

should receive bipartisan support for disaster-impacted areas across the United States. It is crucial that we put the needs of our constituents first, prioritizing disaster relief over political bickering.

I say to my Virgin Islands brothers and sisters, that opportunities are fragile and don't always come through for us. We have got to do what needs to be done to support our own rebuilding if Washington cannot.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to work on behalf of Virgin Islanders to assess the support needed for our ongoing rebuilding efforts. Together, we share the responsibility of ensuring that the U.S. Virgin Islands emerge from the twin tragedies stronger and more resilient.

The opportunity before us is significant, and we must not let it slip away. Let us act swiftly to provide the necessary funding and support for all disaster-impacted areas across America to build a more resilient preparedness plan.

Mr. Speaker, may we rise to this challenge with the strength and unity it demands, and may we, as Virgin Islanders, remain VI strong.

RECOGNIZING TY WHITE AS ARIZONA'S 2023 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Arizona's 2023 Teacher of the Year, Mr. Ty White, a chemistry teacher at Wilcox High School in Wilcox, Arizona.

Mr. White, known for his dedication to his students in and out of the classroom, embodies all that a parent wants to see in their children's teachers.

He serves as a founding board member of InSimEd, a nonprofit that helps students participate in STEM-related experiential learning opportunities. He also sponsors other initiatives at Wilcox High School aimed at finding ways for his students to gain real world industry experiences.

Mr. White has been widely honored by other organizations across the country, including being recognized as the 2023 National Rural Education Association's National Teacher of the Year, the Air and Space Force Association's Arizona Teacher of the Year, and the first runner-up for the Air and Space Force Association's National Teacher of the Year.

His commitment to the next generation is unmatched. I am incredibly proud to have him in our district. I know his students will walk away from his class and the programs he runs with lifelong lessons.

Because of his tireless efforts, people in my district are developing an interest in STEM fields and growing their love for learning.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Ty White and the committed educators like him. Congratulations to

Mr. White on this well-deserved recognition.

HIGHLIGHTING THE TOWN OF PIMA

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the town of Pima, one of the many unique and special rural communities in my district. This town has a long history of bravery, service, and sacrifice.

This town, during World War II, lost 27 men, accounting for the greatest loss suffered by any community in the country on a per capita basis.

Today, a memorial to these men stands at the local high school. I was able to spend some time in Pima over the August work period, and I had the opportunity to visit their local fire station.

Like many communities across the country, these firefighters are all a volunteer force. I was inspired by these individuals' commitment to their community, running toward the danger when their neighbors need them most.

It is clear that these Arizonans have a strong dedication to not only each other and their community, but service to our country as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent them in Congress.

COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 16TH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH BOMBING

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

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963, and to honor the lives and legacies of four little girls killed in this heinous attack.

Mr. Speaker, 60 years after parishioners of the 16th Street Baptist Church prepared for Sunday service, 19 sticks of dynamite placed by Ku Klux Klan members exploded. As the interiors of the walls of the church caved in, over 100 churchgoers rushed for safety.

Though most of the congregation escaped, under the debris lay the bodies of Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Morris Wesley, as well as Sarah Collins Rudolph, who was injured but ultimately survived.

Tragically, the brutality did not stop after the bombing. When African-American communities across the State of Alabama took to the streets to demand justice, they were met with unspeakable violence at the hands of law enforcement. Within a few hours, Johnny Robertson and Virgil Ware, ages 16 and 13, were killed in a clash between protesters and the police.

Despite the horrific nature of this attack, it took over 34 years before the perpetrators faced justice.

In 2013, Mr. Speaker, I was honored that the very first bill I passed in this body awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor we

can give, to the four little girls posthumously to ensure that their lives were never forgotten.

While we will never recover the lives lost or the injuries suffered, we know that their sacrifice was not in vain.

Indeed, the loss of the four little girls changed America forever, bringing into clarity our Nation's storied history of racially motivated violence, and galvanized the civil rights movement.

It was their memory that inspired generations of freedom fighters to build for a world where the color of your skin does not determine the value of your life.

It was their memory that burned in the minds of foot soldiers as they fought to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

It was their sacrifice that brought our Nation closer to realizing its highest ideals of equality and justice for all.

Without the influence of the four little girls, I not only question where America would be, but where I would be.

Mr. Speaker, 60 years after their passing, I get to walk the Halls of Congress as Alabama's as first Black Congresswoman, and I do so because of their sacrifice and because they cannot.

Their premature and senseless death serves as a constant reminder that every battle and every gain in the fight for civil rights has come at a high cost, paid for by the sacrifice of others.

Yet, despite their gains and our gains as a Nation, we know that our work is far from over. Today, as extremists seek to rewrite our history and roll back our progress, it has never been more crucial to ensure that the legacy of the four little girls lives on in American history.

After all, those who don't learn from their history are doomed to repeat it.

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In the words of Coretta Scott King, struggle is a never-ending process. Freedom is never really won. It is earned and won in every generation.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the lives of the four little girls and remembering them by name: Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Morris Wesley.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, did you know that more than 40 million Americans have served in the Armed Forces since our Nation's founding?

From Yorktown to Gettysburg, from San Juan Hill to Saipan, from the Leyte Gulf to Tora Bora, America's sons and daughters have heroically answered the call to protect our precious

freedoms and defend the cause of liberty, both at home and abroad.

Each one had a duty to serve, but our duty, Mr. Speaker, is to remember.

On September 15, National POW/MIA Recognition Day, we remember the more than 500,000 prisoners of war who endured the horrors of enemy captivity and faithfully served through severe suffering and incomprehensible trauma.

We remember the tens of thousands of brave patriots who are still missing in action and have yet to return home safely to the warm embrace of their families and loved ones.

This week, from sea to shining sea, thousands of ceremonies will take place in an expression of solidarity. Balloons will be released, and moments of silence will be held.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans will gather to honor the lives and deeds of our greatest American heroes in church yards, national cemeteries, and town squares, and a black and white flag will fly proudly.

All of this is good and fitting, but our patriots deserve a special place of honor because of their selfless dedication, unmatched valor, and unsurpassed devotion to our Nation's values.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I have introduced legislation which will designate the POW/MIA Memorial and Museum at Cecil Field in my Congressional District in Florida as a national landmark to honor, connect, inspire, and educate the American people about prisoners of war and those missing in action.

This memorial will give Americans a unique opportunity to honor the immense sacrifice made by our POWs and serve as a powerful reminder of the servicemembers whose fates are still unknown.

Mr. Speaker, we will never be able to repay our debt to those who have given their last measure of devotion for the spirit of America, but we can continue to do our duty: To remember.

On POW/MIA Recognition Day and every day, we, the people of the United States, with a grateful heart salute those who endured great dangers in the hands of the enemy and those lost in service to our Nation.

THE POWER OF PEOPLE AND POSSIBILITIES

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, think about the following motto: "The power of people and possibilities." It embodies a belief that everyone has something to contribute to our society and that meaningful employment helps people achieve the American Dream.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to recognize the people that are committed to this goal, Challenge Enterprises of North Florida, and the AbilityOne program.

Challenge Enterprises is an organization established in 1972 in Clay County, Florida, that presently employs—get this—more than 305 constituents in my district.

They employ over 100 people with disabilities as a result of the AbilityOne

program, the largest employment program for persons with disabilities.

I have been there, Mr. Speaker. I've seen firsthand how AbilityOne enhances the quality of lives. Work changes lives. That is what everybody should have; a reason to get out of bed, a reason to go to work.

The program teaches hardworking individuals to load our Navy ships with provisions, to staff the IRS mailroom, to stock shelves, to pull grocery orders for our military personnel, to clean Federal buildings, and to maintain over 70 acres of grounds.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I thank the staff, employees, and volunteers of Challenge Enterprises and the AbilityOne program for helping my constituents in northeast Florida become productive, self-reliant citizens of their community and seeing the worth and value of every individual.

RECOGNIZING JACK AND JILL OF AMERICA, OAKLAND COUNTY

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the Jack and Jill of America, Oakland County, Michigan chapter. For 45 years, they have brought leadership and mentorship programming for our African-American young people across Oakland County.

Founded in 1978, the Oakland County chapter of Jack and Jill of America was the realization of a dream of two mothers, Robbie Johnson and Bobbye Wilhite, who were looking for more opportunities for their young children.

The 39 charter members were united in seeking a better quality of life and opportunities for success for young African Americans in our community.

The Oakland County chapter is currently one of 262 chapters nationwide whose programs are centered on education, public service, health, cultural awareness, and recreation.

Please join me, Mr. Speaker, in recognizing the Jack and Jill of America, Oakland County Chapter as they celebrate 45 years of service, education, and excellence in our community.

SUPPORTING UAW

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I am the proud daughter of the UAW. My family knew the power of being part of a union family.

My dad, who came to the United States with only a fourth grade education, felt human dignity for the first time when he worked at the Ford Motor Company in Flat Rock on the assembly line and became a member of the UAW.

We know this week hundreds of thousands of workers are fighting for a fair contract to support their families. Their current contract, Mr. Speaker, expires at midnight on September 14.

The right to strike in our country is the single most powerful tool to fight corporate greed. In the first 6 months

of this year alone, the Big Three: Ford, Stellantis, and GM made a combined \$20 billion in profits.

The Big Three CEOs received a whopping 40 percent increase in pay while the majority of workers today are living check to check.

Did you know that since 1948, every single UAW contract had a cost-of-living adjustment, a COLA. In 2009, something spectacular happened, workers came together and helped the Big Three stay afloat. They decided to put COLA aside, allowing the companies to create tier systems.

In 2023, the contract doesn't have the cost-of-living adjustment. These are the same workers, Mr. Speaker, that sacrificed so much, and now the Big Three are refusing to have their backs when they are struggling.

Two workers doing the same job side by side should not be receiving drastically different wages and benefits due to tiers that were put in place during the Great Recession. Tier systems have no place on an assembly line.

These companies should not be able to find loopholes to hire supplemental workers just so they can get away with paying them lower hourly wages and no retirement benefits.

Mr. Speaker, my dad in the 1980s was vested in health benefits within 90 days. There was no five, six, seven, eight—I even met a young girl who said it took her dad 10 years to get on top of that tier.

Folks don't realize the majority of the UAW workers in our country do not have a pension today. It is 2023. Auto-workers should be able to retire with dignity. Every worker deserves a guaranteed pension and healthcare when they retire.

The Big Three need to value their workers more than they value profits and their own CEO pay increases. They need to do what is right. They have record profits, and that should result in a record contract.

FUNDING FOR CHILDCARE

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I am, as you know, a proud mother and a proud founder of the Congressional Mamas' Caucus.

When we passed the American Rescue Plan, I was proud to have included a Federal investment for childcare; keeping childcare providers open and ensuring working parents could access childcare when they needed to go back to work.

The American Rescue Plan included \$24 billion in funding for childcare stabilization, \$15 billion alone for childcare programs for low-income families, and so much more.

This Federal funding was critical in enabling providers to pay personnel costs and keep programs afloat.

These critical funds are already running out in many States and are set to expire at the end of this month. Without immediate action here in Congress to invest in childcare, there will be dire consequences for working families.

It is estimated, Mr. Speaker, that we will lose 3.2 million slots. That is 3.2