

She currently serves on the boards of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement and the Industrial Global Union where her voice impacts the lives of millions of workers across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Monica for her dedication to the community and to the global labor movement.

I congratulate Monica on her retirement, and I wish her the best of luck. I know she is not done, and she will continue to work like all good Santa Ana girls do.

HONORING THE CAREER OF GUADALUPE GOMEZ

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Guadalupe Gomez, my good friend and president of La Federacion de Zacatecanos del Sur de California.

Lupe has spent 31 years working for the federation, as an organizer in a group that aims to help people on both sides of the border, the United States and Mexico, through economic development.

In the past 2 years as president of La Federacion, Lupe has renewed a call for cooperation and mutual assistance across the border.

From establishing new outreach programs for young people to strengthening programs like food banks to building up communities and relationships here in the U.S., Lupe has been very impactful on both sides of the border.

Lupe is my very good friend, and we thank her for her service and dedication to the wonderful community of Zacatecanos, both in the United States and in Mexico.

Let's keep that good work up.

NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special tradition taking place this Saturday, December 16.

Every year on the third Saturday of December, thousands of volunteers set out across the country and the world in a coordinated wreath-laying ceremony.

This ceremony is known as National Wreaths Across America Day.

In 1992, Morrill Worcester from Harrington, Maine, noticed he had an abundance of holiday wreaths and decided to take the opportunity to honor our country's fallen soldiers.

After contacting his Senator, arrangements were made for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington in an older section of the cemetery. This tradition would quietly continue until 2005 when a photo of the tombstones decorated with wreaths and covered with snow went viral.

From there, this quiet annual tribute to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice transformed into a mission to remember, honor, and teach.

Since the viral photo, Wreaths Across America continues to grow. This Saturday volunteers will lay wreaths at more than 2,500 locations in the United States, abroad, and at sea. This simple gesture is a way for all of us to express our appreciation during the holiday season.

Earlier this week, what has become known as the country's longest veteran's parade, Wreaths Across America's annual Escort to Arlington kicked off.

The official route will travel down the East Coast, stopping at schools, memorials, and other locations along the way to remember the fallen, honor those that serve, and teach the next generation the value of freedom.

Stops with public events will be held in Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Washington, D.C., before arriving at Arlington National Cemetery on the morning of Saturday, December 16, National Wreaths Across America Day.

This pilgrimage to Arlington National Cemetery represents the very best of our Nation. Tractor trailers will haul more than 250,000 wreaths to their destination.

Mr. Speaker, as many Americans will volunteer this weekend, it is a reminder that our freedom is not free. These men and women paid the ultimate sacrifice, and this small gesture is one of the many ways we are able to thank them for their service.

If you are interested in volunteering, please visit wreathsasscrossAmerica.org.

□ 1030

PLIGHT OF THE TAMIL PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I stand with the Eelam Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Following the British departure in 1948, the unification of these kingdoms under a Sinhalese-dominated Sri Lanka led to the marginalization of the Tamil people.

This process disregarded the Tamils' right to self-determination. State-sponsored discrimination and violence against Tamils sparked a tragic 30-year ethnic conflict, resulting in the 2009 Tamil genocide.

Despite the United Nations Human Rights Council's efforts for accountability, Sri Lanka, with China's support, withdrew in 2020, further blocking justice for the Tamil community.

The recent arrest of Tamils for participating in peaceful events under the Prevention of Terrorism Act are deeply troubling.

Therefore, I call upon my colleagues in Congress to recognize and address the ongoing oppression of the Tamil people. We must support a permanent solution that ensures stability and

peace in this vital part of the Indo-Pacific. We must honor our commitment to human rights, and we must honor democracy.

CELEBRATING AN IMPORTANT DAY IN GUAM'S HISTORY

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and recognize a very important day in Guam's history, December 10, 1898. On this day, the United States and Spain signed the Treaty of Paris, officially handing over Guam to the United States and ending the Spanish-American War. This year, we celebrate the 125th year Guam has been part of our great Nation.

Following the United States' acquisition of Guam, it established America as a global superpower and ensured our position in the Indo-Pacific region. Now, 125 years later, the U.S. remains a global superpower and the strongest force in the Pacific and the world, and Guam is a developed and thriving community.

Since 1898, Guam has proven to be an essential piece of America that is filled with patriotism and faith. From being a vital military center in the region during World War II to being the tip of the spear against China today, Guam is a hub of American success.

Guam is a beacon of hope and American values in the middle of the Pacific. Our American flag is a symbol of liberty and freedom in the region. It is also a warning to all people who seek to provoke violence. The United States and Guam are forces that are not to be reckoned with.

Let us take this day to reaffirm the United States' commitment to protecting freedom, peace, and democracy across the Indo-Pacific while maintaining the strong ties that connect Guam and our amazing country.

RECOGNIZING MARSHALL WALTER "MAJOR" TAYLOR

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

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation that would posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal to honor Marshall Walter "Major" Taylor and would finally recognize him as America's first international sports champion.

Marshall Taylor was affectionately known as Major Taylor, and he remains in death as he was in life; namely, America's first sports superhero, a feat that took place in the late 1800s and makes what he accomplished all the more extraordinary and astounding.

Consider, if you will, the fact that here is an African-American man born in 1878 amid the sound and fury of post-Civil War America.

For those who missed the significance of this, it means that Major Taylor came into being at a time when the old resentments of the defeated Confederacy were beginning to push the Nation back into the clutches of a desperate and cynical racial antipathy.

Major Taylor did not come of age at a moment in American history when it was easy to be African American. In fact, he dared to be great at a time when the color of his skin was a crime; that is to suggest a punishable offense for which millions of Black people were persecuted without justification or cause. Yet, in spite of the indignities assigned to him because of his race, in 1899, Mr. Taylor went on to become the fastest man in the world on a bike and an international world champion in the sport of cycling.

Yet oddly, Mr. Speaker, very few people in this country know anything about him. Very few people know the biggest sport in the latter half of the 19th century was cycling and that an African American was the first great international champion in this country and in this sport.

One wonders today: How is such a thing even possible that Mr. Taylor can be forgotten? Why has it taken so long to honor a man who never should have been forgotten in the first place? How can it be the case that most people know little or nothing about the extraordinary contributions of this man to the American experience, to say nothing of his quantifiable greatness with respect to American sports?

Let me put a final point on this. Before there was a Jack Johnson, before there was a Jackie Robinson, before there was a Joe Louis, before there was a Jesse Owens, there was a Marshall Taylor, the son of an enslaved family, the son of a veteran of the American Civil War, our first international superstar, the first Black athlete to have a corporate sponsorship, the fastest man in the world at his time.

He was a man so committed to his faith that he would not race on Sundays, so subsequently the governing body of the international cycling community changed racing day to Saturday in order to accommodate the discipline and dedication of his faith.

Major Taylor was the first African-American world champion of any sport, and yet most people don't even know who he is because he has been conveniently erased. That is to say, he has been rendered invisible and, therefore, condemned to exist on the peripheries and in the margins of the historical memories of what he was and soon to be forgotten and was not of any note. He had no value in our history, tragically insignificant and unimportant, but nothing could be further from the truth.

With the heel of an entire nation pressing down upon his neck, after 280 years of enslavement in America, here arose Mr. Marshall "Major" Taylor. He had no one to look up to. He had to set a precedent. He had to exemplify great-

ness and carry that great burden of the race on his shoulders, and he did so magnificently.

The recriminations of an entire culture withholding him from the support he deserved, when he won in America, they played "Dixie." When he won abroad, internationally, they played "The Star-Spangled Banner." Marshall "Major" Taylor said that made him so proud to be an American.

Marshall Taylor strived in spite of it all. He didn't just win. He won in spite of the facts. He didn't just succeed. He succeeded against the odds. He didn't just achieve, but impressively, he achieved with one hand tied behind his back, and he would not be stopped.

Frederick Douglass said that a man should not be judged by how high he climbs but rather he should be judged by the depths from which he has had to climb from.

Marshall "Major" Taylor is a quintessential example of the American spirit and African American capacity for resistance and excellence in the midst of it all.

I rise today in support of legislation that would posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal to Marshall Walter "Major" Taylor.

And would finally recognize him as the first American international champion.

Marshall Taylor was affectionately known as Major Taylor, and he remains in death as he was in life, namely, America's first sports hero—a feat that took place in the late 1800s and makes what he accomplished all the more extraordinary and astounding.

Consider, if you will, the fact that here is an African-American man born in 1878 amid the sound and fury of post-Civil War America.

And for those who miss the significance of this, it means that Major Taylor came into being at a time when the old resentments of the defeated Confederacy were beginning to push the nation back into the clutches of a desperate and cynical racial antipathy.

Major Taylor did not come of age at a moment in American history when it was easy to be black.

In fact, he dared to be great at a time when the color of his skin was a crime.

That is to suggest a punishable offense for which millions of black people were persecuted without justification or cause.

And yet, in spite of the indignities assigned to him because of his race, in 1899, Mr. Taylor went on to become the fastest man on a bike and an international world champion in the sport of cycling.

And yet, oddly, Mr. Speaker, very few people in this country know anything about him.

Very few people know that the biggest sport in the latter half of the 19th century was cycling, and that an African-American man was the first great international champion in that sport.

One wonders today: how is such a thing even possible?

Why has it taken so long to honor a man who should've never been forgotten in the first place.

How can it be the case that most people know little to nothing about the extraordinary contribution of this man to the American experience—to say nothing of his quantifiable greatness with respect to American sports?

Let me put a finer point on it . . .
Before there was Jack Johnson,
Before there was Joe Louis,
Before there was Jesse Owens,
Before there was Jackie Robinson,
There was Marshall Taylor.
The Son of an enslaved family
The son of a veteran of the civil war.
The first international superstar.

The first black athlete to have a corporate sponsorship . . .

The fastest man in the world . . .

A man so committed to his faith that he would not race on Sundays, so subsequently, the governing body of the international cycling community changed racing day to Saturday in order to accommodate the discipline and dedication of his faith.

Major Taylor was the first African-American world champion of any sport.

And yet most people don't even know who he is because he has been conveniently erased.

That is to say, rendered invisible,

And therefore, condemned to exist on the peripheries and in the margins of historical memory as if what he accomplished was not of any note.

Not valuable.

Tragically insignificant and unimportant.

But nothing could be further from the truth.

With the heel of an entire nation pressing down upon his neck—and with the recriminations of an entire culture withholding from him the support he deserved . . . Marshal Major Taylor did it anyway.

He didn't just win; rather, he won in spite of the facts.

He didn't just succeed; he succeeded against the odds.

He didn't just achieve, but impressively, he achieved with one hand tied behind his back. And he would not be stopped.

Frederick Douglass said that a man should not be judged by how high he climbs, but should rather be judged by the depths from which she has had to climb from.

Marshall Major Taylor is the quintessential example of the American spirit, and the African-American capacity for resistance and excellence in the midst of it all.

I rise today in support of this legislation because the awarding of this medal is an act long over due.

To bestow this honor is the least a grateful nation can do for someone denied the recognition and respect he deserved.

And so . . . it is all together fitting that we memorialize the achievements and legacy of this extraordinary American.

And each of us should take pride in knowing that the time has finally come for this nation to honor one of its most accomplished sons.

A Trailblazer,

A Pioneer,

A man of dignity,

An American,

An African-American,

A Champion.

And perhaps most of all, a man of remarkable faith.

The first great African-American world champion in any sport should not be relegated to the ash-heap of history—and today, with this legislation, we endeavor to put Major Taylor back where he belongs.

In the winner circle.

And alongside the best of what this nation has to offer. I yield back the remainder of my time.

WHY SECTION 702 IS ESSENTIAL

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

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Members of Congress who are here today.

Today, we stand on the forefront of America's capability to collect and protect our Nation's most critical intelligence. This is known as the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, specifically section 702.

Now, some have asked: Why is 702 essential? I answer in no uncertain terms, it has saved thousands of American lives. It is a powerful tool to safeguard hundreds of millions of Americans from the attacks coming from terrorists, foreign agents, and vicious attackers.

Some have rightfully asked: Are we willing to sacrifice America's liberty for the sake of security?

With this, I will not abide. For too long, the failures to reform section 702 have led to abuse, nowhere more clear than our own Department of Justice where spies against America are not just overseas but right here in the United States.

Americans should rightly ask: What is Congress' role and what will be our aim, Mr. Speaker? To this, I answer directly: We must protect this Nation, we must reform section 702 of FISA, and we must hold our adversaries accountable, both in our government and those overseas.

Now, there is broad recognition that section 702 offers intelligence value on a range of evolving priorities, including terrorism, cybersecurity, and espionage. In fact, 702 serves as the foundation for much of the Nation's most important intelligence, providing decisionmakers critical information at their time of need. Nearly 60 percent of the "President's Daily Brief," a briefing book that I have in my time as a counterintelligence officer helped brief and prepare, comes from FISA 702.

Before us, you see one of the greatest threats to America, the mastermind behind the 9/11 attacks. The drone strike, which I have flown over watch for and supported operational units like this, was the weapon that we used to take out just last year, 2022, the terrorist al-Zawahiri. The targeting unit that ensured that we didn't have collateral damage was provided with acute intelligence to ensure that innocent loss of life did not occur. I know this, being a commander of a targeting unit that has executed missions almost identical to this. I also know that flying aboard recon aircraft, we have been the collectors of some of the most important intelligence, including that that provides section 702 its ability to be successful.

From 2018 to 2022, FISA section 702 collection played a critical role in 70 percent of successful CIA-supported weapons and counterproliferation disruptions, weapons that would have ended up in the hands of terrorists like

we have just seen in the attack on Israel.

Last year, section 702 collection played a role in more than 50 percent of the CIA counternarcotic disruptions, that same fentanyl entering the United States today.

Additionally, declassified examples of 702, which I can share on the homeland today, make sure that foreign actors' illicit plans to smuggle methamphetamines across the U.S. borders, the quantities and potencies of fentanyl destined for illegal transfer to the United States, as well as specific smuggling techniques used to avoid them, techniques, when breached, are actually able to save Americans.

The involvement of a foreign official in one of these narcotic trafficking schemes to transport fentanyl pills to the United States was thwarted because of intelligence capabilities to do this.

Section 702 resulted in the identification disruption of hostile foreign actors' attempts to recruit spies in the United States, including right here on U.S. soil where operations were conducted to kidnap and assassinate U.S. senior leaders. The timely identification of foreign intelligence government's plans and the intent was revealed by 702.

Law enforcement across the country are asking for us to maintain the ability to provide them the tools to safeguard our country. Our first responders demand this and Congress must act.

Simply put, 702-acquired information is used daily to disrupt threats to the United States. However, given the FBI's unacceptable compliance failures, there is also a responsibility that Congress must include safeguards to uphold the privacy, civil liberties, and international trade in a digital world, including criminal punishments for those in our own government who continue to this day to go unchallenged.

As a Member of Congress, we must work together to reform and reauthorize 702. It should be our overarching goal to protect the United States from foreign threats while simultaneously protecting the Fourth Amendment rights of private citizens.

Importantly, any lapse or significant change that hinders the use of 702 unnecessarily blinds the United States to a range of threats, meanwhile taking dangerous risks to allow foreign terrorism to occur right here on our soil.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that the threats we face in the 21st century are both multifaceted and ever-evolving: terrorism, cybercrime, the activities of hostile actors, and a demand for sophisticated, adaptive response.

Therefore, we must move forward in holding not only the FBI accountable but making sure that Americans have the ability to protect themselves from threats overseas and within our own government.

□ 1045

END HYPE OVER CO₂

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, several hundred private aircraft have left Dubai after a couple of weeks of wining and dining in the hot climate there in order to tell us how we should live our lives. They want to tell us how we should cut back or eliminate meat in our diets and how we should change our agriculture in this country to just be less of it. I guess they want to put us all on a forced diet, according to their view of the world.

What does that really mean for us here? Less agriculture and fewer products grown in this country and in the European countries that want to play along with the Paris accords and such.

One interesting little fact that gets in the way of all that is that the U.S. and Europe have already reduced their CO₂ emissions down 10 to 15 percent in the last 2 years. This is without the Paris accord even having come fully into effect yet.

It is other countries, like Asia, where numbers are dramatically increasing on CO₂.

That assumes that CO₂ is actually a problem. CO₂, carbon dioxide, is only represented by 0.04 percent of our atmosphere. That is 4/100ths of 1 percent is what CO₂ makes up.

I talk to people on the street or at gatherings and events where I am speaking. How much of the air do you think is actually CO₂? They have been hyped so much since grade school. They have kids scared to death. They say that CO₂ is somewhere between 20 and 50 percent. No. It is 0.04 percent.

It is not a poisonous gas. I have had the argument of, well, it is like having fentanyl in your cereal or something like that. No, it is a necessary gas for plant life. We are all breathing it in right now. We are exhaling it right now. There are plants somewhere gladly absorbing it.

If we go below 0.02 percent, plant life starts dying off. We would be in a pretty bad way. Yet, the hype over CO₂ continues as they have the COP28 in Dubai. They sit there hatching plans to control our lives, especially in the Western countries.

The plans for China and places like that continue to ramp up with more coal power plants and much more use of oil and gas. Oil and gas have been villainized by California, the EPA, and so many, including an idea over there that the Arab countries have produced so much petroleum, so they were supposed to have that conversation at COP28. They kind of put that off as getting rid of oil and gas.

If we were even to contemplate that, you couldn't do it for at least four or five decades because we are so engrained with using that product to do anything—planting crops or transporting anything. If you got it, a truck