

□ 1950

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, as we speak, we have the best chance for peace between Israel, Lebanon, and the United States of America that has existed in decades. There is a framework in place that has been met between Israel, Lebanon, and the United States of America. The one holdout is Hezbollah.

This resolution does absolutely nothing to help garner that peace. This resolution only seeks to embolden Hezbollah. That is the only thing that it does because, again, as was pointed out by my colleague—and I appreciate him saying this very firmly; he was very clear about this—there are no U.S. forces engaged in hostilities.

Do we train Lebanese armed forces? Yes, we do. Do we provide intelligence? Yes, we do. We don't have forces engaged there, but we are working for a peace that has evaded the world for decades, and we are closer than ever.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage a "no" vote against this resolution because, again, it is simply undermining the peace process and really, actually serves no purpose because it asks that we remove forces that are not present.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the previous question is ordered on the concurrent resolution.

The question is on adoption of the concurrent resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

#### RECOGNIZING ED SHEEHAN ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ed Sheehan, president and CEO of Concurrent Technologies Corporation. Ed will retire this week, leaving a position he has committed many years to.

For more than three decades, Ed's commitment to excellence has helped CTC become a leader in applied scientific research and development. In his position, he has helped foster a culture of innovation and collaboration, strengthening the company and its workforce.

Ed's leadership extends well beyond CTC, having served as chair and on the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, the United Way of Pennsylvania, and president of the Pennsylvania Society.

Ed also served as a member of the Pennsylvania State Board of Education for 5 years. Mr. Speaker, I applaud Ed for his role in supporting the Commonwealth's students and teachers.

It has been a privilege to get to know Ed and his wife, Julie, over the years. He is a great community leader and an even better friend. I congratulate Ed on his retirement.

#### THANKING JESSICA LEE

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank my communications director, Jessica Lee, for her service to my office and the Second Congressional District of Illinois.

Jessica came to my office from Giffords, bringing a steady commitment to public service and community safety that has shaped everything she touches.

Jessica excelled at elevating the stories of those who were too often overlooked and felt powerless. She brought national attention to moms forced into dangerous births and families who continue to lose loved ones due to gun violence.

She is small but mighty, quiet in presence, but always exactly where she is needed when the work demands it. Somewhere along the way, in studio and during filming, she started calling me "One Take Kelly," a title I will accept with pride.

Jessica's leadership and good humor have made this office and the softball team stronger. I am deeply grateful for her service, and I wish her every success in her next chapter and beyond.

#### REMEMBERING MARY ROSS CUNNINGHAM

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember a remarkable community leader and a dear personal friend, Mary Ross Cunningham.

Born in rural Alabama on November 19, 1945, one of 22 children, Mary was a force of nature, larger than life, with the biggest of hearts, and the most indomitable of spirits.

For more than two decades, in her hometown of Waukegan, Illinois, and across Lake County, she served her community with dignity and grace, fiercely advocating for those whom she represented.

Mary was first elected to the Lake County board in 2002, and in 2018 was elected by her colleagues to be county board vice chair.

She moved to Waukegan, Illinois, in the 1960s with her husband, Samuel, to start her family. Tragically, Samuel was murdered in 1968, and Mary was left to raise their four children alone.

She raised four incredible children: Emerson, Sam, Jackie, and the late Alvin.

Mary epitomized public service and was a fierce advocate for her constituents. She fought to expand access to affordable housing and quality healthcare, and she was an unwavering voice for those experiencing homelessness.

Her commitment to equity and justice was matched only by her love of community.

Mary leaves behind an extraordinary legacy. I will miss her as a colleague and a mentor, but most as a friend.

I send my deepest condolences to the entire Cunningham family and the community mourning a great loss. May her memory forever be a blessing.

#### HONORING THE CAMDEN PHARMACY

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. CARTER of Georgia was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Camden Pharmacy in St. Marys, Georgia, as it celebrates its 20th anniversary on June 13, 2026.

For two decades, Camden Pharmacy has served the people of Camden County with personalized community-focused healthcare. Located across from Camden Medical Center, the pharmacy offers prescription services, over-the-counter medications, wound care supplies, veterinary medications, long-term care and hospice services, and much more.

Under the leadership of pharmacist Anthony Kicklighter, Camden Pharmacy has built a reputation for exceptional service and a commitment to caring for every patient who walks through its doors.

As a pharmacist myself, I understand the importance of forming a reliable repute within one's community, and Anthony has done great work for the people of St. Marys.

I am happy to congratulate Anthony and the entire Camden Pharmacy team on 20 years of dedicated service to our community and wishing them continued success in the years ahead.

#### HONORING PAUL WATKIN

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Paul R. Watkin, as he retires from Federal service after an extraordinary 48 years of dedicated service to our Nation.

Mr. Watkin began his distinguished career in 1978 with Company C, 1st Ranger Battalion, 75th Infantry Regiment, where he served with honor and distinction in some of our Nation's most challenging operations.

While serving, he deployed in Operation Eagle Claw, the 1980 mission to rescue 53 American hostages in Iran, and later participated in Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada.

After earning both the Ranger and Special Forces Tabs and serving 7 years

in the special operations community, he became a senior counterintelligence special agent and retired honorably from the U.S. Army in 2000.

Mr. Watkin transitioned directly into Federal civil service, serving in key security and intelligence leadership positions across the Army.

Mr. Watkin has served our Nation faithfully, and I wish him the best in the next chapter of his life.

□ 2000

HONORING KENNEDY INGRAM AND MACIE  
PHILLIPS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kennedy Ingram and Macie Phillips. The two Georgia graduates have made history as the first Black women to receive a bachelor of science in ocean science from the University of Georgia.

The program provides students with an interdisciplinary understanding of the structure and function of marine systems from global oceans to local estuary environments and their interaction with the Earth-atmosphere system.

The two were inspired to become pioneers in their field hoping to have a lasting impact and inspire others like them to pursue groundbreaking endeavors. I am proud to say that they were successful in their goals.

Kennedy and Macie have become trailblazers, creating a tradition and legacy of academic achievement in their school.

I thank Kennedy and Macie for their contributions to the scientific community. I am excited to see the tremendous things they will accomplish in the future.

MASHAMA BAILEY, NORTH AMERICA'S BEST  
FEMALE CHEF

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize chef Mashama Bailey who is credited with reinventing Southern and Black American food traditions.

Beginning her career, she worked as a private chef in New York City and was later persuaded to undertake professional cooking. In 2014 she entered a partnership to open The Grey in Savannah, Georgia. In 2019 and 2022, she earned the James Beard Award for her dishes that featured history and culture through mixing traditional Southern techniques with contemporary influences.

As chairwoman of the Edna Lewis Foundation, she preserves African-American culinary traditions and develops educational opportunities in cooking, agriculture, food studies, and storytelling.

Most recently, she was named to the TIME100 list of the most influential people in the world as an influential culinary figure. She received the North America's Best Female Chef Award for 2026.

Chef Bailey is paving the way for rising chefs and inspiring others through her work.

RECOGNIZING DR. GREG TANNER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Greg

Tanner, recently named South Georgia State College's president.

As interim president, he increased the college's enrollment in the summer of 2023 by 14.7 percent, earning the Chancellor's Cup award for enrollment growth. In 2025 he was presented with Phi Theta Kappa's Paragon Award for New Presidents, honoring his dedication to the college and its students.

More recently, he earned the Dr. Zeb L. Burrell MD Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to a new emergency services concentration in the college's School of Business.

The foundation of his career consists of a bachelor's degree in education from Georgia Southern University, a master's degrees in physical education and educational leadership from Valdosta State University, and a doctorate in educational leadership and supervision from Nova Southeastern University.

From a K-12 school principal to president of South Georgia College illustrates his dedication to education and to leadership.

HONORING GINA JOY RIGBY-HOUSE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gina Rigby-House for a remarkable career defined by hard work, faithful leadership, and a genuine commitment to serving others.

Gina's journey began as a part-time employee at Aflac while she was still a senior in high school in Columbus, Georgia. Through dedication, perseverance, and an unwavering work ethic, she built a career spanning nearly four decades and became one of the most respected leaders in public policy and government affairs.

For more than 26 years, Gina represented Aflac in Washington, helping guide the company through complex legislative and regulatory challenges while earning the trust and respect of colleagues, policymakers, and friends on both sides of the aisle.

Yet what sets Gina apart is not simply her professional success, but the way she has invested in others. Through her leadership with the University of Alabama's Blackburn Institute, she has mentored countless young leaders, generously sharing her wisdom, encouragement, and belief in the next generation.

Those who know Gina know her greatest joy has always been found in her family, the relationships she has built throughout her life, and her signature sense of style, notably shown through her shoes. Whether as a mentor, colleague, wife, grandmother, or friend, she has led with grace, humility, and a servant's heart.

I congratulate Gina on an extraordinary career. I thank her for the countless lives she has touched, and I wish her and her husband, Mike, every blessing in the years ahead.

HONORING SANDRA FRYHOFFER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Sandra Fryhofer on becoming president-elect of the American Medical Association.

Dr. Fryhofer is an Atlantic-based internal medicine physician who has previously served in numerous roles in the AMA and has worked tirelessly to advance the roles of both patients and physicians.

Following a vote by physicians and medical students at the AMA annual meeting, Dr. Fryhofer garnered the support to begin her year-long term stating in June of 2027.

Dr. Fryhofer spent numerous years as the AMA's liaison to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. She contributed greatly to the development of vaccines protecting against COVID-19, influenza, HPV, and many others.

Aside from the AMA, Dr. Fryhofer served as president of the American College of Physicians. When she was elected in 2000, she became the youngest person and the second woman to have served in the role.

I wish her the best of luck and sincere congratulations as she begins her role.

HONORING MARTHA ZOLLER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my friend Martha Zoller, whose voice and service to Georgia will be deeply missed.

For more than three decades, Martha informed, challenged, and connected Georgians as a broadcaster, columnist, author, and political commentator. She earned the respect of listeners across our State through analytical, honest conversation, and an abiding love for Georgia and our country.

I have had the privilege of joining Martha on her radio show many times over the years. Our conversations were always thoughtful, candid, and rooted in our shared commitment to serving the people of Georgia. She had a remarkable ability to ask the right questions and to listen carefully, offering valuable insights to listeners.

Martha embodied the gold standard of professionalism, always acting quickly to offer her support as a mentor to countless people in politics and journalism.

My prayers are with Martha's family, friends, and colleagues, and the countless listeners whose lives she touched. Her legacy will live on through them.

May God lift them up in His arms and help them find comfort in this challenging time.

RECOGNIZING JOSH BROOKS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Josh Brooks, who has been athletic director of the University of Georgia since 2021.

He recently received a contract extension after back-to-back Southeastern Conference championships in football and national championships in women's tennis, women's track, and equestrian.

During his time as athletics director, the Bulldogs have earned 9 national championships, 14 SEC crowns, and 33 individual national titles across 21 sports.

Many facilities upgrades were under his management and supervision, including the new Lindsey Hopkins indoor tennis courts, improvements to the south side of Sanford Stadium, a new men's and women's basketball weight room, and more.

He demonstrates leadership as an active member on the SEC Executive Committee and as vice chair of the NCAA Football Oversight Committee, and chair of the NCAA Football Practice and Playing Seasons Committee.

Brooks' extended contract will allow him to continue making momentous milestones for the University of Georgia.

HONORING LARRY WALKER, JR.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Lawrence Cohen "Larry" Walker, Jr. who passed away on June 9 at the age of 84.

Mr. Walker was a lifelong resident of Perry, Georgia. He graduated from Perry High School in 1960 and attended the University of Georgia where he earned a bachelor's in business administration and a juris doctorate.

In 1966, Mr. Walker was appointed Perry's first municipal court judge and later as the city attorney, a role he held for 40 years.

Larry was later elected to the Georgia State House of Representatives where he served for 32 years and became majority leader. While in the State legislature, Mr. Walker played a key role in bringing Frito-Lay and the Georgia National Fairgrounds to Perry, Georgia.

After his time in the State house, Larry was elected to the Georgia Transportation Board and appointed by Governor Sonny Perdue to the Georgia Board of Regents.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Walker's family as they mourn his loss.

□ 2010

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF  
SPECIALIST ADRIAN BONSEY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Specialist Adrian Bonsey, a dedicated soldier of the United States Army who tragically lost his life during a training exercise earlier this month.

Specialist Bonsey answered the call to serve his country when he joined the Army in 2023 and quickly distinguished himself through his professionalism and selfless service.

As a combat engineer, he played a vital role in supporting our Nation's military readiness. Prior to arriving at Fort Stewart, Specialist Bonsey served at Fort Carson, Colorado, and deployed to Poland in support of our allies and partners abroad.

During his service, he earned two Army Achievement Medals, reflecting his dedication and contributions to the Army and his fellow soldiers. While training, Specialist Bonsey made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, we mourn this tragic loss; extend our deepest condolences to his family, his friends, and his fellow soldiers; and honor his memory with gratitude for his service.

CONGRATULATING DR. ANGEL CABRERA

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Angel Cabrera on his appointment as the next president of the Aspen Institute.

The Aspen Institute is a globally recognized nonprofit organization dedicated to unlocking human potential, fostering understanding, and creating new possibilities for a better world.

Dr. Cabrera currently serves as the 12th president of the Georgia Institute of Technology. Since taking office in 2019, he has led the university through a period of extraordinary growth and achievement. Under his leadership, enrollment has grown by 55 percent to more than 56,000 students, while annual sponsored research awards have exceeded \$1.4 billion.

His impact has been felt far beyond campus, helping strengthen innovation, develop talent, and drive economic opportunity across Georgia and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Dr. Cabrera on this well-deserved appointment and wish him continued success in this next chapter.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MELINDA  
SCHNEIDER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the legacy of Melinda Schneider, affectionately known as the Yellow Bow Lady, whose dedication to service left an enduring mark on her community and on our State.

Born in Savannah, Melinda spent decades serving others through civic leadership, volunteerism, and unwavering support for veterans and military families. She was a tireless advocate for veterans, holding leadership roles with DAV Auxiliary Unit 46, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 789, the Hinesville Military Affairs Committee, and the Veterans Memorial at Bryant Commons.

Melinda also served as a member of the Liberty County Board of Elections, secretary of the Liberty County Republican Party, and a volunteer at Winn Army Community Hospital. Her devotion to the soldiers and families of Fort Stewart earned her the affectionate title of "Marne Rock Star."

Mr. Speaker, Melinda leaves behind a remarkable legacy of service, compassion, and community leadership. We extend our deepest condolences to her family and honor a life well lived.

HONORING MISS GEORGIA AND MISS TEEN  
GEORGIA 2026

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the recent winners of Miss Georgia 2026 and Miss Teen Georgia 2026.

At the 81st annual Miss Georgia Scholarship Competition, Sophia Wootten, representing northwest Georgia, was crowned Miss Georgia, and

Melony Tidmore, representing Capital City's Teen, was named Miss Georgia's Teen.

The candidates competed for scholarships and the opportunity to represent the State of Georgia in the Miss America and Miss America's Teen competitions this September.

Sophia, from Peachtree City, is currently a student at the University of Georgia, with her community service initiative focusing on disability advocacy in education.

Melony, from Powder Springs, currently attends Liberty University Online Academy, with her community service initiative being "Initiative Dance: A Movement Toward Better Health."

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate these young women and wish them the best of luck in the upcoming Miss America competition.

RECOGNIZING DR. WILLIE UNDERWOOD III

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Willie Underwood III, a distinguished urologic surgeon, educator, and advocate, on his inauguration as the 181st president of the American Medical Association.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Dr. Underwood for assuming his presidency at a defining moment for American healthcare.

Dr. Underwood is only the second urologist and third Black physician to serve as AMA president, a historic milestone for American medicine.

A graduate of Morehouse College and SUNY Upstate Medical University, Dr. Underwood brings more than 25 years of urologic surgery experience, including 15 years specializing in robotic urologic oncology.

He is a proud prostate cancer survivor whose personal experience deepened his commitment to closing gaps in care and ensuring every patient receives the treatment they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, as a pharmacist, I look forward to working alongside Dr. Underwood to build a healthcare system that provides more choices, lower costs, and better outcomes for all Americans.

RECOGNIZING BARRETT CARTER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my middle son, Barrett Carter, a proud southeast Georgia native and accomplished PGA Head Golf Professional.

Barrett graduated from the University of Georgia before settling in the New Orleans area in 2009, where he has built an impressive career as a PGA Class A Professional. He has served at some of the region's premier facilities, including TPC Louisiana and Metairie Country Club, and now currently serves as head golf professional at Oak Knoll Country Club in Hammond, Louisiana.

Barrett is passionate about growing the game through instruction and by creating welcoming programs for golfers of all ages and abilities.

Although Barrett and his wife live in Metairie with their three precious

daughters, the First District of Georgia is still proud to claim him as one of our own.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate my son on all he has done to inspire new players and grow the game of golf. His mother and I are very proud of him.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### FORMING A MORE PERFECT UNION FOR ALL

(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, 250 years ago, the Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, gave birth to a new Nation built on the revolutionary idea that the power of government is derived from the people. The Continental Congress gave birth to a government by, of, and for the people based upon principles of liberty and justice for all.

Today, we can be extraordinarily proud that the United States of America still stands upon those principles, but we also have to acknowledge that the promise of America remains unfinished 250 years later.

Today, for Black Americans in historically marginalized communities, the ideals upon which this Nation has been founded have too often been delayed, denied, or defended only after bitter struggle.

From the fight to end slavery to the struggle against Jim Crow to the ongoing battles for voting rights, equal justice, economic opportunity, and quality healthcare, the story of America has always been a story of both promise and unfinished progress.

At this critical moment, we must be clear: Celebrating America's extraordinary history cannot mean ignoring the work that is still before us to form that more perfect Union. A true commemoration of 250 years must reckon with the reality upon which this country was founded, reconcile it with the ideals upon which this country was founded, and reckon with the communities who built this Nation, fought to perfect it, and continue to demand that its promises are made real for all people.

□ 2020

Tonight, the Congressional Black Caucus remains committed to ensuring our Nation's progress is measured not only by its past but by its continued pursuit of liberty and justice for all as we strive for that more perfect Union:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Mr. Speaker, when Thomas Jefferson wrote those words in the Declaration of Independence, which the Continental Congress adopted on July 2, 1776, he did not include me. He did not include nearly half a million enslaved men, women, and children in the Thirteen Colonies, including his own children at his beloved Monticello.

Over a decade later, when James Madison wrote "The Virginia Plan" that formed the foundation for our U.S. Constitution, creating a government by, of, and for the people, in order to form a more perfect Union, he and the delegates to that convention did not include me. They did not include over 300 enslaved people who lived and labored at his Montpelier estate, over three generations of the Madison family.

Indeed, the Constitution adopted in 1789, considered enslaved individuals, like my ancestors, only three-fifths of a person for the purpose of how many people would serve in this body and for taxation. Beyond that, they were treated as property.

For 250 years, the story of America has been one of each generation trying to reconcile the ideals upon which this country was founded with the reality and to make the ideals true for everyone.

It has taken a Civil War, the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 19th amendments, at a minimum, to get us closer to that more perfect Union.

We have made progress. I would not be standing before you as the first Black woman elected to this body or to serve in this body, period, from the Commonwealth of Virginia, the birthplace of American democracy and the birthplace of American slavery. I wouldn't be standing here if we hadn't made progress.

Every time we have made progress as a Nation toward that more perfect Union, there has been a backlash, and that backlash has involved propaganda, violence, and voter suppression. Yet, we continue to strive for that more perfect Union.

I am proud to be part of the Congressional Black Caucus, the conscience of the Congress, that has fought for that progress, to keep that progress, and to build upon that progress.

Virginia has played a leading role in this struggle of reconciling the ideals upon which our country was founded with its reality. Established on July 30, 1619, Virginia boasts the oldest continuous law-making body in the Western Hemisphere. The first elected legislative assembly in the New World, the Virginia General Assembly, in which I and many of my fellow members of the Virginia delegation have served. It was the birthplace for the birth of American democracy.

One month later, a Dutch privateer arrived on the shores of Virginia with 20-and-odd Africans, captured by Portuguese slavers in West Central Africa, and they were traded for provisions.

Three months after that, Virginia took steps toward becoming a perma-

nent colony by recruiting English women to Jamestown to make wives for the inhabitants. When those women arrived, they had no right to vote, no right to hold public office, no right to control their own property.

Since 1776, and particularly since 1789, America has been faced with a question of how to make true for all Americans the promise of our founding documents.

How do we make true a government by, of, and for the people when for so much of our history too many people weren't allowed to participate.

We have, again, as I said, made progress. A lot of that progress was bought with the blood of the Civil War, bought with the blood of people during the civil rights movement, marching, fighting, and, in some cases, dying for the right to vote.

Yet today, we face a rollback of that progress. We have a President who insists he will not sign another bill unless it is a modern day poll tax, the SAVE America Act, which would require every American to prove their citizenship before they can vote through documents that cost money.

That is just as much a poll tax as the poll tax my father paid when he first registered to vote in Tennessee. It is on the Bible where he kept that receipt that I took my oath of office to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States—all of it, not just the convenient parts.

We will continue, as the Congressional Black Caucus, to fight for progress. We stand on the shoulders of those who paved the way before us. We are building a path for those who will come after us.

As John Lewis said, democracy is not a State. It is an act that requires every generation to do its part to build a beloved community. Democracy in and of itself is not the point. It is what you do with it. It is what you do to build that more perfect Union.

My parents, growing up during the Depression, under the tyranny of Jim Crow, as they fought to participate in their government, saw the best of government when the full force of the Federal Government was used during the New Deal to help people solve problems beyond their control caused by the Depression.

They saw the worst of government, a government that oppressed them solely for the color of their skin, for the benefit of others.

They sparked in me a desire to make government that force that helps people and solves problems.

That is what gets me through the chaos, quite frankly, Mr. Speaker. I am very cognizant every day that I serve in this body, and especially on certain days when court decisions come out of the Supreme Court, I am very cognizant that I am fighting the same fights that my parents, my grandparents, and my great-grandparents fought.

I could be angry about that, but I am joyful. I am joyful because I fight those