

and misconduct within the Department of Justice and the IRS regarding the Hunter Biden investigation.

The American people deserve answers. They deserve to know if Federal law enforcement was compromised, if Joe Biden was shielded from evidence, and if Hunter Biden was given preferential treatment leading to a sweetheart plea deal he received last month.

Transparency and accountability are the foundations of our democracy, and as Members of this body, we must deliver on these principles. It is our responsibility to ensure that no one is above the law and that justice is served.

I urge all my colleagues to demand the truth and to stand with the American people. Together, we can restore faith in our institutions and safeguard the integrity of our democracy.

CONGRATULATING CHRIS EUBANKS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate tennis star Chris Eubanks on his impressive Wimbledon run.

Chris Eubanks is an Atlanta native who played tennis at Georgia Tech. During his time at Tech, Eubanks was named the ACC Player of the Year twice and was a two-time all-American.

At Wimbledon, Eubanks beat the number one British player and 2022 Wimbledon semifinalist in a second round in front of a lively crowd. He advanced to the quarterfinals of the tournament after defeating the world number five player in a more than 3-hour battle.

Eubanks is now the 13th man in the Open Era to reach the final eight in his debut at Wimbledon and the first American man to do so since 1984.

His performance at Wimbledon propelled him to a world number 43 ranking and has now guaranteed himself entry into every tournament and a seeding at the U.S. Open.

I congratulate Mr. Eubanks on his valiant Wimbledon run and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors. He has made Georgia proud and made his country proud.

A CONCLUSION TO THE WAR IN UKRAINE

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the President or the Members of this body to weigh in with the President and try to come to some sort of conclusion on the war with Ukraine.

It seems to me that there are two groups: people who want us to pull out and people who want us to be all in for

years and years. However, the longer this war drags on, the worse long-term relationships get between Russia and the United States.

Russia has a very low birthrate and has had a lot of their young people leave for the United States and other parts of the world recently. Ukraine has the second lowest birthrate in the world. Neither of these countries can afford to lose any more of their young people to this war. The sooner the war wraps up, the better.

I am very disappointed that the press is not asking questions of the Biden administration and that the Biden administration seems completely uninterested in negotiating some settlement of the war.

I am aware of the fact that the U.S. cannot appear an impartial broker, but we should strongly encourage Turkiye, Israel, or France to step in and try to negotiate an end to this war. I do not know why it seems like the Biden administration does not want it to end.

BIPARTISAN OPPOSITION TO JULIE SU

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

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, it has been nearly 5 months since President Biden nominated Julie Su to be Secretary of Labor. That nomination remains stalled. The Senate has declined to confirm her. She now faces bipartisan opposition, yet the President has not withdrawn her nomination.

Worse yet, Su is continuing to serve as Secretary of Labor in an acting capacity, despite the Senate declining to put her in that position. It appears that this is now the plan, to simply cancel the vote and carry on as if she had been confirmed.

Su's leading supporter in the Senate, BERNIE SANDERS, said as much. He said: I hope she has the votes to become the Secretary. If not, of course, she should stay where she is. She is doing a great job, Sanders continued. Why would you not?

Well, why would you not? One simple reason is the Constitution. This is blatantly an end run around the Constitution's advice and consent requirement of Article II, section 2, clause 2.

As further evidence of the Biden administration's plan to simply keep Su on indefinitely, with or without a vote, after months of Department of Labor rulemaking being put on pause to spare Su negative press during the confirmation process, the wheels are now back in motion. The administration seems to be acknowledging that Su does not have the votes for confirmation but, again, plans to keep her at the helm of the Labor Department anyway.

Now, this administration has a disturbing pattern of seeking to do by undemocratic means that which it cannot do by democratic means.

For example, on the topic of student loan forgiveness, President Biden had said: I don't think I have the authority to do that, and then he went ahead and did it anyway by executive order.

On the issue of independent contracting, Congress has declined to adopt the destructive ABC test via the PRO Act, so the Labor Department is seeking to enact a functionally equivalent legal standard by rulemaking. This is the most brazen example yet. Having made the worst possible pick for Secretary of Labor, which the United States Senate is rightly rejecting, the President is trying to install his nominee as the permanent Secretary anyway.

Now, the student loan executive order, of course, was just struck down by the Supreme Court, but what the administration is attempting here is much more potentially disruptive. What is at issue is not just one policy, rather, it is every action the Department of Labor takes under Acting Secretary Su that will be put under a legal cloud.

Now, Su's allies have tried to make a legal argument relating to the interplay of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of the statute that created the position of Deputy Secretary of Labor. This argument is without merit. There is no statutory authority to have an Acting Secretary who has been nominated for permanent Secretary continue serving indefinitely, with or without confirmation; nor could there be because any such statute would violate the Constitution.

Education and the Workforce Chairwoman VIRGINIA FOXX and I have sent a letter to Gene Dodaro, U.S. Comptroller General at the U.S. Government Accountability Office, requesting an opinion on the legality of keeping Su as the head of Labor indefinitely.

None of this should be necessary. The White House and Julie Su have had every opportunity to persuade the Senate. They have had a nightly war room and daily arm twisting for months. It is well past time to withdraw the nomination and for the President to nominate a Secretary of Labor who will be on the side of American workers.

THE FENTANYL CRISIS

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, last month, the district attorney of Placer County in my district secured the first-ever murder conviction in California for dealing fentanyl. This is a very important moment in the battle against the fentanyl epidemic that is taking such a tragic toll on every community across the country.

As The New York Times reported: The novel prosecution in Placer, northeast of Sacramento, is being closely watched in law enforcement and legislative circles in California, which lost about 6,000 people to fentanyl and other opioids in 2021, the last year for which complete data is available. Prosecutors have been looking for ways to hold people distributing the drug accountable for the staggering death toll.

Now, I would like to share the details about this case and the successful legal strategy of the district attorney, but first a word about the scale of the fentanyl crisis in the United States.

Fentanyl has become the leading cause of death for Americans ages 18 to 45, surpassing car accidents, surpassing suicides, surpassing everything. It is now the leading cause of death for young people in our country. It is affecting every community, including my own.

It has been reported that 73,102 Americans died from fentanyl in the past year. That amounts to 200 deaths every day, one every 7 minutes. The reason is largely because of the lethality of fentanyl, which is unlike any other drug; 100 times more potent than morphine. Two milligrams, or the amount that fits on the end of a pencil, is a deadly dose.

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Fentanyl is being added to street pills. Mr. Speaker, 98 percent of the pills sold on the street are fakes, and 60 percent have the potential to be lethal.

Many victims are teenagers, people with no prior drug use who perhaps were stressed out from isolation during the COVID shutdowns. They purchase what turns out to be fake pills, such as Xanax, over social media or the internet. Dealers often deliver these pills straight to the victims' homes.

A huge part of this problem is to prevent fentanyl from coming into the United States. The southern border is by far the primary source. In fact, in 2022 alone, the DEA seized 379 million lethal doses of fentanyl. Securing the border would diminish the availability and ability to traffic into the United States, and it would save many lives. That is the most important part of this equation.

There are other ways that we can tackle the problem, and that is where Placer County is leading the way. Like other communities across the country, our county experienced an astronomical 450 percent increase in fentanyl deaths from 2019 to 2021. Almost half of those were among residents 25 years of age or younger.

The case that was recently prosecuted involved the tragic death of a 15-year-old Roseville girl who passed away on June 21, 2022. The dealer was a Placer County area drug dealer named Nathaniel, who was involved in selling fentanyl to minors. He possessed and transported fentanyl in the form of M30 Percocet pills. The fentanyl was pressed into the pill.

One of his customers was a 15-year-old girl who overdosed on one of those pills and, as a result, passed away in June. Nathaniel witnessed this OD, and after his customer died, he continued to sell pills from the same batch to other individuals. This is why he was charged with murder. It is the first murder charge and conviction of a fentanyl dealer in California.

Specifically, he was charged by Placer County District Attorney Morgan

Gire and convicted of second-degree murder in Placer County Superior Court.

In order to establish his case, District Attorney Gire had to prove the following elements: first, that Nathaniel did in fact deal the deadly fentanyl pills to his victim; second, that the defendant knew that the pills he provided to his victim contained fentanyl; and, third, that he knew how deadly the fentanyl he provided was.

In other words, he had to know his actions could lead to the death of the customer and then choose to deal anyway. That is the basic predicate of the murder charges and conviction.

Other factors in play in this case involved callousness. District Attorney Gire indicated that he would only pursue murder charges if a degree of callousness is present, if a dealer continues to deal after he or she knows someone died of the pills and is pursuing profit. Gire said charges would be less likely in cases where addicts were simply sharing pills with one another.

A second additional factor in play here was deception, where the dealer deceptively markets fentanyl as something else. Gire said that that changes the legal landscape.

In an era of skyrocketing and tragic fentanyl deaths and the increasing prevalence of it in our communities, a multipronged approach of education, accountability, and stopping the supply is needed. The prevailing prosecutorial approach and many of the criminal laws on the books in California are failing to achieve an adequate level of this occurrence.

The strategy that is being pursued in Placer County is that by raising the cost of dealing fentanyl for dealers—we are talking about a 15-years-to-life sentence here for second-degree murder—we can keep these predators away from our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I want to add a quote from District Attorney Gire, which I think is a very important one. "I have heard the criticism that this is a retreat of the war on drugs," he said. "It isn't. Fentanyl is something different." That is an argument that we really need to understand.

Whatever arguments we might make in terms of prosecution strategies, when it comes to other forms of drug use, there is simply no comparison to the damage that this drug is doing across our country. We must take action in every way possible.

This murder conviction, the first of its kind in Placer County, sends a loud and clear message to those who would victimize young people and Americans with this lethal substance. It says: Stay out of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage prosecutors across California and across the country to look at the model District Attorney Gire has provided in California because it will save lives.

PAY RAISE FOR MILITARY

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the 5.2 percent pay

raise for our servicemen and women provided for in the National Defense Authorization Act, or the NDAA.

Americans have been left struggling under the weight of runaway inflation and an ever-increasing cost of living—perhaps none more so than those in uniform.

Skyrocketing inflation has contributed to pay for servicemembers falling behind that of their civilian counterparts in terms of purchasing power. The much-needed pay increase that we are providing with this legislation is the largest in 22 years, and it will ensure that compensation for military service is at least commensurate with the rise in civilian wages.

In concrete terms, this means more income to cover housing, food, providing for a family, and other basic necessities that those in uniform serving our country shouldn't have to lose sleep over.

In addition to this across-the-board pay increase, the NDAA contains numerous provisions designed to make life more affordable for junior enlistees. Pay for our military's most junior enlistees, E-1s, is currently a paltry \$22,000 a year. The NDAA increases that base pay rate to \$31,000 a year so that the starting wage for junior enlistees isn't lower than that of a fast-food cashier in California.

The calculation of basic allowance for housing is also improved to provide a more accurate and higher level of aid for housing, and the basic needs allowance, which enables low-income servicemembers to support a family, is expanded, as well.

Finally, the Secretary of Defense is authorized to provide monthly bonuses to junior enlisted members to mitigate the impacts of inflation.

Mr. Speaker, we owe members of our military a debt that can never be repaid for their service and sacrifice to our country. Americans undoubtedly have an obligation to provide a level of compensation that matches at least that of their civilian counterparts and enables servicemembers to meet basic housing costs and provide for their families.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation fulfills that basic foundational commitment, and I am proud to support the pay increase for our military.

VACCINE DISCHARGE REINSTATEMENTS

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of offering reinstatement to the over 8,000 servicemembers who were discharged from the military for merely declining to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. As we speak, our Nation's military is in the midst of a severe recruitment shortage.

The Army fell short of its recruitment goal by 15,000 recruits last year. This year, it is on track to fall short by 20,000. The Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps are facing similar challenges.

The consequences of failing to recruit enough volunteers are severe—reduced combat readiness and a reduced ability to keep us safe. This is all the more notable given that our military, of

course, is all volunteer. We rely on citizens willingly stepping up and joining to serve our country.

These severe shortages have been exacerbated by our Secretary of Defense taking the same approach to COVID as, unfortunately, many civilian leaders did, an approach characterized by heavyhanded overreactions and a complete disregard for scientific evidence and informed policymaking.

Members of our Armed Forces, young, physically fit men and women, are the least at-risk population for COVID. Moreover, over 95 percent of the military has already been vaccinated against COVID before the discharges occurred.

Like students, small business owners, and many other groups of individuals, servicemembers were harmed and had their lives upended by wholly unnecessary actions pursued by politicians and political leaders who simply were not looking at data and evidence, and had no regard for personal freedoms.

The National Defense Authorization Act offers a corrective course to these mistakes. The act provides a pathway to reinstatement for any servicemember discharged for declining a COVID vaccine and requires the Secretary of Defense to fully inform discharged individuals of the steps they can take.

Further, it assures that veterans, for the time spent discharged, will be classified as a “career intermission” to prevent any negative impact on future promotions. It will also prohibit the Department of Defense from forcing cadets discharged from military service academies to repay tuition.

While the damage done by the original discharge decisions can never be undone, I am very proud to support legislation that at least allows Congress to do everything in its power to mitigate the harm that was done.

PROVIDING TRANSPARENT ACCOUNTABILITY

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Providing Accountability Through Transparency Act.

What this measure does is very simple. It requires that Federal agencies, when issuing a notice of proposed rulemaking, simply include a link to a plain language summary of the proposal in 100 words or less.

This is a basic, commonsense measure to make our government more accessible to Americans. I think right now that is something that is very important. After we went through a few years where many people felt like their ability to participate in government was foreclosed altogether, and where we have had a trend that has been decades in the making where more and more power is consolidated in Washington, D.C., and in Federal bureaucracies, ordinary citizens have less and less of an opportunity to participate. When there is some opportunity, such as a notice of public rulemaking up for public comment, oftentimes they are confronted by a blizzard of legalese that makes it very difficult to make heads or tails of what is going on.

What this measure does is it says, in 100 words or less, let's put it right there in plain English so everyone is on the same page, so we as a country can have a debate about whether this is good or bad policy.

It is a simple step, a modest step, but it is a step in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, for that reason, I am proud to support this measure.

COMMEMORATING ISRAEL'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Israel's 75th year as a nation.

For these last 75 years, Israel has stood as a sanctuary for the Jewish people; as a beacon of freedom, democracy, and human rights in the region; and as a steadfast ally to our Nation.

The United States has been among Israel's closest allies from its very inception. In fact, President Harry Truman officially recognized Israel merely 11 minutes after its formation. Since that moment, the bond between our two nations—one based upon shared values, common interests, and a united vision for the future—has only grown stronger.

Our Nation's welcoming of Israeli President Isaac Herzog to speak before a joint session of Congress this Wednesday is just the latest reflection of this special relationship. I look forward to continuing to advance this partnership in every way I can in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I will take a moment to remark upon the unique place Israel holds not only in the heart of its citizens but in people across the globe.

In 2018, I had the chance to visit, as part of a bipartisan delegation, and spend a week meeting with leaders from business, academia, government, the media, the IDF, and other facets of Israeli society. We also visited the West Bank, a kibbutz outside of Gaza, the Holocaust memorial, a hospital caring for the wounded from Syria, the Lebanon border, and much more.

Mr. Speaker, I came away with a sense of deep admiration for the tremendous dynamism and diversity of Israeli society, for the way such a deep connection to history coexists with a drive toward innovation and modernization, for the spirit of self-reliance and national service, and for the deeply felt sense of Israeli identity and pride in the nation's achievements.

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The United States and the global community is enriched by the presence of Israel on the world stage. As a Member of Congress, I take great pride in supporting Israel, and wherever possible, advocating for Israel in the global arena. Today, I am honored to recognize and commemorate that fact by celebrating Israel's 75th anniversary as a nation.

RECOGNIZING ROCKLIN DONUTS & CINNAMON

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an exceptional small business in my district, Rocklin Donuts & Cinnamon, for their recent recognition on Yelp as the top doughnut shop in the Nation.

Let me say that again: the top doughnut shop in the Nation.

This distinguished, family-owned establishment is operated by Ky and Anna Pho, a couple whose story embodies the American Dream. Over 40 years ago, Ky and Anna emigrated from Cambodia to the United States of America. After overcoming the many obstacles they faced in immigrating to a new country, they committed themselves to this enterprise and are now recipients of a well-deserved reward for their diligent efforts.

Their commitment to their business and strong work ethic is truly inspiring. They rise every morning between 2 and 3 a.m. to prepare fresh doughnuts for the many patrons who frequent their shop. They serve a wide array of delicious treats, ranging from an assortment of doughnuts to breakfast croissants, and, of course, the traditional cinnamon roll.

It was not long ago when they opened their doors, just in May of 2022, and they quickly rose to high regard in our communities, earning a five-star Yelp rating and national attention in this short period of time.

I have gone by there a few times recently, and I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, the line is out the door.

Therefore, on behalf of California's Third Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives, I am pleased to recognize Rocklin Donuts & Cinnamon for this outstanding achievement.

RECOGNIZING THE DOWNIEVILLE CLASSIC

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the silver anniversary of the Downieville Classic, a world-renowned annual bike race staged in Downieville, California. Before becoming a cherished destination for mountain bikers, this historic gold rush town in the Sierra Nevada was known mainly for its past notoriety of vigilante justice, claim jumping, and boom and bust fortunes.

Downieville's famous—or inglorious—days, such as they were, were in the past until a pioneer of backcountry mountain biking named Greg Williams realized that the true treasure of the Sierra Nevada was not the gold in the rivers but in the recreational challenges of the mountains themselves. Greg's vision was to combine world-class ultra biking with spectacular mountain landscapes to revitalize the economy of his hometown.

Letting the mountains dictate the course, Greg and his team designed the premier classic point-to-point route as a 26.5-mile black diamond lung-busting endurance run from Sierra City to Downieville.

Riders climb to the 7,469-foot crest of the Sierra Nevada, then plunge 5,700 vertical feet along a route of flowing turns, rolling jumps, boulder staircases, and river crossings. This ordeal on wheels tests both the sturdiness of riders and their bikes.

Recognizing the challenge of the race and beauty of the course, Outside magazine named the Downieville Classic

one of the 10 best bike races in North America.

The combination of sustainable recreation, job creation, and world-famous athletic events has made Downieville a model for the economic recovery of struggling mountain communities throughout the Lost Sierra.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am honored to commemorate the 25-year anniversary of the Downieville Classic in recognition of the profound impact the race has had on Sierra County and the broader region.

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

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

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 have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of this 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, it is my honor and a privilege to share the podium today with my esteemed colleague, SHEILA CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, as we embark on this significant CBC Special Order hour, an hour that has come. We are going to dive deep into understanding how terms like colored people have shaped our racial conversation and histories. This isn't just an exploration of the past, it is about how we forge our future. We will be tackling the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Mr. Speaker, across every field and sector, we are seeing a retreat on this promise, and we are going to stress why it is so vital that our education system is inclusive, recognizing and celebrating our racial diversity, rather than suppressing it. We see a future where understanding our collective past enables us to shape a more equitable society.

Remember, this conversation isn't just about us or Congress. It is a conversation for every single American because together we can make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from the great State of New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Illinois for the opportunity to discuss this term that was used in this very Chamber just last week: colored people. It is a term used to describe African Americans during a debate that was negative.

Colored people is a term that we hadn't heard in quite some time. Colored people are what the signs above water fountains outside of bathrooms in train stations and in bus stations said. It was a part of life that African Americans had to deal with to show the separation, the inequality, and the second-class citizenship that we were relegated to for so long.

Was it a mistake?

I am sure the gentleman from Arizona feels it was now, but sometimes the truth comes out. It was during a discussion on diversity in the military and how we don't want to spend—or the loyal opposition doesn't want to spend—military dollars on diversity and inclusion. Let's separate the Armed Forces again: Whites over there, colored people over there.

Let's go back and let's Make America Great Again. That is what that is all about. It is going back to someone's good old days when they were comfortable, when they felt they were supreme, and when they thought that they had the upper hand. We don't want equality, we want to go back to the good old days. Let's Make America Great Again. We don't want diversity in the military. That is not for the military to decide. Let's go back.

It is an insult. I was here, Mr. Speaker. I was on the floor when the gentleman was discussing this. I rise today to discuss the derogatory term colored people. I support the need for diversity in programs nationwide.

Last week, a MAGA House Republican from Arizona used the term colored people to describe African Americans and other minorities. He used the term very comfortably, although I think it slipped out.

He used it when he discussed his amendment to reject diversity initiatives in the military. He said that this amendment would prohibit discrimination in the Armed Forces. Clearly, he needs to enroll in one of the diversity courses that he wants to ban.

Discrimination has a long history in our country, including hiring in the Armed Forces. His amendment rejects the success of diversity hiring initiatives in the military, and it could return our country to a time when race was the only factor in who got hired and who got promoted in the military.

Let me return to his use of the term colored people. Historically, the term colored has always been used to separate the races into two classes and justified the discrimination that would follow such a separation.

It made it legal to have that discussion. It made people comfortable because someone has to be on the top, and someone has to be on the bottom in this country.

We have been used against each other for years. The ruling class, the rich, have always pointed to people on the bottom at each other so they fight for the crumbs while they stay aloof and get the riches.

Colored was also a way to describe African Americans, and it has its roots

in slavery. Laws and official documents defined slaves as negroes, mulattos, and other colored people.

After slavery, Southern States enacted the Jim Crow-era segregation to deny African Americans their rights. Stores and institutions used the term colored to identify bathrooms, water fountains, and other facilities, as I stated, and these facilities were always inferior and usually unsafe.

However, the Arizona Republican and his colleagues did not want to talk about the past—this past. They want to live in a fantasy where such discrimination never happened, and it didn't exist. However, it did happen, and discrimination like this is still happening to me, my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, and millions of African Americans nationwide. Even the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives is not safe from it.

This is why diversity programs are so vital to our national interests.

Mr. Speaker, I could continue on. I could go on forever, but I know there are other Members who would like to express their outrage on this issue.

We cannot go back.

We are not going back.

To people who live in that space, just know that you need to be very careful because that is a slippery slope.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable DONALD PAYNE, Jr. from the great State of New Jersey for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD), who is the honorable chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

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Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. Congressman JONATHAN JACKSON, I commend you and Congresswoman SHEILA CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK for co-chairing tonight's Special Order hour.

I rise today with my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus to address the recent comments made on the House floor by Representative ELI CRANE of Arizona during last week's debate on the National Defense Authorization Act.

While offering an amendment that would prohibit the Pentagon from participating in race-based concepts in hiring, promotion, or retention in our military, Representative CRANE stated that the military was never intended to be "inclusive," adding that the military strength is "not in its diversity."

Representative CRANE would go on to refer to Black servicemen and servicewomen who defend our country with their lives as "colored people."

These words harken back to a dark and racist time in our country's history and should not be tolerated. Representative CRANE's comment on the House floor was unprofessional, wholly inappropriate, and unbecoming of a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Furthermore, to have a word like that spoken anywhere but here on the