

of the Community College of Rhode Island and former U.S. Marine who was killed while on a humanitarian mission delivering aid to evacuees in Bakhmut, a besieged city in the Donetsk region of Ukraine.

Pete dedicated his life to the service of others. He deployed twice to the Helmand Province in Afghanistan, joined Team Rubicon after Hurricane Sandy, and helped to train medical teams in both Haiti and Iraq.

Pete and fellow veteran Derek Coleman decided to form Global Response Medicine, an NGO dedicated to serving the world's most vulnerable people in the midst of conflict, war, or disaster after seeing the need for such an organization during the battle of Mosul in Iraq.

His work brought him to Global Outreach Doctors, which he joined in January, to lead its efforts in Ukraine.

A remarkable man, Pete Reed was not only a veteran and a humanitarian but also a mentor to CCRI students and veterans. It is impossible to know how many lives he touched.

My thoughts and prayers are with Pete's entire family and all those who loved him and called him a friend.

HONORING YUBA COUNTY SHERIFF GARY DENNIS TINDEL

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the memory of Yuba County Sheriff Gary Dennis Tindel.

Gary was born in October of 1947. He graduated from Marysville High School in 1965 and then went on to attend UC Davis and Cal State, Chico shortly afterward.

He joined the Yuba County Sheriff's Department in 1971. In 1975, he married his wife, Irene Chesini, and together they raised three children: Josh, Michelle, and Alicia. In 1990, he was elected Sheriff in Yuba County and served two terms in that role.

In his spare time, he taught law enforcement classes at Butte College and served as assistant coroner down in Marin County.

Even after retiring from public service, he continued to serve his people, his community, as an active member of the Kiwanis Club, helping with local Little Leagues and Boy Scouts.

He was a devoted family man and a paragon in his community. From his outstanding public service to his volunteering to keep our streets safe, his influence was felt everywhere.

It is with deep condolences to Gary's family and everyone who knew him that I rise today. This ideal American man will be dearly missed. May he rest in eternal peace.

UPLIFTING AND CELEBRATING THOMAS DORTCH, JR.

(Mrs. MCBATH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Dortch is the National Chairman of 100 Black Men of America, Incorporated, and his life and career have truly been exceptional.

Whether serving our government, consulting major American businesses, or giving back through philanthropic endeavors, Thomas Dortch, Jr., has excelled at the highest levels.

As a staff member for Senator Sam Nunn, he became the first African American in history to become chief administrator for a United States Senator.

As a speaker and mentor, his voice was always in high demand, including for our very own Congressional Black Caucus.

As the founder of the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame, he created a space for our country to celebrate the achievements of graduates of our Nation's historically Black colleges and universities and ensure that we continue to protect and invest in educational opportunities for Black Americans.

During Black History Month, it is good and proper that we celebrate the legacy of one man who has done so much for our community.

On behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus and the United States House of Representatives, we send our deepest love and appreciation for all that he has done.

Thank you, Mr. Dortch.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

□ 1200

CELEBRATING YATES COUNTY, NEW YORK'S BICENTENNIAL

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the bicentennial of Yates County, New York, named after New York State Governor Joseph Yates, the seventh Governor of New York who commissioned the county in 1823.

Yates County is home to rolling hills and spectacular lakeside views of three of the Finger Lakes: Keuka, Seneca, and Canandaigua.

Comprised of nine townships, Yates County is home to just over 24,000 New Yorkers, only a small increase from the 20,000 people that called Yates County home at the time of its founding in 1823.

Yates County has preserved its pristine beauty over these years and played an important role in our State's history, including being home to some of the State's oldest stone mills and the lovely town of Branchport, which served as an important trade hub for steamboats along the Finger Lakes.

It was my distinct honor to have as my guest at the State of the Union, Yates County Sheriff Ron Spike, the longest serving sheriff in the history of the State of New York.

It is an honor to represent Yates County in Congress, and I am proud to celebrate Yates County on its bicentennial.

HIGHLIGHTING ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight Elizabeth City State University, an HBCU that understands the importance of educating and empowering remarkable leaders.

This year, Elizabeth City State University will celebrate 133 years of service and, over those years, the university has left a significant mark on our district, State, and Nation.

Mr. Speaker, Elizabeth City State University is home to the only 4-year aviation science program in North Carolina. I am proud of students such as Aleathia Hudson, who is not only a student in this program, but was my special guest for the State of the Union.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to help provide resources for Elizabeth City State University, those resources they deserve to be successful.

I commend Chancellor Karrie Dixon for her commitment to preparing the next generation of Viking leaders for their future.

Viking pride.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DONN J. THOMPSON

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

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a fellow marine and a great American patriot, Mr. Donn J. Thompson of Spokane, Washington.

Donn was a student at the University of Washington when Pearl Harbor was attacked. But he left after his freshman year to join the Marines in 1943.

He took part in multiple assault landings, including the Battle of Okinawa, where he helped capture Sugar Loaf Hill with the 6th Marine Division in one of the bloodiest battles in the Pacific theater.

This month, Donn celebrates his 100th birthday. Last spring, Donn celebrated his 75th wedding anniversary

with his beloved wife and pen pal for life, Doodiee.

Donn represents the very best of our history and the very best of America. I thank him for his service to our country. I congratulate him on a century of life and wisdom and a life truly well lived.

May Donn and Doodiee receive every blessing and happiness under heaven.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. GEORGE DEBNAM

(Ms. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. George Debnam who, sadly, passed away last month.

Dr. Debnam was a towering figure in our community, best known for delivering 10,000 babies; the most by any single physician in the history of North Carolina.

Dr. Debnam dedicated his life to providing quality healthcare, championing accessible education, and advancing social justice. It is only fitting that we honor Dr. Debnam during Black History Month. He played a critical role in integrating healthcare in Raleigh while he worked at St. Agnes Hospital.

Born in Youngsville, and a longtime resident of Raleigh, Dr. Debnam attended Shaw University and worked throughout his life to ensure that Shaw got the resources it needed to grow and thrive.

Today, his enduring legacy lives on through his twin daughters; both are physicians at the Debnam Clinic in Southeast Raleigh.

Our community is forever indebted to Dr. Debnam and his family.

CELEBRATING CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLACK BUSINESS OWNERS DURING NATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK

(Ms. STRICKLAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the contributions of Black business owners during National Entrepreneurship Week.

Black entrepreneurs have been at the forefront of innovation, introducing new products, services, and industries that drive economic progress. Yet, many face barriers accessing equity capital and financing with affordable interest rates to sustain their growth.

According to the Alliance for Entrepreneurial Equity, Black startups receive a mere 1 percent of total venture financing. Most start with just one-third of the capital available to their White counterparts.

This Black History Month, I want to recognize Makieda Hart, a startup founder and Black businessowner in my district. Through her tenacity and determination, she continues to grow her

business and makes an impact in the 10th Congressional District of Washington State.

Knowledge about capital and resources are essential to all small business owners, and she encourages young people to seek a mentor and to always learn.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in Congress to take a closer look at the challenges faced by Black entrepreneurs and to work together to build a stronger, more equitable economy for all because economic justice is, indeed, social justice.

REPUBLICAN PRIORITIES

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

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, when Democrats were in the majority, we passed a bipartisan law to rebuild our roads, bridges, and highways. We passed a bipartisan law to make sure that our schools remained open. We passed a bipartisan law to bring manufacturing back to the United States, and we passed a bipartisan law to help our Nation's veterans. Unemployment is now at the lowest rate in over 50 years.

Republicans gained control of the majority last month. What is one of the first things that they did? They held a hearing on Twitter.

Let me repeat that again. House Republicans used the awesome power of the Federal Government, the committee staff resources, and the time and attention of their Members to hold a congressional hearing about Twitter.

DEMOCRATS HAVE DELIVERED FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Ms. BROWNLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, as President Biden laid out at the State of the Union, House Democrats and the Biden administration have delivered for the American people.

Because House Democrats put people over politics, our economy saw the creation of more than 12 million new jobs in the past 2 years.

We enacted landmark legislation that made historic investments in infrastructure and lowered costs for America's working families, all while decreasing the deficit by more than \$1.7 trillion.

We are rebuilding our economy and American pride by reigniting the spirit of American manufacturing and industrial strength.

As Members of Congress, we have a responsibility to strengthen the middle class, fix our crumbling infrastructure, safeguard Social Security and Medicare, protect reproductive freedom, uphold our promise to our Nation's veterans, and create a fair economy that works for all Americans.

House Democrats are committed to finishing the job and continuing to work and deliver for the people.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF TOMMY DORTCH

(Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Mr. Tommy Dortch, one of our country's greatest contributors to closing the racial wealth gap. I could spend hours highlighting his contributions to the Black community, but I want to focus on his investment into our great HBCUs.

A proud product of both Fort Valley State University and Clark Atlanta University, Mr. Dortch founded the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Foundation in 1985. Mr. Dortch has led the Foundation to award over \$1 million in grants and scholarships to students, and exposed more than 500,000 students to college opportunities.

As a third-generation HBCU grad, I know firsthand their critical role in fostering Black excellence. Mr. Dortch's lifetime of giving back to the HBCU community has laid the groundwork for economic mobility for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, today, I proudly join with members of the Georgia delegation to introduce legislation to award Mr. Tommy Dortch the Congressional Gold Medal for his leadership and contributions to our country. I am eternally grateful for the work he continues to do to advance equity and opportunity for all.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ELLIOT BLAIR

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my constituent, Orange County Public Defender Elliot Blair, who passed away while celebrating his first anniversary with his wife in Mexico.

Elliot graduated from Cal State Fullerton and earned his degree in law from Loyola Marymount University. Elliot was a devoted public servant and advocate for the underserved and underrepresented. He was a young attorney, a promising young attorney that was loved by our community.

On the evening of his passing away, he called his mother and he said, mom, I am going to have dinner at your favorite restaurant. Those were the last words he uttered to his family.

Elliot will be missed, but he will not be forgotten.

REMEMBERING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATION NIGHTCLUB FIRE

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