

For a quarter of a century, the community foundation has been a beacon of hope, supporting countless initiatives that enhance the quality of life for Muscatine residents.

Since 1999, the foundation has granted over \$47 million to support vital charitable programs and projects to families, children, veterans, the homeless, and food. You name it; they do it all.

As we recognize their 25th anniversary, we must also recognize the countless individuals and organizations who have been part of their journey.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Community Foundation for 25 years of transforming lives and creating opportunities in Muscatine.

Go Hawks.

COMMENDING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the African American Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida for their unwavering commitment to uplifting and celebrating the contributions of Black-owned businesses in the central Florida community for over 75 years.

This weekend, the chamber will host its 20th annual Eagle Awards, a culmination of two decades of the chamber's efforts to spotlight central Florida's most dynamic businesses and entrepreneurs.

This award ceremony is a celebration of resilience, innovation, and community building, reflecting on the impact these businesses have on driving the growth and development of our diverse business landscape.

Over the last decade, Black-owned businesses have grown exponentially in central Florida, yet access to capital remains a limiting factor to the success.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting our local chambers of commerce that champion minority-owned businesses and bring forth legislation to address the specific challenges faced by Black- and minority-owned entrepreneurs to create a future where every entrepreneur has the opportunity to thrive.

□ 1115

BRING OUR BORDER UNDER CONTROL

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I, like many Americans, thought when the Governors of Texas and Florida began transporting illegal immigrants to blue cities or sanctuary cities across the

country that change would follow. It did not.

Last October, New York City Mayor Eric Adams, a Democrat, went to Mexico to send a message that there was "no more room in New York." Even our Nation's largest city cannot sustain more than 100,000 illegal immigrants in less than 2 years.

Yet, the President has continued his open-border policies and his unprecedented catch and release operation. He and his administration also continue peddling the falsehood that our borders are secure.

Now, Mayor Adams is reported to have made arrangements to bus immigrants back to the border. There is a reason for this. It is not racist or anti-immigrant. It is because the President's policy is unsustainable. I stand with the many Tennesseans I represent who embrace legal immigration but who want to see our border brought under control.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

HONORING HYDEIA BROADBENT

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hydeia Broadbent, a Las Vegas native who turned her life's biggest challenge into a powerful message of hope.

Born with HIV, Hydeia wasn't expected to live past her early childhood, but she defied those odds, living until 39 before passing away last week.

She dedicated her life to educating others about HIV/AIDS. She appeared on national platforms, telling everyone that life with HIV is still a life full of potential.

At age 12, she said: "I am the future, and I have AIDS. I can do anything I put my mind to." She did, making every day count and inspiring us all to do the same.

Hydeia's legacy is a testament to the power of resilience, hope, and the impact one person can have. As we remember her today, let's carry her message of positivity and determination forward. May God bless Hydeia Broadbent.

BLOOMINGDALE, GEORGIA, CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Bloomingdale, Georgia, which is soon to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its incorporation into Chatham County.

Bloomingdale was founded in the 1830s as an agricultural community situated along the Central Georgia Rail-

way Line with an economy dependent on the farming and rail sectors. In 1974, the rural, close-knit community was incorporated into Chatham County. Now, Bloomingdale is home to nearly 2,800 residents.

As the city has grown, its history has been preserved through sites such as Veterans Freedom Park and the Bloomingdale History Museum.

Locals take pride in the city's festivals and attractions, such as the annual Easter egg hunt and fireworks celebration on July Fourth. The city's geographical attributes provide ample opportunities to engage in popular outdoor activities, including fishing and canoeing.

Overall, Bloomingdale offers something for everyone, making it an excellent location to call home. I am proud to represent the city's residents, as well as those in the surrounding communities.

RESTORING CIVILITY AND DECENCY

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

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, when you get elected to Congress, you have a choice to make. You can work hard on legislation, you can work hard to build relationships across the aisle and get things done, or you can go join the circus.

Too many of my colleagues choose the latter, to join the circus, to engage in performative politics. Mr. Speaker, last night the clown show was on full display by the House Republican Conference, continually interrupting, disrupting the President.

Mr. Speaker, in my time here, I have voted for Speaker 19 times. I have voted for four continuing resolutions. I see a House Republican Conference totally incapable of governing and totally incapable of keeping the clowns in check.

The yelling and screaming at the President was shameful. It was a disgrace. In 2009, JOE WILSON yelled at President Obama and said: "You lie," and the cat came out of the bag. What happened last night was absolutely unacceptable.

We need to do so much better. We deserve so much better for the United States of America. We need to restore civility, decency, and respect to the United States Congress.

SOUTHERN BORDER CRISIS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the insulting campaign speech last night of President Biden was correctly identified today as vitriolic by Gary David and Christopher Thompson of WVOC Radio in Columbia.

President Trump is correct; the Biden false accusations are Trump derangement dividing the American people. Also, Senator KATIE BRYTT is correct: "Families are hurting."

At our southern border, we see it. President Biden inherited the most secure border of all times, but minutes after taking office, he suspended deportations, halted the border wall, and announced a plan to give amnesty. We know that President Biden's border crisis was invited, with 94 executive decisions in his first 100 days. Every family is at risk of attack, as we see with the murder of Laken Riley.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who have successfully protected America for 20 years in the global war on terrorism, as it continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America. We don't need new laws. We need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators, as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as warned by the FBI.

LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD FOR RURAL AMERICA

(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 today to highlight my recently introduced bipartisan legislation, the Rural Partnership and Prosperity Act.

According to the Oregon Center for Public Policy, rural Oregonians face higher levels of unemployment and poverty. In fact, the poverty rate in rural Oregon sits at 15.6 percent, four points higher than in urban areas. Yet, local governments, nonprofits, and rural development organizations don't have the staff and resources needed to tackle these problems in our communities.

Rural America is getting the short end of the stick right now, and it is time we change that. My bill would create a new Federal grant program to help rural communities address urgent needs like childcare, housing, job training, and more. It expands access to existing opportunities by helping local leaders navigate the complex system of Federal grants, and it improves coordination between Federal agencies to make sure we are approaching rural development in the most efficient and effective way possible.

The Rural Partnership and Prosperity Act is a commonsense, bipartisan solution that will help us bridge the urban-rural divide in this country. We have to level the playing field for rural America and ensure these communities can thrive for generations to come. My legislation would bring us closer to that goal, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

HISTORICAL INJUSTICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 9, 2023, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise; and I rise as a liberated Democrat, unbought, unbossed, and unafraid. I rise in the spirit of Shirley Chisholm, who coined the notion of being unbought, unbossed, and unafraid. I rise as a proud scion of the enslaved Africans whose lives were sacrificed for more than 240 years to make America great.

Their lives were sacrificed because America at that time desired to have a caste system, a system wherein persons were born into this caste, would live, die, and be buried as a part of the caste. Not a class. Caste is hereditary. A class is a socioeconomic circumstance.

There was this desire to have persons be a part of the caste, and persons of African ancestry were selected because they were identifiable, and they wanted an identifiable caste. They wanted this caste to be subservient, immediately agreeing to whatever the master said, and they wanted them to be powerless. They were exactly that: A powerless, subservient, identifiable caste for more than 240 years.

Mr. Speaker, I still love my country, notwithstanding its history. I love it because I believe in the ideals that have been expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Pledge of Allegiance. Those ideals give me hope. I believe that America still has much to achieve, but I believe that America can still dream big and accomplish great things. It is my hope that we will at some point achieve the ideals extolled in the Pledge of Allegiance—liberty and justice for all; the ideal of government by the people for the people; the notion that we can have a country wherein all persons are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights. These are the things that I believe we can achieve.

I believe that we ought to honor the persons who were enslaved. I honor victims of great, horrific tragedies. I honor the victims of the Holocaust. There is nothing to be compared to the Holocaust. There is nothing to be compared to the enslavement of millions of people for 240 years. These are two horrific incidents in history, two circumstances.

I believe that we ought to respect and acknowledge that the Holocaust occurred and that it has had an impact not only on the people of that time but on the people of this time.

I also believe we ought to acknowledge that enslavement occurred. There are people who don't want to acknowledge slavery in this country. They want to say that it was involuntary relocation. This is a fact. Well, it wasn't. It was murder. It was rape. It was robbery. It was kidnapping. It was all of these horrific things, including lynching. It was an horrific, horrible cir-

cumstance that was imposed upon people.

I think we should honor both the Holocaust and what we call slavery, the enslavement of persons of African ancestry, because these persons of African ancestry built the Capitol. We know of the great things that they did: built the roads, the bridges, planted the crops, harvested the crops, fed the Nation.

They were the economic foundational mothers and fathers of the country. Why wouldn't we honor them, given the role that they played in making America great? For some reason, we can't find it in our hearts, it seems, to honor them; but we can find it within our hearts, as I have found it within my heart, to honor the victims of the Holocaust.

Some people would ask why. Here is the reason why. I am glad you asked. It is easy to look through the window of life into someone else's horrific circumstances and condemn what happened. However, it is very difficult to look into the mirror of life, into our own circumstances, and acknowledge what happened. It is difficult for people who have suffered to do it.

You would think that people who have suffered would be among the first to say we need to have a Slavery Remembrance Day, ought to be among the first to say, well, to give a Congressional Gold Medal to the enslaved persons, just as we have given a Congressional Gold Medal to the enslavers.

□ 1130

In 1956, this Congress of the United States of America that accorded a Congressional Gold Medal to Confederate soldiers won't do such a thing. This Congress will not honor the victims of slavery the same as we have honored Confederate soldiers who were the enslavers.

Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to look into the mirror of life, but that is why I am here. I am here to help you see what you choose not to see and to do what you choose not to do. You may not do it today, but it will happen. It is just a matter of time. There will be more like me to require you to see what you choose not to see. It is just a matter of time.

So, I am a proud scion. That means that I am a descendant of these people who had the injustice of enslavement perpetrated upon them and perpetuated for some 240 years. I am a descendant, but I like saying that I am a scion because it has more of a regal connotation. It says you are proud to be associated with your ancestors. It says you recognize what your ancestors have accomplished. It recognizes the greatness of your ancestors.

Yes, I am a scion, but I am also the progenitor of August 20 as Slavery Remembrance Day. August 20 is the date that the White Lion docked at a place that we now call Norfolk, Virginia, near there, in Point Comfort. It had 20 persons of African ancestry on board, who were traded to the Colonies.