

cut blue tape, expanded supply, lowered the price of lumber, and brought mortgage rates below 6 percent.

This legislation builds on that progress by removing Federal barriers so homes can be built faster and economically at scale without new Federal spending.

Today, it can cost over \$100,000 before a shovel ever hits the dirt to build a new home, and builders often cannot build a home for less than \$250,000. This bill modernizes housing laws, improves coordination between HUD and USDA, expands manufactured housing in rural communities, reduces barriers for veterans, and increases access to small-dollar mortgages.

Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to support this important legislation.

□ 1900

#### RECOGNIZING BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF SUMMIT COUNTY

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Black Chamber of Commerce of Summit County and co-founders Robert DeJournett and Misty Beasley as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champions of the Week.

One year ago I had the honor of attending its kick-off event in Akron, and I was truly inspired to see so many people support this catalyst for change.

After an economic study was commissioned, it was determined that Akron's Black population, who represents nearly one-third of the region—yet, the report highlighted through the Elevate Akron report that there was purposeful, intentional, and systemic exclusion from economic growth and job opportunities for Black people in the region.

Left unaddressed, this gap has threatened innovation and prosperity not just for Black Akronites but for the entire region.

Mr. DeJournett and Ms. Beasley created the Black Chamber of Commerce of Summit County to reverse that trend, enabling Black businessowners to take their rightful place in the economic ecosystem with the right support, connections, and capital to allow Black businesses to survive and thrive.

In the first year, the chamber has counseled dozens of small businesses on finances and website development, helped them compete for natural resources, and connected local leaders to maximize growth.

Congratulations to Robert DeJournett, Misty Beasley, and the entire membership of the Black Chamber of Commerce of Summit County on a successful first year and being named the 13th Congressional District champion of the week.

#### RECOGNIZING MIKE MACDONALD AND MARIA TAYLOR

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

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

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the Seattle Seahawks Head Coach Mike Macdonald and NBC sportscaster Maria Taylor.

On Sunday, these two graduates from Centennial High School in Roswell, Georgia, which just happens to be in my district, became Super Bowl stars. Mike and Maria also attended the University of Georgia together where they began their respective careers as a football coach and a sports broadcaster.

On Sunday, Mike coached his team to a convincing 29–13 victory, and Maria made history as the first Black woman to ever host the Super Bowl postgame ceremony. These achievements are a testament to their hard work, character, and outstanding education they received at Centennial.

Congratulations to Mike and Maria, and I thank them for making Roswell proud. Go Knights and go Dawgs.

#### RECOGNIZING RICHARD KIRK MCPIKE

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a profound sense of pride and a touch of sadness. After 13 years of service to this body as a chief of staff, Richard Kirk McPike is leaving my office.

Kirk has been the leader of my team since 2012, setting up the office, building LGBTQI+ political infrastructure, helping me earn the Veterans' Affairs' Committee gavel and so much more.

Kirk's proudest accomplishments are not counted in the bills passed or titles held. They are measured in the many people he has led and mentored, from interns to senior staffers. One of his greatest talents is knowing when to let go of great staff, understanding they sometimes need to grow beyond my office. Today, it is my time to do the same.

I will miss my friend Kirk. I will miss his counsel, but I know he will serve the Commonwealth of Virginia as a delegate with the same intelligence and decency he brought to this House. I wish him Godspeed and good luck.

#### RECOGNIZING SONDRALAPOINTE

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

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sandra LaPointe, a seventh grade teacher at Westview Hills Middle School in Willowbrook, Illinois.

I recently had the pleasure of surprising Mrs. LaPointe during her social studies class to honor her with our constituent spotlight award. We started making these awards after the last election to try and uplift people who

are bringing hope and joy and making us feel good about being Americans because, goodness knows, we need these voices right now.

There is not a person in this Chamber who doesn't owe a debt to the great teachers they had along the way who taught them things, but more importantly, who taught them how to learn, made them excited to learn, who challenged them to ask questions about the world because as James Baldwin said: No society progresses without those kind of teachers around them.

Mrs. LaPointe's nomination came from a former student who said: "Mrs. LaPointe's class was the one I looked forward to the most each day. Her spunky personality always brought out the best in all of the students."

From your students and from your Congressman: Thank you, Mrs. LaPointe. You make us all better.

#### HONORING JAMES R. WILLIS

(Ms. BROWN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I rise during Black History Month to honor an extraordinary constituent, Mr. JAMES R. Willis, a marine, an attorney, and a true Cleveland legend.

In 1944, Mr. Willis joined the Montford Point Marines, one of nearly 20,000 Black men who volunteered to serve immediately after President Roosevelt integrated the military.

Despite facing racism and segregation, he served his country honorably, and in 2011, the Montford Point Marines were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of their service.

After the war, Mr. Willis built a legal career that has left a lasting mark. For more than 70 years, Mr. Willis has practiced criminal law, becoming a legendary courtroom advocate, a national leader, and a mentor across generations.

He argued four cases before the Supreme Court on protections against unlawful search and seizure, helping to strengthen the rights of all Americans.

Even today, at the age of 100, he continues his lifework. On behalf of a grateful district, I thank Mr. Willis for a lifetime of courage, service, and dedication to justice.

#### HONORING BLACK LEADERS FROM WEST MICHIGAN

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

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, during Black History Month, we honor leaders who shaped our country, and I rise today to recognize extraordinary Black leaders from west Michigan, whose impacts continue to guide our community.

Ingrid Scott-Weekly transformed Grand Rapids by expanding equal opportunity in city government and helping build institutions that still protect fairness and inclusion today.

Reuben Smartt, one of the first African Americans to serve in the United States Marine Corps, went on to dedicate his life to mentoring young people as an educator, coach, and community leader.

Dr. Faite Mack broke barriers as a founding faculty member at Grand Valley State University, shaping generations of educators and extending his work globally to ensure children have access to education.

Roger Wilkins, a civil rights leader and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, led national conversations on justice and equality at the highest levels of government and media.

Helen Claytor advanced civil rights and opportunity for women and families helping establish institutions that continue to promote equity in Grand Rapids and beyond.

These leaders remind us that progress is driven by those willing to serve, to teach, and to lead. Their legacy lives on in west Michigan and across our great Nation. I am proud to honor these contributions during Black History Month.

#### HOUSING IS A HUMAN RIGHT

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, we all know that right now the housing crisis is real for so many of our families across the country, and I know many of us in this Chamber, especially those on the left, have always said housing is a human right.

To address this crisis, we know that we need action at every level of government, but many local communities need additional assistance and capacity. That is why I am so incredibly grateful that the House passed the Housing Our Communities Act, part of the Housing for the 21st Century Act legislative package.

The Housing Our Communities Act directs the HUD Secretary to establish a competitive grant program to support a wide range of affordable housing planning and implementation activities.

For example, grants can support officials in crafting their housing plans, updating their zoning codes, or increasing capacity to conduct housing inspections so that new developments are completed faster and much more efficiently.

This bill provides civil servants and policymakers with the support they need to make affordable housing a reality for so many of our communities.

I urge my colleagues in the Senate to pass this legislation immediately and begin to address the housing crisis that is devastating our country.

□ 1910

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the 40th anniversary of the Saka Nakodar massacre where four unarmed Sikh students, Ravinder Singh, Jhilman Singh, Harminder Singh, and Baldir Singh Multani, were shot and killed while peacefully protesting the desecration of the sacred Scripture of Sikhs.

The killing, which took place in the Punjab region of India on February 4, 1986, was absolutely abhorrent, but the investigation was definitely deplorable.

The victims' bodies were disposed of in secret. No perpetrator was ever brought to justice, and reports, commissions, and other inquiries on the massacre received absolutely no action.

The Saka Nakodar massacre continues to be a dark day for Sikhs in Punjab but also for Sikhs right here in America.

That is why I recognize the Saka Nakodar massacre and the justice that awaits not just for the four students and their families but for the Sikh communities at home and abroad.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF ARON JOHNSON

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a son of eastern North Carolina, Aron Johnson. At just 30 years old, Aron was more than an organizer. He was a bridge builder who believed that our rural communities deserved a seat at every table.

He was a dreamer of big dreams and a fighter of hard fights who proved that we don't need a long life to make a big difference. While he left us far too soon, his legacy of empowerment lives on in many communities across our State.

My heartfelt condolences go out to his mother, Mary, and his family as we celebrate a young leader who gave his all to so many.

#### ENDING THE TRUMP TARIFF 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, I was privileged to join colleagues from both sides of the aisle this week in the House vote that was overwhelming in bipartisan fashion to end the damaging Trump tariff regime on Canada. The Senate had already taken the same action three times before the House measure was even brought up.

Canada is our neighbor, our ally, and our friend. They have fought at our side in every war for nearly two centuries.

Our Great Lakes region and its economy is the third largest in the world. It is like no other with its industrial and agricultural bounty, blessed for generations by the largest body of freshwater on Earth. Ours is the longest U.S. coastline with numerous ports, energy resources, cultural endowments, and unrivaled natural beauty.

The American and Canadian economies are totally intertwined. Robust supply chains on both sides of our northern border make, grow, and transport everything from autos to lumber to soil to energy to food and even to hockey teams.

This damaging trade war with Canada has caused prices to rise, led to more job losses, disrupted trade, and caused tourism to drop 31 percent. These are no victories.

Mr. Speaker, I just wish to say that I voted to end this upside-down trade mess today. Let's strengthen our economy and make life affordable again.

#### HONORING FORMER FORT WORTH COUNCIL MEMBER GYNA BIVENS

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my good friend, former Fort Worth city council member and mayor pro tem, Gyna Bivens, who was a beloved member of our community who lost her life on February 9 at the age of 71 to pancreatic cancer.

Gyna was born in Fort Worth, and she was a proud graduate of Dunbar High School and later went on to graduate from the University of North Texas. She majored in journalism and communications and did an amazing job.

Before she was on the city council, she had a background on some of our local radio stations and television stations. A lot of people in the community proudly remember her from Soul730 KKDA-AM. She will also be known for that amazing voice that she had.

Then God gave her a calling, and she decided that she wanted to be in politics. She ran for our city council, and she served with distinction from 2013 until 2025. She fought for housing. I know that she was very proud of her work along East Rosedale with Cavile Place and Hughes House. She worked very hard to make sure that we received funding for that. She also worked very hard in transportation and made lots of great improvements along a major corridor in District 5 which was along Lancaster Avenue.

She was a woman of deep, deep faith. Her father was a very prominent minister in the Fort Worth area.

Mr. Speaker, I want everyone to pray for her family. Her mom, her sisters, and her brother are still with us. Gyna is always going to be known for her hard work and just everything that she has done throughout her career and her brave battle against cancer.