

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 everyone 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

United States Congress. We have been kicking the can down the street for far too long, from the Clinton administration all the way to the Obama administration. The Affordable Care Act did nothing to make it affordable.

We have done nothing to curb the inflationary costs, and it is certainly not the doctors' problem because doctors took a 2.3 percent pay cut last year alone. If you are an ER doctor in Georgia, you probably took about an 18 percent pay decrease in 1 year, and that is after serving during COVID for 3 years on nights, weekends, and holidays. That is your congratulations.

How do we address this? Quite frankly, we are going to have to make some hard choices. America has to understand, first of all, how complex this issue is when you have PBMs, GPOs, pharmaceutical companies, insurance companies, Medicaid, Medicare, when you have the government involved, private pay, when you have hospital systems and healthcare providers. These are just some of the problems we have.

Right now, 90 percent of the ingredients that go into drugs are produced in China. You have almost all of the market for amoxicillin and Augmentin cornered by an adversarial nation.

We have admin costs that have grown in the hospital system from 25 percent to 40 percent in just the last 10 years. Take that into account. Forty percent of every dollar spent on healthcare is spent on administrative costs. That means too much regulatory burden, not enough competition.

We continue to talk about a single-payer system as the end-all, be-all to healthcare. Let's take that into account right now. Medicaid is done at a loss. It doesn't pay the bills. As a matter of fact, we have an act right now that talks about supplementing people with a tax break so they can actually see more Medicaid patients and afford it and stay open. It is not the answer.

If we go to a single-payer system, you are talking about adding \$30 trillion of expense to the government in the next 10 years. That means \$30 trillion more in either tax or debt.

We have pretty much lost our minds over the \$32 trillion of debt we are already in. Imagine adding \$30 trillion more to spending. It would be the largest increase in spending and government control there has ever been in American history. We have a massive problem.

On top of that, despite spending about \$32 billion on electronic medical records and spending a lot of money on coders, in many cases, we still have 45 percent of claims not being reimbursed by insurance companies. This simply can't continue to happen.

People are using their insurance companies the wrong way. If we used car insurance the same way we use healthcare insurance, you would be spending your car insurance to actually change your car oil. It would probably cost about \$500 per pop, and you wouldn't be able to afford car insurance.

We need to look at this in a different way. The problem is, if I talk about cutting administrative costs in medicine, people will immediately vilify me for trying to cut Medicaid and Medicare. This is why it has to be a bipartisan issue. We have to have a real conversation, and it can't be about calling people names but about actually solving a problem.

If we want to talk about a real solution, I think we have to start thinking about not just taking this as subcommittees, not just a subcommittee of Energy and Commerce, not just a subcommittee of Ways and Means, not just a subcommittee of VA or a subcommittee of Foreign Affairs. We actually have to have staff that are dedicated to a process that is so complex, so big, has so many lobbyists involved that it is impossible for a physician with an MBA to figure out how to handle it himself.

This is something we are going to have to take as a problem that all of us have to solve without vilifying each other. If we don't do it soon, we will increase government and increase spending, and we will have rationing simultaneously.

Final point: If you want a good example of a single-payer system, the VA is exactly what you are going to get, and it is not popular.

#### FREEDOM FOR EVERY AMERICAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to acknowledge June 6, 1944, D-Day, the day the largest land, sea, and air attack came to Normandy to fight Hitler. It was an unbelievable surge of power for freedom.

Just a few years ago, I had the privilege of commemorating D-Day at Normandy and being able to see the rows and rows of those who died in the name of freedom. Nine thousand of the Allies died, men and women, men in particular, from the United States of America.

I honor them today and recognize that as we stand in this place, as we debate on this floor, we have the responsibility to pay tribute to why they fought for freedom and their love of America. We have the responsibility to do the right thing for the American people.

That is why I stand today to raise an issue that has plagued us over and over again, and that is the enormity of gun violence, the proliferation of guns, and the loss of life of our children. Violence is impacting our children every single day.

Yesterday, we held a powerful hearing to talk about how we can stop this gun violence. We heard from people who were victims, like Lloyd Gock, a victim of the Monterey Park shooting. His words rang so powerfully. He heard 42 gunshots, and he heard the bodies dropping, 11 dead and 9 wounded. He

understands that a weapon of war should not be on the streets and that we should ban assault weapons.

We also heard medical testimony, or professional health testimony, that indicated that storage, as indicated in the Kimberly Vaughan Firearm Safe Storage Act, would be most helpful in saving the lives of children. Some 4 million children live in homes where guns are laid around and not stored. They lose their lives there. Every single day, eight children lose their lives by way of gun violence.

What about Mr. Kling from the Giffords organization that says 6,500 veterans die every year due to gun violence, to suicide? It is imperative that we understand that their weapon of choice is a gun. Some would say that they are suicidal, that they have mental issues.

It is the proliferation of guns—red flag laws, banning assault weapons, raising the age.

We all still feel the pain of many shootings, but we feel the pain of Uvalde. I have come to know those families and the elected officials there who have been in pain, the city that has been in pain. The families and children remain in pain.

You see how many of these small caskets they had to watch being buried in that community when a child, yes, under the age of 21 got a gun online. How outrageous is that?

I stand here today saying: Are we going to keep the promise of those who laid their lives on the line for a free nation, or are we going to continually be against what is right?

Let me quickly indicate that we must do something about the massive evictions across America. People are unhoused and need more housing. I am going to fight against the high numbers of evictions in all of our communities and will introduce legislation dealing with eviction. I want to bring it down in Houston and cities around the Nation.

As well, I want to make sure that whatever rights we have, all people deserve the same rights, and that is access to freedom, justice, and equality and to recognize their diversity and access to healthcare.

It was the Democrats who saved Medicaid when a million people were going to lose their Medicaid. Had we followed the leadership of our friends on the other side of the aisle, with their early bill H.R. 1, 1 million people—but we stopped it. We are stopping the default and negotiating away the idea of taking a million people off of Medicaid, their lifeline for healthcare.

It is extremely important that we recognize that men and women laid down their lives or put on the uniform unselfishly. They do so so that freedom can be for every American.

#### HONORING MOTHER ROSA PARKS

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