

NAKBA

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, as the only Palestinian American serving in Congress, I am a reminder to many of my colleagues in this Chamber that Palestinians do indeed exist, we are human beings, that we deserve to live, that we have dreams of freedom and human dignity.

I read this quote: "When you tell a people to forget its past, you are not proposing peace, you are proposing extinction." This is from Peter Beinart.

As we mark 76 years of the Nakba, we honor the thousands of Palestinians who were ethnically cleansed in 1948 and nearly 800,000 Palestinians who were violently and forcibly displaced, many, Madam Speaker, still carrying their keys in hopes of one day returning to their homes, to their villages.

We honor their trauma and the painful loss of their connections to their families, land, olive groves, and villages they grew up in.

We honor all those around the world who have suffered from the impacts of settler colonialism, ethnic cleansing, and apartheid. Madam Speaker, the Nakba did not end in 1948.

□ 1045

CELEBRATING LIRA ELECTRIC DURING SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Lira Electric, a small business from my district which was recently honored as an SBA Minority-Owned Small Business of the Year during Small Business Week.

Lira Electric started with just two employees in 2017, Robert Lira and his wife, and they have since grown to a team of 34, serving clients like the Department of Defense, MGM Resorts, and NV Energy.

Their journey shows the important role that small businesses play in our economic growth. The success that they have achieved highlights the importance of initiatives like the Small Business Administration's funding programs which empower minority-owned businesses to thrive and contribute significantly to our economy.

I congratulate Robert Lira and the entire team at Lira Electric for this well-deserved recognition. Their hard work inspires us all. I am proud to represent communities with businesses like theirs.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NAOMI DELORES JACKSON GOYNES

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Naomi Delores Jackson Goynes, who recently passed away after a life as a beloved educator in North Las Vegas.

She was born in Memphis in 1933 and pursued her passion for education at the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Northern Arizona University, and UNLV. In 1964, she and her husband,

Theron, moved to Las Vegas, where she worked for 36 years in the Clark County School District before retiring as an assistant principal.

For their collective contributions to our local educational landscape, they were honored as the namesakes of the Theron H. and Naomi D. Goynes STEM Academy in North Las Vegas.

Mrs. Jackson Goynes' strength, perseverance, and commitment to education will be remembered by her loved ones and everyone who knew her. I extend my condolences to her husband, Theron Goynes; her daughter, North Las Vegas Mayor Pamela Goynes-Brown; and all of her loved ones during this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING JOE LOUIS, GREAT HEAVYWEIGHT BOXER

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize one of the greatest heavyweight boxers in history, Joe Louis. Tomorrow he is being recognized in Nevada in a tribute to celebrate both his professional and personal contributions to our communities.

Louis was one of the first Black men to be elevated to national hero status after he broke many racial barriers and advocated for civil rights. Known as the Brown Bomber, he held the heavyweight title for almost 12 years, defending it a record 25 times, and despite a 4-year hiatus from boxing to serve during World War II.

In addition to his boxing career, Louis was instrumental in breaking the color barrier in the PGA and paved the way for the first generation of Black professional golfers.

His legacy left an enduring impact on sports and civil rights, helping inspire future generations to fight for justice. I am proud to honor his memory and celebrate his lasting influence.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Police Week. I am proud of the work we are doing here in Congress to make sure we give law enforcement the tools they need through the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act and through the appropriations process.

Through the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, we are making our communities safer, reducing crime, saving lives, and breaking the cycle of violence.

This law has already made improvements in our school safety and mental health resources, and it has reduced the number of guns on the streets and cracked down on illegal gun trafficking.

Improvements include historic investments in students' mental health for States and school districts, including \$1 billion to hire and train more than 14,000 school mental health professionals. More than 750 prohibited individuals were denied firearms under BSCA's enhanced background checks for gun purchasers under 21 years old. More than 430 gun traffickers have been charged under BSCA's expanded Federal enforcement efforts to crack down on gun trafficking.

Through community funding projects, Democrats putting people over politics have delivered more direct funding to our local law enforcement than our colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

Third Way just released a report this week highlighting that House and Senate Democrats, through our community project funding, have secured nearly \$400 million this year to fund public safety projects in our districts and States. This is compared to Republicans who secured around \$272 million.

I am proud to have delivered \$4.4 million to law enforcement programs in Nevada's Fourth Congressional District, including to North Las Vegas, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's emergency command vehicle, the Judicial District Court's special advocate program, and \$1.6 million to North Las Vegas Public Safety enhancement. These are true investments to public safety that save lives.

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OF NEW MEXICO

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. VASQUEZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courageous law enforcement officers of New Mexico who have made the ultimate sacrifices for their communities.

Our law enforcement officers are brave public servants who put their lives on the line every day to serve the people of New Mexico. Through their bravery, they make our communities safer and serve as models of justice, strength, and integrity.

This National Police Week, I want to recognize and honor the New Mexico officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty just this year: Curry County Sheriff Michael Reeves, Alamogordo Police Department Officer Anthony Ferguson, Alamogordo Police Department Patrolman James Sides, New Mexico State Patrolman Justin Hare, and Las Cruces Police Department Patrol Officer Jonah Hernandez.

As we reflect on the bravery and service of these officers, I would like to recognize the loved ones they left behind: their families, friends, and colleagues. Just as we won't forget the sacrifices made by these officers, we will not forget the loss that so many feel in their absence.

To their families who grieve their loss today: We owe you our immense support and gratitude.

Choosing a career in law enforcement is not an easy choice. In fact, it comes with unimaginable risks and challenges that the majority of the American public will never have to face. They are our peacekeepers, our first responders, and the protectors of civil society.

There is still more that we can do to support our police officers, their mental health, their physical health, and

their well-being, as well as that of their families. I will continue to support measures in Congress to ensure every officer has the tools and stability that they need to serve our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the same.

On behalf of all New Mexicans, I thank our fallen officers, again, for their service and sacrifice.

HONORING THE RULE OF LAW

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, part of the reason why folks look to the United States as a beacon of democracy and justice is because we honor, respect, and follow the rule of law.

Assault in this Nation is never acceptable, no matter the perpetrator or the cause, never. When it comes to our police officers and first responders, that is especially important.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have introduced a bill meant to address this issue and specifically target immigrants in this country, and, unfortunately, they could not help themselves but to introduce inflammatory and anti-immigrant language that distorts what we could accomplish if we were actually willing to work together to find real solutions to our Nation's broken immigration system. That is why I introduced amendments to ensure what we can all agree on: due process, justice, and the rule of law to which we are all entitled to in this country.

Let me be clear: If anyone is convicted of an offense involving assault of a law enforcement officer, then they should be held accountable. However, that is not the case in the bill that Republicans have proposed.

I remain committed to finding solutions based in truth and justice that address public safety concerns with legislators on both sides of the aisle that also support law enforcement and their families.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE SANTA FE INTERNATIONAL LITERARY FESTIVAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Santa Fe International Literary Festival. Humans have painted stories on cavern walls, etched them into clay tablets, and recounted them around the dinner table. Puebloans in New Mexico celebrate their storytellers in beautiful sculptures.

The invention of the printing press in 1440 allowed readers across the world to access literature and begin to understand cultures and lives different from their own.

Sadly, some fearful politicians want to limit our curiosity and knowledge. They are now banning books.

In contrast, the Santa Fe International Literary Festival brings to-

gether the best literary minds from across the world to move us forward. Every participating author is exceptional and has included powerful authors whose award-winning books have been banned, like N. Scott Momaday, Margaret Atwood, and Julia Alvarez.

At the festival, writers will take us around the world and back through history, like Doug Preston, Hampton Sides, and Diana Gabaldon, who will share their vision and their craft.

Memorialists like Javier Zamora will take us on a 9-year-old's perilous journey of migration to the United States, hopefully increasing our empathy along the way.

I congratulate to the festival on another year of spreading the joy of stories. Felicidades to the authors.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, this National Police Week, I rise to give thanks to the officers who keep us safe every day everywhere. Police have families who love them and miss them when long hours keep them on the road and on duty. My gratitude extends to their families, as well.

My gratitude must include getting them the Federal resources to do their job to solve crimes and to keep us safe. My community projects have funded mobile command units in rural counties, virtual training gear so they are prepared before they face the worst, and squad cars to get them to where they need to go.

In my district, we have many small rural police forces who are grateful for the FBI help with forensics and Federal COPS and Byrne JAG grants, which help their police officers do their jobs.

Federal law enforcement investigates and prevents crime in Indian Country.

Sadly, Republican bills and proposals seek to cut these important Federal funds and defund the FBI. This year alone, Democrats have sent almost double the amount of funding than Republicans to local law enforcement.

I will fight to keep these Federal funds flowing so my rural and Tribal police forces have access to these important Federal grants and to an FBI that can be their partner when the worst happens.

RECOGNIZING NEW MEXICO STATE REPRESENTATIVE JIM TRUJILLO

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the loss of one of New Mexico's most accomplished and best-loved public servants, former New Mexico State Representative Jim Trujillo. He demonstrated what it means to answer the call to public service and that public service is an act of love.

I am grateful for the love Representative Trujillo gave to the people of his district and our State.

His legacy now lives on in countless lives he touched in our beautiful State through both his important career as a financial professional and his broad public service in the New Mexico Human Services Department, 6 years in the New Mexico National Guard, and

his outstanding 17 years in the New Mexico legislature.

I met with Representative Trujillo numerous times when I was working on voting rights and Tribal intergovernmental matters. He always listened with deep attention and gave clear direction and support.

He was a man of his word. His tireless dedication to the people of New Mexico proved how much we can accomplish when we work together for our beloved communities.

I carry his inspiration with me as I continue my own service in the beautifully diverse Third District of New Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Virginia, their children, and the entire extended Trujillo family.

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COMMEMORATING ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, the Supreme Court's decision to desegregate public schools.

Despite this landmark case and the integration that followed, segregation in schools has increased by more than 60 percent over the last few decades, driven by so-called school choice and Federal courts rolling back desegregation commitments.

Every student should have the opportunity to get a quality education. Federal, State, and local leaders must work hand-in-hand to reverse the harmful policies, including the housing costs that have contributed to this new wave of segregation.

In Orange County, which I represent, students challenged school segregation in one of the first cases of its kind, Mendez v. Westminster, which integrated California schools and laid much of the groundwork for Brown v. Board of Education.

Mr. Speaker, as we mark the 70th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, I hope my colleagues will join me in recommitting to fighting segregation.

THANKING MILITARY SPOUSES

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my sincere gratitude to our Nation's military spouses.

We recently celebrated National Military Spouse Appreciation Day, a reminder to reflect on how military families support our servicemembers and our country through their selfless dedication.

The Biden administration recently came to an agreement with the Department of Defense and State Department to strengthen the Federal Domestic Employees Teleworking Overseas program for military spouses working for