

quo that oppresses and normalizes genocide across the world.

I am deeply moved by the courageous young people in more than 100 encampments at colleges across our Nation that are demanding divestment in support of a genocide in Gaza and apartheid Government of Israel.

I had the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to visit an encampment at the University of Michigan that has public programming. They put it online for families on various issues. The day I went, they were recognizing the anniversary of the Armenian genocide and having someone also speak about the connectivity to the Palestinian Nakba. It was inspiring to see these brave students across races, of all faiths and backgrounds, standing side by side in solidarity to protest for peace. From Jummah prayer to Shabbat, they are coming together in a way I wish my colleagues would welcome.

Sending in militarized police forces and even snipers to stop these students from exercising their First Amendment rights is truly disgusting.

My colleagues are so outraged by students opposing genocide and apartheid, but many of these same Members were completely silent last year when we saw the dramatic increase of threats, literally death threats on historical Black colleges and universities across the country.

□ 1030

This state-sanctioned violence, including the arrests and threatened felony prosecutions of students, can only be seen as an explicit effort to silence students and take away their First Amendment rights.

Mr. Speaker, no student—not one—should be met with academic repercussions or police brutality on their own campuses for exercising, peacefully, their rights to free speech and assembly.

Why is it, Mr. Speaker, that my colleagues and every headline from mainstream media are more concerned and outraged about these protests than they are about the over 35,000 Palestinians killed in Gaza? Seventy percent of them are women and children.

There are no universities left in Gaza, but no outrage. Multiple mass graves have been uncovered at several locations that Israeli forces have recently withdrawn from. Two hundred bodies were found at al-Shifa Hospital, literally fresh bodies found with their hands tied behind their backs, naked.

Where is the outrage for these war crimes? This is not just me. This is the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Our government isn't just complicit in this genocide. We are actively participating.

Students are occupying their campuses to peacefully protest for an end to these atrocities and for divestment in this genocide and apartheid. They are even renaming some of the buildings after Palestinian children who

have been killed. These students should be praised for standing up for what they believe in, not vilified, smeared with misinformation campaigns and silence.

I call on these universities to end the repressive tactics, exercise restraint, denounce ongoing police brutality, and stop suppressing the very activism, academic freedom, and thoughtful debate that they seek to inspire in their students.

Mr. Speaker, we don't want to see an apology years later. No. We want to see action today to protect these students. We don't want to have you all, in 10 years, praise the same students for doing what was right. We don't want to see it. We need it now. They deserve it now.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MILTON H. WOODSIDE

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today sadly to honor the life of one of my dear friends and a friend to many in the First Congressional District and all throughout southeast Georgia, Milton H. "Woody" Woodside.

Woody was a beloved resident of Brunswick in Glynn County since 1973. He was born in Clinton, North Carolina. During his early adulthood, he graduated from the Military College of South Carolina, better known as the Citadel, in Charleston, South Carolina. He was so proud of the Citadel. He had many friends that he always visited with and kept in touch with from the Citadel. He always talked about his experiences at the Citadel.

Luckily for us, he moved down to the coast of Georgia, where he served as president of the Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce from 1985 until his retirement in 2019.

He served 23 combined years in the U.S. Army and the Georgia Army National Guard. He also served on the congressional staffs of former Representatives Bo Ginn and Lindsay Thomas.

Woody brought this valuable insight back to our home district, where he served as a past president of the Southeast Georgia Chambers and Developers Council, and he was chairman of the CEDO Region 11 of the Governor's Development Council. He was involved in countless other organizations, including serving on the boards of the Southeast Georgia Health System and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce Executives Association.

For his work, the Georgia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives awarded Woody with the well-earned Kent Lawrence Professional of the Year Award in 2000.

In addition to receiving countless other awards, one stood out, wrapping up all of his achievements into one. For 9 consecutive years, the Georgia Trend Magazine named Woody a Notable Georgian.

Woody is rightly accredited with also being recognized as Glynn County's best friend for his hard work in serving the community. His instruction and oversight were critical for construction of the Sidney Lanier Bridge and the establishment of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center that is located in Glynco, Georgia.

He was also instrumental in major economic development projects in the community, including the Brunswick Harbor deepening and Gulfstream, and he contributed significantly to the growth and success of our region's tourism industry.

Without a doubt, Woody's actions were noticed and appreciated by others throughout the community.

He was that great guy, touching countless lives and always willing to lend a helping hand. He wasn't one to just talk about a problem. He was the kind of guy who found solutions.

Mr. Speaker, speaking for the entire community, his contributions and his community leadership will forever be remembered. I extend my condolences to his family, Ellen, and to his daughter.

The positive light that Woody brought will forever be cherished. I am so blessed to have called him one of my best friends.

Mr. Speaker, in our lives, there are people and places we remember. I will always remember Woody Woodside.

BLACK APRIL

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked Black April, a day to reflect on the fall of Saigon and the end to democracy in Vietnam. It has been over 49 years since we fought shoulder to shoulder with our Vietnamese allies for freedom and democracy.

After the fall of Saigon, refugees were forced to flee their homes with what they could carry. It is important to recognize the resiliency and strength of the Vietnamese people. I grew up with many Vietnamese Americans, who came to this country and to Orange County for a better life. Today, Orange County is proud to be home, to be the house, of the biggest Vietnamese-American population in the United States.

I join my community back home in honoring the sacrifices of our Vietnamese allies and our own servicemembers who fought for freedom, democracy, and opportunity in Vietnam.

CONGRATULATING THE JAMES MADISON BRASS BAND

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the James Madison Brass Band on their historic achievement at the North American Brass

Band Championships held in Huntsville, Alabama, on April 6.

Under the leadership of their conductor, Professor Kevin Stees, the JMU Brass Band clinched the championship section title, marking a monumental milestone in the band's 24-year history.

Their victory is a testament to the talent and hard work of the students and their conductor.

Competing against seven other top-tier bands, the JMU Brass Band emerged victorious, marking the first time a collegiate band has claimed the highest division of the competition. This accomplishment adds to the band's remarkable record at the North American Brass Band Championships, including 14 podium finishes, underscoring their consistent excellence and resilience.

Moreover, Professor Stees' outstanding leadership has not only brought glory to JMU but also secured him a distinguished place in North American Brass Band Association history as only the second conductor to win in two different sections in the same year.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my congratulations to the JMU Brass Band, Professor Kevin Stees, and the entire JMU Dukes community on this remarkable achievement.

HONORING BROADWAY LIONS CLUB

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Broadway Lions Club, which is celebrating their 70th anniversary this year.

The Broadway Lions Club was chartered in 1954 by 20 men in Broadway, all thanks to the sponsorship of the Mt. Jackson and Elkton Lions Club. Although there has been much change over the last 70 years, their mission of serving the community has remained the same.

With 40 active members from the Broadway community, the Lions Club's primary focus is on sight and hearing needs for those in the community and assisting food programs in schools for students in need.

Mr. Speaker, as a fellow Lion, I thank all members of service organizations like the Broadway Lions Club for their outstanding work to make a difference in our community. I congratulate the Broadway Lions Club for their 70 years of service to our community. We look forward to their continued contributions and success for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY BASEBALL LEAGUE

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rockingham County Baseball League's 100th anniversary.

One of the oldest continuous baseball leagues in the country, the Rockingham County Baseball League was founded in June 1924 after J.R. "Polly" Lineweaver, who was a sportswriter for the Daily News Record, spearheaded the efforts.

At the beginning, seven communities joined the league, including Bridgewater, Briery Branch, Broadway, Day-

ton, Keezletown, Linville-Edom, and Spring Creek. They played their first games on June 28, 1924.

By 1938, the league began playing its own championship series each season. While teams have come and gone throughout the years, this league is made up of eight teams today: The Bridgewater Reds, Broadway Bruins, Clover Hill Bucks, Elkton Blue Sox, Grottoes Cardinals, Montezuma Braves, RCBL Shockers, and Stuarts Draft Diamondbacks.

As the league's 100th season begins on May 31, I am proud to honor the Rockingham County Baseball League. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the league for reaching this milestone and wishing the league continued success for years to come.

MARKING NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, as we mark National Small Business Week, it is crucial to confront the stark reality facing America's entrepreneurs under the Biden administration. The administration has imposed regulatory burdens that have escalated to an unprecedented scale, with the cost of Federal regulations soaring to \$1.3 trillion.

The small business community is now saddled with over 267 million man-hours of compliance paperwork, a stark comparison to the regulatory landscape under the Trump administration, where regulatory costs were over 45 times lower.

The economic climate continues to pose significant challenges, with persistent inflation undermining any optimism for relief.

Despite expectations, interest rate cuts remain a distant hope, forcing small businesses to halt expansion and investment plans. Inflation rates have not only been higher than anticipated but have seen recent upward revisions. Additionally, the first quarter GDP report revealed a disheartening 1.6 percent growth rate, falling short of the expected 2.4 percent.

This slowdown in consumer spending is further compounded by a 3.4 percent increase in the personal consumption expenditures price index, signaling the largest inflation surge within a year.

These figures underscore the dire circumstances confronting small businesses. The current administration's relentless regulatory assault, coupled with severe economic headwinds, is not only risking the survival of small businesses but is indicative of a broader disregard for the backbone of our economy.

We must pivot toward policies that alleviate rather than exacerbate these pressures. Our commitment must lie in fostering an environment conducive to the prosperity and growth of small businesses, which are integral to the Nation's economic vitality.

The evidence is clear, and the time for action is now. We owe it to America's entrepreneurs to implement measures that help rather than hinder their potential.

RESCHEDULING OF CANNABIS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration announced the long-awaited rescheduling of cannabis from schedule I to schedule III.

This reschedule eliminates the vestige of the failed war on drugs started by the Nixon administration. Contrary to science, it was used for political purposes against Black Americans, young Americans.

A schedule I controlled substance, which cannabis has been for over 50 years, is one that has no medicinal value and is highly addictive. At the time the Nixon administration made that determination, they knew that that was false. It is not highly addictive, and it has, in fact, medicinal purposes. That has been demonstrated by vote after vote by Americans across the country that recognize that medical cannabis has tremendous therapeutic features.

I could not be more excited or optimistic that we are finally on the home stretch to end the failed and misguided war on drugs. This action by the Biden administration ties together many of our initiatives, from justice to research to tax fairness, and charts the path for more progress sooner.

□ 1045

One of the overhauls here is the prohibition of the State legal cannabis businesses from banking services. Every day in the United States, there are people with shopping bags full of \$20 bills that they use to pay their State taxes.

Think of it. It is outrageous. It has made these State legal cannabis businesses sitting ducks for robbery, and it severely handicaps their ability to work in a constructive fashion.

Furthermore, what is going to happen with this rescheduling is it is finally going to allow State legal cannabis businesses to fully deduct their business expenses.

Right now, due to a provision known as 280 of the tax code, these businesses are prohibited from deducting legitimate business expenses.

As a result, State legal cannabis businesses pay two, three, maybe four times more than a comparable noncannabis business. It is outrageous. It poses serious problems in terms of their profitability and being able to thrive.

These decisions are going to raise the profile of an issue very important to some of us but which has never gained the attention it deserves or the momentum that it demands.

We have made some progress here in the House. We have passed safe banking seven times with overwhelming bipartisan support, but it never could quite get across the finish line.

This rescheduling by the Biden administration is going to help us change