

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING HAROLD “RAY”  
HERRON

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Harold “Ray” Herron, who passed away on Saturday, February 22, at the age of 81.

Ray was born on February 26, 1938, in Senatobia, Mississippi. He was an American patriot who served our great nation in the United States Army for over 21 years. Ray set an example of faith for his family to follow and was a member of the Crockett Church of Christ in Senatobia.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife of 27 years, Betty Herron; his children, Tom Herron, Donny Herron, Anne Austin, Terry Hallmark, Pamela Hallmark, Dudley Hallmark, and Kenny Russell; his grandchildren, Alex and Emily Herron, Amy and Phillip Corly, Dewayne, Jamie, and Latashia Russell and Heather, Sam and Cody Hallmark, as well as many friends and extended family members.

Ray’s life was one of service, grace, and love for his family and community. He will be greatly missed by all whom he encountered.

RECOGNIZING DAX WILSON OF  
BILLINGS

**HON. GREG GIANFORTE**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dax Wilson of Billings for his work in engaging his community on the importance of donating blood.

Dax’s motivation is his mother, Cassidy. After giving birth to Dax, she developed a rare blood disorder which left her in desperate need for blood transfusions. During her treatment, the hospital realized they didn’t have enough blood on hand. The shortage led doctors to call hospitals in Kansas City and Denver for help. During his mother’s time in the hospital, she received 700 pints of plasma and blood. The donations saved her life, and now Dax is looking to save more.

Now a junior at Billings Senior High School, Dax donates blood regularly, but he’s always wanted to do more. As a member of the Platinium Program, a high school honors organization, Dax found an opportunity to do just that.

A requirement of the program is to complete a community service project. Using this platform, Dax launched “Drops for Life,” a program that partners with the local blood donation center to prepare blood drives throughout the community. Starting this March, all three high schools in the area will participate in blood drives organized by Dax’s program.

Dax says not enough people are aware of how much hospitals and clinics need blood

and plasma. He says if people knew one hour spent donating can save up to three lives, more people would give. His efforts have created a wonderful opportunity to support a cause that will help Montanans throughout the state.

Madam Speaker, for his devotion to promoting blood drives, increasing awareness, and saving lives, I recognize Dax Wilson for his Spirit of Montana.

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT  
GOVERNOR ROBERT B. JORDAN III

**HON. DAVID E. PRICE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Robert B. “Bob” Jordan III, North Carolina’s former Lieutenant Governor, a civic and business leader, and a longtime friend. Bob’s death on February 16, 2020 has been met with an outpouring of fond recollections, fulsome tributes, and expressions of affection and respect that attest to his life of service and the impact it had on our state. Lisa and I want to express our sympathy to Bob’s wife Sarah, their family, and Bob’s many friends and admirers.

A native of Mount Gilead, North Carolina, Bob attended North Carolina State University (NCSU), graduating with a degree in forestry, and was then commissioned Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He served two years in Europe and rose to the rank of Captain. Bob then returned to Mount Gilead and began a long career as head of Jordan Lumber and Supply. He also showed a knack for politics and was asked at age 24 to serve on the town board. Four years later he was appointed to what is now called the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina system.

Bob’s career in state politics began with his election in 1976 to the N.C. Senate, where he served for eight years, representing Montgomery, Anson, Richmond, Scotland, Stanly and Union Counties. He was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1984 and almost became governor, running a valiant race in 1988.

Bob had a remarkable ability to bridge divides and find common ground. He brokered a major agreement to increase investment in North Carolina’s highways, and another to finance statewide school construction. The N.C. Rural Economic Development Center is a monument to his leadership, as is the N.C. Biotechnology Center, the first state-funded economic development organization of its kind.

Bob Jordan provided educational leadership throughout his career, helping establish the Basic Education Program, a comprehensive plan to equalize access to education, and the Teaching Fellows program, a highly successful scholarship program for prospective teachers. He was instrumental in the creation of the

present UNC governance structure and served on the Boards of Trustees for UNC–Charlotte and NCSU as well as the state community college system.

I first got to know Bob through my mentor, N.C. Senator Russell Walker, and was serving as state Democratic Chairman in 1984 when Bob was elected Lt. Governor (his election was about the only good news Democrats got that night). He was one of the most conscientious and well-motivated people I have known in politics. I agree with his friend and mine, Former N.C. Senator Gerry Hancock, who described Bob to a reporter as “one of the most honorable, decent, hard-working people we’ve ever known.”

We are indeed better for having known him, and our state is better by virtue of his steady and visionary leadership. Bob Jordan’s contribution lives on in those whose opportunities have been broadened and horizons have been extended by virtue of his dedicated service.

HONORING THE MARINES AND  
SAILORS OF SITE SUPPORT AU-  
RORA

**HON. JASON CROW**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the accomplishments of the Marines and Sailors of Site Support Aurora, who will be honored by the Chamber of Northwest Douglas County as a “Citizens Who Soar.”

These service members have been an integral part of the local community serving on Buckley Air Force Base. They are Active Duty support personnel who instruct and assist Marine Corps Reserve units in maintaining a continuous state of readiness for mobilization. They primarily inspect and render technical advice on command functions including operations, training, administration, and logistical support. While their primary duties focus on training and advising the reserve Marines, their efforts extend beyond this scope and include service within the local community.

Through their efforts, these Marines and Sailors supported a Toys for Tots drive which resulted in over 186,364 toys being distributed to 99,800 children in the Denver metropolitan area. In addition to this monumental effort, in 2019 these Marines and Sailors rendered military funeral honors to over 360 Marines who honorably served their country.

Through their devotion to duty and commitment to service, these service members have had an incredibly positive impact on the community. Their success in not only training our Reserve Marines, but also supporting the local community through their selfless efforts serves as an inspiration to the public.

As major contributors and an inspiration to the community, I congratulate these Marines and Sailors for receiving the recognition as “Citizens Who Soar.”

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROSELLA  
PURCELL ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JAHANA HAYES**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mrs. HAYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rosella Purcell, of Southbury, Connecticut, who will celebrate her 100th birthday on March 27, 2020.

Ms. Purcell is the third youngest of four children born to Rose and Jeffrey Donahue. While her older brothers, John and Joseph, have passed away, her "kid brother" Jeff is just as healthy as his older sister at the youthful age of 96. The two of them still enjoy their conversations on the phone talking about their memories of growing up in Danbury, Connecticut, and raising their families that now spread across four generations.

During World War II, Ms. Purcell was a first lieutenant in United States Army, serving as a nurse at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. In 1951, she married James Purcell, a veteran who served in the Atlantic Theater in General George S. Patton's Third Army. Together they raised three children: Jay, Rosemary, and John. In addition to her children, Ms. Purcell has four grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Memories abound for the Purcell family of family gatherings, most notably at Misquamicut Beach in Westerly, Rhode Island, where they have vacationed regularly for the past 60 years. There, her children and grandchildren would spend hours on their bikes or in the ocean riding waves, playing endless games in the backyard of the family beach cottage, and riding the merry-go-round at Watch Hill hoping to capture the elusive gold ring.

When asked what makes Ms. Purcell such a special lady, family members will say her faith, sense of humor, and sincerity. While she has dealt with hardships in recent years, she remains steadfast to her faith—a faith that continues to guide her through each day and passing night. To this day, Ms. Purcell remains in good health and her mind is as sharp as ever.

It is amazing to think about the history that Ms. Purcell has witnessed in her 100 years, from the Great Depression and World War II, to Neil Armstrong's first step on the moon and so many other events that have shaped the 20th and 21st centuries. However, what means the most to Ms. Purcell are the family members who will gather together to celebrate her 100th birthday and her family members who are no longer with us.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending warmest wishes to Ms. Purcell for a happy birthday and continued good health. I would also like to thank her for her service to our country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARTHA  
D. (PATSY) WHITE

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Martha D. (Patsy) White,

who passed away on November 19, 2019, at the age of 90 after a lifetime of public service to her community.

Born in 1929, in New York City, Ms. White spent much of her childhood with her parents in Italy and France, where her father was working prior to World War II. Later, she attended school in Boston, where she graduated high school and later from Colby Junior College in New Hampshire in 1948. She later moved to San Francisco where she met husband Peter when he was stationed with the Army in Monterey. They soon married and had two children Cordie (Cornelia) and David, before moving to Sacramento and having their third child, Chip (Frances). In 1963, the family moved to Marinwood and in 1988 they settled Novato.

In 1963, Ms. White started working for the Mill Valley School District, holding several positions including receptionist, administrative assistant to three superintendents, and finally as a business manager. Ms. White went back to school and received her Bachelor of Arts with a specially designed degree in Educational Management in 1978. In addition to her work with the school district, Ms. White was also involved in the League of Women Voters for over 50 years, and she was awarded the League's Bunny Award in 2006. Ms. White also served on the Marinwood Community Services District, cofounded the Marin Housing Council, and participated in the Novato Housing Coalition and in the Marin Environmental Housing Collaborative. She also served on the North Bay YMCA Board, and was named the YMCA's volunteer of the year in 2005. In 2008, Ms. White was named Novato's Citizen of the Year.

Beyond her incredible community service, Ms. White enjoyed spending her free time entertaining, traveling, swimming, going to the Y, watching and feeding local birds, knitting, needlepointing, calligraphy, and water color painting. Most of all, she loved spending time with her family and friends.

Ms. White was predeceased by her husband, Peter, in 2018. She is survived by her sister Cornelia Dimmitt, her daughter Cornelia and husband George, her sons Francis White and Dr. David White and David's wife Judy, and two grandchildren, Kyle White and Dr. Ashley White. While she will be greatly missed, Ms. White's legacy will live on through the indelible positive impact she had on her community and beyond.

COMMEMORATING THE KIWANIS  
CLUB OF PASADENA CENTEN-  
NIAL ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Kiwanis Club of Pasadena upon its centennial anniversary.

Kiwanis International is a volunteer-led global organization committed to service and strengthening goodwill. Since its founding in 1915, Kiwanis has grown to nearly six-hundred thousand members spanning across eighty countries.

The Kiwanis Club of Pasadena was founded in 1920 and is one of the oldest Kiwanis Clubs

in the world. Their objective is to make the City of Pasadena a better place to live and to accomplish their goals working together as a team. The club has approximately forty members and supports many organizations that help the local community. These include Union Station Homeless Services, where club members help prepare, cook, and serve monthly meals to the shelter's homeless families, Villa Esperanza Services where members assist disabled adults in the Pasadena area, through the Aktion Club, and the Salvation Army.

The club also works with local Key Clubs, which are international leadership service programs for high school students, by holding a "Career Day," allowing Key Club members to visit various businesses for a day to learn about different careers. In addition, the Kiwanis Club of Pasadena provides annual educational scholarships to outstanding students in the Pasadena area and supports the Camperships for Kids program for youth to attend summer camp.

The care, time and energy that the Kiwanis Club of Pasadena has given to the community is extraordinary and the residents of the Pasadena area have benefitted greatly. I ask all Members to join me in commending the Kiwanis Club of Pasadena upon their celebration of one hundred years of outstanding service.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH ESSAY  
CONTEST 2020 GRADES 6  
THROUGH 8

**HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize exemplary middle and high school students from Virginia's Fourth Congressional District who were selected as winners of the Black History Month essay contest I hosted earlier this month. I am inspired by the words of these students, and I encourage young people across our country to reflect on what this month means to them personally.

Since its creation less than 50 years ago, Black History Month has been a time to honor and recognize the remarkable achievements of the African-American community. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these distinguished students and their accomplishments in celebration of Black History Month.

I include in the RECORD Trenton Blake's winning essay:

WHAT BLACK HISTORY MONTH MEANS TO ME

As an African American male, Black History means a great deal to me. In today's society racism impacts the lives of my people in a number of ways and for me that is very scary. Black history means to me that no matter how the world views me, I am somebody and I stand on the shoulders of those before me. I can not think of what black history means to me without thinking of the years of slavery my ancestors had to endure. I think of the world we live in, and I don't understand why racism continues to exist today. The achievements of black people compared to the many pitfalls set before us should allow people to see how strong and resilient of a people we are, instead they only

continue their attempts to destroy us and what we value and love.

I wish black history month would mean to everyone what it means to me. Black history month means to me that in times of turmoil I have the strength to rise victorious. Black history month is a time where all can reflect, not on the narrative they want us to believe in, but one that is factual and full of strength, hope and promise. It's one where Mansa Musa was King of the Mali empire in 1312 and is regarded even today as the richest man in the history of the world. Black history month means to me even as an enslaved people, Harriet Tubman led about 13 missions to help many to freedom and shared she could have freed more if they only knew they were enslaved. Black history month means to me we must pass the knowledge of the achievements of our ancestors like the establishment of what was known as Black Wall Street. Black wall street was a very prosperous and self-sufficient business district in Oklahoma where black people owned barbershops and stores, schools and even a local newspaper. Black history month means to me that I can help the advancement of the world like Dr. Gladys West who is a mathematician who grew up locally in Sutherland VA and helped with the technology used to create the GPS systems everyone uses today.

Black history month means to me it is a time where all people should be able to reflect upon the history of African Americans. This is a time where our culture, contributions, music, and arts should be celebrated as a positive influence and reviewed as leaving a positive impact on the entire world. Black history month is a time where we should be able to come together as a people and uplift one another and celebrate the many achievements of our past and the hope and realization of a rich future.

HONORING DR. JEROME L. RICE

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. ENGEL, Madam Speaker, it is my sincere honor to recognize a long-time public servant, a beloved community leader in Coop City, and one of my good friends, Dr. Jerome L. Rice, President of the NAACP Coop City branch and a member of the Riverbay Board. Dr. Rice is moving to Florida at the end of March. He and his family will surely be missed.

Dr. Rice served over 22 years in the Armed Forces retiring with the rank of E8/First Sergeant. He has also served with the New York City Department of Correction for 25 years retiring with the rank of Captain. Dr. Rice has served as NAACP Co-op President since 2012 and has served on the Riverbay Board since 2017. In February 2020, Dr. Rice received his PhD in Criminal Justice from Walden University specializing in Social & Behavioral Science. In 2017 he was invited into the Alpha Phi Sigma Nu Chapter Criminal Justice Honor Society. In 2008 he received his MBA from Monroe College majoring in Business Management. Throughout his life he has been a long and faithful servant for the Thessalonians Worship Center, where he served as chair of the trustee board and assistant director of the food pantry. Dr. Rice is also the Past No. Commander for the American Legion Post No. 1871 where he provided various services to veterans.

In addition, Dr. Rice is also a 2019 Inductee into the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame; an NAACP Silver Life Member; a recipient of the NAACP Freedom Fund Award for Community Service; a recipient of the AIM High Ambassador Mentorship Award; and was the First Elected President for the Monroe College Toastmasters Club. While serving as director of Community Relations for 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care, he had created various survival workshop designed to educate both communities and local elected officials. And if all of that wasn't enough, Dr. Rice was also a heroic 9/11 first-responder.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Rice always says, "Don't stand on the sidelines of Justice, get in the fight." I can't think of a more fitting motto for him and I want to thank him for all the work he's done to strengthen our community. We're going to miss Dr. Rice and his wonderful wife Eulalee deeply here in the Bronx, but we wish them well on their new journey.

225TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARINER'S TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH  
IN NEW YORK CITY

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 225th anniversary of Mariner's Temple Baptist Church located at 3 Henry Street\* 12 Oliver Street (Mariners' Temple Lane) in New York City. The Church's history is deeply rooted with the history of the Nation and this year celebrates a momentous milestone.

According to history, in 1795, Henry Rutgers, a descendant of Dutch immigrants, donated land on the corner of Oliver and Henry Streets designated for Baptist worship. Located a few blocks from the first White House occupied by George Washington and his wife on Cherry Lane, the first Church at Oliver and Henry Streets was called the Oliver Street Meeting House. The early Church began as a Mission for seamen who docked at the nearby East River and the church became famous.

Mariner's Church was established as a food and shelter mission for the seamen whose hard work helped New York City develop into a HUB of commerce and culture. The church is one of the oldest sites for Baptist worship in Manhattan offering innovative ministry in response to the great influx of immigration. Mariners' Temple gained the reputation as "The Mother of Churches," launching the First Swedish Baptist Church, the First Italian Church, the First Norwegian-Danish Baptist Church, The first Lettish (Latvian) Church, the First Russian Church and the First Chinese Church as each new arrival of immigrants moved through the Lower East Side. From the 1940s to the 1970s, Mariners' Temple continued to be a spiritual center welcoming all ethnic groups in the neighborhood and establishing supportive missions and classes for Chinese, Latinx and African Americans.

Today, the church continues to be a beacon of hope for parishioners from all backgrounds. It takes the call to community engagement seriously. Mariner's Temple community is incredibly active, participating in a variety of ministries and programs. Under the leadership of

Rev. Dr. Henrietta Carter, Mariners' Temple remains committed to its missions and outreach initiatives. There is a ministry for everyone as Mariners' focuses on the ministries of Prayer, Church School/Christian Education, Evangelism, New Discipleship, Community Outreach, Communications, Sacred Arts Drama & Dance, Health, Wellness and Soul Care. Mariners' Temple is a multicultural Church utilizing small-group-driven ministry to build and strengthen the community.

Madam Speaker, as Mariner's Temple celebrates this historic milestone, its congregation can take pride in an inspiring 225 years of fellowship, worship, and service. I would like to congratulate Rev. Dr. Henrietta Carter and past and current members of the church's congregation on this joyous occasion. Mariner Temple Baptist Church embodies the values of charity, inclusion, and integrity embraced by all New Yorkers. I wish them many more years full of growth and prosperity.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS EDISON  
MIDDLE SCHOOL OF MERIDEN,  
CONNECTICUT FOR BEING  
NAMED A NATIONAL MAGNET  
SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION BY  
MAGNET SCHOOLS OF AMERICA

**HON. JAHANA HAYES**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mrs. HAYES. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Thomas Edison Middle School of Meriden, Connecticut for being named a National Magnet School of Distinction by Magnet Schools of America.

Thomas Edison is one of 12 schools in Connecticut and one of 142 in the country to be given this prestigious distinction. Its challenging curriculum, full engineering program, innovative technical supports, and strong family and community partnerships have resulted in high student achievement at the school.

Thomas Edison started an initiative that has provided every student with a laptop to help with their studies. That kind of investment in students and commitment to reducing disparity pays dividends—in student success.

Even with plentiful resources, success takes staff buy-in, strong leadership and tireless work. I commend the staff at Thomas Edison for their commitment to their craft and dedication to students.

But it also takes a community—parents devoted to their children's learning, and students empowered and motivated to go the extra mile. Thomas Edison has implemented a Families as Partners program to foster mutual respect and effective collaboration between families and school staff. It has also partnered with Community Health Center Inc. to provide behavioral health services and dental services at school.

This comprehensive approach to supporting students with wraparound services makes a difference. Students learn best when their physical, mental and emotional needs are met.

This week also happens to be National Public Schools week—a week when we celebrate the significant contributions and accomplishments of students, parents, educators and education advocates in our public schools.

The achievements of Thomas Edison underscore the importance of supporting robust federal investment in public education, including

the Magnet Schools Assistance Program. I am committed to continuing to fight for strong supports and funding for public schools and programs with a track record of success, so that every school in my district and around the country has resources needed to mirror the accomplishments achieved at Thomas Edison Middle School.

Every school in America has the potential to be a school of distinction—we just need to prioritize education.

Again, I congratulate the Thomas Edison Middle School community for this award and honor.

#### BAKU POGROMS

### HON. ANDY LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise, as the representative of a large and vibrant community of Armenian-Americans in southeast Michigan, in remembrance of the Baku pogroms.

During these tragic events 30 years ago, Armenians faced unthinkable horrors. Press reports describe Armenians tossed out of their homes, their possessions thrown into bonfires. Others were killed by mobs.

As we condemn this violence and remember those who were lost, we must also look forward and reaffirm our commitment to the Armenian people.

Last year, I was proud to be an original cosponsor of and to cast my vote for the resolution that finally recognized the Armenian Genocide. Our vote affirms that there is no question about what happened to the Armenian people, and that we will never forget it.

I was also proud to support funding for aid to Artsakh, including support for critical demining projects. I am committed to continuing that support and working to secure the safety and wellbeing of the Armenian people.

I stand with the Armenian-American community of Michigan's 9th District and across the nation, as they honor those lost during the Baku pogroms. Armenian-Americans have champions and friends in the U.S. House of Representatives.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be on the House floor on February 26, 2020, because my flight from Oregon was canceled. If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 35, the Emmett Till Antilynching Act.

I am a cosponsor of H.R. 35, legislation to make lynching a federal hate crime. This bill is named in memory of Emmett Till, a fourteen-year-old African American child from Chicago who was brutally tortured and murdered in 1955 by two white men during a trip to visit family in Mississippi. An all-white jury deliberated for less than an hour before finding the men not guilty of Till's murder. Emmett is one

of thousands of African American children, men, and women who have been lynched in this country in the past four centuries. Our country's historical acceptance of lynching is appalling, and by passing this bill Congress took an important step in recognizing lynching for what it is—a hate crime. For hundreds of years people have escaped convictions and justice has been denied. This legislation cannot and will not undo those unspeakable crimes, but it is an important step in reckoning with our nation's history. I am grateful for Rep. RUSH's leadership in advancing this bill, and I urge the Senate to quickly pass the bill so it can become law.

#### COMMEMORATING THE VICTIMS OF THE SUMGAI AND BAKU POGROMS

### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 32nd anniversary of the pogrom against the Armenian residents of the town of Sumgait, Azerbaijan. On February 27, 1988, and for three days following, Azerbaijani mobs assaulted and killed Armenians. The violence left hundreds of Armenian civilians dead and injured, women and girls were raped, and some victims were burned alive. Thousands were forced to flee their homes, leaving behind their belongings.

Two years later, it is estimated that only 40,000 of the 250,000 Armenian residents of Baku remained in Azerbaijan. On January 13, 1990, organized Azerbaijani mobs turned on those remaining, many of them elderly or disabled, and killed hundreds and injured many more.

The pogroms came as a direct result of years of vicious, racist anti-Armenian propaganda by Azerbaijani authorities, dehumanizing the Armenian residents of Azerbaijan and laying the groundwork for mass violence. Azerbaijani authorities made little effort to punish those responsible, instead attempting to cover up the atrocities and denying the government role in instigating the attacks.

The pogroms accomplished their purpose in displacing the entire Armenian community from their homes in Azerbaijan, but in the decades since, Azerbaijani authorities have continued to fan the flames of ethnic hatred, using it as a tool to distract their populace from the corrupt and repressive regime in Baku. The anniversary of Sumgait is a reminder of the consequences when aggression and hatred grow unchecked.

Madam Speaker, in less than two months we will mark the 105th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, an event the Turkish government, Azerbaijan's closest ally, goes to great lengths to deny. We must not let such crimes against humanity go unrecognized, whether they occurred yesterday or 30 years ago or 100 years ago. Today, let us pause to remember the victims of the atrocities of Sumgait and Baku pogroms. It is our moral obligation to condemn crimes of hatred and to remember the victims, in hope that history will not be repeated.

#### INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO COLLECT OVERPAYMENT OF SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE

### HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, the Department of Veterans Affairs' Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) program offers grants to assist veterans with service-connected disabilities with the purchase, construction, or modification of their homes to meet their unique needs.

The SAH program provides for an increased quality of life by allowing veterans to live independently in their homes. Unfortunately, there have been cases where veterans have been unsatisfied with the quality of work provided. Currently, VA does not have the explicit authority to recover SAH funds even if it determines there has been standard work.

To address this situation, my bill authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to determine whether SAH overpayments have occurred as a result of a breach of contract and to recover such funds in the same manner as any other debt due to the United States. To prevent any financial burden for veterans and their families who receive an overpayment through no fault of their own, the bill requires VA to waive the overpayment.

My legislation will allow for more accountability and discourage individuals from breaching SAH contract.

#### HONORING BISHOP WILLIAM GEORGE FIELDS

### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to honor a leader in our community whom we recently lost, Bishop William George Fields of Refugee Temple Annex in the Bronx.

Bishop Fields was a native New Yorker, born on June 16, 1932 in Harlem Hospital. He attended New York University and later received a Doctor of Divinity Degree from the Universal Bible Institute. In 1959 Bishop Fields married Mother Bertha Lee Fields, and from their union they were blessed with 3 children, Bishop William Michael, Bertram Brett, and E. Beth Chism. They also had 4 wonderful grandchildren, Michael Aaron, Shekinah, Amon and Bethany, and 2 beautiful great-grandchildren, Zion and Katie.

Bishop Fields was first ordained and appointed Pastor of Refugee Temple Annex in 1961. In 1975, he was consecrated Bishop. Bishop Fields also held several other positions in ministry, including serving as chairman and member of many convention committees, instructor at the Church of Christ Bible Institute, and treasurer of the Board of Bishops. He also served faithfully for many years on the 47th Precinct Clergy Coalition in the Bronx.

A dedicated, kind, and mild tempered leader, Bishop Fields served as pastor of Refuge

Temple Annex for more than 50 years. But he also served his country, including four years in the United States Air Force, and 26 years with the United States Treasury and Internal Revenue Service.

Madam Speaker, those who knew Bishop Fields will always remember him as a teacher, mentor, preacher, worshipper, kind-hearted, and above all, a good man. He will be deeply missed by the Bronx and Mount Vernon communities in which he lived and served for so many years. My deepest condolences go out to his family.

#### RECOGNIZING ROBERT MOORE AS CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

##### HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize a local veteran from my district, Robert "Bob" Moore, as my February Constituent of the Month. February is Black History Month, and it is only fitting to recognize Moore's patriotism and perseverance in celebration. Robert Moore is one of the nation's first black men to serve in the Marine Corps and last surviving Montford Point Marine.

During a time of extreme division, Robert Moore knew he had a calling to serve. As one of the nation's first black men to join the Marine Corps, he trained in all-white segregated base camps. Not only did he face racism and discrimination during his training, but he and the other black Marines also struggled with a lack of opportunity and ignorance towards their war-heroism. Yet he persisted, and in 2011 at the request of then-Marine Commandant James F. Amos, President Barack Obama authorized the award of the Congressional Gold Medal to all Montford Point Marines, including Robert Moore.

I launched a Constituent of the Month program to recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond to make our region and our country a stronger place for everyone to live and thrive. Moore is an exemplary model of perseverance, courage and honor. I thank him for being an esteemed resident of California's 49th district, and I am honored to represent him.

#### PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEEK AND THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

##### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 862: 2020 Public Schools Week.

I was disgusted when President Trump referred to "failing government schools," during his State of the Union Address.

President Trump is wrong.

First of all, we call them public schools.

Today there are more than 50 million kids educated in public schools. Ensuring that our nation's kids are receiving the education they deserve no matter their ability, race, wealth, language, country or origin or needs.

As a former public school teacher, I know firsthand public schools play for students futures and the future of our country.

Yet, this administration continues to put public schools under threat.

And now the President plans to divert \$5 million away from public schools to private school voucher programs, as well as turn funding for Every Student Succeeds Act into a block grant program.

We must continue to support our public schools and those that attend them this week and every week.

#### HONORING KATHERINE JOHNSON

##### HON. KENDRA S. HORN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the legacy of Mrs. Katherine Johnson, a beloved American hero who passed away on February 24, 2020, at 101 years old. Mrs. Johnson was an African American pioneer in aeronautical mathematics and was one of the original "Hidden Figures" behind NASA's work. Her mathematical work was critical to our nation's first moon landing and it is with great sadness that we mourn the loss of this extraordinary woman. We must never forget Mrs. Johnson's extraordinary accomplishments, and, we must ensure that her legacy will continue to live on and inspire generations of scientists, mathematicians, and engineers.

Born in 1918 in West Virginia during the era of Jim Crow, Katherine Johnson faced many challenges during her lifetime. In the face of adversity, Katherine became one of only three African American students to attend West Virginia's graduate schools. After graduating from West Virginia State College, she planned to dedicate her career to teaching at a public school in Virginia. As we now know, life took this woman in a very different direction.

In 1953, Mrs. Johnson accepted a job as a "computer" at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), where she checked her superior's math to ensure accuracy for NACA, which would later become NASA. After only two weeks of work, she became a permanent mathematician for NASA and spent the next four years of her life analyzing flight tests. In 1958, Mrs. Johnson went on to work on trajectory analysis for America's first human spaceflight, Freedom 7 Mission. Just two years later, she accomplished what no woman had—she coauthored equations depicting orbital spaceflight and the landing positions of spacecraft.

While Mrs. Johnson's work was not given fair recognition at the time, her calculations were critical to bridging the gap between the United States and the Soviet Union in the Space Race and completing the first successful manned lunar landing.

We must not forget the pioneering work of women like Katherine Johnson. Last year, I was proud to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass legislation awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to Katherine Johnson and all of the "Hidden Figures" women who made NASA's work possible. During her lifetime, Katherine Johnson also received the Presidential Medal of Freedom

from President Obama in 2015 for her groundbreaking work. As Chairwoman of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and legacy of Mrs. Katherine Johnson as an American trailblazer in mathematics and engineering who ultimately shaped space history in the United States and globally.

#### IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF ROBERT WADE SHIREY

##### HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the life of Robert Wade Shirey, who passed from this life after a prolonged battle with heart disease.

Bob was born on December 11, 1934 in Pennsylvania to Ophie and Raymond Shirey. Shortly after graduating high school, and wanting to serve his country, Bob joined the Marine Corps. Over the course of his tenure in the United States Marines Bob was stationed in San Diego, San Francisco, Twentynine Palms, and Okinawa, Japan. It was during his time in the Marine Corps that he met his wife Georgia, with whom he has three children, Raymond, Robert, and Renee. Bob was honorably discharged from the Marines on October 15, 1963 and shortly thereafter he went to work for GTE Corp. Over the next several years Bob would graduate from college with a degree in management and spend countless hours volunteering with the Lions Club, the Kiwanis Club, and Little League Baseball.

I would like to extend my personal condolences to Bob's wife Georgia, his three kids, and his seven grandchildren. It is people like Bob who exemplify what it means to be an American.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be on the House floor on February 26, 2020, because my flight from Oregon was canceled. If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 4852, the G.I. and Veterans Education Empowerment Act, and H.R. 2490, to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes.

#### CONGRATULATING THE EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL RIFLE TEAM

##### HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate the Everett

High School Rifle Team on their victories as the 2020 PIAA 3 Position Smallbore Rifle Champions, Air Rifle Champions, and Prone Champions.

The top four shooters, as well as one alternate in Smallbore and Air Rifle, were selected to compete in the statewide competition hosted by the Meyersdale Rifle Team. The 3 Position Smallbore and Air Rifle teams were declared state champions after the weekend-long event. This is the fourth consecutive state championship title for 3 Position Smallbore and the second consecutive state championship Air Rifle Title.

The 2020 Everett High School Rifle Team consists of 19 athletes from Everett Area School District and Bedford Area School District, including: Boyd Becker, Jesse Chamberlain, Travis Kendall, Allison Klavuhn, Joseph Kovach, Deegan Ramsey, Abigale Rose, Claudia Sigel, Evan Sigel, Abby Walters, Rylee Weaverling, Morgan White, CJ Humbertson, Emily Kendall, Layni Miller, Ava Penatzer, Matthew Semanek, Sam Sheppard, and Gracie Walters.

The students were coached by Coltin Rice, Ethan Cessna, Lynn Whetstone, George Kuhne, Denver Deremer, Dave Eppinger, Ken Ritchey, Cindy Ritchey, Mark Donahoe, Dan Klavuhn, and Angie Klavuhn.

On behalf of the 13th District of Pennsylvania, I congratulate these students and their coaches on a successful season and wish them every continued success.

#### COMMEMORATING LEE COUNTY'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Lee County, Kentucky's 115th county established on March 1, 1870.

Nestled in Kentucky's Appalachian region, legendary explorers like Dr. Thomas Walker and Daniel Boone are among the first recorded frontiersmen in Lee County and the Three Forks area, a land rich with beautiful hillsides and streams serving as an undisturbed habitat for wildlife and premier hunting. Some of the earliest successful industries were birthed from natural resources on the land, including pine tar, saltpeter, coal mining, and oil and timber operations, connecting this small Appalachian community to the U.S. Navy, the Great Lakes and the nation's energy grid. For many years, the Three Forks Region served as an economic hub in Eastern Kentucky with access to the Kentucky River and railroads to transport timber, coal and oil.

Utilizing former coalfields and the Daniel Boone National Forest, which covers much of the region, Lee County offers premier territory for the tourism industry. In fact, the Beattyville Coal Seam will soon serve as a starting point for challenging hiking and mountain biking trails, leading visitors and residents through a beautiful autumn canopy and the unique limestone cliffs that draw countless rock climbers from around the world.

Among all of the resources in Lee County's 150-year history, the very best resource has been local residents. The people of Lee Coun-

ty have proven to be resilient and loyal, innovative and resourceful, exhibiting the enduring compassion and charm that draws visitors to our unique corner of the world. Over the last two decades, volunteers from across the county have dedicated time and energy to the Eastern Kentucky PRIDE organization, enhancing the environment and restoring the beauty of our hillsides and streams. Likewise, through joint local, state and federal efforts, we have been able to expand access to clean water and sanitary sewer for residents and businesses over the last 40 years, paving the way for new industry and job creation. Since 2003, countless volunteers have partnered with Operation UNITE to combat the deadly drug abuse epidemic in Eastern Kentucky, promoting prevention in our schools and connecting families to critical recovery resources and support. Through SOAR—Shaping Our Appalachian Region, we continue to work together toward innovative solutions to diversify our economy, expand access to high-performing broadband in every community, and pave a brighter future for upcoming generations.

Finally, any time I think of Lee County, I'm reminded that it is the homeplace of highly respected war heroes, like the late retired Army Major General Charles Beach, Junior, as well as outstanding individuals, like Will Smith, my former Chief of Staff and Staff Director on the House Appropriations Committee, who served as my long-time advisor. Many sons and daughters of Lee County have risen up among the ranks to help lead this great Nation and I'm confident that the same will be true over the next century. Being mindful of the challenges and successes that have written the story of Lee County's past, I am certain that the best days are ahead, and I join the entire community in this 150-year celebration.

#### TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT SAMUEL J. HARRIS

### HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the memory of Lieutenant Samuel J. Harris, who was born Christmas Eve, 1896 in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania to a veteran of the US Civil War. When Samuel J. Harris was first called away to service, he was enrolled at Dickinson College.

In 1916, he served as a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard on the U.S. Army's Pancho Villa Expedition in Mexico. Shortly after Harris returned home in 1917, the United States entered the First World War. Harris then enlisted as a private, this time in the 112th Infantry Regiment. Already a sergeant during training, Harris was selected for Officer Candidate School and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, his unit becoming part of the 28th Infantry Division.

Serving in France, the regiment saw combat during the crucial Second Battle of the Marne and fought with great distinction throughout the war. Unlike his fellow veterans who returned to civilian life after the end of the first World War, Harris returned to Europe.

In 1918 the new Lithuanian Republic had to defend itself against a collection of the czarist,

Bolshevik, German and Polish forces all trying to suppress the new nation. The many Lithuanian-American organizations of the era began to raise funds to send recently returned veterans to defend the newly liberated nation. Some 10,000 U.S. veterans eventually went to aid their ancestral homeland.

Despite not being of Lithuanian ancestry, but perhaps inspired by President Wilson's bold view of freedom and self-determination for the nations, Harris again volunteered. In 1919 as part of the Lithuanian American Brigade, First Lieutenant Samuel J. Harris left home for the final time to assist Lithuania to defend her newly declared independence.

The first officer of his unit to arrive in Lithuania, Harris was active by the late autumn of 1919 and had led the attack against the Bermanite's Iron Division during its retreat from the Baltic Republics. His death occurred on February 24, 1920 during a Communist-instigated mutiny of young officers in Kaunas. The only member of his Brigade to lose his life in the attack, Lieutenant Harris was initially laid to rest in the nearby Kaunas Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery during a funeral with full Lithuanian military honors.

He was posthumously awarded the Cross of Vytis, the Lithuanian nation's highest decoration for bravery.

In 1923, a street in the Aleksotas District of Kaunas was named after Lieutenant Harris. The street name was changed in 1946 by Soviet authorities but was reinstated in 1993. Lieutenant Harris's body was later transported to the United States and reburied at Arlington National Cemetery.

The verse on the marble monument over his grave bears a Vytis over the inscription: "Erected by the Lithuanians and sons and daughters of Lithuanians in America and dedicated in loving memory of Lieutenant Samuel J. Harris who died fighting for the freedom of Lithuania."

Let us never forget individuals like Lieutenant Harris who have made the ultimate sacrifice so that the light of liberty throughout the world continues to shine brightly.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MIKE JOHNSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during votes on Wednesday, February 26, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 71—H.R. 35; YEA on Roll Call No. 72—H.R. 4852; and YEA on Roll Call No. 73—H.R. 2490.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I apologize but I was unavoidably detained during the final passage vote. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 78.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. THOMAS MASSIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. MASSIE. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 77 and NAY on Roll Call No. 78.

## REBUILD AMERICA'S SCHOOLS

**HON. ANDY LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, every student should have access to a high-quality public education in a safe environment, regardless of area code. But right now, many students are educated in outdated and crumbling buildings.

Take the Mt. Clemens Consolidated Schools District in Macomb County, Michigan. The student body is majority-black, and 84 percent of students qualify for free and reduced lunch. Mt. Clemens educators and students work extremely hard to be successful in the classroom, but they are doing so in a nearly 100 year-old building, with the newest addition over 50 years old.

Wealthy districts and those serving predominantly white students can spend much more on capital improvements than their high-poverty counterparts. What if Mt. Clemens could make the infrastructure and technological updates that the wealthy school districts in Metro Detroit can afford?

This Public School's Week, I urge my colleagues to pass the Rebuild America's Schools Act so that every school can make 21st century updates to their buildings and ensure America's children can learn in the best environments.

## HONORING RABBI ADIN EVEN-ISRAEL STEINSALTZ

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the completion of the English-edition Koren Talmud Bavli series by Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz.

Born in 1937, Rabbi Steinsaltz has authored more than 60 books, and hundreds of articles on Jewish mysticism, religious thought, sociology, and philosophy. His most famous work is his interpretation of the Talmud, the formative piece of Jewish culture, and he is the first person since medieval times to have completed a full translation and commentary on the Babylonian Talmud.

As of last year, all 46 volumes of the Koren Talmud Bavli, an English edition of the definitive Steinsaltz Hebrew Talmud, have been

published. The debut volumes of the Steinsaltz Talmud gained critical acclaim, and by the end of last year, the final two volumes have been published.

I was pleased to join Rabbi Steinsaltz's son, Rabbi Meni Even-Israel, and members of the Aleph Society to mark the complete series entering the Library of Congress. As the nation's preeminent library, it is truly an honor for Rabbi Steinsaltz's work to be housed in the Library of Congress.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH ESSAY CONTEST 2020 GRADES 9 THROUGH 12

**HON. A. DONALD MCEACHIN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. MCEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize exemplary middle and high school students from Virginia's Fourth Congressional District who were selected as winners of the Black History Month essay contest I hosted earlier this month. I am inspired by the words of these students, and I encourage young people across our country to reflect on what this month means to them personally.

Since its creation less than 50 years ago, Black History Month has been a time to honor and recognize the remarkable achievements of the African-American community. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these distinguished students and their accomplishments in celebration of Black History Month.

I include in the RECORD JyMir Starks' winning essay:

(By JyMir Starks)

Black History Month was an extension upon Negro History Week, which was created in 1926 by notable historian, Carter G. Woodson; President Gerald Ford recognized February as the designated month for the celebration of Black people in 1976. Nearly six years shy of the centennial anniversary of Black History Week and the semi-centennial anniversary of Black History Month, the goals of both Carter G. Woodson and Gerald Ford have been accomplished to an extent. I say all this because for twenty-eight or twenty-nine days out of the year there is a new depth added to the Black experience within America.

There is a common misconception among many that Black History Month is in February because it is the shortest month. When I was younger, I was one of the many. This led me to do my own research when I saw someone make this claim, and I found the true history of the month. This month was chosen to honor Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey, more commonly known as Frederick Douglass, and President Abraham Lincoln. This began my delve into the rich history and culture of Black Americans; my ignorance had developed into an insatiable thirst for the knowledge of my people. Understanding, analyzing, and researching Black history is not something that I do for the second month of the year, only to

wait another eleven months before I repeat the cycle. It is the month of February that is used to spread what I have learned throughout my life in order to instill a sense of pride and admiration within my fellow Black Americans. The last few Februaries I have shared whatever trinket of knowledge that I've collected over the course of the year, with a fact regarding a certain historical figure or event pertaining to Black or African history for each day of the month. This year I've taken to sharing and learning with my potential classmates, who will be attending Howard University, in the upcoming fall of 2020. This has been beneficial because the ideals of community are placed on full display by this continuous exchange of information because each fact is more gratifying than the last.

Along with the sense of community that is established through the exchange of information and knowledge, there is the joy that comes from Black enterprise. Social media has made connecting with others the easiest it has ever been in human history. This allows for Black-owned businesses to reach consumers across the globe. Black entrepreneurs and other enterprising individuals have used platforms like Twitter to expand their brands and network with other businessmen and women. In February there is an explosion of Black enterprise with a myriad of products being placed on sale. This further strengthens the idea of community because investing in the business of another Black American allows for one to help aid in the quest to establish Black wealth or at least financial security. This also sparks immense joy because supporting Black-owned businesses fills me with a deep sense of pride. I enjoy Black History Month because it has been the setting that has taught me about the history of Black enterprise; I enjoy Black History Month in the twenty-first century because I am able to participate in Black enterprise efficiently and effectively.

Black History Month also opens up the doors of Hampton Roads. Hampton Roads is a region with many historical Black locations from Hampton down to Suffolk. Luckily for me, I am able to visit these cities and attend the events that they are planning to host. I love the ability to share a laugh and create a memory with my family as we adventure out into Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Portsmouth, Newport News, or Chesapeake. There is never a shortage of things to do to honor, celebrate, recognize, or appreciate one's heritage during February, and for that I am truly grateful because it is vital that Black people of all ages and walks of life are able to love themselves and love others.

The main joy that comes to me during Black History Month is the feeling of community that accompanies the month. I am truly able to be around friends and family and enjoy their presence. During the month of February, Black people are energized, and their communities give them the chance to appreciate their backgrounds. This month is more than a few names from a history textbook, but is essential to reaffirming the idea that Blackness is not only acceptable, but also Beautiful.