In their championship game, North Carolina Wesleyan University defeated second seed William Peace to claim the program's fifth USA South title.

On behalf of North Carolina's First Congressional District, I applaud Elizabeth City State University coach, Tynesha Lewis, and North Carolina Wesleyan University coach, John Thompson, for building their respective programs.

I thank the student athletes for their determination and for showing the entire country the best of eastern North Carolina.

Elizabeth City State University:

Student Athletes: Jessica Adams, Dy'Jhanik Armfield, Isa Banks, NyAsia Blango, Asaya Bulgin, Asia Cochran, Sierra Davenport, Makayla Everette, Jamia Guilford, Maryam Hashim, Zyaire Hayes, Alanis Hill, Jasmine Holmes, Akyia King, Ceanna Kinney, Naomi Lockamy, Jada Nowlin, Kamille Pickens, Sireann Pitts, and Elizabeth Sherrill

Coaches: Tynesha Lewis and Ron Woodard

North Carolina Wesylean University:

Student Athletes: Deejay Cox, Jalen Mattocks, Wy'Kise Allen, Brayden Dixon, Omari Bolden, Marquis Eskew, Khalid Chavis-Hinds Jr., RJ Bailey, Justin Burden, Jeremy Aldrich, Austin Manley, Isaiah Lewis, Tyler Spence, James Jones, Sal-Bey Young, Kyron Kelly, John Jackson, Jackson Thompson

Coaches: John Thompson, Cornelius Snow, and Donte Samuels

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE CALVIN D. HAWKINS

(Mr. MRVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to celebrate Black History Month and recognize the Honorable Calvin D. Hawkins, who is a Lake County Superior Court judge in northwest Indiana and a champion for equality and civil rights.

While still in his teens, Judge Hawkins participated in the historic March on Washington in 1963, and then embarked on his distinguished legal career where he has faithfully served with purpose, integrity, and respect.

Outside of the courts, he also has proven himself to be a tireless advocate for the youth of northwest Indiana, launching a stay-in-school initiative, and has also served as president of the board of directors for Indiana Legal Services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Black History Month and recognizing the dedication of Judge Hawkins and all individuals who have fought and continue to fight for civil rights and justice.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH TRIBUTES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, every February, Black History Month affords us the opportunity to learn about, celebrate, and honor Black leaders and to shine a light on the often-neglected contributions of African Americans in every area of our history.

Today, I rise to pay tribute to 10 remarkable individuals from Michigan's Seventh Congressional District—some of them famous names, others with buried histories that deserve to be shared.

Their stories span the geographical breadth of the district as well as the depths of our Nation's history: from the Civil War heroes of escaped slaves to modern singers and scholars.

All of them should be celebrated, and all of them called Michigan home.

Before I share their stories, though, I must also share the story of our great State.

While many know Michigan for the Motor City or for Motown, what you might not know is the critical role our State played in the Underground Railroad.

There are endless accounts of our State's importance to the secret network that aided thousands of people on their journey to freedom. Conductors hid freedom seekers in their homes and barns during the day. At night, freedom seekers would go to a depot in the next town.

For many, Detroit, code name ''Midnight,'' was the last stop before making their way to a free life in Canada, but a number stayed in Michigan and started their new lives.

I am so proud of the role our State played in securing freedom, and it is my honor to highlight these stories of Black Michiganders who have been shaping our State since day one.

TRIBUTE TO ABRAHAM LOSFORD

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Abraham Losford, the first Black resident of Howell, Michigan; a brave man who escaped slavery and used the trade he learned while captive to build a life of freedom for his family and for generations to come.

It was 1849 when Abraham Losford fled north with nothing but his clippers from Kentucky where he had been enslaved and served as a plantation barber. He was captured, escaped again, and after emancipation, returned to free his children, Benjamin and Sally.

The plan was to travel to Lansing, Michigan, via the Old Plank Road and open a barbershop, but when Losford stopped in Howell to change stagecoaches, he was convinced to stay in the small town.

The people of Howell promised to keep him safe if he would stay and open a barbershop, which they sorely needed. It was a deal both sides would forever uphold.

Losford and his barber business thrived in Howell and he became a successful, respected businessman in the predominantly White community—no small feat for a former slave in the years following the end of the Civil War.

Newspaper ads from the time boast of his salon offering, ''Shaving, Shampooing, and Hairdressing'' for both men and women, and it was noted in the local press that when Losford fell ill, a band of 60 kids and adults joined together to bring him gifts and money in a show of support and affection for their beloved town barber.

Abraham passed the trade to his son, who went on to open a barbershop of his own in the town of Edmore, Michigan. Today, Ben's story, and that of his father, are immortalized in the children's book ''Benjamin Losford and His Handy Dandy Clippers.''

It is the story of how skill equals freedom and a potent reminder that we must all make the most of the tools we have been fortunate enough to receive.

Abraham Losford died in 1897 and was buried in Lakeview Cemetery in downtown Howell, Michigan. His obituary states that, ''His presence, as well as his open, manly character, was a living reminder of the sin of slavery. Many winters will come and go before the name of Old Uncle Abe is forgotten in this community.''

Mr. Speaker, I ask that his name and his accomplishments live forever in our hearts and minds as well as here in the permanent Record of the people's House.

TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDER JOHNSON

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to pay tribute to a man who should have been hailed as a hero, but for too long his story was lost in history.

Alexander Johnson was a Black Civil War veteran who lived and worked in Owosso, Michigan, in the late 1800s. When a group of White residents chased most Black folks out of town, Johnson and two others refused to go.

Born in Tennessee in 1833, Johnson fled slavery and made his way to Michigan before enlisting in a Union regiment of African Americans in Kalamazoo, Michigan, to fight in the Civil War, then moving to Canada at the war's end, and later returning to Michigan to settle in Owosso with his wife.

No one knows for sure why he chose Owosso. Some historians believe Johnson's wife may have had family nearby. Others surmise he might have had connections to a home in Owosso rumored to be a part of the Underground Railroad, and still others say that at the time, the growing community was a place where people of all races moved to explore economic opportunity.

Whatever the reason, Owosso is where Alexander Johnson chose to put down his roots, opening up a downtown barbershop and was, by all accounts, a well-liked businessman and respected member of the community.