

Mr. Corey has even returned to Vietnam 16 times since 1994, representing the Vietnam Veterans of America's Veterans Initiative program dedicated to recovery efforts for our Vietnam Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action, as well as to studies on the health effects of Agent Orange. In that capacity, he met with top Vietnamese and Laos leaders, leaders and members of the Veterans Association of Vietnam, U.S. Ambassadors, and the Joint Task Force-Full Accounting in Vietnam and Laos. For these extraordinary efforts, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace prize. He was also the first recipient of the Vietnam Veterans of America's Commendation Medal, the VV A's highest award for service to veterans, their families, and the community.

He is also a member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, 1st Cavalry Association and the National Association of Uniformed Services.

To this day, Mr. Corey is still fighting his fellow veterans, serving as Ombudsman and Program Specialist with the Director's Office at the West Palm Beach VA. I can't think of anyone who has given more for his comrades, and for his country, than Mr. Thomas Corey, and I could not be prouder to represent him in Congress.

EL GÜERO CANELO WINS JAMES  
BEARD AWARD

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 7, 2018*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Daniel Contreras, the owner of the famed El Güero Canelo restaurant for receiving a James Beard Award for his world-famous Sonoran hot dog. El Güero Canelo won this prestigious award in a special category called "American Classics," which honors restaurants that are "cherished for quality food that reflects the character of the community." I cannot think of a better choice that reflects the cuisine and culture of Tucson.

Contreras' restaurant, El Güero Canelo, is emblematic of the merging of Mexican and American culture that makes Tucson so special. The restaurant has a storied history in the region and is representative of how one immigrant from Mexico with hard work, dedication, and drive can achieve the American Dream.

Born in Magdalena, Sonora, Mexico, Contreras experienced the trials of economic hardship, spending his days playing baseball while dreaming of a professional career. Like so many before him, Contreras left his native Mexico for Tucson, Arizona in search of a better life and lured by the promise of the American Dream. He worked long hours as a dishwasher in local restaurants until he decided to take a risk and open up a hot dog stand in 1993, which became the birthplace of the legendary El Güero Canelo. From that tiny hot dog stand, his business has grown to include three restaurants in Tucson and one in Phoenix.

In addition to his immeasurable contributions to the gastronomy of Tucson, Contreras is an upstanding member of the community, dedicated to serving others. He is an active

member of his church and frequently visits state prisons to speak with incarcerated individuals on how to prevent alcoholism.

Contreras' story demonstrates the power of the American Dream and the persistent, entrepreneurial spirit of our immigrant community. Thank you Daniel Contreras for your contributions to Tucson, and I look forward to enjoying a James Beard award-winning Sonoran hot dog.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE IN THE BLACK  
COMMUNITY

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 5, 2018*

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, during the State of the Union speech last week, many of us did not applaud the President as he assumed responsibility for the lowest rate of Black unemployment ever recorded. The simple truth is that while Black unemployment reached its lowest level in decades, the rate has been in steady decline for the last seven years, a credit to the Obama Administration President Trump so often maligns.

It is also true that while gains have been made, the Black unemployment rates fall short of that for White workers. The President has failed to acknowledge that just in the last month, Black unemployment jumped nearly a full percentage point, from 6.8 percent to 7.7 percent, and continues to be nearly double that of White workers.

If Black unemployment figures were the overall national figures, the country would be facing or nearly facing an economic recession. Yet, this Administration's policies continue to take aim at too many of us, especially African Americans and other communities of color.

Black unemployment has consistently been about double that of white employment. Sadly, other statistics mirror what amounts to a persistent racial wealth divide:

90 percent of White households live above the poverty line compared to 75 of Black households;

71 percent of White households are homeowners compared to 41 percent of Black households; and

In 2016, white families had a median net worth of \$171,000, compared with \$17,600 for Black families.

There is no doubt the persistent wealth disparity is rooted in federal policies that build and preserve the racial wealth divide since the institution of slavery. The Social Security Act of 1935 provides just one example. The Act's passage laid the groundwork to aid the elderly after the Great Depression. Yet, the Act excluded about one-third of all American workers, including farmworkers and domestic workers—who were predominately people of color. For African Americans, the cost of exclusion from the Social Security Act of 1935 resulted in a loss of benefits totaling \$143.2 billion in 2016 dollars.

Similarly, federal housing policies from 1934 to 1968, which sought to make homeownership accessible to more families, shut out black families from homeownership through the practice of redlining.

Unfortunately, the racial wealth gap shows no sign of letting up under the Trump Adminis-

tration. His economic policies offer dim prospects for African Americans and other communities of color.

The President's lopsided tax cut transferred massive amounts of wealth to those who are already wealthy at the expense of everyone else. The tax cuts add at least \$1.5 trillion to the national deficit, with likely offsets to earned benefits and social safety net programs like Medicare, Medicaid, and SNAP—programs many families depend on. The cuts rob the American people of resources that could put people to work building infrastructure, or be invested in public education, child care, and health care.

Trump's first year budget was equally alarming. Proposed cuts to the Minority Business Development Agency, Community Development Block Grants, and the Economic Development Administration, among countless others, will almost certainly diminish the ability of underserved communities to get ahead.

These are not the actions of an Administration interested in helping all Americans. It is time the Trump Administration and Republicans in Congress start acting on behalf of all Americans, and not just a few. It is time to turn words, cheers, and applause into meaningful action and help ensure economic justice for all.

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF  
MERCIER ORCHARDS

**HON. DOUG COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 7, 2018*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Mercier Orchards' 75th anniversary, which took place on January 19.

In 1943, Bill and Adele Mercier acted on their dream to own a homegrown apple orchard by purchasing a 27-acre plot of land in Fannin County. What began as an apple orchard, though, eventually grew to include a market, winery, restaurant, and wedding venue.

Four generations and 75 harvests later, Mercier Orchards has grown into one of Georgia's top destinations for our state's booming agritourism industry. Each year brings in over 600,000 visitors from across the country, and the company now ships its apples, fried pies, and other delicious treats to people around the world.

Mercier Orchards' continued success attests to the strength of this family-run business. By encouraging each other through the poor harvests, the Mercier family was able to persevere together, using their business to make a positive impact on northeast Georgia.

I congratulate Mercier Orchards on 75 fruitful years and wish the family the best as they continue to celebrate this milestone.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RABBI  
ISAIAH ZELDIN

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 7, 2018*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues Congressman TED