

were in the news—sadly, always in the news—are documented very well in our textbooks, but much of the military discrimination against African Americans was not documented very well.

I want to take a minute today to thank those African American soldiers who fought during World War II for their valor and sacrifice for our country.

You may not have heard of the 320th battalion, but on the morning of June 6, 1944, the unit of African American soldiers landed on the beaches of France. Their orders were to man a curtain of armed balloons meant to deter enemy aircraft. They flew at an altitude of about 200 feet to defend soldiers landing on the beaches against strafing attacks by German aircraft. The battalion served 140 days in France.

One member of the 320th battalion wounded in battle, Waverly B. Woodson, Jr., would later be nominated for the Medal of Honor, an award he would never receive.

The Nation's highest decorations were not given to African American soldiers in World War II. Members of the 320th battalion, the first African American battalion, which included hundreds of soldiers, were sent abroad to fight for liberties denied to them at home.

The story of the 320th battalion is a narrative of perseverance in the face of injustice.

Earlier this week, I had the pleasure to be invited by Representative KATHERINE CLARK from Massachusetts to go hear the story of "D-Day Girls: The Spies Who Armed the Resistance, Sabotaged the Nazis, and Helped Win World War II" by women who played a very crucial role in the military and spycraft that helped us during World War II. Of course, throughout time, much of their role was relegated to being said that they were secretaries and answered phones, but they played very critical roles.

I know one of my former constituents who passed away not too long ago, Robert Starr, was part of an ambulatory crew that helped pick up the wounded and remains of people who were dead on the beaches of Normandy. Again, the story told was that African American soldiers worked in that role but that they were not part of the initial invasion.

Sadly, that has been memorialized in Hollywood, as well. I think one of the best movies about D-day of all time is "The Longest Day," a great, great movie. But, of course, there were no African American soldiers depicted in that movie. "Saving Private Ryan," another great movie, but, again, no African American soldiers were depicted in that movie, sadly.

It is my hope that we can raise more awareness about the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion, these men who fought so bravely during World War II, so that they, too, will not just be memorialized in the textbooks but that their story will be brought to Hollywood.

I am certain that there is a Rob Reiner or a Steven Spielberg or a Spike Lee or someone out there who will help tell the story of these women who fought during World War II and helped the resistance and also these African American soldiers whose stories have not been told.

It is absolutely amazing to me that there are many African Americans in this country even who, if you ask them, they think that there were no Black soldiers who fought during D-day. It is a story that has been allowed to be falsely perpetuated for far too long. It is time that we raise awareness about the 320th battalion and the great sacrifices that they made for this country.

CONGRATULATING MEL SHOWERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mel Showers upon his retirement from WKRG in Mobile, Alabama, after a remarkable 50-year career.

Mel holds a special place in the hearts of many in southwest Alabama and the Florida panhandle. So many grew up watching his reporting and grew to trust him over the years.

Mel's career is notable not only because of its length, but also because of the barriers he overcame to become one of the first African American reporters and, later, anchors in the Deep South. A man of lesser perseverance and integrity could not have overcome these obstacles with such grace.

Mel deserves our utmost respect, and we will miss seeing him every evening.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mel. I offer my heartfelt thanks for his many contributions to our community over the years, and I wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

REMEMBERING BILLY MIDDLETON

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of the long-time mayor of Loxley, Alabama, Billy Middleton. After a long, hard-fought battle, Mayor Middleton succumbed to cancer last week at 78 years old.

Billy was first elected mayor in 1988, and before his passing, he was serving a remarkable seventh term.

His longevity was no accident. A former marine, Mayor Middleton was a true public servant whose dedication to his community extended far beyond his official duties and endeared him to the people of southwest Alabama. His community is better because he was a part of it.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my sincerest condolences to his wife, Lilly, and the many family and friends he leaves behind. Billy's memory and service to the close-knit town of Loxley will last long beyond his death.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 38 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BERA) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend William Johnson, Immanuel United Church of Christ, Ellinwood, Kansas, offered the following prayer:

O God, we pause to recall and thank You for the blessings we have enjoyed down through the ages. These blessings You give us so often come by the hand of others.

Thank You for the Honorable men and women of the U.S. House of Representatives and all those in service of our great Nation.

As we approach Memorial Day, we gratefully remember men and women of the Armed Forces of the past, the present, and future.

Let us remember greatness is not the number of people that serve us but the number of people that we serve. Looking to past servants, let us do well the task that has been given our hands to do. May the season of graduation inspire us to grow in knowledge in order to equip ourselves as servants and citizens for God and country.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND WILLIAM JOHNSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I am often asked about what I value in life, and I speak of the four pillars of my life: faith, family, community, and education. Today I honor faith.

It is a thrill and honor of my life to have my pastor here today to help us open this Congress like we do every morning: with prayer.

I honor Pastor BILL JOHNSON and all the pastors across the country. Today, the pastor who baptized my four children, who married my daughter, we are so glad, so proud to have him lead us and open this House.

Mr. Speaker, there are many, many freedoms that we value, but there is nothing I value more than freedom of religion.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING HER EMINENCE ROBIAMNY BALCACER

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Her Eminence Robiamny Balcacer, the Dominican Republic's first female Minister of Youth in the nation's history.

Since a young age, Minister Balcacer has been critical in youth political and social welfare activities within her community of Las Guaranas.

After graduating college with a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in public management and modern public administration techniques, she was elected councilwoman in 2006 and, eventually, elected president of the Councilmembers Board, becoming the youngest woman in history to lead it.

As Minister of Youth, she has quickly garnered praise for her work in low-income communities throughout the Dominican Republic. She has invested in social and workforce development programs intended to reduce crime and strengthen community relationships, including constructing brand-new community computing centers and playgrounds.

Her work has attracted the attention of Dominican American community leaders in my district and all across the country, and I had the honor of meeting Minister Balcacer this morning. I am glad that she is joining us today in the gallery as her work is being recognized here on the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome Minister Balcacer.

CONGRATULATING BRAD FARMER ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize

Brad Farmer, who has spent the last 38 years of his life in service to the Boy Scouts of America, and to congratulate him on his retirement. It is because of people like Brad that Scouting has been able to positively influence the lives of millions of young American men and women.

Brad began his service in 1981 as a district executive in Wood River, Illinois, and has served Scouting in several local and national roles since then. Brad most recently served in the National Office of the Boy Scouts, where he was Assistant Chief Scout Executive for Development from 2009 until earlier this year. Brad was also charged with overseeing the Boy Scouts of America sustainability and outdoor stewardship efforts.

Mr. Speaker, over the last 10 years, Brad has provided incredible service and leadership. Brad leaves tremendous shoes to fill, but I congratulate him on a well deserved retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Brad for his contributions to the Boy Scouts of America and our Nation's youth.

RECOGNIZING THE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE CARD ACT

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago today in the midst of the Great Recession, millions of credit card holders got some needed relief when President Obama signed into law the Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility, and Disclosure Act, the CARD Act.

Before the CARD Act, some banks took advantage of their customers. For example, they raised rates and changed the terms of contracts without any notice to the customer. They even raised rates retroactively on existing balances.

The CARD Act changed that, barring many unfair and deceptive practices: no more retroactive rate hikes, no more extra fees for paying bills online or on the phone, no more aggressive marketing tactics targeting young people.

The CARD Act has saved consumers an estimated \$12 billion a year, which translates into well over \$100 billion in total savings over the past decade. It is the first 10 years, and we are celebrating this consumer protection act.

PROGROWTH POLICIES WORK

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

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the state of the economy and how progrowth policies are helping my district.

A headline last month on CNBC read: "Jobs Surge in April, Unemployment Rate Falls to the Lowest Since 1969."

The U.S. added 263,000 new hires last month, including over 13,000 jobs in North Carolina. On top of that, the labor participation rate increased. Many people are coming off the sidelines and into the workforce, and the manufacturing output continues to go up.

Mr. Speaker, when we cut taxes, slash red tape, and give employers more certainty, they are able to employ more people. This just isn't rocket science.

Just a few days ago, my district received great news. Honda Aircraft announced plans to expand its global headquarters in Greensboro by investing \$15.5 million in a new facility on its campus. This will be a huge boost for Guilford County, and that is why we cannot afford to go backwards.

Tax cuts work.

Progrowth policies work.

HONORING NANCY K. JOHNSON

(Mr. CARBAJAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, this weekend we will be celebrating the life and legacy of one of my exceptional constituents, Nancy K. Johnson, who left us on January 10 of this year.

Nancy was truly a force to be reckoned with. Born in Chicago, she later moved to Santa Maria, California, with her husband, Ned, where they raised five children.

She was very active in the community and was a founding member of the Santa Maria Valley League of Women Voters, a board member and counselor at Planned Parenthood, a member of the Pismo Beach Presbyterian Church, and a nationally recognized city and county planning commissioner.

Nancy also volunteered her time with the Santa Barbara Foundation, Transitions-Mental Health, SBCAN, and the Women's Fund for North County.

She had a true passion for the arts and was a longtime supporter of PCPA community theater and the Santa Maria Symphony.

It was an honor to know and work with Nancy. Nancy will always be remembered for her passion and work towards justice and equality for all.

RECOGNIZING RYAN DIERKER

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a member of my staff and a constituent from Ohio's Second District, Ryan Dierker.

After 4 years in my office, Ryan will be leaving at the end of the month for a higher calling. He will be going to Officer Candidate School for the United States Marine Corps.

Ryan will surely be missed in my office, but I could not be prouder to watch this young man answer the call