

a dedicated father to Adam, Nathan, and Anna. His legacy will endure through the literally thousands of lives he inspired in Toledo and beyond in the critical formative years that children need.

David Wehrmeister's life exemplifies the best of service to your fellow men and women, building a brighter future one child at a time. That was David.

□ 1930

REINING IN GOVERNMENT INEFFICIENCIES

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the urgent need to rein in government inefficiencies and wasteful spending.

In 1982, the Grace Commission, launched by President Reagan, revealed shocking examples of bloated budgets like \$400 hammers and offered cost-cutting measures that saved taxpayers at the time over \$100 billion.

It also exposed how politics often stands in the way of real reform. That is why I am eager to meet with Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy this Thursday. These are leaders who have proved that innovation and efficiency can transform entire industries.

Mr. Speaker, imagine applying that same mindset they bring to clean up our government and save Americans many billions of dollars via the Department of Government Efficiency that they are working on.

The Grace Commission at the time showed us what is possible, but it is time to take that mission further.

Now, with Elon and Vivek at the helm, I am confident we can turn bold ideas into action and make the government work smarter, not harder, for the people.

Together let's finish what Ronald Reagan started and deliver accountability through the Department of Government Efficiency, which shouldn't be an oxymoron or even a joke.

Taxpayers should be able to expect efficiency from their government from their hard-earned tax dollars.

CELEBRATING ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

(Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 60th anniversary of St. John's Community Health, a beacon of hope and healing for underserved communities in Los Angeles and beyond.

Since its founding, St. John's has grown into one of the largest Federally qualified health center networks in our

country, providing essential healthcare services to hundreds of thousands of patients each year.

Guided by a mission of healthcare as a human right, St. John's has touched the lives of countless individuals, ensuring that the most vulnerable in our society receive the care they deserve.

This remarkable organization has led with compassionate innovation, addressing health disparities, championing social justice, and advocating for equity in healthcare access.

St. John's partnership with labor unions, schools, and local government has strengthened its ability to respond to challenges facing communities in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties.

Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate this milestone, let us recognize the unwavering leadership of Jim Mangia, president and CEO of St. John's, and the contribution of the dedicated staff, volunteers, and supporters.

Mr. Speaker, I thank St. John's Community Health for 60 years of care, compassion, and commitment to the well-being of our communities.

WORLD AIDS DAY 2024

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to commemorate World AIDS Day. This year's theme is Collective Action: Sustain and Accelerate HIV Progress.

Indeed, our collective action has delivered immense success to overcome the AIDS epidemic.

While our Federal Government was initially slow to act, Federal investment has made a crucial contribution to the fight against HIV and AIDS. America's PEPFAR investments have saved more than 25 million lives. Nine out of ten Americans receiving care through the Ryan White and the minority AIDS programs are virally suppressed, improving their health and preventing transmission. Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS, or HOPWA, has ensured housing stability for tens of thousands of people living with HIV.

Now, this progress was not accidental. It required deliberate, substantial Federal investment. We had to be intentional. Federal investment in fighting HIV and AIDS remains absolutely necessary. Pulling back now on our investments risks seeing HIV come roaring back.

We cannot afford to go back to where we were nearly four decades ago. Mr. Speaker, I implore my colleagues to work together to support continued, robust Federal investments to end the HIV and AIDS epidemic by 2030 for everyone everywhere.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY CHISOLM

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 designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to anchor the CBC Special Order hour. For the next 60 minutes, members of the CBC have an opportunity to honor the legacy of Congresswoman Shirley Chisolm, an individual of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, Congress, the constituents we represent, and all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE).

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my dear colleague, Congresswoman SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, along with her partner, Congressman JONATHAN JACKSON, for anchoring this evening's Special Order hour honoring Shirley Chisolm.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on this special occasion to celebrate and commemorate the 100th birthday of the late Congresswoman Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm and in commemoration of her lifetime of extraordinary trailblazing achievement.

Shirley Chisolm was a woman who truly lived her American Dream out loud, unapologetically, and with audacity. Her special brand of leadership and her charismatic persona in concert with her audacious eloquence and sheer elegance brought to the world our fight for justice through the embodiment of a petite woman from Brooklyn.

As the only Black woman in the New York State congressional delegation, also a Brooklynite, and the Member who holds the very same seat in part that Shirley Chisholm once held, I am not only duty bound to prioritize the marginalized and overlooked and protect the underserved and left behind, I am compelled to do so.

My Congress Member, Congresswoman Shirley Chisolm, did the same for me. She championed my cause, she paid it forward, and she pulled me up, just as she did for all Americans. You see, Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman Shirley Chisolm was a woman who dared to be a catalyst for change.

From her first day in the New York State Assembly to her last in the United States House of Representatives and beyond, Congresswoman Shirley Chisolm fought to deliver justice, fairness, and equality to all Americans.

We are all very fortunate that her life's work, which pioneered progress

and restructured the status quo, altered the very chemistry of this body and has provided us a blueprint that we need to do the same.

Remembering the name and remembering the accolades of Shirley Chisolm does more than memorialize her life and legacy. It proves to the millions of Black girls and women in this country that if they achieve, if they strive for their greatness, if they better their country and this world, then they too may be remembered eternally by the Nation they devoted their lives to bettering. They, too, may be remembered for all time as the trailblazers and changemakers of their day.

We know all too well that progress has never happened by accident. It takes leaders, and in many cases, it takes Black women leaders. Thankfully, today we have countless of them to lean on and to learn from.

Together, I believe we have a moral mandate and an opportunity to not just examine racial inequalities that span every sector and every segment of our society, but the responsibility to tell the truth about how we got here. By celebrating the late Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm, we are fulfilling that responsibility.

It is indeed my honor to stand here. Both of us were born in the month of November. Both of us are daughters of Caribbean immigrants. Both of us love to dance and love to dress. Shirley Chisolm was a trailblazer, Shirley Chisolm was a changemaker, and Shirley Chisolm will forever be remembered.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL).

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus in paying tribute to the one and only Shirley Chisolm as we celebrate what would have been her 100th birthday.

The first Black woman ever elected to Congress, Shirley Chisolm is an icon and a trailblazing public servant whose contributions to our Nation shall never be forgotten.

As a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, she took a bold stand against injustice for all. She used her position on the House Agriculture Committee to expand food assistance for vulnerable families, and she championed policies to advance equality for women and African Americans.

Shirley Chisolm has always been one of my greatest heroes, and I am fortunate to have met her before she passed. As a senior at Princeton University, I had the opportunity to interview Ms. Shirley Chisolm for my senior thesis titled "Black Women in Politics: Our Time Has Come."

As luck would have it, it started to snow just as I sat down with her. My 30-minute interview turned into 4 hours with Shirley Chisolm.

Shirley Chisolm shared the challenges and struggles that she encoun-

tered as the first African-American woman ever elected to Congress. She spoke about the importance of defining yourself for yourself. She taught us that if you are not given a seat at the decisionmaking table, then bring a folding chair.

Most importantly, she inspired little Black girls like myself to have a voice in the world. Today, when I am feeling distraught, when I am frustrated on the House floor, when I am upset that I wasn't able to deliver for my constituents, I walk by that glorious portrait of Shirley Chisolm in the Nation's Capitol. Her hand is on her hips, her finger is pointed. She is, indeed, unbossed and unbought.

Mr. Speaker, when I see that glorious portrait, I have to tell you that I get a pep in my step. I get a glide in my stride. She fought the good fight and so must we.

Shirley Chisolm's career paved the way for countless Black women to follow in her footsteps, and I know that it is because of her amazing leadership and leadership like hers that I get to walk the Halls of Congress as Alabama's first African-American Congresswoman.

I join my colleagues in celebrating the 100th birthday of the legendary Shirley Chisolm. May we never forget the minds that she changed, the change that she sparked, and the countless Americans whom she inspired.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Florida for yielding and for her tremendous and steady leadership in bringing us all together during these very important Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hours.

Yes, Congresswoman Chisolm made history as the first Black woman to be elected to the United States Congress. She was the first. I am the 20th. That is since 1789, mind you, when the first Congress went into session.

She also was the first Black woman and the first woman to run for the Presidency of the United States of America.

Throughout her seven terms representing New York's 12th Congressional District, and mine just happens to be California's 12th Congressional District, Shirley worked across the aisle to advocate for her constituents and to pass bipartisan reforms. She focused on tackling issues of food insecurity and economic justice.

She was known as Fighting Shirley. She was a fearless advocate for American families who served as the founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

There are a couple of stories I would just like to mention tonight. When I came to Congress, there had been no real recognition of Shirley Chisolm, and I decided to introduce a resolution to honor her. I called her from right back there, the Cloakroom, and, of

course, the resolution was on suspension. On suspension, of course, the first night we come back into session, there weren't very many Members here, but there were maybe two or three Democrats and maybe one or two Republicans.

Connie Morelli from Maryland was on the floor to speak on behalf of the resolution. As I was talking to Shirley, I told her to turn on C-SPAN to watch it. She was very upset.

She said: Barbara, where are the Republicans?

She said: I worked very closely with the Republicans constantly. Nobody is there.

I said: Shirley, you remember that on suspension votes, this is the first night we are coming back, and believe you me, Republicans are supporting this resolution.

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She was pretty antsy and upset about that, so I pulled it from suspension that night—it was the first and probably the only bill I have ever pulled from suspension—and called for a recorded vote. At the recorded vote, all green lights came up. There wasn't one red light, so I ran back and talked to her.

I said: Okay, Shirley, now look. Look at that board. Not one Republican voted "no."

She was relieved. I mean, that is just how serious she took her bipartisan work. She was so happy to see everybody voting on her behalf, remembering her legacy that night.

Another story that I think is very important for all of us to remember is, as the public comes into the Capitol, they see this beautiful portrait of Shirley in the hall, and a young African-American artist from Compton, California, painted that.

I thank Speaker Emerita NANCY PELOSI and the late Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald from California, who was the chair of the House Administration Committee. They fought like you would not believe to get this portrait authorized and appropriated and painted.

I take this moment to remember Juanita Millender-McDonald tonight because there is no way we would have had that portrait had she not been chair of that House Administration Committee, and our Speaker leading the Democrats and working with Juanita to make that happen.

Of course, to my Delta sisters here: Remember that day when we unveiled the portrait. There were many, many Delta members, and her sorors were there the day we unveiled that picture.

Fast forward to the postal stamp. Everything has been very difficult. If you are a woman, a woman of color, sometimes everything gets a little challenging. We tried to have Shirley Chisolm's legacy memorialized in a postal stamp.

I introduced the legislation. It had to be bipartisan. We received the bipartisan support. Then, after about 5

years, I was told I couldn't do it. To have a postal stamp in someone's honor, you have to wait 10 years until after they pass. I was never told that upfront, so we had to start all over again, but we finally got it done.

If you don't have one of the Shirley Chisholm legacy historical stamps, please try to get the Postal Service to get you one because they are beautiful stamps, and they really exemplify her beauty and her strength.

Finally, I will say one personal thing about Shirley because she was the catalyst for my career in public service.

When I met her, I was a student at Mills College. Like so many young people today, I was intentionally, mind you—intentionally disconnected with the political system. It wasn't that I was apathetic. It wasn't that I didn't understand what was going on. It was that I did not believe that it worked for me, a young Black mother raising two children on her own on public assistance. I was very active. I was president of the Black student union.

When I met and spoke with Shirley, she took me to task. She called me Little Girl until the day she died. I was 26 then.

She said: Little Girl, you are not registered to vote?

I said: No, ma'am.

She said: Why not?

I told her why not. I said I didn't believe in politics. It just wasn't working for me.

Finally, she convinced me that I needed to get involved, and I ended up, bottom line, organizing her northern California Presidential primary out of my Mills College class with two students, Sandre Swanson and Sandy Gaines.

I went on to Miami as a Shirley Chisholm delegate, where I met Mr. CLYBURN, and the rest is history. I got an A in the class, actually. I was going to flunk that class because part of the work was to do field work, and I was refusing to work in the guy's campaigns.

I say that it is important to remember that she flipped the script, and she left the indelible legacy on American politics, all while holding the door open for the rest of us to step through. Throughout her life, she did remain unbought and unbossed.

Hopefully, this week, the House and the Senate will finally honor her with the Congressional Gold Medal. She deserves it, and I thank the CBC and the gentlewoman again for her leadership and for giving us a chance to really salute our Heavenly sister, Shirley Chisholm.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY).

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my CBC colleagues and anchors for tonight's Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as many of my colleagues have done, to celebrate the 100th birthday of a titan of American democracy, Shirley Anita Chisholm.

Born 100 years ago, as we have heard, Shirley Chisholm shattered barriers as the first Black woman elected to Congress and the first Black woman to serve on the House Rules Committee.

She was fearless, fighting for equity, early childhood education, labor protections, domestic workers, and programs like SNAP and WIC, Mr. Speaker, that we are still fighting for today. During this very Congress, we are debating something that she has left us a legacy with. Maybe we should go back in time and revisit what she did for our farm bill.

Her advocacy also inspired Title IX, the Equal Rights Amendment, and generations of women to lead in boardrooms, classrooms, and right here in these Chambers.

She did not stop there. In 1972, she stood before America and declared her candidacy for President, not for the glory of winning, but to make room at the table for those silenced too long.

Mr. Speaker, it thrives in every Black person who refuses to wait their turn and every leader who prioritizes people over politics. I can tell you as chair emerita of the Congressional Black Caucus, the body that she co-founded with 12 other Black men, I stand on her shoulders. The Congressional Black Caucus stands on her shoulders. I might go as far as saying America stands on her shoulders.

Little girls come and tour the United States Capitol, and they see that painting, the same painting, Mr. Speaker, that, on the day I was sworn in on this floor, I went to and touched the frame and said the two most powerful words we can say: Thank you, Shirley Chisholm.

Now I stand here in this room, in this Chamber, where Shirley Chisholm stood. I am so proud, as we heard my colleague, BARBARA LEE, say, yes, she was a proud member of our beloved sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Today, I serve with eight Black women who are members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, many of them in this Chamber right now.

I leave us with her words, and whether this Nation acknowledges her words, they stand strong with not just us as Black women, but White and Brown women; stand with little girls who she told: If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair.

The significance of that is so valuable because it is talking about how we have been denied to be at that table. If you are not in the room, you don't have a voice. Shirley Chisholm gave us that voice.

Mr. Speaker, today, I thank my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus for allowing us to be in her chambers, stand in her footsteps, and make a commitment and a pledge that we will always have a seat at the table because we will bring a chair.

I thank my colleagues for holding this Special Order hour.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman

from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN).

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues from the Congressional Black Caucus for taking this time to acknowledge this champion.

Today, I rise in recognition of the late Shirley Chisholm, who was born 100 years ago last Wednesday. A child of immigrants raised in Brooklyn, Shirley Chisholm would go on to become the first Black woman elected to Congress and the first woman ever to seek the nomination for President from either major American political party.

The values she championed throughout her career still serve as noble guiding principles for us all today. She ran unequivocally, unashamedly, and unreservedly on antipoverty, antiwar, and antiracist platforms. She spoke plainly, forcefully, and with a moral clarity that cut through the smoke-filled rooms where men made deals for us on behalf of themselves.

Now maybe more than ever, our country is in need of the strength of a Shirley Chisholm. As I close, I will say everyone has a Shirley Chisholm story, and I thank God I have one, too.

I spent the day with her talking about the building of the Congressional Caucus on Black Women. She asked me—no. She said to me: BONNIE, I need you down here in D.C. to work with us on the national level. Little did we know what God has prepared for you.

I am because she was. I am grateful to God.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. BROWN).

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for pulling the CBC together for this Special Order hour along with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON).

I am honored to join my CBC colleagues in recognition of the 100th birthday of the great Shirley Chisholm here in the House Chamber.

It is so appropriate that we are here because this is one of the places where Shirley made history. On January 3, 1969, she was the first Black woman to walk into this Chamber as a Member of Congress. That was the 91st Congress of the United States, meaning that the first 90 Congresses, dating back to 1789, had not featured a Black woman.

Of course, most Congresses had not featured many women or many Black Representatives at all. In fact, the same day that Congresswoman Chisholm was sworn in, my predecessor, representing northeast Ohio, the Honorable Louis Stokes, another founding member of the CBC, also took office, being the first Black Member of Congress from Ohio after 166 years of statehood.

That is why I have so much pride when I look at my colleagues because we are here now, and it started with Shirley Chisholm.

Shirley Chisholm served, legislated, and lived like she was making up for

lost time, making up for all the times that people like her had been shut out of the conversation or left out of the room. That is why her legacy is so strong today.

She wasn't just a first. She wasn't just a historical footnote. She was a fighter. Shirley Chisholm was someone who came here on day one and demanded to be heard and demanded that her constituents be heard. She fought, unbought and unbossed, for the nutrition benefits, for people in need, for childcare, for universal healthcare, and for justice for Black women and Black Americans and all people in this country.

These fights are not over. As we head into a new Congress next year along with a new President, it is clear that many of these same battles will be fought anew.

Therefore, as we celebrate Congresswoman Chisholm's 100th birthday, let us all draw strength from her example and the courage to carry on her legacy.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE).

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Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I give thanks and appreciation to the gentlewoman from Florida for holding it down during this Special Order hour for the CBC, and I thank the gentleman from Illinois for doing the same.

Mr. Speaker, today, we stand on the shoulders of a giant, a giant who stood just 5 feet 3 inches tall but had the power to shake the Nation.

Shirley Chisholm wasn't just the first Black woman elected to Congress. She was a force of nature who shattered barriers and dared anyone to stop her. Spoiler alert: They couldn't.

In a world that told her no at every turn, Shirley said: Watch me. Watch me.

She ran for Congress. She won. She became the first Black woman to serve in this very body, a body that, let's be clear, wasn't exactly rolling out the red carpet and still kind of doesn't.

Did that stop her? Absolutely not. She showed up, took her seat, and if there wasn't a seat, Shirley brought her own folding chair, slammed it down, and said: Let's get to work.

She made history. Along the way, she didn't just break the rules; she rewrote them. She fought for civil rights, women's rights, and economic justice. She did it all without ever compromising who she was or in what she believed.

Shirley didn't come to Congress to blend in. She came to lead, to challenge, and to remind the world that power belongs to those bold enough to claim it.

And lead she did, fearlessly, unapologetically, and always with her eyes on a better and more just future.

Her campaign slogan, Unbought and Unbossed, wasn't just a catchy phrase; it was her truth. In a world that told her to "wait your turn," she declared: My turn is right now.

When she ran for President, she didn't just run to win. She ran to pave the way for the rest of us. Her courage made it possible for people like me, for people like all of us in CBC, to serve. Her voice ensured that our voices would one day be heard. Her fierce advocacy for women, Black Americans, and the marginalized taught us a vital lesson: If they won't give you power, you take it.

In my office, where her portrait graces the walls, I am reminded daily that it is not enough to be in the room. You must shake it. You must demand justice. Most importantly, you must never let anyone tell you to wait your turn.

As Shirley said: If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair.

I thank Madam Shirley Chisholm. We got our chairs, and we are just getting started.

Many of the women here shared their story. I don't have a story because I am too young, but I will tell you, in my home, Shirley Chisholm was a legend. To be in the same Chamber where she stood, where she fought, where she won, where she declared that we deserve to be here, it is an awesome experience and feeling every single time we are here to know we have shared the same space with the great, the legendary, the most powerful, Shirley Chisholm.

It is why her photos are on all of my walls in the office because I want everyone, when they come to see me, I want them also to see her.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Shirley Chisholm for her honor, and we carry her legacy forward: Unbought, unbossed, and unstoppable.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. MCCLELLAN).

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the incredible life and legacy of Shirley Chisholm, whose 100th birthday we celebrated over the weekend.

Unbought and unbossed, Shirley was the first Black woman to serve in this body, a body that was not built for her. She swore an oath to support and defend the U.S. Constitution, a document that did not include her in we the people.

In the year of my birth, she became the first Black woman to run for President of the United States. Her bravery and determination broke barriers and paved the way for so many Black women in politics, including myself, saying: "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair."

As the first Black woman elected to represent the Commonwealth of Virginia, elected 55 years after her historic election, I stand on her shoulders.

Sometimes, sitting in my office, I look at her portrait that is also on my wall and reflect on the fact that, in many ways, I and the other 31 Black Members of Congress today are fighting many of the same fights that she fought. She had to fight them alone.

We fight to include women in the Constitution through the equal rights amendment still today. We fight to feed the hungry through the SNAP program still today. We fight to extend worker protections that most people take for granted, like minimum wage for domestic workers, still today. We fight those fights from a position of more power than she could have dreamed of because of her.

She left us a legacy to build on. Today, the entire Congressional Black Caucus, but especially the 32 women, are grateful to Shirley Chisholm for her incredible service and countless contributions to our Nation.

We will continue to build on the progress and momentum that Shirley created until we no longer have to bring a folding chair, but the table is big enough to include everyone touched by the policies we adopt in this body.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Mrs. LEE CARTER), who is the daughter of Sheila Jackson Lee, for the first time.

Mrs. LEE CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the incredible legacy of an iconic American trailblazer and a tireless advocate for justice, the Honorable Shirley Anita Chisholm.

I thank the gentlewoman from Florida, the gentleman from Illinois, and, of course, the members of the Congressional Black Caucus for hosting this Special Order hour in honor of this indelible and phenomenal woman, one of many firsts.

I am so proud of Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, who shattered barriers when she became the first Black woman elected to the United States Congress in 1968. Her historic election wasn't just a victory for her district. It was a victory for all of us, and I stand here with humility, thinking that I am walking and standing in the same Chamber in which she stood.

It was a powerful affirmation that the Halls of the most powerful democracy should belong to everyone regardless of race, gender, or background. She forged new pathways for Black women like me, my daughter, and all those who came after her. She set a tone in politics demanding inclusivity and diversity by unapologetically challenging systemic racism, sexism, and corruption.

During her seven impactful terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, she championed causes often overlooked by standing up for marginalized communities, women, children, and the working class.

In 1972, when she broke yet another barrier, becoming the first Black woman to seek the Presidential nomination of a major political party, her bold and visionary candidacy challenged the status quo and redefined what leadership in America could look like.

She was an incredible inspiration to my late mother, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, and she was one of her

most revered heroes. She spoke of her often.

Much like Chisholm, Congresswoman Jackson Lee worked tirelessly for the people, advocating for her district's most pressing issues, from education to healthcare, affordable housing, and job creation.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud and look forward to supporting and voting for the Shirley Chisholm Congressional Gold Medal Act, which will honor her trailblazing career and outstanding contributions to our Nation and, might I say, our world.

When asked about her own legacy, Chisholm once stated, "I want to be remembered as a woman . . . who dared to be a catalyst for change."

Indeed, she was what she dared so boldly to be, and we are grateful to her for that.

Today, I thank her for her courage, her strength, her resilience, and her steadfast commitment to justice and fairness.

As a mother, former educator, and now Congresswoman myself, standing in the very Halls she hailed, I give special thanks to her for always standing up and speaking up for the power that we all possess.

Let us celebrate and honor her legacy by recommitting ourselves to be catalysts for change, not only in our communities, but in this hallowed Chamber and across our Nation.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Florida has 16 minutes remaining.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in continuance of honoring the life and legacy of Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, I wish to highlight her unflinching devotion to the American people.

No matter how daunting it was or had seemed to onlookers to be the first and only Black woman in Congress, Congresswoman Chisholm rightfully earned the nickname "Fighting Shirley" for her determination in empowering underserved communities.

She fought hard and fast for the least represented in the United States, introduced over 50 pieces of legislation geared toward reviving her constituents and the Nation's, and relieving them of injustice.

She was regarded as being deeply in touch with the Nation as she advocated for policies that uplifted citizens out of poverty and empowered them through job training and education. She advocated for our veterans and introduced legislation to increase their benefits so that those who served our country would not suffer from inflation.

Her determination to create a nation where every American could succeed lives through us all. Let us continue to honor her legacy by continuing the fight to deliver justice for the American people.

It is my honor to be here today serving in the CBC. Because of Shirley Chisholm we women are here today. The CBC has over 31 women who are in Congress today, increasing in the next Congress. We are here today, each one of us, holding a piece of Shirley Chisholm, hoping to actually fulfill her dream of one day pushing this Nation forward, where all of our children and the American people can live together in a city and in every nation where we have equality, justice, and a clear education for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON), my co-chair.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congresswoman from the great State of Florida for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the Honorable JOHN JAMES of the great State of Michigan, it is my privilege and pleasure to stand before you today to speak on behalf of the Honorable Shirley Chisholm, a woman who has come from such depths to such heights that everyone should be reminded of her greatness and the trail that she had to blaze. She had no path to find. She had to, indeed, blaze a trail.

If you think about it, since 1789 to 1969, after 180 years, it was the first time an African-American woman was able to be called a Representative.

African-American women have been at the bedrock, the foundation, of this Nation and oftentimes had gone without recognition. Think about the indignities that women have experienced in the past and in the present.

We are still fighting the same fights for dignity, for a woman to have rights over her body.

Now, the corridors are filled with so many men who have had transgressions against women. I thought those fights were behind us, but we are still fighting for a woman to be believed in these same corridors.

Think about it. It wasn't until 1993 that female Senators actually had a place to give their bodies comfort because there was no restroom off of the Senate floor. We have come a long way, but we have so much further to go.

It was only in 2011, not that long ago, that they finally built restrooms off of this House floor on the second floor so that women could relieve their bodies.

We have a very long way to go to understanding the issues that they face, the believability that they should be given the assumption of, as now people are seeking nomination and are still being hurled with these accusations because they won't give women a fair voice.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for the lovely legacy of the Honorable Shirley Chisholm. If you can imagine, being born in 1924 at the height of lynching in the United States of America, but something did not put out that burning fire inside of her soul that she would have the audacity, the unmitigated gall, to want to be President of these United States, to know that she, in-

deed, could serve. From that was a spark that could not be quenched out, a flame that has lit so many other women. I say thank God for her.

As we commemorate, as we hold aside a special time to remember a woman who was a trailblazer, let's remember that she didn't follow a path. There was no path for her to follow. She has since laid a path so that so many others could matriculate and ascend to the height of their full potential.

It is at this time, Mr. Speaker, the Honorable Congressman JOHN JAMES, that I will turn this back over to my colleague, the Honorable SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, from the great State of Florida.

□ 2015

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank JONATHAN JACKSON for that passionate speech.

Mr. Speaker, today we recognize Shirley Chisholm's tireless commitment to justice and equal opportunity.

During her time in office, Congresswoman Chisholm consistently fought against racial discrimination and systemic inequalities endured by all African Americans. She was a vocal supporter of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Fair Housing Act of 1968, working to create an America where everyone could thrive regardless of race.

She was a trailblazer who fought for the inclusion of women and African Americans in positions of power. Her election to Congress inspired generations of Black women, showing them that they, too, could hold public office.

Shirley Chisholm has a special place in my heart, being a Caribbean woman born in Brooklyn, raised in Queens, and later moved to Florida. Seeing her do that inspired all women to know that was possible. Today in Congress, we proudly stand 31 strong Black women, and we are about to welcome the highest number of Black women in history for the 119th Congress.

Congresswoman Chisholm advocated for economic opportunities for marginalized communities, believing economic mobility was key for empowering African Americans and building a strong America. Her tireless commitment to underserved communities is still inspiring today.

As we honor Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, we must continue to uphold her values and strive to create the America she envisioned.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to add another dimension to this discussion regarding Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm. Her parents were from the Caribbean. Her father was from Guyana and her mother was from Barbados. Congresswoman Chisholm grew up in Barbados, even though she was born in New York.

She had a very profound world view. She understood we all were connected to each other. Very recently, in honor

of her 100th birthday, for the very first time an American’s portrait was unveiled in the Parliament of Barbados. This is a significant historical fact for all of us to remember.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman again for giving us a chance to lift her spirit up tonight. I wish a happy heavenly 100th birthday to Shirley Chisholm.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, before we close, I once again recognize BARBARA LEE for all her hard work in Congress. It is so fitting that we celebrate 100 years of Shirley Chisholm and have BARBARA LEE with us. She will be sorely missed. I know Shirley Chisholm is looking down right now and is so proud of BARBARA.

Because of BARBARA LEE and her mentorship, we have a sisterhood in Congress with the CBC women, a sisterhood, a bond that can’t be broken. I thank BARBARA LEE for her mentorship, her sisterhood, for everything she has done.

I can’t help but think that Shirley Chisholm is looking down at all of us and saying how proud she is that we have gotten here. We have a lot of work to do. What she started has to be finished, I hope by our generation, by working together and all of us recognizing her hard work on both sides.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard from my distinguished colleagues about Ms. Shirley Chisholm, all issues of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, our constituents, Congress, and all Americans.

I yield back the balance of my time.

SETTING STUDENTS UP FOR CAREER SUCCESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, for decades, Americans have been sold the line that

a college degree is a prerequisite to success and economic mobility. This can be discouraging to the vast majority of the American workforce without a baccalaureate degree.

However, study after study shows that this narrative no longer holds true. In the face of rising college costs, a new model for stability and success is available. It celebrates hands-on job experience.

A new study of 65 million American wage earners by The Burning Glass Institute, an independent nonprofit research center, found that by the age of 40, one in five workers with only a high school diploma earned above the median income for college graduates—\$70,000—without the drag-down effect of a college degree.

Even more impressive is the nonprofit’s finding that 5 percent of them, a cool 2 million Americans, earned six-figure salaries.

How did they get started on these successful careers?

One factor is what Burning Glass calls launchpad jobs. These jobs give high school students and graduates real-world, wage-earning experience that develop skills they can build careers upon. The jobs are widely varied: telemarketer, computer support specialist, software developer, flight attendant, commercial diver, and quarry rock splitter. They all offer this new route to success.

A recent New York Times article profiled two young people whose success is indicative of the value of these launchpad jobs.

One young man worked a summer internship at a local bank the summer after his high school graduation. This earned him a place as a full-time bank teller and soon a loan officer. Now, at the age of 21, he earns \$50,000 a year—with no college debt, mind you.

These launchpad jobs are not anti-theoretical to college, either. That 21-year-old bank teller is currently getting his bachelor of arts while working as a loan officer. His job is helping him build the life he wants.

One huge problem with college is that it pushes young people to study and choose a major when they have no real-world experience that would guide their choice of what and how to study. These launchpad jobs can address this obstacle.

A young woman who participated in a career learning program in her junior year in high school received experience that qualified her for a job at a local pharmacy during her senior year. When she graduated high school, she had a high-earning job that she used to put herself through undergraduate school and beyond, ultimately earning a doctorate in a field she knew from first-hand experience she loved and was good at.

At 28 years old, she now earns \$100,000 a year as a pharmacy operations manager at a teaching hospital. She credits her success to so-called launchpad programs. She said: I never would have known of the opportunity without the work-study program.

If we want to strengthen the American workforce and help young wage earners achieve economic stability and success, we need to stop shunting them into an education model that saddles them with debt and delays their real-world experience. Instead, we need to empower programs that offer high school students experiences that help develop real skills and launch young Americans into successful careers.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o’clock and 24 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the third and fourth quarters of 2024, pursuant to Public Law 95–384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JOHN NOH, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 4 AND OCT. 12, 2024

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
John Noh	10/04	10/12	FSM, RMI		347.00		9,051.01		819.90		10,217.91
Committee total					347.00		9,051.01		819.90		10,217.91

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.