

115th largest export market for U.S. goods. Corresponding U.S. imports from Sri Lanka were \$2.88 billion;

Whereas, as Sri Lanka celebrates seven decades of freedom, this is a wonderful opportunity for us to pay tribute to all of her national heroes and freedom fighters who fought for independence and extend congratulations to the approximately 100,000 Sri Lankans in the U.S., whose communities have made economic and social impacts throughout various communities across America;

Whereas, Sri Lanka's rich history of over 2,500 years, and its tremendous progress as a nation in 70 years alone, proves Sri Lanka's tremendous potential for the rest of the 21st Century and the future beyond; now be it *Resolved*, That in commemoration of Sri Lanka's 70th year of independence, members of the United States House of Representatives congratulate the government of President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and look forward to working with the government of Sri Lanka, Sri Lankan Americans, and the Sri Lankan community in the United States for years to come.

RECOGNIZING TEENS AGAINST DIFFERENCE AND PALM BEACH COUNTY SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION YOUTH IN ACTION

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, opioids are prescribed to reduce acute pain and are used as anesthesia during surgery. But, as we are all too aware, they have a high potential for abuse. Approximately 2.4 million Americans are currently battling an opioid-use disorder.

In 2015, over 33,000 Americans died from an opioid-related overdose. In 2016, this number jumped to over 42,000. These tragic numbers show a worsening epidemic, which has been declared a national public health emergency.

Mr. Speaker, this epidemic significantly impacts our nation's youth, with the rate of non-medical use of opioids by adolescents and teens doubling from 1991 to 2012. The rate of teen drug overdose deaths skyrocketed 19 percent from 2014 to 2015, with 772 drug overdose deaths reported nationwide for teens aged 15 to 19.

Students throughout Palm Beach County, Florida have responded to this emergency in an effort to save lives by raising community awareness of the epidemic and by reaching out to elected officials to urge them to action.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these students and the work they have done to address this national public health emergency.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY

SPEECH OF

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2018

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, February is Black History Month. It is a time

to reflect on the progress we have made in this country in the pursuit of equality and justice and to honor the people whose hard work and sacrifice contributed in that endeavor.

While we certainly have made progress in many areas, I think it is also important to acknowledge the problems that still persist so that we may continue the work of those who we honor, not just in February but throughout the year.

We will hear a lot about 2018 being the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., but it is also the 50th anniversary of the Poor People's Campaign, which Dr. King championed before his death.

The Poor People's Campaign came to Washington in the spring of 1968 and set up a shantytown called Resurrection City where thousands lived on the National Mall, just a short distance from where I stand here tonight.

A central part of the Campaign was the drafting of an Economic Bill of Rights, which called for:

"A meaningful job at a living wage;"

"A secure and adequate income for all those unable to find or do a job;"

"Access to land for economic uses;"

"Access to capital for poor people and minorities to promote their own businesses;" and

The "ability for ordinary people to play a truly significant role in the government."

Fifty years later, we are still fighting for these same economic rights.

In 1968, a nonwhite family in America had a median wealth of about \$3,000 while white families had a median wealth of around \$60,000.

The wealth gap since then has only expanded, with black families holding a median wealth of \$17,000 versus \$171,000 in white families—a wealth gap of a factor of ten.

Homeownership—an important tool for wealth creation—is only 42 percent for black families but 68 percent for white families.

Retirement savings for black families is now around \$25,000 but over \$157,000 for white families.

It is important to note that Hispanic families have to deal with a wealth gap just as bad as black families.

In the greatest country in the world, your economic security should not be so closely tied to your race or your zip code.

In his Nobel Prize address in 1964, Dr. King noted: "There is nothing new about poverty. What is new, however, is that we have the resources to get rid of it."

Mr. Speaker, we, as members of Congress have a responsibility to use those resources to address the problem head on.

Certainly, we in the Congressional Black Caucus are committed to solving the problems of the wealth gap and economic inequality to bring our country closer together.

We must promote policies that increase job creation in low-income communities; strengthen our social safety nets, not take away benefits; invest in training programs so workers can transition to high-skilled, high-wage jobs, and make investments in revitalizing schools, infrastructure, and neighborhoods.

Families of color, and all American families, deserve equal access to economic opportunity. They deserve better jobs, better wages, and a better future.

HONORING MARGOT CISNEROS TORRES WHO IS RETIRING

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the distinguished career of Executive Director of Human Resources for San Benito Consolidated Independent School District (SBCISD), Margot Cisneros Torres who is retiring. As a director, principal, assistant principal, and educator, Mrs. Torres dedicated her life to bringing knowledge to others.

Mrs. Torres received her Bachelor of Arts degree from The University of Texas Pan American and her Master of Education in Educational Administration from the University of Texas in Brownsville. She holds Provisional Secondary Teaching Certificates in Secondary English and Spanish Grades 6–12, Mild Management Certificate PK–12, and Professional Superintendent Certificate PK–12.

Prior to serving as the Executive Director for Human Resources at SBCISD, Mrs. Torres worked for the Brownsville Independent School District for 26 years in many positions including high school English teacher, Assistant Principal, Human Resource Specialist, and Principal. Additionally, she served as a school principal at Point Isabel Independent School District for three years. Mrs. Torres will be completing an impressive 31 years in education upon her retirement at the end of this academic year.

The presence of Mrs. Torres will be missed at San Benito Consolidated Independent School District, but her legacy as a leader will be felt for years to come. Please join me in wishing Mrs. Torres and her family all the best as she begins the next chapter in her life.

HONORING DR. CARTER G. WOODSON OF HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Carter G. Woodson and to celebrate his legacy with my friends at Marshall University. Dr. Woodson is a former resident of Huntington, West Virginia, and is known as the "Father of African-American History." He believed in the importance of education, served as a principal of his alma mater Douglas High School, and later earned a doctorate in history from Harvard University. Dr. Woodson pioneered the observation of Black History Month and devoted his life to documenting the important contributions African Americans have made to our nation's history.

The Carter G. Woodson Lyceum at Marshall University has the great honor to welcome Librarian of Congress Dr. Carla Hayden who will speak directly to the community and students of Marshall University. I extended my wishes for a successful event celebrating the life of Dr. Woodson and all that he has achieved.

I want to thank Professor Morris for his continued dedication to honoring the work of Dr. Woodson every year. He continues to ensure