

as the Tennessee Second District's February 2020 Veteran of the Month.

#### ANTILYNCHING LEGISLATION

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to support further the bill today on the floor of the House, H.R. 35, the Emmett Till Antilynching Act, and I thank my colleague from Illinois for his astuteness.

Lynching was the most heinous act of intimidation and violence against slaves and those who came after in the 1800s and the early 1900s.

Ida B. Wells, a renowned educator and investigative journalist, fought from 1886 to 1931 for the passage of antilynching legislation, the Emmett Till bill, which recounts the violence that a 14-year-old boy experienced until his death when he simply walked on a street and may have looked at a White woman.

This is an important standard and statement that also hopes to bring about the debate and passage of H.R. 40 on the floor of the House, which is the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act.

Let me also acknowledge H.R. 2819, to extend the authority for the establishment of a commemorative work in honor of Gold Star Families, and for other purposes. I am a strong supporter of those families who, obviously, lost their loved ones.

I want to finally say that this administration did not tell the truth on the coronavirus. It is absolutely imperative that they address the American people and address the next steps for protecting the American people, as I have done.

#### NATIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, this week is National Public Schools Week. This is a week where we recognize all the schools, all the educators, all the students, and every educational professional's hard work that goes into a student's success.

The strength of our Nation's public schools is a direct reflection of the strength of our Nation and a direct reflection on the strength of the future.

I stand here in solidarity to recognize the great work these professionals commit themselves to. Educators and educational professionals dedicate their lives to all students, regardless of where they come from, and help them achieve in every single aspect of their lives.

I am also proud to be a cosponsor of H. Res. 862, designating this week as National Public Schools Week.

I thank all of the educators, educational professionals, and students

whom those professionals will be shaping into the next generation of this great generation of America. May God bless them all.

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#### REVERE COPPER DOCK COLLAPSE

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

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to how corporate greed threatens our public health and environment with an alarming example from my hometown of Detroit.

On November 26, 2019, a portion of a dock operated by Detroit Bulk Storage collapsed into the Detroit River sending tons of crushed limestone into the river, disturbing contaminated river sediment and exposing the public and our water supply to the decades of contamination buried at this former uranium rod manufacturing site.

Detroit Bulk Storage took unnecessary risks by overloading its failing dock, caused a collapse into the river, and waited 3 days before notifying the National Response Center. When they did, they merely reported it as a dock collapse with no indication for State or Federal regulators of the contamination present at the site and the need for urgency.

Testing from State regulators and the EPA is ongoing, and so far tests appear to indicate no significant radiation exposure. However, the site's owner, Revere Dock, LLC, continues to drag its feet in developing and implementing a restoration plan.

This is yet another stark reminder that we cannot ever count on corporations to put the public interest ahead of their own profits and that we need drastic changes to strengthen regulatory tools and to hold them accountable to protect our public health.

#### CONGRATULATING MIRANDA HARWOOD, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Mrs. Miranda Harwood on becoming Hillsborough County's Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Harwood is a fourth-grade math teacher at Brooker Elementary School in Brandon, Florida.

Mrs. Harwood embodies everything that educators should be—a kind heart, dedication to her profession, and a commitment to her pupils. On Monday she hosts a math club for her excelling students, and on Wednesdays and Thursdays she stays late for those needing additional help and encouragement.

Not only does she create a learning environment conducive to academic

achievement, but she also strives to promote safety and security for those with difficult home lives. She really, truly cares. A former student described the impact that she left on him and his classmates as "making every student feel like they are her own child." Wow. Praise like this is both commendable and rare.

As Mrs. Harwood moves forward to the State competition for Teacher of the Year, I wish her the best of luck. More importantly, I am honored to have her passion and dedication in my district and to have her instill these characteristics into our next generation.

#### CENTRAL VIRGINIAN OF THE WEEK: HENRY MACK

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Henry Mack, a blue water Navy veteran and our Central Virginian of the Week.

Mr. Mack served in the U.S. Navy and completed five combat tours in Vietnam.

After attending Virginia Union University and settling in Chesterfield County, he witnessed the difficulties facing fellow veterans as they returned home. Unemployment and homelessness were prevalent, and former servicemembers faced extreme delays when trying to access their earned pensions and benefits.

He decided to take action, and in 1998 Mr. Mack founded the nonprofit Veterans Helping Veterans Now. By intervening early and walking alongside veterans through each step of an often tedious process, Mr. Mack's organization helps our neighbors gain employment, secure their benefits, and overcome challenges like PTSD and addiction.

Today, Veterans Helping Veterans Now has assisted more than 4,000 Americans in Virginia and across the country.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. Mack for his selfless service both in uniform and as an advocate for his fellow veterans.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF DR. WESLEY BALL

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Dr. Wesley Ball who passed away on January 8 at the age of 88.

Originally from Moultrie, Georgia, Dr. Ball came to Savannah in 1964 where he practiced surgery for over 33 years. Not only an exceptional surgeon, his work transcended that of just healthcare by breaking down political, racial, and international borders.

He became a lifelong member of the NAACP where he helped build plans to desegregate the school system. He made numerous medical mission trips to Haiti. And he was a mentor to many up-and-coming doctors to whom he was known as the Godfather of Medicine for his loving and kind manner.

I am proud to have had someone like Dr. Ball working in the First Congressional District of Georgia. Simply put, Dr. Ball is leaving Savannah and much of the rest of the world a better place than he found it.

Dr. Ball's family will be in my thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.

#### BORIS NEMTSOV AND RUSSIAN MALIGN INFLUENCE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise in commemoration of the life of Boris Nemtsov who was tragically assassinated by Vladimir Putin's Russian regime 5 years ago this week in Moscow. Boris served as deputy prime minister and was a prominent voice for political freedom in Russia itself.

Cities across the world have commemorated Boris' sacrifice, including here in Washington, D.C., which named the square outside the Russian Embassy Boris Nemtsov Plaza. Just recently, Czech authorities in Prague have joined in solidarity.

In the years since Boris' assassination, Russia's efforts to dismantle democratic institutions across the globe have increased, including here in the United States where they are continuing to interfere in the elections of this year.

We must stand together against Russia's aggression and malign behavior. Sanctions are a commonsense step.

Today, I call upon the Trump administration to broaden stronger, targeted sanctions on Russia. To keep backpedaling, as the Trump administration has done, on an enemy of liberty is not acceptable.

#### PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

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

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, as we mark Public Schools Week, I want to recognize the extraordinary educators across my community and our country.

In spite of deep, systemic inequities we face in funding for our public schools and this administration's proposed further cuts, there are efforts in every school district to teach and support our young people in every aspect of their lives:

Programs like the Allentown School District's partnership with Lehigh Carbon Community College, which allows students to earn an associate's degree before leaving high school.

Initiatives like the efforts in Bethlehem School District to provide universal screening for students' mental health challenges and to increase community involvement.

Robust arts education programs like those featured in the Freddy Awards, hosted each year by the State Theatre in Easton, recognizing exceptional high school theater departments across the region.

Vital services like the food pantry in East Stroudsburg School District to support food insecure students, and business education projects like a coffee shop run by students in the same district, providing those students an invaluable experience.

When we invest in public education, we invest in our common future as a country. Let us commit to making those investments full and equitable.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE IS A GLOBAL PROBLEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. WILD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, today we are convening our monthly special order hour of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to talk about a pressing issue to our Nation, to our planet, in fact, and especially to communities of color.

Climate change is a real global problem. It is affecting folks around the world contributing to natural disasters and droughts that lead to immigration and increased conflict.

We have seen how the Caribbean, which stands in the pathway of natural disasters, has been hit time and time again from Superstorm Maria to Hurricane Irma to the recent earthquakes in Puerto Rico. We have seen how this region of the world, the Caribbean, which is our third border, continually gets hammered by natural disasters.

In fact, just 2 days ago, the National Security, Military and Intelligence Panel of the Center for Climate and Security, a nonpartisan security policy institute, released a damning report. Within the report it said that higher levels of warming will pose a catastrophic and likely irreversible global security risk over the course of the 21st century.

Last September, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released yet another dire warning that the effects of climate change are already irreversible, and we only have just about a decade to act before it is too late.

One thing that is important, though, about climate change is the disproportionate impact it has on communities of color. This is called environmental injustice, and that is why it is important that we address this from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus perspective, the perspective of those representing communities of color.

Climate change affects our everyday lives in big ways and small ways. Take my grandson, for example. He suffers from asthma and acute allergies, and other health issues that a lot of our kids have that are worsened by air pollution.

The issue is communities of color are not the biggest contributors to the pollution of climate change. In fact, they contribute less but are disproportionately hurt by climate change. We take public transportation. We don't fill our streets with very expensive polluting cars, but we bear the greatest burden from this and many other pollutants. This is also called environmental injustice.

That is why I have introduced a resolution on environmental justice to ensure that the government acknowledges and addresses the disproportional harm that climate change has on our community and communities of color.

Let me just take a moment to talk about some of my other work on this issue, because I believe it is a good summary of aspects that need to be addressed.

I was proud to support H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act, which passed the House last year and will keep the U.S. in the historic Paris climate accord. I was able to include an amendment to that bill stating that climate justice and environmental justice must be included in our efforts to meet the Paris Agreement and mitigate and adapt to climate change.

When we apply funding and when we allocate funding to address climate change, those communities in crisis must be given the funding first. This must be a core tenet of our policies to address climate change. Every law we pass and every action we take to mitigate and adapt to climate change must include acknowledgment and protections for marginalized and frontline communities who bear the burden of climate change.

One of my predecessors in the U.S. Congress, the late, great Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., one of the great civil rights leaders of our times, led year after year his Powell amendments to ensure Federal funding did not support segregation. Every time he introduced the amendments, they would be voted down. They would be systematically shut down. But yet he continued to present them year after year after year. Finally, during the 1960s in the middle of that decade when the civil rights legislation was drafted and passed, that legislation which still benefits many of us across America, it was the Powell amendment that was included in civil rights legislation.

Environmental justice is my Powell amendment, and I believe we must work to ensure that in every bill this House considers environmental justice is upheld and advanced.

I have also introduced the Green Climate Fund Authorization Act which commits the United States to provide climate finances to keep the planet