

and in recognition of Dominican economic contributions to the United States of America.

Dominicans have more than tripled in population since the 1990s to represent a population of a total of 2.4 million people in the United States, the fourth largest population of Latinos in these United States.

Our contribution to this great Nation grows even stronger every day.

Just 2 weeks ago, we also had Dominicans on the Hill, where thousands of Dominican Americans joined us here to bring forward their message for recovery for our Nation.

Madam Speaker, finally, we will hear a lot about the border this week. We must remember that the border solution lies not just on border safety. We recognize that there must be greater border safety, particularly at the points of entry, where most of the fentanyl comes through in trucks and other vehicles.

□ 1130

However, we must also make sure that we don't gut our asylum system. We need to make sure America continues to be a beacon of hope and an opportunity for people that are persecuted all over the world.

It must be a balanced approach with four underpinnings: one, of course, border security measures to make our southern border stronger; two, one that acknowledges the root causes of migration in the hemisphere; three, one that also acknowledges the economic needs of our Nation for immigrants, such as farmworkers and work permits; and, finally, sensible, comprehensive immigration reform for Dreamers, TPS recipients, and family reunification.

Madam Speaker, I finalize by saying that we do have a bipartisan piece of legislation supported by Republicans and Democrats. It is called the Dignity Act, and it has these four very important underpinnings: greater border security, an acknowledgement of the root causes of migration, the economics, and comprehensive immigration reform.

#### HONORING THREE AFRICAN-AMERICAN TRAILBLAZERS FROM OHIO'S NINTH DISTRICT

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in observance of Black History Month to recognize three African-American trailblazers who called Ohio's Ninth District their home.

These Ohioans overcame systemic barriers, inspiring others to strive for equality and justice for all, and helped our region develop new horizons for the Nation. Their unwavering dedication to uplift their communities serves as a beacon of hope.

They remind us of the importance of celebrating "e pluribus unum," "out of many, one" that defines the valued

variants of a common humanity, the United States of America. There is no other Nation in the world like us.

By honoring the legacies of those who paved the way for progress, we remember these individuals for their historic firsts that broke down barriers for future generations; not just of Ohioans but for all of America.

Art Tatum's story is a testament to the power of music and the arts to lift the human spirit. Despite being visually impaired, he possessed an extraordinary gift for music that would propel him to legendary status in the world of jazz.

Born in Toledo, Ohio, in 1909, Tatum's journey began with a passion for the piano. Entirely self-taught by the age of 19, he was already making waves in the jazz world, captivating audiences with his unparalleled virtuosity.

His performance in venues across northwest Ohio attracted the attention of fellow musicians, and Tatum's playing style was characterized by its astonishing speed, precision, and complexity. His mastery of the piano pushed the boundaries of what was thought possible in technique and expression. The smallest perceptible time unit in music, which is called the tatum, is named after him to commemorate his achievement.

His influence extended far beyond the confines of jazz, shaping the very language of music itself in the character of our country. His name has become synonymous with excellence in jazz piano, and his impact on the genre continues to inspire future generations of musicians.

Linda Jefferson, her journey as a trailblazer in women's sports is not only remarkable, but also deeply intertwined with the history of northwest Ohio. Her early involvement in sports showcased her natural talent and dedication as well as her passion for competition.

However, it was her decision to join the Toledo Troopers, a professional women's football team, that propelled her into the spotlight. Responding to an advertisement in her hometown newspaper, the Toledo Blade, Linda seized the opportunity to become a part of something groundbreaking: professional women's football.

The Toledo Troopers, with Linda among their ranks, became dominant throughout the 1970s. Their unparalleled success not only brought glory to Toledo, but also shattered stereotypes about women in sports.

In 1975, Jefferson's exceptional achievements were honored when she graced the cover of womenSports magazine as Woman Athlete of the Year, a well-deserved recognition of her talent and dedication. Her legacy extends far beyond her accomplishments on the field, leaving an indelible mark on the history of Toledo and the world of women in sports as a whole.

Finally, Tony L. Bonner, his journey from his childhood in Sandusky, Ohio,

to a trailblazing figure in the city's civil service and as a community activist is remarkable.

Foreshadowing his commitment that would later extend to his local community, his decision to join the Air Force reflects his sense of duty and country over self.

Returning to Sandusky after his military service, Bonner became the city's first Black firefighter in 1971. In this role, he not only served his community in times of emergency but took on the responsibility of fostering diversity within the fire department as its recruitment coordinator.

Apart from his professional endeavor, he was deeply engaged in the social fabric of Sandusky as treasurer of the local NAACP, helping to advocate for marginalized communities.

In essence, Tony L. Bonner's contribution transcends the realm of firefighting and community activism, symbolizing a lifelong devotion to service, equality, and empowerment.

As Black History Month draws to a close, it is important to celebrate the path-breaking individuals who have made significant impacts on our communities from coast to coast. They faced discrimination and they rose above that. They made and built a better Nation.

Ohio's Ninth District proudly celebrates and acknowledges Mr. Tatum, Ms. Jefferson, and Mr. Bonner as historymakers for America who call our district home.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 36 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, You have set an awareness of eternity in our hearts that we would spend our days longing to be forever united with You. Hear, then our deep desire to appreciate what is beyond our human capacity to understand and to strive to live into Your perfect will. May we grasp that what we experience this day is but a speck in the vastness of Your eternity.

Teach us to number our days that we may live wisely and well. On this extra day, may the added wisdom we gain enrich our hearts and remind us to honor each moment You give us.

Grant us the strength to be careful how we live, not wasting our time on useless work, the barren pursuit of busyness, but may we make the most of every opportunity and the best of this bonus day.

In Your eternal name, we pray.  
Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. LESKO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### HONORING PAUL ELMSTRAND

(Mr. EMMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Paul Elmstrand.

Paul, an officer with the Burnsville Police Department, was killed earlier this month in the line of duty alongside Officer Matthew Ruge and firefighter-paramedic Adam Finseth.

Paul lived in Chaska, but his story began in Isanti County. As senior class president and a member of the law enforcement club, he impressed his classmates with his strong character of ethical integrity, his generosity, and his sense of humor.

Among those classmates was his wife, Cindy, who he met in kindergarten and began dating in high school. Together, they shared two children, a 2-year-old and a 5-month-old.

At 27 years old, his life was cut tragically short. Paul, Matthew, and Adam were killed trying to save seven children barricaded in a Burnsville home with an armed man, an act of heroism and sacrifice beyond measure.

We were privileged to have Paul as a member of our community and as a neighbor and a friend. To Cindy and his children and all who loved him, Paul will never be forgotten, nor will Matthew or Adam.

### END HUNGER NOW

(Mr. McGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, as we work on fiscal year 2024 appropriation bills, I rise to highlight Federal investments that are improving food security in my home State of Massachusetts.

This month, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources distributed over \$7 million in Federal funding to local anti-hunger programs like Growing Places in Leominster, the Amherst and Northampton Survival Centers, and Grow Food Northampton.

As a part of this distribution, MDAR is awarding additional State-funded grants to organizations like Together We Eat in my hometown of Worcester to teach kids how to grow food using repurposed shipping containers, and to Just Roots, an incredible nonprofit community farm in Greenfield.

I am grateful to the Healey-Driscoll Administration, Agriculture Commissioner Randle, and Deputy Commissioner Pitcoff for prioritizing food security in the Bay State.

I am proud to advocate for robust funding for these grant programs, which are an example of how leveraging Federal and State dollars can support innovative work to improve food security.

I urge my colleagues to join me so that we can continue fighting to end hunger now.

### STUDENT LOAN BAILOUT

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, last summer, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled against President Biden's student loan handout plan, totaling more than \$400 billion.

The High Court determined that taking on that kind of debt, spending that much money, must be approved by Congress.

Despite this, we have seen the administration abuse whatever regulatory lever it can find, every executive action they can think up, to do it anyway.

Unfortunately, it is working. In recent months, tens of billions of dollars in borrowed money are no longer due for payment.

Let's be clear. Student loan debt can't be forgiven. It is simply being transferred to the American taxpayers, regardless of whether they went to college themselves or if they did the right thing and paid their own debt off.

I urge the White House to end this cycle of adding billions to our debt with the stroke of a pen. We are already an unprecedented \$34.2 trillion in the hole.

### ENSURING HEALTHCARE RIGHTS OF WOMEN

(Ms. BARRAGÁN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, while they once again push us to the brink of a government shutdown, extreme MAGA Republicans are attacking our freedoms and pushing to ban in vitro fertilization, or IVF.

We have seen the devastating consequences of the Republican march toward a nationwide abortion ban on display in Alabama where extreme Republican-appointed judges have issued a ruling that prevents women from accessing IVF.

House Democrats believe women and their families should be allowed to make these personal decisions about when to have children.

Republicans claim to support IVF, but Americans should look at their actions, not their words. Led by Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, most House Republicans are sponsoring a bill that would threaten IVF nationwide and criminalize reproductive healthcare for women.

Republicans have appointed judges to overturn reproductive freedoms for women. This week, Senate Republicans blocked a bill that would protect IVF nationwide.

House Democrats are united to ensure that women, not politicians, can make their own reproductive healthcare decisions.

### BIDEN BORDER CRISIS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, since Biden took office, over 10 million illegal aliens have entered America with over 340 on the terrorist watch list. Dangerously, this includes thousands of military-age young men from dictatorships.

Last month, I joined Speaker MIKE JOHNSON at Eagle Pass, Texas, and witnessed the madness. It is intentional irresponsibility thinking potential mass murderers will be low-information voters for a permanent one-party Democrat Big Government as criminals murder more Americans across our streets. Biden continues falsely to blame others, but he has the ability to protect American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism moves from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

We do not need new border laws. We need to enforce the existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as warned by the FBI.

I point out that war criminal Putin will face trial for the assassination of Alexei Navalny. His widow, Yulia, is a hero for the oppressed people of Russia.