

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.)

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, February 20th will mark the 20th anniversary of a tragic fire at the Station Nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island, that took the lives of 100 people and injured hundreds of others. That horrific fire ripped a hole in our community and left a deep scar on Rhode Island, one which we still feel every day.

But Rhode Islanders are resilient, and we support one another in the face of tragedy. On that night in West Warwick, the heroism of emergency responders and ordinary people saved countless lives. In the wake of that horror, our State came together to mourn and memorialize those we lost and to help each other heal.

Now, two decades after that awful night, I will submit the names of those who were lost into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring all of the victims, and to recommit ourselves to promoting fire safety across our country so that such a tragedy can never occur again.

Louis S. Alves, Kevin Anderson, Stacie J. Angers, Christopher Arruda, Eugene Avilez, Tina Ayer, Mary H. Baker, Thomas A. Barnett, Laureen M. Beauchaine, Steven Thomas Blom, William Christopher Bonardi III, Kristine Carbone, William W. Cartwright, Mike Cordier, Alfred Carmina Crisostomi, Robert Croteau, Lisa D'Andrea, Matthew P. Darby, Dina Ann DeMaio, Rachael Florio DePietro, Albert DiBonaventura, Christina DiRienzo, Kevin J. Dunn, Lori Durante, Edward Everett Ervanian, Charline E. Fick, Thomas Fleming, Mark A. Fontaine, Daniel J. Fredrickson and Tracey Romanoff, Michael A. Fresolo, James C. Gahan, Melvin Gerfin Jr., Laura L. Gillett, Michael J. Gonsalves.

James F. Gooden Jr., Derek Gray, Scott C. Greene, Scott Griffith, Jude Henault, Andrew Hoban, Abbie L. Hoisington, Michael Hoogasian, Sandy Hoogasian, Carlton L. Howorth III, Eric J. Hyer, Derek Brian Johnson, Lisa Kelly, Tracy King, Michael Joseph Kulz, Keith Lapierre, Dale L. Latulippe, Stephen Libera, John Longiaru, Ty Longley, Judith Manzo, Andrea Louise Mancini, Keith Anthony Mancini, Steve Mancini, Thomas Marion Jr., Jeffrey W. Martin, Tammy Mattera-Hausa, Kristen McQuarrie, Thomas Medeiros, Samuel J. Miceli Jr., Donna Mitchell, Leigh Ann Moreau, Ryan M. Morin, Jason Morton, Beth Moscynski, Katherine O'Donnell, Nicholas O'Neill, Matthew James Pickett, Christopher Prouty.

Jeffrey Rader, Theresa Rakoski, Robert Reisner, Walter Rich, Donald Roderiques, Daniel J. Fredrickson and Tracey Romanoff, Joseph Rossi, Bridget Sanetti, Becky Shaw, Mitchell C. Shubert, Dennis Smith, Victor Stark, Benjamin J. Suffoletto Jr., Shawn Patrick Sweet, Jason Sylvester, Sarah Jane Telgarsky, Kelly Vieira, Kevin R. Washburn, Everett Thomas "Tommy" Woodmansee III, Robert Young.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF TOMMY DORTCH

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in the beginning, Tommy Dortch, like every other person born on this Earth, was endowed with certain unique talents.

The mission we all have in living is to go forth and be fruitful with those talents. I am here today with my colleagues, and also with the family and church members and pastor of Tommy Dortch. They are in the gallery today.

We are here to recognize the exceptionally talented Tommy Dortch and the fruits that we have enjoyed in his living.

My colleagues have told you of Tommy's many accomplishments, and there is so much more that can be said about him. But with the little time I have, I want to leave you with this: Tommy Dortch is a man whose cup runneth over. At the end of each day, Tommy made sure that that cup was empty, not consuming its contents for himself, but in service to others.

His example and legacy have and will continue to resonate profoundly, which is why he is so deserving of receiving the Congressional Gold Medal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from references to occupants of the gallery.

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#### WE NEED TO PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mrs. RAMIREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, working people in America are counting on Congress to not only protect but expand Social Security.

The fact that my Republican colleagues had even considered cutting Social Security is unconscionable. From Humboldt Park and Belmont Cragin, to Bensenville, West Chicago, and Elgin, the district I have the distinct honor of representing is home to hardworking people who, like everyone, deserve a safe, accessible, and affordable place to call home.

Regardless of immigration status, working people in Illinois and across the country have paid into Social Security, including undocumented workers who pay into Social Security but can't claim the benefit like everyone else.

It is a hard-earned benefit that people, especially our seniors, count on to cover housing, which just keeps going up and going up.

In order for all people to build and sustain a better life, we need to protect Social Security. We need to expand it.

#### LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING ON REAL ISSUES

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that noncitizens should

have the ability to vote. Full stop. I think a regular review of criminal code is a good idea and a good exercise for any State or local government. Full stop. I also believe that States and local governments and municipalities have the right to self-determination on these very issues.

Today, I voted on two curious proposals that my colleagues in the majority felt as though we should be spending our time, limited precious time, voting on.

I do not believe it is my place to vote to overturn or disapprove of choices made by the people of Washington, D.C., nor do I think this is a sincere use of Congress' focus and time.

These early weeks of the 118th Congress have been focused on voting on headline grabbing, divisive, meaningless, and unserious legislation. The American people want us here in Washington working on our most pressing challenges, issues like addressing our debt, our economy's recovery, the safety of our planet and communities, and bettering the lives of our citizens.

I look forward to working on these real issues. Let's finish the job.

#### NOT HERE TO RAISE TAXES

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

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the so-called Fair Tax Act.

Right now, Oregonians don't pay a single cent in sales tax. Ask anyone and they will tell you: It is a good thing. We rejected such proposals multiple times. It protects working folks who are disproportionately impacted by the undue burden of spending additional dollars on basic necessities.

I am not here to raise taxes on Oregonians. That is not why my constituents sent me here. I am here to help working folks get ahead, which is why I am so troubled by this congressional proposal to mandate a 30 percent sales tax.

This is far from fair. It is not even close. The top 1 percent may not sweat a 30 percent sales tax, but for working families, that could be the difference between putting food on the table or having to go without.

I stand today to redirect our attention to the pressing needs of Oregonians: the need to lower costs and fight inflation, not to raise taxes. That is what I am focused on, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

#### HONORING THOMAS DORTCH

(Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Tommy Dortch was and still is a leader of this Nation.

Tommy and I worked together to, first of all, elect Maynard Jackson to become the first African-American