

recognition, and Noelle rightfully earned this award. Noelle is planning on continuing her studies at Texas Southern University, and we wish her the best of luck in her future career.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Noelle Walker on receiving the Sports Medicine Scholarship from Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 10, 2019*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I was absent due to being unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on Roll Call No. 516 and "Yea" on Roll Call No. 515.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHRISTINE  
BUTTON STRUMSKI ON HER IN-  
DUCTION INTO THE LUZERNE  
COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

#### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 10, 2019*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor member of the Tunkhannock Little League Association and Northeastern Pennsylvania native, Christine Button Strumski. This year, Christine was inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame at the 35th annual dinner on August 11, 2019 for her distinct achievements in the sport of softball.

Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought fame and recognition to the state of Pennsylvania through their outstanding achievements and contributions in athletic endeavors.

Growing up in a time when sports like baseball were male-dominated, Christine became a trail-blazer for the inclusion of women in sports in the 1970s. In the 70s, the National Little League was sued by the National Organization for Women for discrimination based on sex. Christine would go on to help form the first girls' softball league in Tunkhannock. Dedicated to equality and inclusion, Christine commissioned the board to have a girls' team from the league participate in the State of Pennsylvania Baseball Tournament. The girls' league was so new at the time that one team would only have to win six games to become state champions. Despite the small number of competitors and a new league, the competition was fierce. Christine helped her team secure the first state girls' softball championship against Minersville.

Today, Christine is still actively involved in the Tunkhannock Little League Association. This past year, the girls secured another state championship title. Under her leadership, the team qualified for the Softball World Series in Portland, Oregon where they came in second.

Christine's dedication to equality and excellence has been an inspiration to all. Her service and willingness to stand and be counted in the uphill battle for equality in sports is admirable.

It is an honor to recognize Christine on her induction into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame. May her story serve as an inspiration to the next generation of Pennsylvania athletes striving for excellence.

#### "400 ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST SLAVE ARRIVING IN AMERICA"

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 10, 2019*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE for anchoring this Special Order recognizing the 400th anniversary of the first slave arriving in America.

Four hundred years ago the first slave arrived in America, ships set sail from the west coast of Africa and in the process, began one of mankind's most inhumane practices: human bondage and slavery.

For two centuries, human beings—full of hopes and fears, dreams and concerns, ambition and anguish—were transported onto ships like chattel, and the lives of many forever changed.

The reverberations from this horrific series of acts—a transatlantic slave trade that touched the shores of a colony that came to be known as America, and later a democratic republic known as the United States of America—are unknown and worthy of exploration.

Approximately 4,000,000 Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United States and colonies that became the United States from 1619 to 1865.

The institution of slavery was constitutionally and statutorily sanctioned by the Government of the United States from 1789 through 1865.

American Slavery is our country's original sin and its existence at the birth of our nation is a permanent scar on our country's founding documents, and on the venerated authors of those documents, and it is a legacy that continued well into the last century.

While it is nearly impossible to determine how the lives touched by slavery could have flourished in the absence of bondage, we have certain datum that permits us to examine how a subset of Americans—African Americans—have been affected by the callousness of involuntary servitude.

We know that in almost every segment of society—education, healthcare, jobs and wealth—the inequities that persist in America are more acutely and disproportionately felt in Black America.

This historic discrimination continues: African-Americans continue to suffer debilitating economic, educational, and health hardships including but not limited to having nearly 1,000,000 black people incarcerated; an unemployment rate more than twice the current white unemployment rate; and an average of less than  $\frac{1}{16}$  of the wealth of white families, a disparity which has worsened, not improved over time.

A closer look at the statistics reveals the stark disparity in these areas.

Black household wealth is less than one fifth of the national average.

The median black household had a net worth of just \$17,600 in 2016. Yet in that same year, the median white household held

\$171,000 in wealth while the national household median was \$97,300.

The black unemployment rate is 6.6 percent more than double the national unemployment rate.

Approximately 31 percent of black children live in poverty, compared to 11 percent of white children. The national average is 18 percent, which suggests that the percentage of black children living in poverty is more than 150 percent of the national average.

In the healthcare domain, the disparities suffered by African Americans is also troubling.

Over 20 percent of African Americans do not have health insurance, compared to a national average between 8.8 percent and 9.1 percent.

One in four African American women are uninsured.

Compared to the national average, African American adults are 20 percent more likely to suffer from asthma and three times more likely to die from it.

Black adults are 72 percent more likely to suffer from diabetes than average.

Black women are four times more likely to die from pregnancy related causes, such as embolisms, and pregnancy-related hypertension, than any other racial group.

In our nation, among children aged 19–35 months, black children were vaccinated at rates lower than white children: 68 percent versus 78 percent, respectively.

Education has often been called the key to unlocking social mobility.

African American students are less likely than white students to have access to college-ready courses.

In fact, in 2011–12, only 57 percent of black students had access to a full range of math and science courses necessary for college readiness, compared to with 81 percent of Asian American students and 71 percent of white students.

Black students spend less time in the classroom due to discipline, which further hinders their access to a quality education.

Black students are nearly two times as likely to be suspended without educational services as white students.

Black students are also 3.8 times as likely to receive one or more out-of-school suspensions as white students.

In addition, black children represent 19 percent of the nation's pre-school population, yet 47 percent of those receiving more than one out-of-school suspension.

School districts with the most students of color, on average, receive 15 percent less per student in state and local funding than the whitest districts.

And, of course, we cannot consider the disparities between black and white in America without considering the intersection of African Americans and the Criminal Justice system.

There are more Black men in bondage today who are incarcerated or under correctional control, than there were black men who were enslaved in the 1800s.

The United States locks up African American males at a rate 5.8 times higher than the most openly racist country in the world ever did:

South Africa under apartheid (1993), African American males: 851 per 100,000

United States (2006), African American males: 4,789 per 100,000

Incarceration is not an equal opportunity punishment. For example, incarceration rates in the United States by race were: