

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues and I have described during this Special Order, Long Island's success has never happened by accident. Rather, it has always been driven by gritty, proud, hardworking people willing to invest in their communities and build a stronger future.

For the last 100 years, the Long Island Association has helped lead that effort, and I have no doubt it will continue to do so for generations to come.

I once again congratulate the Long Island Association on its centennial anniversary, thank its leadership and members for their enduring service to our region and wish them continued success ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSMER).

□ 1940

RECOGNIZING KEN EPPLER, OUTSTANDING HOOSIER

Mr. MESSMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an outstanding Hoosier whose dedication to our country did not end when he took off the uniform.

This week, I will have the honor of welcoming Evansville Army veteran Ken Eppler and his lovely wife, Cathy, to my congressional office here at the United States Capitol.

Following his service to our Nation, Ken found great happiness in his incredible talent as a painter. He graciously lent me one of his beautiful paintings, *The Enduring Spirit* to display here in the Halls of Congress in honor of America's 250th anniversary.

Ken served our Nation with honor in the United States Army, earning both Airborne and Air Assault qualifications before serving with the 101st Airborne Division during the Gulf war.

He later continued his service in the Indiana National Guard and has made us all proud as a defender of our country and a wonderful member of our community. His commitment to our Nation is reflected not only in his military service, but also in the remarkable artwork he continues to create.

The *Enduring Spirit* depicts three colonial children standing together playing the fife and drum while proudly holding an American 250 flag. To me, this patriotic painting is a powerful reminder that the ideals of freedom and love of country are passed from one generation down to the next. It is a privilege to display his incredible artwork for my colleagues and all who visit Washington, especially those Hoosiers coming to our Nation's Capital.

Ken has said that he hopes his artwork inspires students to love our country and encourages young people to learn more about our Nation's great history. I cannot think of a better message to share with the myriads of people who travel to Washington and visit our country's Capital.

Indiana's Eighth District is proud to call Ken Eppler one of our own, and I am honored to display his beautiful artwork which I think reflects the very best of Hoosier and American patriotism.

CONGRATULATING EVANSVILLE MATER DEI WILDCATS BASEBALL VICTORY

Mr. MESSMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mater Dei Wildcats for winning the 2026 Indiana High School Athletic Association Class 2-A baseball State championship.

In a thrilling 6-3 victory in the final game, the Wildcats captured their second baseball State championship in school history, the last one being back in 1991.

I also want to recognize first-year Head Coach Adam Wildeman whose leadership led the Wildcats to 15 consecutive victories, delivering another championship back to Evansville. This victory is a proud moment for Evansville, Vanderburgh County, and all of Indiana's Eighth Congressional District.

Congratulations, once again, to the Mater Dei Wildcats.

CONGRATULATING THE BARR-REEVE VIKINGS SOFTBALL VICTORY

Mr. MESSMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Barr-Reeve Vikings softball team on winning the 2026 Indiana High School Athletic Association Class 1-A State softball championship, their first State softball championship in school history.

With a dominant 6-0 victory in their final game, the Vikings had an outstanding season with 32 wins and only one loss, cementing their names in the Hoosier athletic history books.

This championship is the result of years of hard work and great perseverance. A great job was done by Head Coach Josh Huff, whose leadership inspired the discipline these athletes put forth to bring home this victory.

Congratulations to the Barr-Reeve Vikings for making all of us proud in Daviess County and throughout the Eighth District, and may they enjoy their well-deserved summer vacation.

CONGRATULATING TECUMSEH BRAVES SOFTBALL VICTORY

Mr. MESSMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Tecumseh Braves softball team on bringing home the 2026 Indiana High School Athletic Association Class 2-A softball State championship.

This marks the fourth State championship title the Braves have captured in the last 5 years and the seventh in the program's history.

What an extraordinary achievement, reflecting incredible amounts of hard work, discipline, and a great commitment to their teammates and their sport.

Year after year, the Tecumseh Braves have set the standard for excellence, as their many big wins show.

Thanks to Head Coach Gordon Wood, whose outstanding leadership has helped establish Tecumseh as one of Indiana's premier softball programs.

Way to make all of us in Warrick County proud. I congratulate them all.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JASPER WILDCATS GIRLS' TENNIS VICTORY

Mr. MESSMER. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Jas-

per Wildcats girls' tennis doubles team of Adaysha Smiley and Stella Knies for winning the 2026 Indiana High School Athletic Association girls' tennis doubles State championship.

In a hard-fought straight-set victory, the doubles team captured the State title, capping off an outstanding season. Hats off to these two athletes for their prowess and sportsmanship throughout the year, which makes this big win all the more sweet for the Wildcats and the fans.

I also want to give a shout-out to Head Coach Scott Yarbrough, whose outstanding leadership has, once again, guided the Wildcats to another State championship. All of Dubois County is proud of this tennis team and these special young ladies for their impressive victory.

I congratulate, once again, the Jasper Wildcats girls' tennis team.

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

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CONGRESSMAN 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.)

GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, this week's Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour is in honor of the life and legacy of civil rights leader and our former colleague, Congressman John R. Lewis, as we mark the sixth anniversary of his passing last week.

Congressman Lewis led our community fearlessly through many pivotal moments in our Nation's history. From his time as a student organizer to marching in Montgomery alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., up until the end of his career in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Lewis was a beacon of light in our darkest times.

His legacy continues to inspire not only this caucus but our country, serving as a blueprint for protecting and expanding democracy, defending the right to vote, advancing the unfinished work of justice and equal representation, the unfinished work of making liberty and justice for all apply to all.

The Supreme Court's recent decision in *Louisiana v. Callais* underscores the enduring importance of safeguarding the Black vote. The Trump administration's efforts to prioritize the disenfranchisement of our communities and its efforts to roll back progress made in making equality apply to all

galvanizes the Congressional Black Caucus to double down and further his life's legacy.

Today, we commemorate the memory of Congressman John Lewis while we continue to hold the line against ongoing attacks to our right to representation.

I want to reflect on what John Lewis meant to me. Born in 1972, I am the first generation, but hopefully not the last, to benefit from him literally putting his life on the line to extend the promises of our founding documents to all of us.

I studied his history, and I was particularly inspired by how at a young age as a college student, John Lewis put his faith into action. He said in an op-ed he wrote toward the end of his life that Emmett Till was his George Floyd.

When Emmett Till was killed at age 14, John Lewis was only 15 years old.

He said: "I will never ever forget the moment when it became so clear that he could easily have been me. In those days, fear constrained us like an imaginary prison, and troubling thoughts of potential brutality committed for no understandable reason were the bars."

"Though I was surrounded by two loving parents, plenty of brothers, sisters, and cousins, their love could not protect me from the unholy oppression waiting just outside that family circle. Unchecked, unrestrained violence and government-sanctioned terror had the power to turn a simple stroll to the store for some Skittles or an innocent morning jog down a lonesome country road into a nightmare. If we are to survive as one unified nation, we must discover what so readily takes root in our hearts that could rob Mother Emanuel Church in South Carolina of her brightest and best, shoot unwitting concertgoers in Las Vegas and choke to death the hopes and dreams of a gifted violinist like Elijah McClain."

At 15 years old, John Lewis decided to do something about it. As a college student, he participated in the national sit-in, a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement, where he and his fellow students targeted segregated lunch counters in downtown Nashville where my father was from.

They were arrested, beaten, and jailed. My grandfather actually served as one of the members of the legal team to those students.

This act of peaceful protest in the face of violent reaction led to the desegregation of the city stores in Nashville.

I will never forget watching a video of Congressman Lewis sitting at the lunch counter, in an exhibit in the Smithsonian Museum of African American History, listening in the headsets to the recording of what the Greensboro Four heard at the Woolworth counter. As it triggered his own memory, he wept.

□ 1950

In May of 1961, Congressman Lewis, then a student, was severely beaten by

a White mob at a Greyhound bus terminal in Rock Hill, South Carolina, during the Freedom Rides.

Fifty years later, one of his attackers, Elwin Wilson, came to Washington to ask for his forgiveness. Together, in a very emotional meeting in his office, they listened to another recording of the mob that beat John Lewis nearly to death that day. John Lewis forgave him.

In August of 1963, he was the youngest speaker at the March on Washington, representing one of the Big Six civil rights group.

Then, in March of 1965, he led another March, in Selma, where he was again beaten, along with 600 other peaceful protesters walking across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, who were brutally attacked by State troopers.

Each of these actions galvanized change: the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, and more.

For me, the most memorable moment I got to witness: In 2019, he came to Richmond. He was the keynote speaker at a ceremony to rename the Boulevard after tennis great, Arthur Ashe. After his speech, I had the privilege of escorting him to an exhibit at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. In a former Confederate chapel, the exhibit included a recording of the speech that he gave in response when he opposed the impeachment of President Clinton.

I sat in a pew next to John Lewis and watched him as he listened to that speech for the first time since he gave it. What stuck out to me were the following words: "When you see something that is not right, not just, not fair, you have a moral obligation to say something, to do something. Our children and their children will ask us, What did you do? What did you say? For some, this vote may be hard, but we have a mission and a mandate to be on the right side of history."

I watched with tears in my eyes as he listened and wept. He said that was the first time he had heard it but that the words were still true.

Mr. Speaker, we take tough votes here. We take votes that sometimes are the difference between life and death. We take votes to try to stop the rollback of progress. We take votes to make "liberty and justice for all" apply to all.

For me, my North Star are the words I just read from John Lewis: When you see something that is not right, say something.

There is a lot I see that is not right. I see a President, in the name of a war on wokeness, dismantling the very civil rights protections that allowed me to be here. I see a President and his congressional enablers dismantling the right to vote, putting on the floor not once, not twice, not three times—at least four times a modern day poll tax that makes a mockery of the Voting Rights Act and the 15th Amendment that it was intended to enforce.

I see a Secretary of Defense who is systematically firing very qualified,

very distinguished, decorated generals and leaders, admirals, because they are Black or women. He thinks that, because of that, they must only be there because of DEI. I see that that is wrong, and I am saying something. I will continue to say something because that is what John Lewis would have me do.

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

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am Representative D. YVETTE CLARKE, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus for the 119th Session of Congress, proudly representing New York's Ninth Congressional District in central and southwest Brooklyn.

I thank my dear colleague Congresswoman JENNIFER MCCLELLAN for anchoring this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour and really setting the table for a conversation that we are having this evening.

I rise tonight with my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus to honor the life and legacy of our dear friend and former colleague, the conscience of this Congress, Congressman John Lewis.

For more than 30 years in the United States House of Representatives and over the course of his life, Congressman John Lewis never stopped fighting for justice, equality, and the right to vote.

Today, the very ideals that Congressman Lewis spent his life fighting to protect are under sustained and unprecedented attack. As we speak, extremist Republicans at the local, State, and national levels are using 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 mail-in ballots, and imposing stricter national voter ID requirements.

Right now Republicans in the Congress are fighting to jam through voter suppression legislation, like the so-called SAVE America Act and the Voter ID Act, ushering in a national ID program.

In the wake of the Callais decision, Black political power and representation has come under direct assault, with Republican-led legislatures and Governors moving to redraw congressional maps across the south ahead of the November election in a brazen effort to dilute Black voting strength and reverse decades of hard-fought civil rights progress secured through the Voting Rights Act.

With these unprecedented assaults on our voting rights and the slow erosion of our constitutional and Democratic norms, each of us has a moral responsibility to speak out and act out as Congressman John Lewis did. Voting

rights are and have always been the CBC's North Star.

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

At a time when our democracy is under constant siege by the Trump administration, we must do all that we can to protect those most fundamental and foundational rights.

It is a shame that partisan politics has brought us to a 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—to promise that we are all created equal.

From the Edmund Pettus Bridge to the Halls of Congress, the boy from Troy never stopped making good trouble. As he would say: necessary 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 light of 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.

Mr. Speaker, I will just say that we miss John Lewis. In this moment, it is up to all of us to pick up the mantle of his legacy and press forward, making good trouble, necessary trouble.

□ 2000

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH), from the Sixth District.

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I thank so much, once again, our esteemed colleague Representative JENNIFER MCCLELLAN from Virginia who consistently, over and over again, has always been steadfast in holding Special Order hours for the Congressional Black Caucus. She understands the relevance and the importance of our history and all that this means to communities of color that we make sure that we have our say here on the House floor and all these words are kept in the record for perpetuity.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues and the CBC for hosting tonight's CBC Special Order hour to honor what we all know is a really, really great man. I think everyone, whether you are Republican or Democrat, has always understood the importance of having John Lewis as our esteemed colleague.

It is hard to believe that it has been 6 years since the passing of our dear friend and colleague Congressman John Lewis, or as he would always say, "I am the boy from Troy."

Despite years lacking his presence, his spirit and his soul still fill this

Chamber every single day. There are so many of my colleagues that continue to use his words and his phrases and his thoughts every single day as they want to be able to emulate the work that he has done for democracy, the work that he has done for the United States of America on behalf of every community in America.

Renowned as the conscience of Congress—and I don't think there will be anyone else ever to come along in this esteemed body, for years to come, long after we are all gone, that can ever be revered as the conscience of Congress—John leaves behind a legacy that serves as a guiding light toward what is right and what is just in America.

In a world where Federal protections for communities indeed are under constant attack every single day, where the Voting Rights Act is being systematically dismantled, and where some children born today have fewer protections than their parents had, it has never been more important to let his words guide our actions.

As John would often say, and it has been quoted a million times over, we have a moral obligation, a mission, and a mandate to do what we can to make our country and our world a better place, and to help usher in a loving community where no one is left out or left behind.

John was probably one of the only politicians that I truly believe lived by those words and was absolutely unafraid to do what was necessary to realize them, no matter if he was marching for freedom in Selma or sitting in on the House floor in support of safer gun laws.

I remember that night so distinctly because at that time, I was the national spokesperson for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. While all of my now colleagues were sitting on the House floor asking for background checks for all gun sales, asking for safer communities, legislation that would keep our families safe, I was on the outside leading the rally, leading the charge for the very same thing.

John reminded each of us of the importance of getting into good, necessary trouble. You will hear that said by my colleagues again and again because the trouble is absolutely necessary.

John's story is one of faith. It is one of resilience and perpetual belief that it is our responsibility—especially those of us who serve in this body—to fight for the change that we wish to see, that our constituents and our communities are crying out for.

From the son of Alabama sharecroppers to a renowned civil rights activist to a Member of Congress, John's life was a true testament to the American Dream. He embraced a country that did not always embrace him because he believed in the promise of a better tomorrow and was willing to fight for it. He was willing to even die for it.

He fought for it on the streets of Montgomery. He fought for it while bruised and bloodied on a bridge in Selma. He fought for it for 33 years representing his community in the Halls of Congress.

He was a mentor to me when I first came to this Chamber ready to make life better for families in Georgia. In fact, I remember the very first day I was here, after I was sworn in. The Democratic Caucus always welcomes the brand-new Members. It was John, who was the leader of our delegation, who introduced me to the entire Democratic Caucus.

That moment was so monumental for me, so monumental for me that I had the John Lewis, our civil rights icon, introduce me to the Democratic Caucus as one of his very own. It takes my breath away even to this day.

I will never forget the day that he accompanied me and other survivors of gun violence and those who have lost loved ones as we marched our way over to Senator MITCH MCCONNELL's office. We were demanding that he pay heed to our stories, that he pay attention to the hundreds of thousands of people in this country that are dying unnecessarily to gun violence every single day.

I remember dancing with John Lewis. He loved to dance. Despite everything that happened to him in his life, he believed in the good of man. He believed in the best of man. That joy came through whenever he was with organizations and people that had come to celebrate all the work that he had done. He would celebrate and give them love through dance.

I remember even before I came to Congress, I asked John, when I was national spokesperson for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America in Atlanta, I was holding a rally and asked him if he would be my keynote speaker, never imagining he would say yes. Never in a million years did I believe that John Lewis would listen to me, just an average mom who had lost her own son to gun violence, but just asking for a little bit of his time. He came and spoke at my rally.

One thing I know about John is he always showed up for people, the people. They were his cause. Democracy was his cause. Freedom was his cause.

At this moment in our Nation's history, we draw upon the wisdom of his words and look to his legacy for strength and guidance as we carry the torch that he lit for civil and human rights, for not only people of color but for everyone in America. Because even today, we painfully have to be reminded that our work is still unfinished and not everybody in this country has been set free.

Before we mourn the death of John Lewis, we grieve the loss of the Federal protections the Voting Rights Act once afforded every American in this country, rights that John nearly gave his life for long before he ever had the chance to even serve in Congress.

□ 2010

Since his passing, those protections have eroded further, and the struggle to protect voting rights continues in his name here with legislation, back home in my home State of Georgia, and in State legislatures all across this country.

Progress is rarely linear. Despite this tumultuous time in our Nation's history, John's story reminds us that the fight to make our country a better place is never-ending. It is generation after generation. There is no end.

It was one of the greatest honors of my life to be his colleague and a fellow member of Georgia's congressional delegation.

Let's not forget the impact that he had on our country because his legacy is what guides us towards the future. It was a pure legacy for everyone in this country.

John cared so deeply about what he used to say all the time was the Beloved Community. The members of the CBC that I am so blessed to be able to serve with, we are always going to carry that mantle. That is our charge: to carry that mantle, uplifting the community that he loved so much.

We will continue to speak up, and we are going to continue to speak out against bigotry, against hatred, inequity, and injustice because that is what we know best. As people of color, that is what we know best.

So we will continue to speak up against all of these forms of inequity. In all of its forms, we will continue to fight against it. This will always be our charge, as we are tasked to be the protectors and the armor-bearers of democracy.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Georgia.

As we reflect on Congressman Lewis, I often ask myself what would he say about what is going on today? I have to start with his final words to us, which I want to share now.

Shortly after his death, The New York Times published his last words to us in an op-ed entitled: "Together, You Can Redeem the Soul of Our Nation: Though I am gone, I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe."

"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 the world you set aside race, class, age, language, and nationality to demand respect for human dignity.

"That is why I had to visit Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington, though I was admitted to the hospital the following day. I just had to see and feel it for myself that, after many

years of silent witness, the truth is still marching on.

"Emmett Till was my George Floyd. He was my Rayshard Brooks, Sandra Bland, and Breonna Taylor. He was 14 when he was killed, and I was only 15 years old at the time. I will never ever forget the moment when it became so clear that he could easily have been me. In those days, fear constrained us like an imaginary prison, and troubling thoughts of potential brutality committed for no understandable reason were the bars.

"Though I was surrounded by two loving parents, plenty of brothers, sisters, and cousins, their love could not protect me from the unholy oppression waiting just outside that family circle. Unchecked, unrestrained violence and government-sanctioned terror had the power to turn a simple stroll to the store for some Skittles or an innocent morning jog down a lonesome country road into a nightmare. If we are to survive as one unified nation, we must discover what so readily takes roots in our hearts that could rob Mother Emanuel Church in South Carolina of her brightest and best, shoot unwitting concertgoers in Las Vegas and choke to death the hopes and dreams of a gifted violinist like Elijah McClain.

"Like so many young people today, I was searching for a way out, or some might say a way in, and then I heard the voice of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on an old radio. He was talking about the philosophy and discipline of nonviolence. He said we are all complicit when we tolerate injustice. He said it is not enough to say it will get better by and by. He said each of us has a moral obligation to stand up, speak up, and speak out. When you see something that is not right, you must say something. You must do something. 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.

"Ordinary people with extraordinary vision can redeem the soul of America by getting in what I call good trouble, necessary trouble. Voting and participating in the democratic process are key. The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have in a democratic society. You must use it because it is not guaranteed. You can lose it.

"You must also study and learn the lessons of history because humanity has been involved in this soul-wrenching, existential struggle for a very long time. People on every continent have stood in your shoes, through decades and centuries before you. The truth does not change, and that is why the answers worked out so long ago can help you find solutions to the challenges of our time. Continue to build union between movements stretching across the globe because we must put away our willingness to profit from the exploitation of others.

"Though I may not be here with you, I urge you to answer the highest call-

ing of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe. In my life I have done all I can to demonstrate that the way of peace, the way of love, and non-violence is the more excellent way. Now it is your turn to let freedom ring.

"When historians pick up their pens to write the story of the 21st century, let them say that it was your generation who laid down the heavy burdens of hate at last and that peace finally triumphed over violence, aggression, and war. So I say to you, walk with the wind, brothers and sisters, and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide."

With that, John Lewis put down the torch, and we have to pick it up. We have to pick it up and run with it because the Beloved Community that he fought for is very far out of sight, farther than it was when he left us.

We still see, rather than a 14-year-old being lynched and killed because he had the temerity to be accused of hitting on a White woman and be killed, we have gone from Black Americans being afraid to walk down the street because of the violence that they may see, to immigrant communities afraid to go to the courthouse, to work, to school, anywhere where they might be detained and deported with no due process, or shot and killed, or detained in horrible conditions and not given the care that they need when they need it.

□ 2020

We now see people who fear going to the grocery store, school, a concert, a movie theater, church, or a baseball game without the fear of gun violence, which he fought so hard against.

We now see, when he encouraged us to learn from our history, an administration that wants to erase it because it is uncomfortable. But like any family tragedy, any family trauma, we cannot heal from the ugly parts of American history if we don't talk about it and learn from it.

See, we also need to understand our history and learn it because we have been here before. As John Lewis said: "The truth does not change, and . . . the answers worked out long ago can help you find solutions to the challenges of our time." But, if you are not teaching that history, if you are erasing it from our museums, our public spaces, and our classrooms, you can't learn it, and you can't learn from it.

We are, once again, involved in a war with no end in sight, and no one really understands how it started. We are seeing the weaponization of the very tools that gave us our closest moment to where we could say liberty and justice for all applied to all: The Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, the 14th Amendment, the 15th Amendment being weaponized to dismantle the progress we made of overcoming the legacy of over 300 years of slavery and Jim Crow.

We could be discouraged. I know a lot of people are. A lot of young people

who I talk to are—a lot of people who recognize that they have fewer rights than their parents did, a lot of people who realize they are fighting the same fights as their parents, their grandparents, and their great-grandparents.

They are people who are struggling to put food on the table, to keep the lights on, to get the healthcare they need when they need it without going bankrupt.

A lot of people are in despair, but John Lewis had something to say to them, too: “Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year. It is the struggle of a lifetime. Never ever be afraid to make some noise and get into good trouble, necessary trouble.”

Mr. Speaker, we are picking up the baton. I have picked up the baton. The Congressional Black Caucus has picked up the baton, and we will never ever drop it. We will fight back against attempts to roll back our voting rights. We will fight back against attempts to erase our history. We will fight back against attempts to erase the legacy that still lingers and impacts our communities—that legacy of over 300 years of slavery and Jim Crow.

We will never stop fighting for any community that is targeted and marginalized solely because of who they are. We will never stop fighting until, as Dr. King said, we can all say: “Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, I am free at last,” and until the promises of the Declaration of Independence, written 250 years ago, become true for everybody that this government recognizes that all people are created equal with the natural rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness and that the purpose of government is to secure and protect those rights.

That is what John Lewis nearly gave his life for on that bus in South Carolina and on that bridge in Selma. He fought to the very end until he didn’t have the strength to fight anymore. We owe it to him to pick up that baton and never let it go until we hand it off to the next generation, who will fight to protect our democracy and our beloved community.

I thank John Lewis for dedicating his life so that generations who never met him will benefit from his work. We will carry it on.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o’clock and 25 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

EC-4153. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — Records Preservation Program and Appendices—Record Retention Guidelines; Catastrophic Act Preparedness Guidelines (RIN: 3133-AF61) received July 17, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-4154. A letter from the Associate General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — Prohibition on the Use of Reputation Risk (RIN: 3133-AF67) received July 17, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-4155. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of Community Services, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Reducing Bureaucracy and Burden for Community Services Programs (RIN: 0970-AD41) received June 9, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

EC-4156. A letter from the Secretary, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission’s final rule — Revision of the Negative Option Rule, Withdrawal of the CARS Rule, Removal of the Non-Compete Rule To Conform These Rules to Federal Court Decisions (RIN: 3084-AB60) (RIN: 3084-AB72) (RIN: 3084-AB74) received July 14, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4157. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report titled “Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Sixth Report to Congress: Highlights of the DERA Program 2008-2025”, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 16134(a); Public Law 109-58, Sec. 794(a); (119 Stat. 843); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4158. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Regulatory Management Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Plan (Negative Declaration) for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Nebraska; Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incineration Units [EPA-R07-OAR-2026-4952; FRL-13457-02-R7] received July 15, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4159. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; Interim Final Determination To Stay and Defer Sanctions Related to Reasonably Available Control Technology Requirements (RACT) for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) Control Technique Guidelines (CTG) Under the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) [EPA-R03-OAR-2026-3764; FRL-13384-01-R3] received July 15, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4160. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Regulatory Management Branch, En-

vironmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; Iowa; Revisions to Iowa Air Quality Regulations [EPA-R07-OAR-2026-1156; FRL-13242-02-R7] received June 15, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4161. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Regulatory Management Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval and Air Quality Designation; Ohio; Attainment Plan and Redesignation of the Canton Area to Attainment of the 2008 Lead Standard [EPA-R05-OAR-2024-0461; EPA-R05-OAR-2025-0222; FRL-13226-02-R5] received July 15, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4162. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Regulatory Management Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Revisions; California; Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District; New Source Review; Stationary Source Permits [EPA-R09-OAR-2025-0056; FRL-12601-03-R9] received July 15, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4163. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Regulatory Management Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — New Source Performance Standards Review for Stationary Combustion Turbines and Stationary Gas Turbines; Correction [EPA-HQ-OAR-2024-0419; FRL-11542.1-02-OAR] received July 15, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4164. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Regulatory Management Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Bacteriophage Active Against *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *vesicatoria*—EcoPhage and Bacteriophage Active Against *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato*—EcoPhage; Exemptions from the Requirement of a Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2024-0329; FRL-13363-01-OCSPP] received July 13, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4165. A letter from the Chair, Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, transmitting the Commission’s June 2026 Report to Congress on Medicaid and CHIP, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1396(b)(1)(C); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XIX, Sec. 1900 (as amended by Public Law 111-148, Sec. 2801(a)(1)(A)(iv)); (124 Stat. 329); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4166. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: RSAT case 26-54, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4167. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report titled, “Foreign Persons Engaged in Significant Corruption for the Purposes of Potential Imposition of Sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act”; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4168. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s Fiscal Year 2025 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat.