

benefits run out, their economic impact payments have long since been spent, they have got rent due, they have got utility bills due. They want to go back to work, but the fact of the matter is, we are still not there yet where we can have a sustained economic recovery.

Mr. Speaker, I plead with my colleagues on the other side, who, again, have whip notices going out to oppose any Heroes 2.0 or anything like it, to please just think about the success that we did back in March when we passed the CARES package, which to this day is still providing some benefit. Those new rapid tests that the President announced a couple of days ago, which is a wonderful development, was paid for by the CARES Act, but we need more.

And Jerome Powell has warned us repeatedly since May that the CARES Act was a great achievement by Congress, but we need to have more fiscal stimulus until we get past this pandemic.

Again, the clock is now ticking.

And, again, Mr. Speaker, for the sake of all of us and our fellow citizens, please let's come together and get a COVID relief bill passed this week.

RECOGNIZING MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in November, thousands of marines will graduate from Marine Corps Infantry Training Battalion. These brave men and women will go on to serve and protect the United States and our allies across the world.

One such marine is Rece T. Rader from Winston-Salem. His mother, Angela, recently wrote to me about his graduation from boot camp at Parris Island and his subsequent move to Camp Geiger.

In her letter, she spoke passionately about how COVID-19 has made it incredibly hard for military families to celebrate alongside their loved ones who have completed their program requirements.

Her story applies to so many families, and it highlights the importance of recognizing the many accomplishments of these airmen, marines, soldiers, sailors, and guardsmen.

COVID-19 has disrupted the lives of all Americans in many ways.

It is, however, very unfortunate that COVID-19 has deprived the servicemembers of the physical and moral support that comes with the attendance of their families at graduation ceremonies.

To all servicemembers who are currently preparing for duty: We are incredibly proud of you. Your hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed, and you serve as the role models that young people look to for inspiration.

Today and every day, we should celebrate your accomplishments and the strides you continue to make.

Though we may not be able to congratulate you all in person, please know we will always celebrate you no matter how close or how far away you may be.

May God bless you, your families, and the United States of America.

LIFE IS WINNING

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, life is winning.

Recently, a great new book by Marjorie Dannenfelser, President of the Susan B. Anthony List, has been published that is entitled, "Life Is Winning."

Currently, I am halfway through the book, but can wholeheartedly recommend it to anyone who is interested in learning about the fight for life in our country and to learn more about the role of elected officials in this fight.

Many people, publicly known and unknown, have been working diligently to preserve what our Declaration of Independence says we are guaranteed: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Mr. Speaker, without question, life is the fundamental component to liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Marjorie, all the staff at Susan B. Anthony, the staff at National Right to Life, and the wonderful people at the State and local levels who pray diligently and work every day to promote the culture of life, which we know is supported by a majority of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I thank President Trump and Vice-President PENCE for their steadfast support of life. They understand that life must be protected and fought for at every turn.

CONTRACT DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, today we have been asked to wear white to honor Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She represents the tremendous struggle and fight for women's equality.

In the Virgin Islands, today, October 1, is formally known as Contract Day. It honors and celebrates four women, our four queens, that led the St. Croix Labor Rebellion of 1878, also known to us as Fireburn.

After slaves in the Danish West Indies organized, fought, and took their freedom from chattel slavery in 1848, a new type of slavery was formed in a labor bill in the following year to regulate the conditions of the now free workers.

The law stipulated a day wage, and confined workers to one plantation each year that could only change on Contract Day, October 1.

Former slaves worked on the same plantations as before, with little to no

improvement in their living conditions, healthcare, education, income, and their movement was restricted. I am sure many of my African-American brothers and sisters recall this happening in the United States after the Civil War.

The newly freed workers found that the low wages and new restrictions made living impossible. It was freedom in name only.

These conditions, along with the inability to vote, to participate in any aspect of the Danish Government at the time, created an incredibly untenable life.

Before October 1 of 1878, rumors circulated that the law was going to improve. When the workers realized on October 1 that those rumors were false, the frustration and anger from the past 30 years of unfair treatment and harsh labor practices after obtaining freedom ignited a protest that led to a rebellion in Frederiksted on the Island of St. Croix.

That rebellion, that uprising, was led by four women, our Virgin Island Queens: Mary Thomas, Mathilda Macbean, Susanna "Bottom Belly" Abrahamson, and Axeline "Queen Agnes" Salomon demanded all plantations improve workers' wages and repeal the Labor Act of 1849 that kept workers in serf-like conditions. More than half of the city of Frederiksted burned, along with the estates, the plantations across the western and northern part of the island.

The Danish Crown jailed about 400 and executed more than 100 people. Women were burned at the stake after molasses was poured on them, but their heroic and sacrificial acts, like those who earned our freedom 30 years prior, inspired change.

My ancestors, men and women, were willing not only to fight, but to die for the cause of equality and the dignity of a living wage and fair working conditions.

That fight, of course, continues today, not just for Virgin Islanders, but for indigenous people throughout our Nation and territories.

October is part of Indigenous Peoples Day, honoring the centuries-long struggle of people against the horrors of genocide, colonialism, imperialism, and the present conditions of unfair labor laws, discrimination, and unequal voting rights.

From Carib Indians fighting off Columbus on the island of Ay Ay—what is now the island of St. Croix in the Virgin Islands, the first place of armed resistance to Columbus in the New World—to the four queens, as I mentioned, of Fireburn; D. Hamilton Jackson, honored in November, fighting the Danish Crown for freedom of speech, people on my island and all over the world continue to demand and fight for freedom, equality, and fairness.

Much like the atmosphere of the Danish West Indies, our Nation is in a tumultuous but necessary time of change.