

African Americans: 2,468 per 100,000
 Latinos: 1,038 per 100,000
 Whites: 409 per 100,000

African American offenders receive sentences that are 10 percent longer than white offenders for the same crimes and are 21 percent more likely to receive mandatory-minimum sentences than white defendants according to the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

Looking at males aged 25–29 and by race, you can see what is going on even clearer:

For White males ages 25–29: 1,685 per 100,000.

For Latino males ages 25–29: 3,912 per 100,000.

For African American males ages 25–29: 11,695 per 100,000. (That's 11.7 percent of Black men in their late 20s.)

Overall, one in 50 murders is ruled justified—but when the killer is white and the victim is a black man, the figure climbs to one in six.

A handgun homicide is nine times more likely to be found justified—when the killer is white and the victim is a black man.

Handgun killings with a white shooter and a black male victim exhibit an even more dramatic bias: one in four is found justified.

But then again, we knew these inequities existed because for many Black Americans, these disparities are just a part of daily life.

This is why, in 1989, my predecessor as the most senior African American on this September Judiciary Committee, the honorable John Conyers, a past Chairman of this Committee introduced H.R. 40, legislation that would establish a commission to study and develop proposals attendant to reparations.

Though many thought it a lost cause, John Conyers believed that a day would come when our nation would need to account for the brutal mistreatment of African-Americans during chattel slavery, Jim Crow segregation and the enduring structural racism endemic to our society.

I would like to take this moment to personally thank the estimable John Conyers for his work on this legislation for the last thirty years.

With the rise and normalization of white supremacist expression during the Trump administration, the discussion of H.R. 40 and the concept of restorative justice have gained more urgency, garnering the attention of mainstream commentator, and illustrating the need for a national reckoning.

H.R. 40 is intended to create the framework for a national discussion on the enduring impact of slavery and its complex legacy to begin that necessary process of atonement.

The designation of this legislation as H.R. 40 is intended to memorialize the promise made by General William T. Sherman, in his 1865 Special Field Order No. 15, to redistribute 400,000 acres of formerly Confederate owned coastal land in South Carolina and Florida, subdivided into 40 acre plots.

Since its introduction, H.R. 40 has acted to spur some governmental acknowledgement of the sin of slavery, but most often the response has taken the form of an apology.

However, even the well intentioned commitments to examine the historical and modern day implications of slavery by the Clinton administration fell short of the mark and failed to inspire substantive public discourse.

Since my reintroduction of H.R. 40 at the beginning of this Congress, both the legislation and concept of reparations have become the focus of national debate.

For many, it is apparent that the success of the Obama administration has unleashed a backlash of racism and intolerance that is an echo of America's dark past which has yet to be exorcised from the national consciousness.

Commentators have turned to H.R. 40 as a response to formally begin the process of analyzing, confronting and atoning for these dark chapters of American history.

Even conservative voices, like that of New York Times columnist David Brooks, are starting to give the reparations cause the hearing it deserves, observing that "Reparations are a drastic policy and hard to execute, but the very act of talking and designing them heals a wound and opens a new story."

Similarly, a majority of the Democratic presidential contenders have turned to H.R. 40 as a tool for reconciliation, with 17 cosponsoring or claiming they would sign the bill into law if elected.

Though critics have argued that the idea of reparations is unworkable politically or financially, their focus on money misses the point of the H.R. 40 commission's mandate.

The goal of these historical investigations is to bring American society to a new reckoning with how our past affects the current conditions of African-Americans and to make America a better place by helping the truly disadvantaged.

Consequently, the reparations movement does not focus on payments to individuals, but to remedies that can be created in as many forms necessary to equitably address the many kinds of injuries sustained from chattel slavery and its continuing vestiges.

To merely focus on finance is an empty gesture and betrays a lack of understanding of the depth of the unaddressed moral issues that continue to haunt this nation.

While it might be convenient to assume that we can address the current divisive racial and political climate in our nation through race neutral means, experience shows that we have not escaped our history.

By passing H.R. 40, Congress can start a movement toward the national reckoning we need to bridge racial divides.

Reparations are ultimately about respect and reconciliation—and the hope that one day, all Americans can walk together toward a more just future.

We owe it to those who were ripped from their homes those many years ago an ocean away; we owe it to the millions of Americans—yes they were Americans—who were born into bondage, knew a life of servitude, and died anonymous deaths, as prisoners of this system.

We owe it to the millions of descendants of these slaves, for they are the heirs to a society of inequities and indignities that naturally filled the vacuum after slavery was formally abolished 154 years ago.

And let me end as I began, noting that this year is the 400th commemoration of the 1619 arrival of the first captive Africans in English North America, at Point Comfort, Virginia.

Let us proceed with the cause of this morning with a full heart, with the knowledge that this work will take time and trust.

Let us also do with the spirit of reconciliation and understanding that this bill represents.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to help address the harm that slavery has had on our nation by supporting H.R. 40.

COACH FRANKLIN POST-GAME INTERVIEW

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Penn State Quarterback Michael Shuster, who was highlighted by Head Coach James Franklin in a post-game interview.

A reporter asked, "Coach, you mentioned the reaction when Nick Eury scored the touchdown. Can you talk about the quarterback that engineered the final drive and what you said to him and set up for him?"

Coach Franklin responded by saying, "He's another guy. Michael Shuster has been phenomenal. I'm not sure if this is the right decision or not, but he has started leaning into coaching. He already got a job offer in the real world. He just does a great job for us. He's like having another coach. He takes a lot of pride in it. He's been a fantastic student, a fantastic teammate. I'm a huge Shuster fan. He brings a lot of value to our organization."

Congratulations to Michael Shuster on a great drive in week one of the Penn State football season.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. THELMA ROMBERGER

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, today I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Thelma Romberger, a resident of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, who is celebrating 100 years young on Thursday, December 12, 2019.

Mrs. Romberger was born in her grandmother's farmhouse in rural Carlisle and has since claimed Southcentral Pennsylvania as her lifelong home. She married her husband of 53 years, World War II Veteran Chester E. Romberger, in May of 1941. Throughout her life, Mrs. Romberger owned and operated both a grocery store and a mobile home park; she also mowed her own grass with a push lawn mower well into her eighties.

She previously enjoyed camping and is now both an avid salt and pepper shaker collector and Checkers player.

I join Thelma's friends and family in extending my best and warmest wishes to her on this special day, and in celebrating her life and contributions to our great Commonwealth and Country.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Tenth Congressional District, I extend God's blessings and my heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Thelma Romberger on her 100th Birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH "BO" ORLANDO ON HIS INDUCTION 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 Joseph "Bo" Orlando, who was inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame on August 11, 2019 for his outstanding athletic achievements in the sport of football.

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.

Bo's storied athletic career began at Berwick High School, where he led the team to a 13-0 record and a USA Today National Championship as quarterback in 1983. Following high school, Bo took his athletic talents to West Virginia University. During his time with the Mountaineers, he helped lead the team to an undefeated season in 1988 while earning the reputation as one of the best defensive players in the school's history.

After graduating college, Bo entered the 1989 NFL Draft and was selected in the 6th round as the 157th pick by the Houston Oilers. Bo remained with the Oilers for 5 seasons, where he had 7 interceptions. After leaving Houston, Bo played for the San Diego Chargers and became the second leading tackler on the team. Bo also went on to lead the Cincinnati Bengals in tackles during the 1996-1997 season. He finished his professional career in 1998 with the Pittsburgh Steelers. During his time in the NFL, Bo amassed 10 interceptions and 2 sacks.

Throughout his decades of football experience, Bo received numerous awards for his remarkable performance on the field. In high school, Bo was named an All-Conference player in 1982-1983, Berwick MVP in 1982-1983, a 1983 All-State Defensive Back, a 1983 high school All-American, and a 1984 Big 33 player. In 1988 while at WVU, he earned 1st team All Big East Defensive Back, Defensive MVP, and was an Almanac All-American. Bo's alma mater, West Virginia University inducted him into the West Virginia University Sports Hall of Fame. Today, Bo remains involved in sports, serving as the athletic director at Berwick Area High School.

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO SABRINA HAAGENSON FOR RECEIVING THE SPORTS MEDICINE SCHOLARSHIP FROM MEMORIAL HERMANN KATY HOSPITAL

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sabrina Haagenson from Katy

High School for receiving a Sports Medicine scholarship from Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital.

Sabrina received this scholarship through distinguished service students provide through KISD athletic programs. For 12 years, Memorial Hermann Katy has awarded these scholarships to KISD students who are worthy of this recognition, and Sabrina rightfully earned this award. Sabrina is planning on continuing her studies at Marietta College, 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 Sabrina Haagenson on receiving the Sports Medicine Scholarship from Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. LEONARD CATHOLIC CHURCH OF SAN ANTONIO

HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Mr. HURD of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 60th Anniversary of St. Leonard Catholic Church in San Antonio, Texas. Since its establishment in 1959, St. Leonard has become a fixture in San Antonio's southside community. Over the last 60 years, the church has created a rich history of service to the community and dedication to its parishioners.

As St. Leonard Catholic Church marks its diamond jubilee, it is my pleasure to congratulate the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, Father Eduardo Martinez and the parish on behalf of the Twenty-third Congressional District of Texas. I hope you all have a wonderful celebration and may God continue to bless the congregation and its dedication to serving the community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating St. Leonard Catholic Church on its 60th anniversary.

THANKING MS. VICTORIA WARMOUTH FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Victoria Warmouth for her exemplary dedication to duty and service as an Army Congressional Budget Liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller). Ms. Warmouth is transitioning from her present assignment to serve as a Legislative Liaison for the United States Forces Korea.

Victoria is a proud native of Palm Harbor, Florida, which is located on the west coast of the state outside of Tampa. She earned a bachelor's degree in both Political Science and International Affairs at Florida State University, and a master's degree in International Affairs, Comparative and Regional Studies Europe from American University in Washington, D.C.

Victoria has served in numerous positions during her professional career. She worked in the House of Representatives for over six years, primarily for the late Honorable C.W. Bill Young (R-FL-13), Chairman of the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee for Defense and Chairman Emeritus of the full House Appropriations Committee. During her time in Chairman Young's office, Victoria served in several different roles, including Legislative Assistant and Senior Policy Advisor. Victoria's primary responsibilities included managing the Appropriations Committee portfolio for six subcommittees, analyzing seventy-six department and agency budget requests in the President's budget submission, and developing legislative priorities on a wide portfolio of issues. Following Representative David W. Jolly's special election victory in March 2014, Victoria coordinated the opening of his Washington, D.C. office, submitting all of his Fiscal Year 2015 appropriation requests and preparing new legislation that was introduced in the House of Representatives.

In SAFM-BUL, Victoria served as the Congressional Analyst prior to her promotion to the Congressional Strategist. While serving as the Congressional Analyst, Victoria performed a variety of functions, including providing analytical and advisory support to senior Army management officials on the appropriations process and coordinating information provided to House and Senate Appropriations Committees. In her role as the Congressional Strategist, Victoria analyzes and synthesizes data from a variety of Army and congressional sources to develop measurable and comprehensive Congressional Engagement Strategies for Army senior leaders, including congressional marks appeals to advance the Army's appropriations priorities.

Madam Speaker, it has been a genuine pleasure to work with Ms. Victoria Warmouth during my tenure on the House Appropriations Committee. On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Vicki for her service to our country, and we wish her all the best as she continues her service to the United States.

IN RECOGNITION OF ED ACKERMAN, RECIPIENT OF THE 2019 MEDIA AWARD FROM 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 sports writer Ed Ackerman. Ed received the 2019 Media Award from the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame at the 35th annual dinner on August 11, 2019 for his remarkable career in journalism.

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.

Starting at 17 years of age, Ed began his storied sports writing career for Pittston's Sunday Dispatch. For 52 years, Ed has covered some of the most seminal moments in Pittston