

on those things. Turns out, those are what you do to bend the debt curve. Yet, I will give this speech over and over, and maybe it just doesn't satiate the dopamine hits. Maybe it is just not trite and easy enough because it turns out doing some of this will be really hard, but it is doable. There is a path.

My 2-year-old is running around here somewhere. Yes, I have a 2-year-old and an 8-year-old, and my wife is exactly my age. Yes, I am pathologically optimistic. I always think that is funny.

My little boy, when he turns 21, 22, every tax in the United States has to be doubled. Every tax has to be doubled just to maintain baseline spending. Absolutely immoral what we are doing. We have set up the first generation in U.S. history to be poorer than their parents. Doesn't have to be that way, but this place needs revolution in the way it thinks because you can't keep being absolute dumb—you can't keep doing it the way we are doing it.

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

COMMEMORATING HISTORIC PRINCE HALL SLAVERY REMEM- BRANCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DE LA CRUZ). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise, and I am proud to stand before you tonight to speak about a historic event that took place here in the Nation's Capitol on August 10, 2024.

This event took place in the Capitol Visitor Center Auditorium, and it was an event that featured the Prince Hall Freemasons. I am going to present a proclamation commemorating the historic Prince Hall Slavery Remembrance Day program with the theme: We are the dream and hope of the enslaved.

Before going through the proclamation, I would like to say just a few words about Prince Hall. I think that he is probably one of the most underrepresented, in the sense of being noted in history, most underrepresented persons who fought for freedom for the Africans who are in America and enslaved at the time. This is from PBS.

Prince Hall was a prominent African-American abolitionist and teacher in Boston's Free Black community during the American Revolution, most notably known for founding Prince Hall Freemasonry by establishing the first African Lodge of Masons in the United States, which allowed Black men to join the Masonic fraternity at a time when they were excluded from White lodges.

He actively advocated for civil rights and education for African Americans through his lodge and petitions to the government. The founder of Black Freemasonry, Hall is considered the

founder of Prince Hall Freemasonry, a branch of Freemasonry specifically for African-American men, which stemmed from his efforts to establish the African Lodge No. 1 in Boston.

□ 2000

As an abolitionist, he was a vocal advocate for the abolition of slavery and used his platform within the Masonic lodge to promote social change for the Black community. He petitioned for rights. Hall was one of the first to use the language of the Declaration of Independence to petition the Massachusetts legislature for the emancipation of enslaved people.

There is limited information about his early life. While his exact date of birth and place are uncertain it is believed that he was born around 1735 and gained his freedom in Boston.

Let me step aside from the article just to note that he was not born a free person. He became a free person, and he used his freedom to do all that he could to liberate others.

Prince Hall is recognized as a significant figure in African-American history for his efforts to create a space for Black men to organize and advocate for their rights within a predominantly White society. Hence, Prince Hall is mentioned on this day because he was the founder of the organization that cooperated and collaborated with me to have this Slavery Remembrance Day program with the theme: "We Are the Dream and Hope of the Enslaved."

The theme was chosen because we believed that on the day that we were there it should have been something very special not just to us but to all Americans because the very facility that we were in, some portions of it, this complex as it were, some portions of it were actually built by enslaved people. As a result we thought that at some point in their lives some of them dreamed and hoped that as free people, their ancestors, their descendants, their descendants would walk into the places that we have an opportunity now to walk in freely, and they hoped and dreamed that one day there would be enough freedom for us to advocate for the respect due them that they never received in life.

The dream and hope of the enslaved. I am a part of that dream, and I am proud to say I am also a Prince Hall Mason. This occurred, as I indicated, in the United States Capitol, Washington, D.C., on August 10, 2024.

This is the declaration that is a part of the proclamation commemorating the historic Prince Hall Slavery Remembrance Day program.

"Declared: August 20th annually marks the observance of Slavery Remembrance Day, dedicated to the memory of those who suffered under the transatlantic slave trade and to acknowledge the enduring impact of slavery on our Nation;

"Declared: August 20th serves as a solemn reminder of the historical injustices of slavery and its lasting ef-

fects on the social, economic, and cultural fabric of the United States and aims to foster reflection, dialogue, and education to promote healing and reconciliation.

"Declared: The United States Congress, in recognizing the significance of Slavery Remembrance Day, resolved that it supports the designation of a 'Slavery Remembrance Day' to serve as a reminder of the evils of slavery, condemns slavery and its evil progenies and encourages all to acknowledge the importance of slavery remembrance.

"Declared: The Conference of Grand Masters Prince Hall Masons, Inc. (COGM), under the leadership of president Eugene Anderson, Jr., Vice President Jeffrey G. Jones, Executive Secretary Emanuel J. Stanley, and Executive Treasurer Kevin L. Bell, alongside the Sovereign Grand Commander Southern Jurisdiction Dr. Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., and Sovereign Grand Commander Northern Jurisdiction, Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore, the host Grand Master Glenn N. Ruffin and each of the 46 member jurisdictions of the Conference of Grand Masters Prince Hall Masons, Inc., namely"—and I shall now for the record have each jurisdiction mentioned—"MWPHGL-Alabama; MWPHGL-Alaska; MWPHGL-Alberta; Canada; MWPHGL-Arkansas; MWPHGL-Bahamas; MWPHGL-California; MWPHGL-Caribbean; MWPHGL-Colorado; MWPHGL-Connecticut; MWPHGL-Cote d'Ivoire; MWPHGL-Delaware; MWPHGL-D.C.; MWUGL-Florida; MWPHGL-Georgia; MWPHGL-Hawaii; MWPHGL; MWPHGL-Indiana; MWPHGL-Iowa; MWPHGL-Kansas; MWPHGL-Kentucky; MWPHGL-Liberia; MWPHGL-Maryland; MWPHGL-Massachusetts; MWPHGL-Michigan; MWPHGL-Minnesota; MWSGL-Mississippi; MWPHGL-Missouri; MWPHGL-Nebraska; MWPHGL-New Jersey; MWPHGL-New Mexico; MWPHGL-New York; MWPHGL-Nevada; MWPHGL-North Carolina; MWPHGL-Ohio; MWPHGL-Oklahoma; MWPHGL-Ontario, Canada; MWPHGL-Oregon; MWPHGL-Pennsylvania; MWPHGL-Rhode Island; MWPHGL-South Carolina; MWPHGL-Tennessee; MWPHGL-Texas; MWPHGL-Virginia; MWPHGL-Washington; MWPHGL-West Virginia; MWPHGL-Wisconsin. . . ."

These are the jurisdictions referenced in this commemoration document.

"Declared: The collaboration between the Conference of Grand Masters Prince Hall Masons, Inc., the United States Supreme Councils, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Southern and Northern Jurisdictions Prince Hall Affiliation (PHA), and Texas Prince Hall Mason and the progenitor of Slavery Remembrance Day, Congressman AL GREEN, in organizing the Historic Prince Hall Slavery Remembrance Day program underscores the importance of partnership in addressing historical wrongs and fostering communal unity;

PROCLAMATIONS OF COMMEMORATION

“Proclaimed: That the United States House of Representatives, having recognized August 20th as Slavery Remembrance Day—we the Conference of Grand Masters Prince Hall Masons, Inc., the United Supreme Councils, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Southern and Northern Jurisdictions Prince Hall Affiliation (PHA), and Progenitor/Congressman AL GREEN hereby commemorate the Historic Prince Hall Slavery Remembrance Day program on this day, August 10, 2024, and reaffirm our dedication to commemorating the memory of those who suffered under slavery by; educating future generations, as well as promoting social justice and equity;

“Faithfully Proclaimed: That this be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the archives of the Conference of Grand Masters Prince Hall Masons, Inc., the United Supreme Council Southern Jurisdiction PHA, the United Supreme Council Northern Jurisdiction PHA, and each of the 46 member jurisdictions that comprise the Conference of Grand Masters Prince Hall Masons, Inc., as a testament to the enduring significance of Slavery Remembrance Day and as a pledge to continue Slavery Remembrance Day programs annually on or near August 20th in the pursuit of truth, reconciliation, and equality for all.”

This document is also a part of the archives for my office. I have concluded that it is important for us to maintain records, something that has not been done, generally speaking, for African Americans, and as a result, much of our history has been either lost, ignored, or simply discounted.

This is important to people of African ancestry. This date, August 20th, is the date that the White Lion docked in the area known as Norfolk, Virginia, now in 1619 and the White Lion had the first 20 persons of African ancestry that were enslaved in the colonies.

This was a seminal moment in history in the life of this country because that moment has impacted all of the time since that time up to this very second in time. But we have not acknowledged properly the persons who were enslaved. We have not acknowledged them some more than 10 million. Estimates reached as high as 12 million. We have not acknowledged them for what they did to help develop and build this country.

□ 2015

They were the persons who planted the seeds and harvested the crops; they fed the Nation. They built the roads and bridges, and they helped to construct the Capitol and the White House. They literally were sacrificed for some 246 years, but they have not been given the recognition that many others who have been recognized and not sacrificed for nearly as long and who have suffered much less but were still honored.

There will be a day, hopefully within my lifetime, when I will stand here and

say that these economic foundational mothers and fathers of the country, I say economic foundational mothers and fathers because literally they gave our country that I love, our country, the United States of America now, a head start in that it had 246 years of free labor, saving what it cost to manage and care for the people who were sacrificed.

I hope that one day in my lifetime I will be able to stand here and say that our country now recognizes the sacrifices that were made.

In 1956 we recognized the Confederate soldiers with a Congressional Gold Medal. It just seems to me that if we can recognize Confederate soldiers with a Congressional Gold Medal, then surely we can recognize the enslaved. However, not so.

Unfortunately, there are people who prefer not to recall slavery. They prefer to give it a new title. There are some who would call it involuntary relocation. It was more than involuntary relocation, Madam Speaker. It was 246 years of sacrifice.

My desire is to see the day, in fact, I live today to live to see the day, that my ancestors, who were sacrificed to make America great, receive a Congressional Gold Medal.

I would hope that we would, by and through the President, present them with a Presidential Medal of Freedom. It is something that has been accorded a good many people. I am not suggesting that we deny anybody anything that they have received, but I am saying that there are people who are deserving who have not received similar recognition. I live today to live to see the day that this will occur.

Finally, I thank the members of the Masonic order for joining with me to have this first Historic Prince Hall Slavery Remembrance Day program here in the Nation's Capitol. Next year, we will have the second historic program, and we hope to continue to do this each year until we have accomplished the recognition that our ancestors deserve, and then beyond it, to make sure that future generations will know that the greatness of America includes people whose lives were sacrificed these 246 years.

I am grateful to the men of the Prince Hall Masonic order. They have made a pledge to be here next year in the month of August. I have made a pledge to be with them, and next year we hope to have the auditorium with standing room only. We believe that we will have at least enough to fill all the seats and then have the overflow areas consumed as well.

Our goal in terms of producing this annual event is to eventually have it in Emancipation Hall. What a wonderful thing, to have Slavery Remembrance Day in Emancipation Hall. We are not there yet, but the appeal is being made to have it happen.

So I thank all of the persons who have made this program possible. I have mentioned the men of the Ma-

sonic order, but there were others. The leadership in the House and the leadership in the Senate have granted permission for us to have use of the facility. I thank the leadership. There were persons associated with the technology necessary to produce the program, I thank them. We had persons there to take photographs so that we can have within our archives actual representations of who the people were and how they were dressed in their regalia. The men of the Masonic order had on their regalia, and then the Eastern Stars were there as well.

I thank the people who helped us promote the program to get the word out. It is not easy to get the word out about Slavery Remembrance Day. It is more difficult than one might think, but there were people who helped us, and we did have a good representation.

Finally, I am wanting to just say thank you for giving me the strength to continue with this effort. I thank the creator of all of creation for the strength I have been given. I plan to use this strength to my very last breath to bring justice to the some 12 million people who suffered for 246 years to make America great.

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

FEDERAL BUDGET

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, there are several things that we ought to be commenting on here.

Earlier this week, the House passed the Senate companion to my legislation, the Congressional Budget Office Data Access Act. This important piece of legislation will improve the ability of the Congressional Budget Office, the CBO, to carry out its responsibilities to the legislative branch and, by extension, to the American people.

Under current law, the Budget Act authorized the CBO to collect information and data directly from Federal agencies. This data is critical as it allows the CBO to perform accurate and timely analysis and propose legislation, including calculating the cost of bills and assessing their long-term fiscal impact on our Federal budget.

CBO's role in providing this budgetary and economic analysis is fundamental to informed decisionmaking in Congress, particularly as we tackle the challenges of fiscal discipline and responsible spending that the Congressman spoke about from this dais about one-half hour ago.

However, despite the statutory authorization for CBO to access agency data, we have seen far too many instances where Federal agencies delay or restrict the CBO's access to the information necessary to perform its duties. Such delays and limitations can significantly hamper the CBO's ability to