

permanent supportive housing for at-risk families.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Amy Good for her outstanding service to our residents in southeast Michigan as we wish her well in her next endeavor.

MOTHER PARKS FEDERAL BUILDING

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, Congress passed legislation to celebrate the mother of the civil rights movement and a beloved resident of our community, Mother Rosa Parks.

I thank Senator DEBBIE STABENOW, the McCauley Parks family, and everyone who supported this legislation. It was a privilege to lead this effort in the House to rename our Federal building downtown at 985 Michigan Avenue in Detroit the Rosa Parks Federal Building.

We honor Mother Rosa Parks today and every day for her bravery and unwavering commitment to justice. The Montgomery bus boycott showed the world the power of nonviolent resistance and collective action. Her strength resonated to millions across our Nation, inspiring a wave of protests, boycotts, and marches. Her protest challenged the status quo and paved the way for the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to outlaw racial segregation in our Nation.

As we reflect on Rosa Parks' legacy, let us not only remember her incredible courage but also recognize the work that still lies before us. Let us honor her memory by continuing to challenge inequality, by speaking out against injustice, and by standing up for what is right, even in the face of adversity.

STARVATION IN GAZA

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, over 1.5 million Palestinians are now displaced in Rafah without food, clean water, or medicine.

More than 13,000 children have already been killed by the Israeli Government. Another child is killed in Gaza every 15 minutes.

Many have witnessed family members literally dismembered before their eyes. They have witnessed their loved ones buried under the rubble while they were holding each other.

The trauma has led to children as young as 5, Mr. Speaker, saying that they would prefer to die.

Additionally, as if the threat from the bullets and bombs wasn't enough, Palestinians are now dying of starvation across Gaza. At least 27 children and 3 adults have already starved to death. They have been forced to eat grass and animal feed just to survive.

Let's be clear, this isn't a tragic accident. What we are witnessing, all of us across this world, is the Israeli Government using starvation as a weapon of war. The starvation is a result of the total siege on Gaza and the intentional targeting of local food production, infrastructure, and obstruction of aid convoys.

Recently, at least 112 Palestinians were killed after Israeli Government

forces opened fire on hundreds waiting to collect flour. The Israeli Government has been intentionally starving the Palestinian people, families. These are some of the most horrific crimes against humanity committed in this century. To target starving people seeking food is beyond belief.

Now, my colleagues are pushing legislation to send more American tax dollars to the apartheid government of Israel and stop funding UNRWA, the major organization that provides desperately needed food and humanitarian assistance to starving Palestinians.

Now, Members here, all of them, are going to be contributing to the starvation of Palestinian families.

This is Yazan. He was only 10 years old when he died due to severe malnutrition and lack of proper healthcare caused by the siege and blockade in Gaza. His family, originally from the north, was displaced several times and wanted to make it to Rafah in hopes of finding food and medicine for Yazan, who needed it to survive, but there was nothing they could do to help him.

This has to stop. What has happened to our shared humanity? Palestinians deserve to live. Palestinian children aren't disposable. They deserve to grow old.

Netanyahu has said he will move forward with an invasion of Rafah with or without a temporary cease-fire. He said it.

Let's be clear, though. A temporary cease-fire is not enough. There is nothing humanitarian about feeding starving children for 6 weeks before the bombing and killing resumes. A lasting, permanent cease-fire is what we need.

CONGRATULATING MARANA JUNIOR LEAGUE SOFTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Marana Junior Little League Softball team that made it to the Little League Junior Softball World Series quarterfinals. This team is the only team from Marana Little League Baseball and Softball to advance to a world series.

It was not an easy road for the team during the West Regional Junior League Tournament. They had to win five consecutive elimination games, and their final game was delayed for over 2 hours. Yet, they still came home with the win, and during the Junior League Softball World Series, the Marana Junior League Softball team made it all the way to the quarterfinals.

The team is coached by Head Coach Sam Mills, Coach Jason Angell, and Coach Chris Beck.

The 12 extraordinary players are Addison Angell, Addison Lee, Adelaide Bradshaw, Aubrianna Gray, Bella Brooks-Rojel, Bella Sayre, Brooke Beck, Cadence Beck, Emma Winter,

Kyla Layton, Malia Mills, and Mariah Moreno.

These young girls have a bright future ahead of them, and I am excited to see what the future holds for all of them.

Way to represent Marana and Arizona in the World Series, and congratulations.

CONGRATULATING COACH MISTY OPAT

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Misty Opat, the women's basketball coach at Cochise College, who recently achieved her 300th career win.

Misty has over two decades of collegiate coaching experience and is in her fourth year at Cochise College. Last week, under Misty's coaching, the women's basketball team clinched their seat in the NJCAA National Tournament.

Misty recently said she would rather impact 300 lives than get 300 wins, but I think it is safe to say that she has done both.

I congratulate Misty and the Apaches, the Cochise College Women's Basketball team. They have made Cochise County and southern Arizona very proud.

HONORING MICA MOUNTAIN'S KIM FARR

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kim Farr, a teacher of Mica Mountain High School and the Arizona Athletics 2023-2024 High School Teacher of the Year.

Kim Farr has been a teacher for over 17 years. Throughout her career, she has taught science classes of all levels, from biology to AP research.

Outside of the classroom, you can find Mrs. Farr coaching swimming and traveling the world with students in Costa Rica, Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands, and Belize.

I congratulate all the nominees from southern Arizona: Mark Calton from Marana High School, Jordan Castle from CDO High School, Abigail Francis from Mountain View High School, Bridget Montoya from Flowing Wells High School, Tiffany Newton from Andrada Polytechnic High School, Cristina Parks from Cienega High School, Shawn Smith from Amphi High School, and Michelle Tozer from Empire High School.

I am grateful for all the teachers and everything they do. I am proud to represent them in Congress, and I thank them for the work that they do for our next generation.

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INSTABILITY IN AFRICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, the time for dawdling, procrastinating, and pointless disputes has long expired.

This body has become consumed with self-serving ambition and such a manufactured divide that we have forgotten

that this Nation has and must continue to be a global defender of freedom and democracy.

Our failure to fulfill this vital role and turn a blind eye to systemic injustices around the world, particularly in the African Continent and the Caribbean region, is not only unethical, but it is un-American. It also has legal ramifications, not just for the people, economy, and stability of those nations, but lethal ramifications for our own safety and national security.

The African Continent and the Caribbean region have long suffered from a legacy of slavery and colonialism, symptoms of which have led many of these countries to be volatile and prone to political and economic instability.

For example, Haiti had to pay France for its freedom. After winning a revolution, they had imposed on them a debt to the French Government for that freedom, for the lost revenues of slavery, if you can believe that.

□ 1045

They have had to pay literally \$28 billion to France. Literally, as my 14 year old would say, literally.

Mr. Speaker, 40 percent of the Nation's economy went to debt services. The precarious state of these nations has positioned them to be prime targets for foreign influence. Now U.S. adversaries, such as China and Russia have been proliferating throughout the African Continent and China, particularly in the Caribbean Basin, exploiting those vulnerabilities for profit and to expand strategic interests.

The Chinese multinational Huawei has constructed roughly 70 percent of Africa's information technology infrastructure and continues to make similar investments in the Caribbean Basin in its Belt and Road Initiative. Over 10 nations have signed agreements to open their borders up to Chinese influence.

Russia has bolstered its ties and influence as well, primarily through mercenary groups such as the Wagner Group. Between 2015 and 2019, Moscow signed 19 military collaboration agreements with African Governments.

By exploiting the instability of those nations, Russia has established African reliance on military to secure access to resources, extracting minerals, such as cobalt, gold, and uranium from the continent.

Furthermore, Russia and China's involvement undermines the continent's democratic aspirations, driving conflict, worsening human rights abuses, and spurring growing militarization in governance: Niger in 2023, Mali in 2022, Sudan in 2021, Guinea in 2023, Burkina Faso in 2024. These were all coups in the last few years, displacing democratically elected governments with military juntas.

For years, the world has witnessed the Republic of Haiti face a profound political, security, and humanitarian crisis. The severity of the situation has far surpassed the usefulness of words.

We are operating on borrowed time. Our hands-off and apathetic approach to Haiti is an affront to our values. Following President Jovenel Moise's assassination, gangs seized complete control, creating a humanitarian catastrophe.

Since February, 15,000 people have been displaced adding to the 362,000 already internally displaced in the country. The hunger crisis worsens as armed groups block food supply routes.

The approval of the State Department's funding request to support a Kenya-led multinational security support mission to Haiti is critical, as it will train and bolster the Haitian National Police, align with U.S. national security interests, and showcase decisive leadership.

Blocking \$40 million in aid by GOP leadership, despite the risk of a worsening humanitarian crisis and potential migration surge is unacceptable. Without the release of those funds, our borders will be overrun, and people will die. We must do better.

COMMEMORATING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF GAS ATTACKS ON HALABJA-IRAQI KURDISTAN

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, 36 years ago this week, Saddam Hussein unleashed a nightmare upon the peaceful Kurdish town of Halabja, forever etching it into the annals of crimes against humanity. The atrocity perpetrated against the genocidal Anfal campaign stands as a stark reminder of the depths of cruelty that humanity is capable of.

The horrors inflicted upon the people of Halabja on that fateful day, as they were mercilessly attacked with mustard gas and nerve agents, resulted in the instantaneous loss of thousands of innocent lives.

Yet, the true extent of the devastation did not end there. For many survivors, the aftermath of the chemical onslaught continues to plague them, manifesting in debilitating health conditions, staggering rates of cancer, and haunting birth defects. The scars of Halabja run deep, both physically and emotionally, reverberating through the generations as a painful testament to the brutality of war.

But Halabja was not an isolated incident. It was but one chapter in the harrowing saga of the Anfal campaign. Over the course of 2 years, more than 180,000 civilians perished, their villages razed to the ground, and their way of life shattered beyond recognition.

The landscape of Kurdistan bears the indelible scars of this campaign of terror, a stark reminder of the price paid for silence in the face of evil.

As we gather today 36 years later to commemorate the victims of Halabja and the Anfal campaign, we must do more than mourn the loss. We must condemn unequivocally the genocide

that was perpetrated against the Kurds and reaffirm our commitment to upholding the sanctity of human life.

Let us pledge to never again allow such horrors to unfold unchecked, to stand as guardians of peace and justice in a world too often marred by violence and indifference.

In honoring the memory of those who perished in Halabja, let us also honor the resilience of the survivors, whose spirit remains unbroken despite the unimaginable sufferings they have endured. May their courage inspire us to redouble our efforts in the pursuit of a future where atrocities like those committed in Halabja are but distant memories, never to be repeated again.

Mr. Speaker, I will also take a moment to thank our Kurd allies for their friendship and their partnership in the fight against ISIS, al-Qaida in Iraq and Shia militias in Iraq. I deployed four times, and the Kurds were our great allies, and I always will remain grateful.

Finally, today is March 21, the Kurdish New Year. The rich cultural heritage, resilience, and determination of the Kurdish people continue to inspire us all. I wish to congratulate the Kurds around the world a happy new year. May this new year bring you abundant blessings, renewed hope, and countless opportunities for growth and success. "Happy New Year," in Kurdish, "Newroz Piroz Bit."

WE NEED TO ENHANCE SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to draw attention to the Nation's number one antipoverty program for the elderly and the Nation's number one antipoverty program for our children. It is something that everyone is familiar with: It is Social Security. This Congress and previous Congresses have not done anything to enhance Social Security, Mr. Speaker, in more than 50 years. Richard Nixon was the President of the United States the last time Congress enhanced benefits for what now amount to 70 million Americans.

Mr. Speaker, in your district alone, 176,794 Social Security recipients haven't received an enhancement in more than 50 years.

This is also the Nation's leading economic development program because in your district, \$300 million comes into your district monthly. Where do those people spend that money? Right back in your district at the local grocery store, at the pharmacy, at the gas station, pay off their rent, et cetera.

It is the Nation's number one antipoverty program for a reason because of the genius of Franklin Delano Roosevelt who saw in a capitalistic system like ours there needs to be a safety net and a balance.

For more than 40 percent of all Americans on Social Security, it is the only pension benefit that they have.