spent by the government is spent on healthcare, and it is the quickest growing inflationary cost to Americans.

Right now, if we consider Medicaid and Medicare, and we consider the amount of money we spend on private pay, which is about one-fifth of the economy also, in a GDP of roughly \$24 trillion, we are spending \$6 trillion on healthcare alone. If it were taken by itself, it would be the third largest GDP in the world. It would have twice the GDP size of India, which has 1.47 billion people. This is a massive problem.

What are we going to do? How do we take on something so complex? I think it is an underserved problem in the