

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