

I celebrate not only General Hansen's 92nd birthday but also his enduring legacy of patriotism and exemplary service that continues to inspire our Nation.

I thank him and wish him a happy birthday.

#### WELCOMING HOME EDAN ALEXANDER

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

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the safe return of New Jersey native Edan Alexander. This was a moment of profound relief and gratitude for his family, our community, and our Nation.

My constituent Edan Alexander, from Tenafly, New Jersey, is an all-American kid who graduated from Tenafly High School and swam on the swim team. He could be anyone's son.

After being kidnapped by Hamas terrorists on October 7 and held for 584 days, I am thrilled to announce that Edan has finally come home.

Through it all, the strength of the Alexander family and the New Jersey community has been a guiding light in an incredibly dark period. The family never gave up hope and neither did we.

We must not rest until every last hostage is returned, including the remains of the two Americans who were murdered by Hamas terrorists.

In America and New Jersey, we never leave anyone behind.

□ 1930

#### UNFAIR TARIFFS ON CANADA

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as more Trump administration tariff news broke, heading into this past weekend, I rise to ask a genuine question: Why is the Trump administration doing this ying-yang again?

President Trump's latest 35 percent tariff threat against Canada is pure economic malpractice. It is reckless, rushed, and devastating to firms and working families across Ohio.

Canada is Ohio's largest trading partner. Over 100,000 jobs in Ohio depend on trade with Canada. Our State exports \$21 billion in goods annually to our neighbor to the North, our largest fair-trade partner.

From Toledo Jeep and General Motors to the parts manufacturers in Sandusky, Lorain, and Defiance, these aren't just numbers. These are paychecks, pensions, and livelihoods.

The last time this administration tried tariff stunts, \$6 trillion in U.S. wealth vanished in days. Workers were laid off, and Ohio is already among the top 10 States experiencing rising unemployment. We have all seen Trump chicken out before, and maybe Taco Tuesday will come again soon.

Mr. Speaker, people in my region want a job they can count on. They don't want ying-yang on U.S. trade and tariff policy. Let's get back to normal.

#### CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF THE EPSTEIN FILES

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, I introduced today an amendment demanding the full release of the Epstein files. The Speaker's Rules Committee should demand a vote tomorrow of every Member of Congress. Yes, we should release it or, no, we should not.

This is a question of: Whose side are we on? Are we on the side of protecting the rich and the powerful who have put their thumb on the scales of government to suck out millions of dollars, while working-class Americans suffer, or are we on the side of the people?

The Attorney General said on her desk was the Epstein file. Now she is saying: No, no, nothing to see. Don't release it.

This is a question of trust. We need to release the Epstein files so we can restore government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Every Member of Congress tomorrow should be forced to vote on this amendment.

#### BRINGING FAIRNESS BACK TO GAMING TAXATION

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge passage of my FAIR BET Act. The Republican's Triple B overturned a half-century tax provision that allowed gamblers to deduct 100 percent of their losses from their winnings. Accordingly, because that has been eliminated, gamblers now will be required to pay taxes on money they haven't earned.

My FAIR BET Act would undo the Senate mistake by keeping the 100 percent loss policy in place. This will ensure that gamblers don't have to pay taxes on phantom income and are not lured to offshore and unregulated markets.

My legislation has bipartisan support because Members on both sides understand that this is not ideological. It is just fair, good tax policy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to bet on the come, and pass the FAIR BET Act.

#### HONORING MILES JORDAN ALEXANDER

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

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy

heart to honor Mr. Miles Jordan Alexander, an Atlanta legal giant whose life embodied the fight for justice and equality.

From advocating for racial integration as a student at Emory University to mentoring generations of diverse attorneys to even infiltrating a Klan meeting under the name Miles Jordan as a spy, he broke barriers and built bridges, all while playing every game of tennis he possibly could.

His commitment to civil rights, to civic engagement, and to the Jewish community created a ripple effect that helped shape a more inclusive and equitable Atlanta.

A devoted father and husband, Miles Alexander shared more than 70 years of marriage with his beloved wife, Elaine, and raised four children with unwavering love and intention. He often spoke of his family as his proudest accomplishment.

We are told throughout our lives to leave this world better than we found it. Miles Alexander did exactly that. It is one of the great pleasures of my life to have been a beneficiary of his commitment to justice and to have known him.

As I mourn with the Alexander family, it is my honor to celebrate the legacy of courageous service of Mr. Miles Jordan Alexander in the U.S. House of Representatives.

#### SUPPORTING FEMA AND NOAA

(Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to stress the urgent need to fully fund and staff our Nation's critical weather and recovery services amid the devastating natural disasters ravaging our country.

In May, Mountain, Maryland, in my district was hit by historic flooding. Within minutes, water levels rose to over 12 feet. Hundreds were evacuated from their schools by boat. Lives were saved because of the early alarm systems and the expertise of the first responders. Hundreds of students would have been walking home, otherwise, when the disaster struck.

It was and remains a hard time for our community, and they still need disaster assistance. I continue to urge the administration to honor Maryland's request for urgent FEMA funding and to fund NOAA for emergency weather services.

My heart is also with the people of Texas and their heartbreaking floods. Tragedies like these are why agencies like NOAA and FEMA are essential. Emergency response programs, especially in rural areas, rely on those services to forecast dangerous weather and respond when needed.

In closing, this is not about partisanship. It is about humanity and commonsense, lifesaving assistance.

### HONORING DR. KALISHA DESSOURCES FIGURES

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

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish the happiest of birthdays to the most beautiful woman on the planet. She is my wife, Dr. Kalisha Dessources Figures.

I thank her for her investment in me. She has made me a better man, a better father, and a better person. A lot of Members say it, but I can say 100 percent there is no world in which there is a Congressman SHOMARI FIGURES without the support of my wife.

Mr. Speaker, I love her, I thank her, and I wish my love the happiest of birthdays.

### HONORING JOHN LEWIS

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. McCLELLAN of Virginia was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to anchor this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour marking the fifth anniversary this Thursday of when we lost a civil rights giant, Congressman John Lewis.

Congressman Lewis' parting words to us were published in *The New York Times* in an op-ed entitled, "Together, You Can Redeem the Soul of Our Nation."

It was a message of hope as he passed the baton as a drum major for justice to the next generation of Americans. His words are more necessary today than ever and need to be repeated.

For the next hour, my colleagues will hear members of the Congressional Black Caucus and other members who served with Congressman Lewis or were inspired by him, using his own words to talk about his legacy.

I would like to start with the beginning of his op-ed, which is poignantly relevant today.

"While my time here has now come to an end, I want you to know that in the last days and hours of my life, you inspired me. You filled me with hope about the next chapter of the great American story when you used your power to make a difference in our society.

Millions of people, motivated simply by human compassion, laid down the burdens of division. Around the country and around the world, you set aside race, class, age, language, and nationality to demand respect for human dignity."

Mr. Speaker, we need that call, that clarion call, that demand for respect

for human dignity today more than ever before. We need the hope and inspiration that this drum major for justice saw in the next generation that would succeed him in the battle for the soul of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) and the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

□ 1935

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia for yielding.

"Our society is not unlike the children in that house, rocked again and again by the winds of one storm or another. . . . The people of conscience never left the house."

In his memoir in 1998, "Walking With the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement," the great Congressman John Lewis recounted a childhood memory of being caught in a terrifying storm with a group of children in his Aunt Seneva's small house in Pike County, Alabama, near the town of Troy.

As the storm tried to lift the house, John and the children held hands and worked together, using their unity as their strength to stabilize the home. This was, among many things, a metaphor for how society, especially in moments of discord, upheaval, and conflict, requires people to come together, hold on, and stand firm against forces trying to tear it apart.

As it happens, Congressman Lewis' timeless words speak directly to the unique moment we find ourselves in today. With the unprecedented assaults on our voting rights and the slow erosion of our constitutional and democratic norms, the house most certainly is in danger.

Voting rights are, and have always been, the CBC's North Star, and right now, the franchise, this tool, the foundation of our democracy, is under threat. At a time when our democracy is under constant siege by the Trump administration, we must do all we can to protect it.

As we speak, extremist Republicans at the local, State, and national levels are running the table with every tactic in their arsenal to disenfranchise Black and minority communities. To date, hundreds of bills to restrict voting access have been introduced in States around the country, with the aim of closing polling locations, curbing early voting and vote by mail, and imposing stricter voting ID requirements.

These efforts are coordinated, well funded, and targeting our communities with laser-like precision.

The question now is: What are we going to do to stop it?

For generations, we have marched, fought, and even died for the right to vote. Congressman Lewis certainly knew this.

It is a shame that partisan politics have brought us to the point that we cannot agree that access to the ballot box should be a right afforded to every American.

Congressman John Lewis devoted every day of his life to fighting to make our country live up to its highest ideals and to the promise that all men, and may I add women, are created equal.

From the Edmund Pettus Bridge to the Halls of Congress, the boy from Troy never stopped making good trouble. It is in that spirit that the CBC and House Democrats will always fight back against the voter suppression that plagues our country and impedes access to the ballot box, particularly in Black communities.

It is in that spirit that we will not stop until we pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to restore and modernize the protections of the Voting Rights Act to prevent States from erecting new barriers to the ballot box.

As our beloved John said: The people of conscience never left the house.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD), who is our immediate past chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the Commonwealth of Virginia for yielding.

"What is right? . . . If we act on the answer with courage and commitment, we will overcome all that stands between us and the glory of a truly beloved community."

Those are the words of our dear friend and colleague, Representative John Lewis. He didn't just preach these words. He lived them.

Progress only lasts when protected by vigilance. Today, our democracy faces threats so similar to what Representative John Lewis endured—voter suppression, book bans, and economic injustice. The solution isn't to step back. It is to lean in.

That is why I am proud to cosponsor the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and reintroduce the Break the Cycle of Violence Act to carry his work and legacy forward.

Let's do more to remember this giant among men. Let's legislate. Let's lead. Above all, let's get in what he called "good trouble, necessary trouble."

I commend our chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, all of our members, and the Members of this House to carry on the legacy of Representative John Lewis.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY), who is the former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman JENNIFER McCLELLAN for yielding and to our chairwoman, Congresswoman CLARKE, for her leadership.

In the words of John Lewis: "Democracy is not a state. It is an act, and each generation must do its part to help build what we called the beloved community, a nation and world society at peace with itself."

Mr. Speaker, on this fifth anniversary of the passing of Congressman