

voters said he deserved another 10-year term.

David is survived by Karen Grine, his wife of 55 years; his two children; and his four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, David was a mentor to generations of aspiring attorneys and judges and leaves behind an enduring legacy of public service in Centre County. God bless David and his family.

RECOGNIZING JORDAN BRAXTON

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

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate another St. Louis star and in honor of Pride Month. I would like to recognize Jordan Braxton, an incredible champion of our community.

After identifying internally as female her entire life, Jordan made the decision to socially transition in her fifties. Her story is an inspiration to members of the LGBTQ+ community in the St. Louis region.

Jordan has found a lifelong passion for advocacy work. Over the past four decades, she has educated and mobilized people to join the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Now, as the community empowerment manager for Vivent Health, she hosts educational programs and community engagement events for the St. Louis region and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Jordan for her advocacy and thank her for all the love she pours into her work.

I will keep fighting in Congress to protect the rights and freedoms of everyone, no matter how they identify.

CONGRATULATING REVEREND ROY McVEIGH

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in reflection and gratitude of Reverend Roy McVeigh for his years of guidance, encouragement, and stewardship at Trinity on the Hill Global Methodist Church in Augusta, Georgia.

For decades, Roy has been a pillar of leadership in youth ministry, faithfully investing in generations of young people. A devoted Christian, father, grandfather, and friend, Roy's influence extends far beyond the walls of our church.

I witnessed firsthand the profound influence he had on all four of my children and now my grandchildren. It was because of Roy that Robin and I were able to watch our four children grow in their relationship with our Lord and Savior, one of life's greatest blessings. In fact, it was that influence and their influence that changed my life.

As Roy and Kathy begin their next chapter in North Carolina, I am reminded of his favorite Bible verse,

John 3:30, which tells us: "He must increase, but I must decrease." These profound words reflect the humility and faith that have defined his ministry for many years.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Roy on a well-earned retirement, and may God continue to bless him and Kathy and their entire family in the days ahead.

□ 2020

FUNDING OF WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN PROGRAM

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, today this Congress just voted to cut the WIC program that provides nutrition to pregnant women and children by over \$200 million. Many of the same members who voted to cut funding for pregnant women and children to be able to afford food are also actively supporting giving \$1 billion to the President for his ballroom, \$1.8 billion, to reward cop-beaters and white-collar criminals as part of the President's slush funds, and \$1 billion a day on an unnecessary war in the Middle East.

How corrupt and morally bankrupt could this Congress be, that we are taking food out of the mouths of children and pregnant women and using it to pay for vanity projects for the President of the United States? This Congress has failed the American people.

RECOGNIZING ORANGE COUNTY FIRST RESPONDERS

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic efforts of our first responders in Orange County. Ten days ago, a call came in to the Orange County Fire Authority from a local industrial plant saying the facility was about to explode. Immediately, we evacuated 45,000 people from the blast radius.

The Red Cross set up shelters. The city of Anaheim set up beds and food. The city of Stanton mobilized responders to evacuate the residents, and Garden Grove established a secure perimeter.

There are heroes everywhere in our community. Many of the people who sprang into action are civil servants or volunteers who worked around the clock to make sure that everybody was safe on Memorial Day.

I am grateful to all our emergency responders and for our friends and neighbors who helped out to make sure that not one life was lost.

I thank our first responders, our volunteers, and our community members.

IRAN WAR POWERS

(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, yesterday I proudly voted to pass an Iran War Powers Resolution to rein in this unraveling President. This was the fourth attempt by Democrats to assert our authority as a coequal branch of government and to say: No more to this war of choice.

Every Democrat in this House Chamber heard the cries of Americans saying no more to the billions spent on war instead of investing here at home.

Mr. Speaker, why did it take us this long? This war has gone on for more than 90 days. The price tag continues to rise by the billions every week, and every American feels the economic pain of this war at the gas pump.

Let me be clear: This is the first step toward stopping this war. Republicans in the Senate and the President still stand in the way of ending it. It is time for them to listen to the American people, just as Democrats did this week.

RECOGNIZING COACH JACK CLARK

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coach Jack Clark, the architect of one of the greatest college sports programs in the history of the United States and his induction into the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame.

A remarkable athlete from a young age, Jack played varsity football and rugby at the University of California before shifting his focus solely to rugby and playing for the U.S. national rugby team, where he was selected the first American to be amongst the best rugby players in the world.

Since 1984, Jack has served as the varsity rugby coach at Cal, leading the team to an astounding 31 national championships. He also coached the U.S. national rugby team to the 2003 World Cup. Jack's mentorship has touched the lives of countless young athletes in California and, indeed, from across the country.

Please join me in recognizing this remarkable leader and coach, Jack Clark, for his induction into the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame and for his legendary career as Cal's head rugby coach. Go Bears.

HONORING SPENCER LEEK, JR.

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

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, we pause today to honor the life of Spencer Leek, Jr., a son of Chicago, a steward of a sacred family legacy, and a servant of countless families in their moments of deepest sorrow.

The story of the Leek family is, in many ways, the story of Black perseverance in America. In 1933, Reverend

Andrew Leek established a funeral home so that Black families, denied dignity in life by segregation, could at least be afforded dignity in death.

Spencer Leek, Jr., carried that mission forward with devotion, compassion, and grace. From answering phones at age 12 to becoming a licensed funeral director and vice president of Leek and Sons, he understood that his work was not merely a business, but it was a ministry. He comforted the grieving, uplifted the forgotten, and ensured that every family, regardless of means, was treated with respect and humanity.

For generations, Leek and Sons has stood as a trusted institution in Chicago and across this Nation in Chicago and America's Black communities. Spencer Leek, Jr., strengthened that institution by remaining deeply devoted to family, community, and service. He helped shepherd home-going celebrations for civil rights leaders, public servants, artists, and everyday citizens, whose lives mattered equally in his eyes.

His legacy reminds us that history is not only made by those who stand before huge crowds, but also by those who quietly serve others with fidelity and love.

Mr. Speaker, we honor Spencer Leek, Jr., by continuing his commitment to dignity, compassion, and community.

FIGHTING BACK AGAINST DISMANTLING OF VOTING RIGHTS

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois was recognized for half the time until 10 p.m. as the designee of the minority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOWNING). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their presence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the question: Which side of history are you standing on? Now, some of you are here because you want to be here. Some of you are here simply because you walked past this floor to get somewhere else.

Either way, God has a plan, and that plan today is that you are going to hear the truth because this is a Special Order hour, and the order I have been given not by the Speaker of this House but by God, who made us all equal in his eyes, through this Republic, has never fully agreed and understood by all Members of this body that we have the right to stand in this well on the floor of the people's House and ask every Member of this body a question that cannot be avoided. It cannot be

postponed, and it cannot be answered with procedural language or partisan talking points.

The question is this: On the eve of America's 250th birthday, which side of history are you standing for?

Now, I want you to notice something. In a few weeks, this Nation is going to celebrate. There are going to be parades. There are going to be speeches. They are going to have fireworks that light up the skies from sea to shining sea. Politicians on both sides of this aisle are going to stand at podiums and invoke the Founding Fathers and speak about liberty and justice and the greatest democracy the world has ever seen.

I want to ask you, gently, at first: What democracy are you talking about because I know my history, and I was born in this country, and I have read the documents.

The democracy that we are celebrating this summer, the democracy of 1776, did not include me or my ancestors, did not include my grandmother or my great-grandparents, did not include my great-great-grandmother who was somebody's property under the law of this land. It did not include the millions and millions of women and children who built this country's wealth with their bodies and their blood and their genius and were given in return not citizenship but chains.

□ 2030

In 1776, it was not a democracy. In 1787, it was not a democracy. They counted us as three-fifths of a human being to give slaveholders more power in this very Congress.

In 1865, it was not a democracy. We got the 13th Amendment and got the Black codes in the same season. In 1868, it was not a democracy. The 14th Amendment was ratified while African Americans and elected officials were being murdered across the South.

In 1870, it was not a democracy. The 15th Amendment was passed, and within 10 years, the Supreme Court had gutted its enforcement, and the Redeemers had taken back the South at the point of a rifle.

In 1920, our country was not a democracy. Women got the right to vote, but most Black women in the South could not exercise it. America did not overcome.

By any honest definition, it was not a democracy in this country until August 6, 1965, the day that President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act, the day that this Nation finally, after 189 years of claiming to believe in democracy, extended a meaningful, enforceable, protected right to vote to all of its citizens regardless of race, 189 years in the making.

Let that sink into your spirit: 189 years of fireworks, 189 years of founding myths. "We the people," it was said, and not one day of actual democracy for the people who look like me.

I am 60 years of age. I was born in 1966. In 1965, the Voting Rights Act was

passed. I am the first generation of Americans ever born with equal rights under the law of this land. My generation is the first in 250 years. We are the first, 60 years of age.

If that doesn't disturb you, if that doesn't shake something in your soul, if you can hear that and feel nothing, then I want to suggest respectfully that something has gone wrong, something has gone morally numb.

Now, the Supreme Court, in a 6-3 decision in *Louisiana v. Callais*, has gutted section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, has taken the spine out of the only serious legal protection that Blacks, Mexicans, women, and others have had since 1965. It has done, with legal language and constitutional reasoning, what the White Citizens' Council and the Ku Klux Klan used to do with economic pressure and shotguns. They have changed the method. They have not changed the mission.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my privilege and pleasure to yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GARCÍA), one of the leading outstanding voices for human rights and democracy in the United States of America and my colleague and friend.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be joined by the first Mexican American to serve in the United States House of Representatives from the entire Midwest. He has fought for the rights and well-being of his constituents and all Americans for decades. I am honored to yield to the gentleman, the first person of Mexican-American ancestry to serve in the House of Representatives from the State of Illinois, the Honorable Congressman Mr. CHUY GARCÍA.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative JACKSON for leading this Special Order hour for the Congressional Progressive Caucus, shining a spotlight on the Voting Rights Act, progress that has been made, and, most importantly, efforts to dismantle it and disenfranchise millions of people across the land and undermine our democracy.

Let me share a personal story. I arrived in the United States in 1965, the same year the Voting Rights Act was passed. I was a little boy from Durango, Mexico. I didn't speak a word of English, let alone know about the Constitution or the Founding Fathers, but I understood one thing: My parents believed in this country and brought me to this country because they knew that we could do better and that we could pursue our dream of a better life in America.

Years later, I became a citizen.

The Voting Rights Act gave me the opportunity I never dreamed possible: running for office. It was not because power invited me in, but because people in my community organized. We built power and exercised our right to vote. That is the magic of the Voting Rights Act.