

country safe, like Mr. VAN DREW's De-tain and Deport Illegal Aliens Who As-sault Cops Act. We have seen it on the streets of New York City, cops being assaulted in broad daylight by illegal migrants from the Biden border crisis.

How about the Police Our Border Act, my piece of legislation that will authorize the Justice Department to provide information to law enforce-ment agencies throughout this country about the migrant crisis so that law enforcement has the resources they need to be safe, or legislation from DON BACON that broadens the ability of qualified, trained active and retired law enforcement officers to carry fire-arms. That is not partisan. That is giv-ing trained law enforcement profes-sionals the right to carry and broaden their right to carry firearms.

□ 2015

The DC CRIMES Act of 2024 from my good friend, BYRON DONALDS, allows Congress to exert their oversight power over the D.C. Council and promote safety in Washington, D.C. The com-mon denominator, again, in D.C. is it is led by radical Democrats who have made this Nation's Capital less safe. That is not partisan; it is actually common sense.

Then we have Mr. BISHOP's Improving Law Enforcement Officer Safety and Wellness Through Data Act which re-quires the attorney general to assem-ble reports on violence against law en-forcement officers. It requires the at-torney general to assemble reports on violence against law enforcement offi-cers.

Mr. Speaker, I don't see how that is partisan. It is about keeping law en-forcement safe. That is not a Repub-lican issue. It is not a Democrat issue. It is a United States of America issue.

Next, we have my brother in blue, CLAY HIGGINS, which condemns Presi-dent Biden's border crisis and the bur-dens it has created for America's law enforcement officers. That is not par-tisan. The facts and the data tell the story. Joe Biden and Secretary Mayorkas have allowed millions of ille-gal migrants into this country. They have been arrested for assaulting and attacking law enforcement. Again, that is not partisan. Attacking law en-forcement is not a Republican concern or a Democrat concern; it is an Amer-ican people concern.

Further, we have the resolution by Mr. STAUBER regarding violence against law enforcement officers. There were 374 officers killed since 2021, a record-breaking 378 officers shot in the line of duty in 2023, a 60 percent increase since 2018. The NYPD esti-mates a record number of assaults on officers for 2023, so that doesn't seem partisan either.

Mr. Speaker, we gather here this week to recognize and remember men and women who have made the ulti-mate sacrifice. We also gather to raise awareness that law enforcement in this country is under attack, and they are

under attack because there are reck-less policies and laws being put in place, promoting a far-left agenda that emboldens criminals and restricts law enforcement from doing the job they took the oath to do. That is what Po-lice Week is about.

As I just read down that line of legis-lation that Speaker JOHNSON and Lead-er SCALISE and WHIP EMMER and our Conference Chair ELISE STEFANK have put on the agenda for this week, I find my colleague's comment that they are partisan even more ridiculous because as I read through each piece of that legislation right now, it is a common-sense approach. It is about standing with law enforcement. It is about giv-ing them the tools and the resources that they need to do their job. Mr. Speaker, that is not a partisan issue. Every piece of legislation on the floor this week should have every vote of every Member of this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle for being here this evening, for saluting heroes, for welcoming men and women in blue from throughout this country to their offices and to this Hill this week. I truly mean it when I say thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I speak to the children and the wid-ows. This week matters to them. It matters to the men and women right now who are in locker rooms through-out this country, suiting up for their night out on the street. It matters that we stand with them.

Mr. Speaker, I leave you with: "It is not how these officers died that made them heroes; it is how they lived."

Mr. Speaker, may they all rest in peace and may they remain the motto of the New York City Police Depart-ment, "Fidelis Ad Mortem," "Faithful Unto Death."

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, I first thank my colleague, a true public servant, and good friend, ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO, for giving me time to speak tonight.

As the son and grandson of dedicated po-lice officers, I am honored to be here tonight to recognize National Police Week. This week, we pay tribute to the brave men and women who put their lives on the line every day to keep our communities safe.

Back home on Long Island, we have a proud legacy of supporting our law enforce-ment officers. From Nassau to Suffolk, our communities stand united in gratitude for their service and sacrifice. We recognize the un-wavering commitment they demonstrate, often at great personal risk, to uphold the values of justice, integrity, and service.

I'd like to specifically recognize the many Suffolk County Police Officers who are here in Washington, D.C. this week. We thank them for their service, and I look forward to engag-ing with them this week and in the future.

This week is a poignant reminder of the dedication and the risks officers face daily. The recent killing of NYPD Detective Jonathan Diller, who was killed in the line of duty, un-dercores this reality. The widespread support following his death from across Long Island

exemplifies our collective appreciation for those who protect us.

As we reflect on the challenges faced by law enforcement, let us also reaffirm our sup-port for their vital work. Let us stand together in appreciation for their dedication to pro-protecting and serving us all.

To our police officers, I say thank you. Their courage, professionalism, and selflessness in-spire us all. During National Police Week, let's unite in support of law enforcement officers nationwide, recognizing their courage, dedica-tion, and sacrifices. We must reaffirm our commitment to providing them with the nec-essary resources, support, and respect, en-abling them to continue their vital work with in-tegrity and honor.

THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-uary 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the des-ignee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order hour.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentle-woman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today as co-anchor of this CBC Special Order hour, along with my dis-tinguished colleague, Representative JONATHAN JACKSON.

For the next 60 minutes, members of the CBC have an opportunity to discuss the importance of the 70th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, an issue of great importance to the Con-gressional Black Caucus, Congress, the constituents we represent, and all Americans.

Today, I rise to reflect upon the 70th anniversary of one of the most pivotal moments in our Nation's history: the landmark Supreme Court case, Brown v. Board of Education. This ruling for-ever altered the course of our Nation, shattering the chains of segregation and paving the way for a more just and equitable society.

Our educational institutions were marred by racial segregation, denying countless Black children the oppor-tunity to receive a quality education simply because of the color of their skin. The Brown v. Board of Education decision struck down the doctrine of "separate but equal," declaring that segregated education facilities were in-herently unequal, and thus unconstitu-tional. This ruling not only dismantled the legal framework of segregation in schools but sent a powerful message that discrimination and inequality have no place in our society.

However, the significance of Brown v. Board of Education extends far beyond

the realm of education. It laid the groundwork for a more inclusive and equitable society, one in which every individual is afforded the same rights and opportunities regardless of race, creed, or background.

It ignited a spark of change that reverberated throughout the Nation, catalyzing the civil rights movement, and inspiring generations of activists to fight for equality and justice. It emboldened individuals to challenge institutionalized racism and discrimination in all of its forms, paving the way for monumental legislative victories, such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Today, we can see the impact of *Brown v. Board of Education* in every corner of our Nation. It has transformed our economy, unleashing the untapped potential of millions of African Americans who now have the opportunity to pursue their dreams and contribute to the prosperity of our country.

It has strengthened our social fabric, fostering greater understanding and empathy among people of different races and backgrounds. It has reaffirmed our commitment to the principles of justice and equality that lie at the heart of our democracy, but our work is far from over.

Despite the progress we have made, we still face inequalities that divide our society. The legacy of *Brown v. Board of Education* reminds us that the fight for civil rights is ongoing and that we must remain vigilant in our pursuit of a more perfect Union.

So let us honor this legacy by re-directing ourselves to the cause of justice and equality. Let us continue to strive for a future where every child, regardless of their race or background, has the opportunity to succeed and thrive. Let us never forget the power of our collective voices to bring about meaningful change in our communities and in our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentleman from Illinois, Representative JONATHAN JACKSON, my co-anchor.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the honorable Congresswoman SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK from Florida and the co-anchor of this Special Order hour for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, tonight just a few of my colleagues and I gather in this place and at this time to remind the Members of this body and the American people of the cost of progress in this country. I submit to you that there are too many people who have come to believe that progress is inevitable, that history is slanted upward, and that if left to its own devices, this country will magically always do the right thing.

It is not ironic that those are usually also the same people who believe that marches and demonstrations are untimely and excessive. In a very real sense, these are the people who said that Reverend Martin Luther King was a rabble-rouser; that Thurgood Mar-

shall was delusional; that college protests are inconveniences and not to be taken seriously; that the preservation of the status quo is of more social value than is the expansion of opportunity and liberty.

They do further believe that public demonstrations of discontent are more about law and order than about the irrepressible yearning in every human being to unapologetically be free.

What they miss is that all of us want and deserve to be treated with respect and have our dignity intact. What they fail to realize is that all of us want to see our children live in communities where they are safe and valued and have opportunity. Regrettably not all of us have access to the things that make for peace.

In the words of Reverend Martin Luther King, peace is not the absence of noise, but it is the presence of justice. Not all of us are judged by the content of our character nor simply the color of our skin. As long as a child in Brooklyn cannot read and a child in Atlanta and Appalachia may not have a desire to learn, we cannot be complacent in a Nation of great wealth.

What the purveyors of inevitability fail to understand is that freedom and justice have never come to those who waited for someone else to decide it was time for them to be free. Even in this body, there are far too many individuals under the impression that this Nation will become a more perfect Union if we just leave things alone, but nothing could be further from the truth.

Today, and this week, we commemorate the 70th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*. What made this a landmark decision was not just that it undermined the fallacious reasoning that made segregation possible in this country, but also the fact that the decision itself was the result of generations of American citizens working diligently in the shadows of American history to push this Nation forward.

Brown v. Board of Education didn't just happen 70 years ago. An entire movement made it possible for the Supreme Court not to ignore the arrival of an idea whose time had come. We are only able to have this commemoration because Black people and honorable White people in this country refused to wait another generation before we could enjoy some of the promises of America.

What happened in that courtroom in 1954 in Arkansas cannot be understood apart from what is happening in the streets of America today.

Progress in America is a fact that cannot be denied, but it did not happen because America wanted to change. This Nation is not a better place to live in because southern segregationists changed their minds. Change happened in America because, though the wheels of God grind slow, they grind exceedingly small but go forward.

That is to say it was nothing but the righteous indignation of ordinary peo-

ple doing extraordinary things that made justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

Just the other day, not far from here in the Capitol in Statuary Hall, we celebrated the statue of Daisy Bates taking her rightful place in Statuary Hall.

As a child, I grew up in Chicago and Mrs. Bates oftentimes came and shared the holidays with my family. It was indeed an honor to be a Member of the 118th Congress and to see the unveiling of her statue, an African-American woman, who at the age of 8, had lost her mother to men that had raped her and killed her and put her in a mill pond in Arkansas never having faced justice, but then to see President Bill Clinton and Governor Mike Huckabee unveil a statue and a highway, a road in her honor, was truly an honor in 1998.

□ 2030

As we celebrated the valorization and veneration of her likeness, I would remind us of how many different kinds of people it takes to move a nation forward in the direction of its principles on paper.

Daisy Bates was a publisher and an activist who gave counsel to the Little Rock Nine, nine children who were denied access to a public education under Governor Orval Faubus of Arkansas.

She was someone instrumental in the effort to undermine the Nation's separate but equal law, a Jim Crow-era law that still remained. She didn't come out of her mother's womb wanting to be an activist, but she lived in a country where activism was as much a necessity as breathing. When our young children are gathering up on the campuses today, they yearn for freedom.

She did what she had to do for herself and her progeny. This Nation owes her our deepest gratitude for laying such a costly sacrifice upon the altars of equity and equality in America.

To each and all of the remarkable trailblazers who dedicated their lives to the possibility of unbridled opportunity in this country, we owe you and Miss Daisy Bates our devotion, and we owe our children common sense.

Do not be deceived. We still need people who are willing to do extraordinary things in the cause of freedom and justice because when a Black United States airman can be murdered in his house for expressing his Second Amendment right to bear arms while Kyle Rittenhouse can shoot three people and walk down the streets with an AR-15 in his hands and nobody even asks him a question, clearly there is work that still needs to be done in our country.

Be not deceived. As long as women do not get equal pay for equal work, we have work to do. As long as anti-Semitism is taking on a life of its own while anti-Blackness has never truly subsided, there is still work that must be done, and we are the ones to do it.

Let us continue the work. Let us continue to fight for what is right.

Let us challenge our friends to do more, our enemies to do better, and ourselves to never give up. God bless the memory of all of those who kept America strong and made America better.

We commemorate this day for Miss Daisy Bates, the children of Little Rock, and those who brought in a new era of desegregation.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, the landmark ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education* not only shattered the doctrine of separate but equal but firmly established that racial segregation is abhorrent to the principles enshrined in our Constitution. It affirmed unequivocally that every child in America, regardless of race, deserves equal protection and opportunity under law.

Today, as we reflect on this pivotal moment, we are reminded of its profound impact on our journey toward civil rights and educational equity. Yet, despite the progress we have made, we must confront the realities that still persist—inequalities that continue to hold back our youth from reaching their full potential, especially in marginalized communities.

Innovation in education has been monumental but not uniformly felt. As we grapple with the challenges of economic disparities and systemic barriers, we are called to what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., described as the fierce urgency of now.

The fight for educational opportunity and the quest for civil rights are inextricably intertwined. Focusing on education as a civil rights issue changes the cadence of our conversation. We must ensure that the promise of *Brown v. Board of Education* extends beyond our history and into the lived experiences of every student.

Let us champion policies that foster innovation and collaboration across all sectors to create holistic solutions that uplift every child. We must secure the necessary investments to revitalize our educational system and affirm our unwavering commitment to the next generation. This is not just an educational mandate; it is a moral imperative.

In addition, the economic significance of *Brown v. Board of Education* cannot be overstated. By dismantling the legal framework of segregation in education, it opened up doors that had long been closed to Black Americans. Education is not just a means of imparting knowledge; it is the key to economic opportunity, the gateway to prosperity.

Prior to this ruling, Black students were assigned to underfunded, substandard schools, deprived of the resources and opportunities afforded to their White counterparts. This perpetuated a cycle of poverty and limited upward mobility for generations of Black Americans. With the desegregation of schools mandated by *Brown v. Board of Education*, Black students gained access to better funded schools, qualified teachers, and educational op-

portunities previously denied to them. This led to a burgeoning Black middle class and contributed to the overall economic growth and prosperity of our entire Nation.

Yet, despite the gains made since *Brown*, racial disparities persist in our educational system and in our economy. These disparities have far-reaching economic consequences.

For example, a recent report from the National Urban League finds that the racial income gap has been stagnant for over 20 years, with Black Americans earning an average of 64 percent of the income of White Americans.

As we commemorate *Brown v. Board of Education*, let us recommit ourselves to the unfinished work of achieving true equality in education and economic opportunity for all.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard from my distinguished colleagues about the 70th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*, issues of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, our constituents, Congress, and all Americans tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

MARKING SOLEMN ANNIVERSARY OF BUFFALO MASS SHOOTING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KENNEDY) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of my Special Order in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to mark the solemn anniversary of the racist mass shooting in Buffalo, New York.

On this day 2 years ago, good people who simply made an afternoon stop at a grocery store were gunned down in broad daylight—10 innocent lives stolen from friends, families, and our community.

It is important that their names continue to live on in our hearts and in the RECORD: Celestine Chaney, Roberta A. Drury, Andre Mackniel, Katherine Massey, Margus D. Morrison, Heyward Patterson, Aaron Salter, Jr., Geraldine Talley, Ruth Whitfield, and Pearl Young.

The perpetrator was not from the City of Good Neighbors. This racist white supremacist intentionally came to our community and targeted the only grocery store in a predominantly Black neighborhood.

Every western New Yorker remembers the first phone call we received, the horror as we realized the full ex-

tent of what had happened, and then the heartbreak of burying people whose lives were taken simply for the color of their skin.

It has changed Buffalo forever, but rather than divide us, the people of Buffalo came together, as we often do during the toughest of times, embracing one another and championing change. We prayed together. We fed our Cold Springs neighbors who were forced into a food desert with the closing of their only grocery store. We rallied for change.

My dear friend and now a Buffalo councilwoman, Zeneta Everhart, nearly lost her son, Zaire Goodman, that day. Zaire worked at Tops. He was just doing his job, helping a customer, when a bullet entered his neck. He fell to the ground. When the shooter moved on, he was able to escape and place the most terrifying phone call of his mother's life. Miraculously, by the grace of God, Zaire is alive and thriving today.

I had the privilege of joining Zeneta as she traveled right here to Washington and testified before Congress, refusing to hold back details as she explained the horror of what had happened to Zaire and the other victims. Zeneta gave powerful testimony, along with former Fire Commissioner Garnell Whitfield, whose 86-year-old mother was murdered right in front of Zaire when he was carrying her groceries to her car for her.

Zeneta and Garnell were supported in their testimony by the families of the other Buffalo victims. For the first time in 30 years, Congress acted, passing the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.

Still, in the 2 years since the Buffalo tragedy, senseless mass shootings have continued throughout the Nation. More cities and families have endured the pain of burying their loved ones due to gun violence.

We need to do better. That means passing Representative McBATH's Assault Weapons Ban of 2023, Representative CLYBURN's Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2023, Representative FITZPATRICK's Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2023, Representative MENG's Aaron Salter, Jr., Responsible Body Armor Possession Act, Representative KRISHNAMOORTHY's Hate Crimes Commission Act, Representative BOWMAN's resolution condemning the great replacement theory, and Representative SCHIFF's Equal Access to Justice for Victims of Gun Violence Act of 2023, just to name a few.

This package represents common-sense legislation that rejects hate and will help keep weapons of war out of the hands of dangerous individuals.

Public safety is not a partisan issue. Mass murders like the one that happened in Buffalo have happened in red States and blue States, cities and suburbs, farming communities, schools, churches, synagogues, mosques, and grocery stores all across this Nation. It shouldn't happen at all.

Further action is needed, and it is long overdue. We must find common