

Mr. Speaker, on my behalf and that of a grateful constituency and a grateful Nation, I thank Rocky Deal.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN LOUIS STOKES

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

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Congressman Louis Stokes as we approach what would have been his 100th birthday.

Born on February 23, 1925, in Cleveland, Ohio, Louis Stokes rose from humble beginnings to become a giant in the fight for civil rights and a champion for the underserved. Along with his brother, Cleveland Mayor Carl Stokes, he made history and made a difference for northeast Ohio.

His story is one of perseverance, service, and an unshakable belief in the promise of this Nation. A veteran of the United States Army and an attorney who argued landmark cases before the Supreme Court and a lifelong voice for the voiceless, Congressman Stokes' path was paved with courage and conviction, diligence, and determination, and a deep and abiding commitment to justice.

In 1968, he became the first Black Representative for Ohio, bringing much-needed representation to this Chamber. During his 15 terms in the House, Congressman Stokes advocated for the poor, fought for civil rights, and supported our servicemembers and ensured that communities, like my district in Cleveland, received the resources and representation they deserve.

As 1 of 13 founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus, he helped advance civil and human rights and promote economic empowerment. Today, the CBC has grown to a historic 62 members because of the work of Louis Stokes, Shirley Chisholm, and their generation.

His legacy lives on through the laws he championed and the institutions that bear his name, from the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center and the Louis Stokes Health Sciences Library at Howard University, to the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation in STEM.

Yet, what resonates most with me, and with so many in our district, is his humanity. He never forgot where he came from, nor did he ever lose sight of who he served.

Throughout his life, he carried with him a deep sense of purpose and a steadfast belief in the power of government to do good.

I am humbled to serve in the district, Ohio's 11th Congressional District, that Congressman Stokes called home.

Mr. Speaker, I hope to honor his legacy by striving to be worthy of the standard he set. As we reflect on his life, let us commit ourselves to the ideals he held dear and the people he so passionately served.

Mr. Speaker, on his centennial, I thank Congressman Stokes. His life and contributions were a gift to our district, our State, and our Nation.

HONORING THE SIX TRIPLE EIGHT

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, during Black History Month and throughout the year, it is important that we honor the legacies of those that came before us.

Today, I rise to reflect on a remarkable story that hits close to home. I recently learned that a late resident of northeast Ohio, Alma Gladys Minter, served as a tech sergeant in the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion.

Ms. Minter was part of a legacy that demonstrated the strength, resilience, and determination of African-American women. The Six Triple Eight was the first and only all-Black Women's Army Corps unit to serve overseas during World War II.

In February 1945, nearly 850 women were assigned to a vital task: ensuring letters continued to flow between soldiers on the front lines and their families back home. Their assignment was daunting, clearing a backlog of over 17 million pieces of mail in Europe.

In less than 90 days, they completed this Herculean task in half the time expected by the Army. The women of the Six Triple Eight endured freezing warehouses, relentless schedules, and the twin enemies of racism and sexism. Their motto was: "No mail, low morale," which speaks to the importance of their work.

However, in a stark injustice, their hard work was not formally recognized after the war. They didn't join in the victory day parade, and their story was not told in mainstream accounts.

However, Ms. Minter's family in Ohio knew her story, as did the families of the communities that were home to the Six Triple Eight veterans in the decades that followed.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, I was deeply honored to vote for legislation awarding the Six Triple Eight the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor bestowed by this body. It was a long overdue recognition for their extraordinary contributions.

The Six Triple Eight Gold Medal has been minted. In the months to come, it will be formally presented, forever serving as a reminder of the heroes like Ms. Minter who stepped up when our country needed them most.

The story of Ms. Minter and the Six Triple Eight is one of service, resilience, and the pursuit of justice. Their story is part of not just Black history but American history. To Ms. Minter and all the women of the Six Triple Eight, we say a long overdue thank you. Their service will not be forgotten, and their legacy will continue to shine brightly for generations to come.

HONORING MARCH FOR LIFE

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

Mr. MCGUIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the March for Life. Life is a miracle, and it must be protected. I have this small camouflage backpack I have carried in the general assembly for 7 years and now in Congress with a small baby sock to remind us of our most vulnerable.

This week I was proud to cosponsor the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, legislation that continues House Republicans' theme of common-sense measures for the 119th Congress. This bill requires that healthcare providers treat babies born alive following an abortion or attempted abortion with compassion and dignity.

I encourage all of my colleagues across the aisle to vote for life in favor of this legislation. As thousands of people come to our Nation's Capital and rally to support the right for life, I would like everyone to take a moment and remember the millions of unborn feet this small sock could have warmed.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. MCGUIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. It can happen anywhere, and it can impact anyone, regardless of race, religion, or creed.

During my time in the Virginia General Assembly, I have fought on the legislative front lines to stiffen felony penalties for human traffickers. Now as a Member of Congress, I am going to continue the fight, and I encourage everyone to help raise awareness so we can save lives.

Whether it is learning more about the telltale signs of human trafficking or reaching out to your local authorities to learn about their efforts, if you see something, say something. Do something.

I encourage everyone to do their homework. Learn more about human trafficking, and join the fight to protect the vulnerable.

LOWERING COSTS FOR AMERICANS

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, eggs in my district are \$9.19 or, as one resident said, it is ten bucks to buy eggs, RASHIDA.

I want everyone to think about this because the Federal minimum wage is \$7.25 right now. We know grocery prices are out of control, and our government is failing to lower costs for working families. This is why my residents don't call it the minimum wage. They call it the starvation wage. It has been 16 years since Congress has raised the Federal minimum wage.

Let's get to the core value here of understanding this. A mother in our country right now can work for an hour and not be able to afford eggs. It is really unacceptable. I heard the reasons, but they still don't add up. It is

unacceptable that billionaires and corporations are consolidating their power and price gouging the American people, our families.

This crisis should be our focus. I understand that there are many dynamics that they keep putting forward. Why aren't we doing anything about it? Fear and division keep us distracted from what is really going on. Those that are rich and wealthy in our country become richer under every single decision I have seen so far.

One glaring thing missing in the 200 executive orders that we have seen this week is any mention of lowering the grocery prices for our families, not one word. We know there have been promises made by this current administration that they are going to lower costs for Americans on day one. Three weeks into the new Congress, we haven't seen a single bill come to the floor on this issue.

In my district they are drowning in the high costs of healthcare. Don't get me started about auto insurance, which is now up 40 percent, many paying almost the cost of rent, the cost of their mortgage to have auto insurance which is required by law to have if a person owns a vehicle.

Instead, we are seeing threats of tariffs that will drive grocery prices higher. Instead, we see them getting rid of protections for discriminatory actions by companies, by actors that we know fully intended to benefit from racist policies.

I know that this doesn't matter to the current President and his billionaire friends. They don't worry about the cost of a carton of eggs or milk or groceries, especially when the three wealthiest men in America are sitting right behind the current President at his inauguration. Their combined worth, so that the American people understand, is \$911 billion.

It is clear that the billionaires now control our government, and this Chamber can't let that happen. We need legislative action to lower the cost of living for the American people. Trust me that this is a bipartisan issue. Every corner of our country is asking us to do something about this.

These are issues that, again, matter to many, many families. That is why my residents care about it so much. Stop with the fear-mongering and the hate. I know you are distracting us because you are helping your billionaire friends, but you are hurting so many American people who are drowning right now with the cost of living.

EMBRACING IMMIGRANTS

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, immigrants in our country are already under attack, especially our undocumented neighbors. These are hateful and divisive executive orders and a violent assault on our communities and our country. Our very identity, as we all know, is a nation of immigrants.

I wouldn't be here as a child of immigrants. My father, with only a fourth grade education, was able to work in

the auto plant line. My mother only had an eighth grade education. They were able to achieve the American Dream to see their daughter become a United States Congresswoman.

What are we doing instead of embracing that identity? We are punishing sanctuary cities that embrace our immigrant neighbors. We are dismantling asylums and humanitarian paroles. We are dehumanizing our immigrant neighbors. We are banning all refugees, even those who waited patiently for years, who followed the law, had flights booked, already cleared, and were denied entry.

We are already laying the groundwork. He is already doing it for the Muslim ban, many of our neighbors, myself, my family, all of us. Even though it is not directly targeted toward us, attacking a whole faith is un-American. Sending ICE to schools, hospitals, and churches is hateful and divisive.

He is even trying to override the 14th Amendment of the Constitution to end birthright citizenship. It is clear from my residents and folks around the country there is absolutely no doubt if you are born in the United States, you are a U.S. citizen. The President does not have the authority to change that, period.

We must fight back to prevent these policies rooted in racism and white nationalism. That means opposing plans for mass deportation. Our families must protect each other. It has nothing to do with public safety. They want us distracted so they can help their billionaire friends become richer.

That means opposing his plans for mass deportation. It means showing up to defend our friends, coworkers, and neighbors when they raid our communities.

It means my colleagues must stop voting to pass racist and authoritarian legislation that expands deportations and paints our immigrant neighbors as violent criminals.

Trump's executive orders call immigrants coming to our country seeking a better life an "invasion." The only invasion we face is ICE coming into our communities to sow chaos, racially profile our neighbors, and tear our families apart.

This has nothing to do with public safety, it is about stoking fear and hate because they want to distract us from what is really happening.

Making the wealthy class richer.

Corporations are already celebrating.

Meant to keep us silent as this administration goes after every single marginalized group in our country.

Now is the time to resist this fearmongering, to stand with our immigrant neighbors and make it clear that our communities are stronger than those that hate us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President and Vice President.

ACCESSING MILK AS A VITAL PART OF SCHOOL NUTRITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a critical gap in school nutrition affecting students across this great Nation.

Today, I will introduce the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act, a much-needed win for students, parents, schools, and dairy farmers across America.

This bipartisan legislation expands milk options in school milk programs to include whole and 2 percent milk. It addresses a critical gap in child nutrition. We all know that milk is an essential source of 13 vital nutrients, including several underconsumed nutrients such as calcium, vitamin D, and potassium. These are foundational for building strong bones, maintaining healthy blood pressure, and supporting overall development.

However, in order for kids to benefit from these nutrients, they need to actually consume the milk. As we all know, kids deserve options and choice when it comes to choosing milk at lunchtime. Unfortunately, thanks to a flawed Federal policy based on outdated science, since 2012 schools have been prohibited from serving whole or reduced fat milk in school lunchrooms.

We all know whole milk tastes the best because it is the best. It is long overdue that kids in our Nation's schools have access to the most naturally nutritious beverage available to them. According to the dietary guidelines for Americans, nearly 90 percent of Americans including our children fail to meet their daily dairy intake recommendations.

Thanks to the Federal ban on whole milk, we have lost an entire generation of milk drinkers. Along with them, hardworking dairy farmers across this country have suffered. When students are presented with limited, unpopular milk options, they drink less milk and are more likely to turn to sugary, caffeinated alternatives that offer little nutritional value.

Research has repeatedly shown that whole and 2 percent milk are not only not responsible for childhood obesity, but several studies show that children who consume whole milk are less likely to experience obesity and have healthier levels of body fat. Since whole milk was banned from school lunches, body mass index scores, rates of obesity, and the prevalence of diabetes among young people have increased significantly. According to one case study, childhood obesity rates climbed 13 percentage points between 2008 and 2020.

Clearly, whole milk was not the problem when it came to childhood obesity. Emerging science supports what many parents already know. Whole milk is a nutritious and satisfying option for their children. Whole milk for healthy kids doesn't mandate schools to serve whole milk or for any student to drink milk but, rather, gives them the flexibility to meet the preferences and nutritional needs of their students.