

Greensboro Four for exemplifying this year's Black History Month theme: Black Resistance.

Black history is American history, but it is important to remember that this isn't ancient history. The Greensboro Four, also known as the A&T Four, sparked the sit-in movement in 1960, just 63 years ago today.

Think about that. Only six decades ago, during my lifetime, Black Americans in the South were forced to use different water fountains, eat at separate lunch counters, go to different bathrooms, and, most of all, suffer the indignity of second-class citizenship.

That is why on February 1, 1960, four courageous Black students from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College, my alma mater, Ezell Blair, Jr., David Richmond, Franklin McCain, and Joseph McNeil, sat down at a Whites-only lunch counter and asked to be served. In doing so, the Greensboro Four changed the United States forever.

The sit-in movement spread to cities across the South where Black resistance against segregation, discrimination, and Jim Crow eventually led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which outlawed segregation in public accommodations.

It is with great pride today that I recognize the A&T Four and every American who joined the sit-in movement to protest the racism of the Jim Crow South and eventually changed public policy.

These protests against injustice led to civil rights and voting rights for Black Americans, as well as equal protection under the law.

Whether it was at that Woolworth's counter or on a bus in Montgomery or in a jail cell in Birmingham or a bridge in Selma, Alabama, or on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial or a Baptist Church in Atlanta or in a St. Louis, Missouri, courthouse before the Civil War or at a slave rebellion in Southampton County, Virginia, in the antebellum South, Black resistance has nourished and slowly but surely worked to perfect American democracy.

We, as a Nation, have a responsibility to learn from our past and work diligently to carry on the legacy of these four men and all of our ancestors in the movement by ensuring equal rights for all of the people and protecting the civil rights we all fought so hard to win.

Black history is more important than ever. If it wasn't so important, they wouldn't try to stop us from teaching it. Last month, Florida schools announced they would not teach an advanced placement course in African-American history. The State of Florida's letter to the college board claimed the course "lacks educational value." I disagree.

We can't afford to remove critical thinking from our curriculum. Our students won't understand American history without understanding African-American history.

Those who don't understand history, Mr. Speaker, are doomed to repeat it. That is why this February, all Americans must recommit to teaching Black history in our homes, our schools, our churches, on TV, on Twitter, and, yes, even in the Halls of Congress.

We must be unified and unafraid to say "Black" and to teach our history and heritage. Because if we don't remember the Greensboro Four, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther and Coretta Scott King, John Lewis, Hattie McDaniel, Frederick Douglass, Harriet and Dred Scott, Nat Turner, Harriet Tubman, and countless others, someday, somewhere, someone will have to endure what they endured to win, yet again, the rights and the respect they fought for. That is why for me, every month, Mr. Speaker, is Black History Month.

REMEMBERING DEVIN WILLOCK AND CHANDLER LeCROY

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tragic passing of Devin Willock and Chandler LeCroy of the University of Georgia. Following the Georgia football national championship parade, Devin and Chandler were in a tragic accident that claimed their lives.

Devin played offensive line for the Bulldogs and was a key part of their national championship run this past season. Devin will be remembered by all as a kind soul that loved his family, the game of football, and his teammates.

Chandler graduated from the University of Georgia in 2020 with a master's degree and then went on to work as a recruiting analyst for the Bulldogs. Members of the Georgia football staff spoke about her passion for Georgia athletics and how she always went above and beyond in her work. Her warm spirit and love for her beloved Bulldogs will be remembered by all.

I know that I speak for the entire First District, for the State of Georgia, and for the Bulldog Nation when I say that we will miss Devin and Chandler, but I know that their legacy will live on.

RECOGNIZING HINESVILLE, GEORGIA

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hinesville, Georgia, for being a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Recently, Hinesville was erroneously named as one of the most miserable places to live in all of the State of Georgia. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, Hinesville is not only one of the best cities in the First District of Georgia, but it is arguably one of the best cities in all of the State.

Hinesville is one of the fastest growing cities in all of southeast Georgia. It is home to Fort Stewart and the 3rd Infantry Division, the largest Army installation east of the Mississippi River.

Across the city, Spanish moss gracefully drapes from the magnificent oak trees. There is a farmers market every Thursday and countless festivals throughout the year.

Hinesville is a wonderful community, full of southern hospitality and a relaxed way of life. The only thing miserable about this city are the attitudes of people who won't give it a fair shake. I am proud of Hinesville. It is a great city.

HONORING COACH PAUL JOHNSON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legendary college football coach Paul Johnson for his induction into the College Football Hall of Fame.

Utilizing his patented spread offense, Johnson compiled a career record of 189-99 in 22 seasons. In 11 seasons at Georgia Tech, he had a record of 82-60. His 82 wins are fourth-most in Tech history.

Johnson is responsible for two 10-win seasons and one 11-win season at Tech. He led the Jackets to nine bowl appearances and three Atlantic Coast Conference Championship games. Johnson received ACC Coach of the Year honors three times in his career and National Coach of the Year honors twice.

When he stepped down at Tech at the end of the 2018 season, his 189 career victories ranked fourth among NCAA Division I FBS head coaches.

While I may be a Georgia Bulldog, I want to congratulate Coach Johnson for his legendary career and his induction into the College Football Hall of Fame.

RECOGNIZING OLYMPIA CAFE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Olympia Cafe located in Savannah, Georgia.

The Olympia Cafe has been ranked in the top 10 percent of restaurants worldwide by a popular online travel company. Owner Nick Pappas started the restaurant in Savannah over 30 years ago. Before opening in the city, he had been told numerous times that Savannah was not the best place to open a cafe. However, those people were wrong. Pappas has found the perfect location.

Olympia Cafe regularly hosts famous movie celebrities and worldwide travelers. He is proud of the restaurant's award because it relies on customer reviews, which reflects the cafe's hard work.

I would like to congratulate Pappas and everyone at the Olympia Cafe for winning this wonderful award.

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CENTRAL HUDSON OVERCHARGING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. RYAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring voice to my constituents who have been screwed over and ripped off by our utility company, Central Hudson.

My colleagues here may never have heard of Central Hudson, but the people of the Hudson Valley know them all too well.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the farmer in Ulster Park, New York, who received such a massive utility bill, \$16,585, 17 times her normal bill, that she actually contemplated suicide. She described the debt, which put her at risk of losing her family farm, as a guillotine hanging over her head.

I rise for the single mother in Kingston who told me she is afraid to cook for her four kids because turning on the stove means facing a gigantic gas bill.

For the mayor of our city of Newburgh, who received a bill of \$708,000 for a single month of electricity at his three-bedroom family home; for senior citizens on a fixed income who had their entire checking accounts wiped out by an autopay withdrawal.

I could tell hundreds more of these stories and still not scratch the surface of this incredible corporate ineptitude.

Mr. Speaker, we rely on our public utilities for a necessary service. They exist for the public good. They are built on a foundation of public trust.

Central Hudson, and its CEO, Mr. Charles Freni, have irrevocably broken this trust. Since my calls for an investigation into Central Hudson's disastrous billing practices almost a year ago, we have received more than 11,000 formal complaints. A New York State Department of Public Service report revealed Central Hudson's billing system was riddled with hundreds of programming errors, leading to nearly 5,000 customers not receiving their bills, 8,000 customers overcharged, and more than 30,000 customers whose autopay was billed incorrectly, costing them over \$16 million.

I want to be clear. I do not fault the hardworking employees of Central Hudson. They begged for additional training. They suggested improvements to this system. They worked hours and hours of overtime. They wanted to do the right thing for the people of the Hudson Valley, but Central Hudson and its CEO clearly did not.

Just 2 weeks ago in response to this devastating Public Service Commission report documenting their systemic failures, Central Hudson doubled-down on their deflection, their denial, and their deception. Rather than taking ownership of their failures, they claimed that no customers were overcharged and that nobody lost any money.

Give me a break.

Central Hudson's leadership deliberately chose to sweep these problems under the rug. Why?

Because now owned by a multibillion-dollar and multinational corporation, they chose to put profits over people. At the same time as customers'—my constituents'—bills were skyrocketing and bank accounts were literally being emptied out, their reve-

nues were up over 30 percent and their profits—surprise, surprise—they are up, too.

Central Hudson has had opportunity after opportunity to own their mistakes and take accountability, but time and again they have failed to do so.

Mr. Speaker, there is simply no excuse for this. At a time when our families are facing tremendous economic pressure, the last thing they need to worry about is their bank accounts being emptied out just because they tried to power their home.

Because of these failures and because of Central Hudson's continued unwillingness to take accountability, today I am calling on Central Hudson's CEO, Mr. Charles Freni, to do the right thing for our community and to resign.

We need a new leader who will come in, improve service, finally fix these systemic problems, and start the critical work to rebuild trust with our community. That is what the people of the Hudson Valley deserve.

DOCTORS KNOW BEST

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

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I want to address the Freedom for Healthcare Workers Act that has been submitted and we will soon vote on.

As an ER physician who has treated thousands of patients, who has been exposed to COVID thousands of times, and watched nurses and midlevels and healthcare workers of all kinds complain about the government's involvement in healthcare, I wanted to address this topic.

I believe I am the only Congressman who has actually been an ER doctor in the pandemic. My last shift was December 28. I intubated a patient and saw three critical patients. Several of them had COVID. Nobody was admitted for COVID, though.

Back to the point, though. During this pandemic we started off with no vaccination. Meanwhile, most of us were exposed regardless of what PPE we had, and it was limited at times to people who had fevers, who had symptoms even before we knew what COVID was. A lot of us got sick and developed immunity naturally.

Then the government stepped in. Although well-meaning, a lot of times government officials think they have the answer to everything, including things they really don't know about. What they will do is cherry-pick the experts that agree with them to say this is what experts believe, and that is why all healthcare professionals should believe this also. That is not how we make progress in medicine. As a matter of fact, it stifles innovation and progress.

At one time we had a President, President Garfield, who was shot, and it was poor practice in medicine where

doctors probed his wound and made him septic that caused him to die. There was a dissenting opinion by Dr. Lister—you may have heard of Listerine—who believed in antiseptic but he was scoffed at and belittled because he was the outlying person. Imagine where we would be if government stepped in and said: Our experts said you don't need to wash your hands before you probe wounds. We would still be in the Dark Ages of medicine.

I beg the government to stay out of the way of healthcare progress. To stay out of the debate of healthcare professionals because, quite frankly, very few people in Congress understand medicine the way healthcare professionals do. They haven't been to medical school, and even those who have, they haven't been in medicine for a long time. Quite frankly, the Doctors Caucus is seldom relied on for healthcare policy, which is a shame.

If you haven't been to medical school, if you haven't taken your boards, if you haven't been through a residency, if you haven't seen tens of thousands of patients, you shouldn't be telling doctors who have a dissenting opinion what to do.

There is no standard of care based on government. It is based on physicians having a good decision, trying different things, and finding out what works. That is how medicine has progressed in America; far beyond any limitations that we have in foreign countries.

We are the leaders of innovation and healthcare. We should consider our healthcare professionals when we make decisions and not consider government first when it comes to standard of care.

If you want to require healthcare professionals to have a vaccination, why do you think the government understands that requirement better than the very healthcare professional who not only treats this but was exposed to it, who has natural immunities, and who understands the side effects; not only of the disease but of the vaccination.

Once again, I submit to you that it is time to let healthcare professionals make their own decisions, especially when it comes to their own lives. They are the ones that put their lives on the line during the pandemic. They are the ones that treated the sick patients. They are the ones that know best whether a vaccination will benefit them or harm them, not a government.

I must also remind you that our Constitution is based on individual rights, not on a collective governance by politicians telling people what to do in things they don't know about.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we support the Freedom for Healthcare Workers Act.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENTS OF ANGELO K. TSAKOPOULOS

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