

coronavirus pandemic continues to have on the Town of Scotch Plains, New Jersey and many local governments throughout my district and the country. The coronavirus has decimated local revenues and increased costs and only Congress can provide a lifeline to small towns through direct and flexible funding.

Scotch Plains is a 9 square mile town of about 24,000 people. It has a medium-sized downtown of about 200 small businesses with an additional 100 businesses spread throughout other commercial corridors of our town. The town is in the process of planning a revitalization of the downtown in conjunction with providing affordable housing. The town has a AAA bond rating and the budget is lean.

The coronavirus has hit Scotch Plains hard. As a result of the State's stay at home order, just about all the small businesses are closed, and the businesses that remain open for take-out/curbside pickup are barely surviving. Very few of the businesses received assistance from the first round of the CARES Act due to their small size and lack of credit history with banks. A Scotch Plains Business Resource Group comprised of volunteers and concerned citizens has been formed to assist the small businesses community navigate the various federal and state assistance programs. Attached is my four-point plan to assist those businesses that can remain open during the stay at home executive orders.

Similarly, the town residents have been hit hard. Many of them have been furloughed from their jobs or forced to work at home at reduced hours. The closure of the schools has added additional difficulty for our residents to manage children as well as maintain employment. It is difficult to gage the percentage of residents who have been economically adversely affected, but it appears to be substantial.

The township budget has been introduced on April 21, 2020 with a reduction in forecasted nonproperty tax revenue and a reduction in expense. However, the big unknown is the ability of our residents to continue to pay property taxes given the adverse effects of the corona virus on the economy.

Under State law, the township must first fund the schools, counties and then the municipality. For 2020, the township has an obligation to fund the schools and the county at \$69.5 million and \$22.7 million, respectively. The municipal budget is \$26 million.

With a total obligation to raise \$109 million in property taxes, a 5 percent loss in the collection of these taxes would be almost \$5.5 million dollars with the responsibility of the municipality to pay the county and school taxes first. Therefore, the municipal budget would have a 21 percent deficit leading to a significant reduction of municipal services and municipal staff. A 10 percent loss in property tax revenue would lead to an \$11 million loss or a 42 percent reduction in municipal funds, severely impacting the municipal government's ability to deliver essential town services.

Given the current economic situations, estimates of 5 to 10 percent loss in property tax collection are probable. In addition, state aid of approximately \$2 million is potentially being deferred from August to as late as December of 2020.

The township's ability to secure short term bonds to cover these types of potential revenue shortfalls would be non-existent. Only the federal government has the capacity to

help states and local governments of all sizes from falling off the above described budgetary cliff. Therefore, I strongly urge you to include in any future Coronavirus relief package my bill, H.R. 6467, which would provide \$250 billion in stabilization funds to localities with populations lower than 500,000.

RECOGNIZING KRISTA WYNES FOR
CREATING HEARTS HUNTERS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2020

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Krista Wynes for her efforts with the group she created called Heart Hunters, which encourages parents and children to create hearts to display in their windows to encourage personal connection even while social distancing. The group was started on March 21st and now has over 580,000 members worldwide.

Ms. Wynes is married to Dave Wynes and is the mother of two children, Lincoln and Harrison, and lives in Galesburg, Illinois. She works as an ophthalmic technician in Peoria, and created the group on Facebook to reach out to neighbors while staying home and social distancing. Heart Hunters reminds people throughout different towns, states and nations that we are all in this together and none of us are alone. I commend Ms. Wynes on her work to bring people together in these rough times. She has shown kindness, resilience, and community building.

It is because of leaders such as Ms. Wynes that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally recognize Krista Wynes for her work to bring people together through her Facebook group, Heart Hunters.

HONORING DR. PHILIP L. DUBOIS
FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE AS
CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF NORTH CAROLINA AT
CHARLOTTE

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2020

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Philip L. Dubois for 20 years of service, including 15 years as Chancellor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. As a proud 49er myself, I have seen his extraordinary leadership firsthand and know how much he means to students, faculty and staff.

When I was Student Body President, Dr. Dubois was a mentor and has since become a friend. He began his academic career in 1976 at the University of California, Davis and retires after over two decades of combined service to UNC Charlotte. After being appointed Chancellor in 2005, he immediately began the important work that would one day transform both our institution and the surrounding community.

A titan among his peers in higher education, Dr. Dubois led UNC Charlotte through a time of unprecedented growth. He is credited with

the construction of UNC Charlotte Center City, the Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC), and industry collaborative PORTAL. Dr. Dubois' efforts to build the University's visibility and enrich the student experience led to the implementation of the football program in 2013 and a historic partnership with the City of Charlotte to bring light rail to campus.

Exemplary of Dr. Dubois' commitment to academic excellence, he spearheaded initiatives that saw the University make significant strides in endowment, research awards, enrollment, and graduation rates. In the past 15 years, UNC Charlotte awarded over 92,000 degrees and offered 36 new academic programs to students across the globe.

The greatest test to Dr. Dubois' leadership came on what he described as our University's "darkest day." On April 30, 2019, two students were killed and four others wounded in a shooting in a classroom on campus. Dr. Dubois' courage, strength, and his humanity led a brokenhearted student body, faculty, and community through the pain and the grief.

Renee and I would like to extend our most heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Dubois for his years of exemplary service at UNC Charlotte. I know I speak for all of Niner Nation in wishing he and his wife Lisa continued success and happiness as they move on to their next great adventure.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Dr. Philip L. Dubois upon his retirement as Chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. WILLIAM P.
DIGGS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2020

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great man of faith and a true community servant. Rev. Dr. William P. Diggs, Sr. Dr. Diggs transitioned in Florence, South Carolina on April 25, 2020. Although he is no longer with us in person, his legacy lives on through his tremendous work.

William Diggs, Sr. was born in Columbia, South Carolina and grew up in Rock Hill. He earned his bachelor's degree from Morehouse College and a Master's from Atlanta University. He found his calling in the ministry and earned a Master of Divinity from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School and a Doctor of Ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago.

He began his career in his hometown of Rock Hill, where he served as an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Friendship Junior College. While there, he helped students organize a sit-in that launched the Jail No Bail movement in 1960.

In 1962, Rev. Dr. Diggs joined Trinity Baptist Church in Florence, South Carolina, where he served as head pastor for 50 years before retiring in 2012. He left his imprint on the church through several initiatives. Under his supervision, the church parsonage was completed in 1964, the church property was expanded, and many additions and improvements were made to the complex over his tenure. He also added a fully accredited preschool and chartered a federal credit union.