

will show that generation the way back.

We can hasten that day by remembering and celebrating his life, his lessons, and his achievements.

RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS OF THREE AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN FROM ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we celebrate Black History Month across our Nation. And I want to recognize the extraordinary efforts of three African American women from Rockford, Illinois, who have honorably served three separate branches of our Armed Forces. Our Nation is indebted to them.

Later this week, the stories of Margaret Patricia Whelcher, Lana McCants, and Milana Herman will be displayed to the public at the Veterans Memorial Hall and Museum in Rockford, Illinois.

Their contributions to our country have been chronicled by local students from Harlem High School as part of the annual Harlem Veterans Project, and they have conducted interviews, shot videos, and have photographs and more.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to bring attention to their sacrifices and thank them for their service today.

Margaret Patricia Whelcher, she served in the United States Air Force from 1988 to 1991 and achieved the rank of senior airman.

Lana McCants, she served in the United States Navy from 1991 to 1997 and achieved the rank of operation specialist 3rd class.

Milana Herman served in the United States Army from 1989 to 1994 and achieved the rank of staff sergeant.

In addition to their distinguished military service, these veterans have worked to better our community. Lana is an active member of the American Legion Post 340, while Margaret and Milana routinely participate in local stand-downs, where they offer a variety of support services for at-risk veterans.

I am proud to see them represent our community with such distinction and such honor. Their selfless commitment to country and community sets a strong example for the leaders of tomorrow. It is crucial that their inspirational stories are spread far and wide.

That is why I applaud the work of those students participating in the Harlem Veterans Project. These students have sought to build a unique bond with members of the community and raise the voices of those around them.

Institutions like the Veterans Memorial Hall and Museum in Rockford, which will feature these incredible women, tell the stories of so many who have made an immense impact on the

lives of those across our region. It is only fitting that the stories of Margaret, Lana, and Milana will be displayed with the rest of them.

We must never forget those who paved the path before us. Stories like theirs make up the very fabric of our Nation. They should be cherished and celebrated.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELORS WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week marked National School Counselors Week.

School counselors play a valuable role in the lives of our Nation's students. They help students navigate challenges, both academic and personal, through all phases of education. But some counselors truly go above and beyond.

Recently, I had the pleasure of joining the American School Counselor Association for a meeting, where I met Laura Ross, the 2020 School Counselor of the Year. Laura's co-workers have called her a true hero and a champion for the work that she has done at Five Forks Middle School.

School counselors like Laura have big responsibilities and even greater opportunities to make a difference in the lives of young people. When people choose to dedicate their careers to providing support and guidance for these students, they are better equipped to tackle personal and professional challenges and better prepared to enter the workforce.

A successful career begins with a well-rounded view of what the workforce entails. Effective counseling can assist learners in better understanding their educational opportunities and career prospects, while preventing students from taking on sizable debt.

H.R. 5092, the Counseling for Career Choice Act, seeks to ensure high school students are made aware of their educational options and career prospects prior to graduation. To do that, the bill would establish a grant program for \$40 million to invest in career counseling programs for high school students.

It also invests in professional development opportunities for counselors working with these students so counselors can do their jobs to the best of their ability and stay up to date on workforce trends and postsecondary opportunities. This includes 2- and 4-year degree programs, but that also includes certificate programs, internships, and apprenticeships.

Mr. Speaker, we all owe a debt of gratitude to our Nation's school counselors. All year long, their service and support of our Nation's young people is greatly appreciated.

REMEMBERING THE BAKU POGROMS THAT TOOK PLACE 30 YEARS AGO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the Baku pogroms, which took place in January 1990, some 30 years ago. The Baku pogroms represented the culmination of years of atrocities by the Azeris against ethnic Armenians living in Azerbaijani communities, such as Sumgait and Kirovobad.

Time and time again, Armenians fell victim to their neighbors, as gangs of Azeris roamed the streets, smashed windows, burned cars, and attacked any Armenians they found. The gangs murdered and mutilated some women and repeatedly raped others.

In Baku, the pattern held, as looters destroyed property and tortured the murdered victims. Thousands of Armenians fled the systemic violence, world chess champion Gary Kasparov's family counted among them.

Mr. Speaker, Azerbaijan was engaged in a systemic effort to erase this history and silence those who repeat it. I rise today so that they cannot succeed.

The history of this violence is one of the many reasons I believe that residents of Nagorno-Karabakh or Artsakh should be allowed to live in peace, freedom, and security. The United States has a crucial role to play in promoting this outcome.

For decades, U.S. aid has helped clear mines in Artsakh, saving lives, promoting development, and giving communities a sense of normalcy. Today, even though the work is not done, that aid is threatened.

Today, even though Armenia and Artsakh have embraced the Royce-Engel peace proposal, while Azerbaijan has rejected it, Artsakh could lose the mining assistance. And today, even though Armenia has transformed itself into a growing democracy, it is autocratic Azerbaijan that has received a massive, disproportionate increase in military aid from the United States.

If the administration won't help those who stand for peace and democracy, Congress must. The legacy of Baku, Sumgait, and Kirovobad remind me why. We must fight for the memories of those we lost, for their dreams of safety and security, and for the promise of a free Artsakh.

RADICAL OPEN BORDERS POLICIES THAT ARE DANGEROUS TO OUR CITIZENS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose a truly radical piece of legislation that was recently introduced in this Chamber.

The New Way Forward Act, as it is called, introduced with the support of