

many Americans are living paycheck to paycheck. That is not fully a Tax Code problem. It is the harsh reality of social fragmentation, downward mobility, the rising cost of living, and skyrocketing income disparity driven by inequitable globalization and concentrations of economic power. These forces have not fundamentally benefited us fully, and they have left millions of people behind.

I think this tax reform measure is important because it particularly rebalances the perverse incentive to offshore.

In addition to putting more money in the pockets of hardworking Americans, it does support the revitalization of Main Street and the return of the "Made in America" label.

This legislation also provided a reasoned progress in an attempt to make the Tax Code simpler and fairer and to resolve this convoluted set of problems that overburdened people, families, and small businesses across the Nation. I think this is important because we are living in an age where we can't keep pushing the same policies over and over and expect them to fit into a 21st century architecture of well-being and successful living.

Moving forward, I believe the source and the strength of the American economy will be in this new urbanism of small business in which entrepreneurs from village to city add value through small-scale manufacturing, innovative new products, or brokering in repair services.

Now, we do anticipate a spike in the initial deficit from the tax bill, but we are already seeing a surge of revitalization and possibility of economic opportunity. Given this reorientation of the tax policy around the family, hopefully, with the entrepreneurial momentum, we will generate more jobs, earnings, and reverse this downward trend in small business formation. Less tax, more taxpayers, more revenue over time, that is the calculation.

□ 1800

As more opportunity appears, more persons should also be able to transition from important support mechanisms and systems into meaningful work.

Now, this tax reform attempts to be sensitive to the needs of all Americans as it begins to push for a modernized revenue construct that no longer enables the complex, lawyered-up, quarterly-driven multinationals to unjustly benefit from low taxes abroad while taking advantage of tax loopholes here. It rebalances the perverse incentives to offshore. At the same time, it uses the carrot of lower corporate rates to bring foreign profits back to America, and we are already seeing the effect.

So, on balance, this was a massive, historic, and necessary overhaul of our antiquated, harsh, and complicated tax system so that families cannot only get by, but maybe they can start getting ahead. And if we can combine this

with a small business ecosystem of revived entrepreneurial momentum—and a part of that is the next set of policies, hopefully, that will be empowering with a new type of healthcare product that is stable for persons who do want to enter into the formation of their own small business now but are not empowered to do so—this will only strengthen this entrepreneurial revitalization.

There is no way to calculate the held, pent-up benefit of unleashing this potential. Again, because we have tethered people to a benefit package based upon institutions that are able to afford it, we have drained ourselves, made ourselves weary from being able to unleash the fullness of the potential to create things with your own hands or your own intellect that are good for you, good for your family, and good for others. That is what we mean by a new small business ecosystem that has revived entrepreneurial momentum.

Mr. Speaker, in the Middle East, the Jordan River flows into both the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. There is a difference between the two bodies of seas. One of them is devoid of life. Water flows in but nothing flows out. It is dead.

Abundant life requires both giving and receiving, both charity and responsibility. An economy that is founded upon these strengths which we have discussed tonight, supported by a right-sized government and a dedicated, hardworking people, can only keep growing stronger. Then, maybe—maybe—we can say, don't you forget about me and that we will never forget about you.

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

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for all Members to have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this is February 14, Valentine's Day, and this is but one day, of course, in the month of February, which is Black History Month. I am honored to stand here tonight to present a resolution that will be filed, a Black History resolution.

But I am also honored to say that a good many of my colleagues are in support of Black History Month, and they deserve to have their words, their expressions made known, which is why I

have asked for this unanimous consent. My belief is that we will have many, many persons who are not here tonight, for legitimate reasons, who will want to make sure that they are made a part of the RECORD by and through their comments that they will submit in written word.

Mr. Speaker, I am here to talk about Black History because for many years, too many years, to be quite honest, the history of Africans in the Americas, the history of Black people in America, the history of African Americans, at one time known as Negroes, this history was deleted from the history books. It was said in one book that, because little contributions were made to world history, there would be little mention of Africans in history.

But, Mr. Speaker, we know now that this is not true, and because we know that it is not true, we seek to at least give some indication in the RECORD that African Americans have made a significant contribution in America. But also, the truth is that Africans have made a contribution to world history.

However, tonight, this resolution will focus on and it will recognize and celebrate Black History Month; and, in so doing, we would like to present the resolution that will be filed at a later time.

Mr. Speaker, "Whereas the theme for Black History Month 2018 is 'African Americans in Times of War'—something that we have not focused on to the extent that we should have, because African Americans have made significant contributions to our country during times of war—this theme "which commemorates the centennial of the end of the First World War in 1918, and explores the complex meanings and implications of this international struggle and its aftermath;

"Whereas this resolution will focus primarily on African Americans in the military, which is but one historically important aspect of this far-reaching exploration of African-American history;

"Whereas African Americans have fought for the United States throughout its history;

"Whereas despite racial segregation and discrimination, African Americans have played a significant role during times of war from the colonial period forward"—Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to note, as an aside now, that it was not until 1948, by Presidential executive order, that President Truman desegregated the military.

Continuing: "Whereas Crispus Attucks was a fugitive slave working outside of Boston, Massachusetts, as a sailor, and during his time off, he worked as a rope maker near the wharf;

"Whereas in early 1770, competition for work and wages became stiff as British soldiers were contending for the same unskilled positions as the locals"—that would be Crispus Attucks and other locals;

"Whereas this situation created tension which slowly escalated to violent confrontations;

"Whereas on March 5, 1770, Attucks led a group of rope makers and sailors into a confrontation with a group of British soldiers and subsequently was shot and killed;

"Whereas Crispus Attucks, a Black man, is generally considered to be the first casualty of the Revolutionary War and is remembered as the first of many notable African-American heroes;

"Whereas Araminta Ross was born into slavery in Maryland and escaped to freedom in the North in 1849 to become the most famous conductor on the Underground Railroad;

"Whereas Araminta Ross was a leading abolitionist before the American Civil War and also helped the Union Army during war, working as a spy, among other roles;

"Whereas Araminta Ross, a Black woman, guided the Combahee River Raid, which liberated more than 700 slaves in South Carolina;

"Whereas Araminta Ross, better known as Harriet Tubman, was the first woman to lead an armed expedition during the Civil War;

"Whereas Powhatan Beaty was born a slave in Richmond, Virginia, in 1837;

"Whereas when the Civil War broke out, Beaty enlisted in the Union Army;

"Whereas Powhatan Beaty, a Black man, was quickly promoted to sergeant and oversaw 47 other Black recruits in noncombat jobs;

"Whereas in September of 1864, Beaty's division attacked the enemy at Chaffin's farm, near Richmond, Virginia;

"Whereas with all of the other unit's officers and most of its enlisted men dead or wounded, Beaty took over and led a second charge, driving the enemy back;

"Whereas for his heroism, Powhatan Beaty, a Black man, was awarded the Medal of Honor . . . ;"

"Whereas Benjamin Oliver Davis, Sr., entered the military service on July 13, 1898, during the Spanish-American War and, as a temporary first lieutenant of the 8th United States Volunteer Infantry;

"Whereas on June 18, 1899, he enlisted as a private in the 9th Cavalry of the Regular Army;

"Whereas Davis eventually came under the command of Charles Young, whom, at the time, was the only African-American officer serving in the U.S. military;

"Whereas Young took Davis under his tutelage and helped him to prepare to take his officer candidate test;

"Whereas in only 2 years, he rose to sergeant major and earned a commission as a second lieutenant in 1901;

"Whereas Benjamin Oliver Davis, a Black man, rose through the ranks and became the first African American to achieve the rank of brigadier general in the U.S. military;

"Whereas, during World War I, approximately 800"—no one is sure of the

number—"approximately 800 African Americans were killed in action;

"Whereas Doris Miller enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a mess attendant"—meaning he was a person who served those others with food and took care of the cleaning of facilities—"where he served on the USS West Virginia when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941;

"Whereas Miller was assigned to carry the wounded sailors to safer quarters;

"Whereas he returned to the deck and picked up a 50-caliber Browning antiaircraft machine gun that he had never been trained to shoot and managed to shoot down enemy aircraft;

"Whereas, Doris Miller, a Black man, was commended by the Secretary of the Navy and became the first African American to be presented the Navy Cross;

"Whereas before 1940, African Americans were barred from flying for the U.S. military;

"Whereas civil rights organizations and Black press exerted pressure on President Roosevelt, which resulted in the formation of the Tuskegee Airmen based in Tuskegee, Alabama, in 1941;

"Whereas the Tuskegee Airmen included pilots, navigators, bombardiers, maintenance and support staff, instructors, as well as the personnel who kept the planes and pilots in the air;

"Whereas the Black Tuskegee Airmen overcame segregation and prejudice to become one of the most highly respected groups of World War II;

"Whereas the Tuskegee Airmen's achievements helped pave the way for full integration of U.S. military;

"Whereas during World War II, approximately 700 African Americans were killed in action;

"Whereas Cornelius Charlton, a career military man, served in the Army during the Korean war;

"Whereas on June 2, 1951, his platoon encountered heavy resistance while attempting to take Hill 543 and the leader of his platoon was wounded;

"Whereas Charlton took command and regrouped his men and led an assault on the hill;

"Whereas he singlehandedly attacked and disabled the last remaining enemy gun encampments;

□ 1815

"Whereas he subsequently died from his wounds inflicted by a grenade, but he is credited with saving much of his platoon;

"Whereas Cornelius Charlton, a Black man, posthumously received the Medal of Honor for his actions near Chipo-ri, South Korea;

"Whereas African Americans literally fought for the right to die in defense of their country;

"Whereas in the face of injustices, many African Americans distinguished themselves with their commitment to the noble ideals upon which the United States was founded and courageously fought for the rights and the freedom of all Americans;

"Whereas the preservation and teaching of Black history are nationally recognized due to the efforts of Dr. Carter G. Woodson and his establishment of Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month;

"Whereas Black History Month, which represents Dr. Carter G. Woodson's efforts to enhance knowledge of Black history, started through the Journal of Negro History, published by Woodson's Association for the Study of African American Life and History; and

"Whereas the month of February is officially celebrated as Black History Month, which dates back to 1926, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period of time in February to recognize the heritage and achievements of Black Americans.

"Now, therefore, be it resolved that the House of Representatives—

"Recognizes the significance of Black History Month as an important time to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of African Americans in the Nation's history, and encourages the continued celebration of this month to provide an opportunity for all peoples of the United States"—regardless of where they are from—"to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the Nation;

"Recognizes that ethnic and racial diversity of the United States enriches and strengthens the Nation; and

"Encourages all States to include in their year-round educational curriculum the history and contributions of African Americans in the United States and around the world."

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to say to this audience that this Congress has been very responsive to the notion of celebrating African-American history. My hope is that, once we are back in the business of approving resolutions of this type, this resolution will be taken up by the Congress of the United States of America, that it will be voted on, and that it will be passed.

My hope is that this will be an indication to our country that our Congress does truly appreciate what the African Americans have done to make America the beautiful a more beautiful America.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize this month of February as Black History Month. Black History Month is an important celebration of the achievements and sacrifices of African-Americans in building our nation.

Black History Month has a rich history itself, from its humble beginnings as 'Negro Awareness Week', celebrated in February to coincide with the birth months of both Frederick Douglass and President Lincoln, the expansion to a month was first celebrated at Kent State University in 1970, before being officially recognized by President Gerald Ford in 1976, who said that it was a 'seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history'. February has

been officially designated as Black History Month by every President since, and while the month is not itself sufficient to honor the legacies of African-Americans, it makes a good start.

This year is especially important, as is this day, as we honor the 200th birthday of Frederick Douglass, a towering presence in African-American history. Born into slavery, secretly teaching himself to read and write, Frederick Douglass would become a powerful voice for abolition, and for the equality of all people.

But during this month, we must honor not only Frederick Douglass and the other leading figures of our movement, but also the thousands of ordinary African-Americans who formed the tide that swept slavery from our nation, the many people who continue in the effort to eradicate racism today, and all those who will do so in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend AL GREEN for convening this special order session, so that we can appropriately honor Black History Month, and recognize the sacrifice and courage of African-Americans throughout our nation's history.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LOBIONDO (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today after 1:30 p.m. and for February 15 on account of attending a family funeral.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on February 9, 2018, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 1892. To amend title 4, United States Code, to provide for the flying of the flag at half-staff in the event of the death of a first responder in the line of duty.

H.R. 1301. Making appropriations for the Department of Defense the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

H.R. 582. To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require multi-line telephone systems to have a configuration that permits users to directly initiate a call to 9-1-1 without dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, February 15, 2018, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

3982. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standardizing Phytosanitary Treatment Regulations: Approval of Cold Treatment and Irradiation Facilities; Cold Treatment Schedules; Establishment of Fumigation and Cold Treatment Compliance Agreements [Docket No.: APHIS-2013-0081] (RIN: 0579-AD90) received February 12, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3983. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Calendar Year 2017 reports to describe activities under the Secretary of Defense Personnel Management Demonstration Project authorities for the Department of Defense Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratories, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2358 note; Public Law 110-181, Sec. 1107(d); (122 Stat. 358); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3984. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Policy, Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects: Delay of the Revisions to the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects [Docket No.: FR-6077-1-01] received February 1, 2018, 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.

3985. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — 2018-2020 Enterprise Housing Goals (RIN: 2590-AA81) received February 7, 2018, 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.

3986. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final regulations — Student Assistance General Provisions, Federal Perkins Loan Program, Federal Family Education Loan Program, William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, and Teacher Education Assistance of College and Higher Education Grant Program [Docket ID: ED-2017-OPE-0112] (RIN: 1840-AD28) received February 12, 2018, 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 the Workforce.

3987. A letter from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the Commission's Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission report for Fiscal Year 2017, pursuant to the Buy American Act, 41 U.S.C. 10a(b); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3988. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's direct final rule — Revision to Children's Gasoline Burn Prevention Act Regulation [Docket No.: CPSC-2015-0006] received February 1, 2018, 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.

3989. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Arkansas; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R06-OAR-2017-0435; FRL-9973-23-Region 6] received February 9, 2018, 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.

3990. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — OHIO: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision [EPA-R05-RCRA-2017-0381; FRL-9974-25-Region 5] received February 9, 2018, 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.

3991. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Emergency Preparedness and Operations Reliability Standards [Docket No.: RM17-12-000; Order No.: 840] received February 12, 2018, 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.

3992. A letter from the Chairman, United States Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, transmitting the Board's report titled, "A Report to Congress and the Secretary of Energy on Management and Disposal of U.S. Department of Energy Spent Nuclear Fuel", pursuant to the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987, Public Law 100-203; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3993. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's Supplemental Report to Congress on Market Data for overseas Cost-of-Living Adjustments, pursuant to Public Law 114-323, Sec. 411; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3994. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a determination by the Secretary to exercise the authority to waive the restriction on assistance under Sec. 620(q) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 with respect to Antigua and Barbuda; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3995. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-255, "Washington Metrorail Safety Commission Board of Directors Appointment Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3996. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-254, "East End Grocery and Retail Incentive Tax Exemption Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3997. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-253 "Jackson School Lease Renewal Authorization Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3998. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-252, "East End Commercial Real Property Tax Rate Reduction Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3999. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-251, "General Obligation Bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes for Fiscal Years 2018-2023 Authorization Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4000. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-250, "Africare Real Property Tax Relief Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the