Biden and his allies had not disclosed to Congress or the American people.

China remains one of the greatest foreign threats to American national security. It's inexcusable that the Administration failed to inform the public when this threat was identified and even more alarming that the President didn't take steps to prevent such a breach of American sovereignty.

The government is responsible for ensuring our safety, security, and privacy. But thankfully, when the Administration failed to take this threat seriously, Larry Mayer was there.

Larry's images of the Chinese spy balloon represent the best qualities of American journalism. By uncovering this inexcusable lapse in our Nation's security, Larry has proven that even seemingly innocuous situations can have much more serious implications.

Larry Mayer's dedication to the job is the definition of patriotism in action. His work uncovering this disappointing failure by President Biden allows me and countless other public officials to hold the administration accountable.

Americans everywhere owe Larry a debt of gratitude for documenting this dangerous violation of American airspace. I hope all will join me in commending Larry Mayer's actions, and it is my pleasure to acknowledge him in the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING TAMPA BAY'S LOCAL TRAILBLAZER, MORDECAI WALKER. IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise during Black History Month to honor the life of an extraordinary leader, educator and pillar of the St. Petersburg community, Mr. Mordecai Walker.

Mr. Walker was born in Citrus Park in rural Hillsborough County on July 4, 1924, to Charlie and Pearl Walker. He attended segregated schools in Hillsborough County—Citrus Park School for colored children, Booker T. Washington Junior High and Middleton High School, where he graduated in 1943. Mr. Walker started his college education at Bethune-Cookman University where he had the distinct honor of shaking the hand of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune. However, as the war continued in Europe and the south Pacific, Mr. Walker was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he served overseas in New Guinea.

After attaining the rank of Sergeant and completing his enlistment in 1946, Mr. Walker returned to higher education at Tennessee State University (TSU) where he completed his bachelor's degree in agriculture and then he went on to earn his master's degree in agriculture from Florida A & M University. As a student at TSU, Mr. Walker was an essay winner for writing ''America's Most Popular Athlete''—writing that Joe Louis was more popular than Jackie Robinson. For winning the essay, he was given an all-expenses paid trip to New York City to see Joe Louis fight. During that trip Mr. Walker remembers going to an integrated New York City theater to see Gone with the Wind.

While at TSU, Mr. Walker competed on the track team with Olympian Mickey Patterson and Ed Temple, who later became an Olympic coach. In 1950, he was initiated into the Rho Psi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Mr. Walker would go on to become one of the original seven founders of the Eta Rho graduate chapter in St. Petersburg, FL in 1962, where he also served as the Chapter Basileus from 1991 through 1993. After more than 70 years of service, Mr. Walker remains active in the local chapter and is still committed to Omega's four cardinal principals of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift.

After graduating from TSU, Mr. Walker returned to Tampa to teach at Simmons Elementary School in Plant City and later Middleton High School in Tampa, where he was a driving force in establishing the agriculture program. Mr. Walker was pivotal in creating a curriculum and funding sources to bring the program to fruition. After his short stint in Hillsborough County, he relocated to Pinellas County, where he spent more than 30 years teaching, advancing and developing agricultural programs. Mr. Walker was inducted into TSU's Agriculture Hall of Fame for his more than 30 years of service to advancing the field of agriculture in education. In 2019, he was also inducted into the City of St. Petersburg Senior Hall of Fame for his services of volunteering to help the quality of life for residents of St. Petersburg.

Mr. Walker is known for overcoming adversity. Coming of age in an era of segregation, Mr. Walker acted with dignity and grace. showing respect to everyone around him even when he was not afforded that same respect. During the Civil Rights movement, he was active in the Ambassador's Club, which was a civic club that worked to address the ongoing fight for civil rights. as well as celebrating the community's achievements during this time.

Mr. Walker is the oldest living member of the Historic Gas Plant Community, which was the second African American neighborhood formed in St. Petersburg. This historic community thrived from business, entertainment, and education. It was the place for working class African Americans. Unfortunately, many families were eventually uprooted during the expansion of Interstate-275 during the 1970's.

Mr. Speaker, today I join with the entire community of St. Petersburg in honoring Mr. Mordecai Walker for his long commitment to education, bettering the lives of all those around him and as a living legacy.

HONORING DICK'S PLACE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a long-time business in Hinds County, MS, Dick's Place. Dick's Place has shown what can be done through consistency, dedication, and a desire to serve.

In 1949, Richard Anderson obtained a piece of land on Highway 80 near Bolton, MS. During this time, Highway 80 was a major thoroughfare for cars and buses. On the newly purchased land, he would create a juke joint named ''Dick's Place.'' With the advent of Interstate 20, the original building had to be demolished and the business moved to its current location, 2625 S. Frontage Road in Clinton, in 1952. Starting out in was more country store than juke joint. Barbeque was introduced as a mainstay, leading to the juke joint growing even more.

For Dick's Place to survive and remain a safe place for African Americans during the height of the Civil Rights Movement, dues had to be paid to keep the doors open. Several times attempts were made to firebomb the establishment. Richard Anderson, Sr. recalls watching a white Mississippi State Trooper pull off the side of the road, throw a Molotov-cocktail-type bomb right at the front door, then get in his car and drive away. Gathering while black wasn't a crime by law, but it was seen as threat to White Supremacists in the area.

Dick's Place is now owned by Richard Anderson, Jr., who took over the business in 1984 when his father passed. Dick's Place is open daily from noon until whenever, and to be sure, Dick's Place is welcoming to all. Day in and day out, you will find the one-of-a-kind, Lorraine Henderson, tending bar and keeping the kitchen popping. She is the heartbeat of Dick's Place and has been for the last 28 years. Right next door is Richie's One Stop, also owned by the family.

The theme of this year's anniversary was—Being Thankful. This was the first in-person anniversary celebration since COVID, and about 100 patrons were treated to a real treat on Sunday evenings. It was a grand occasion, and the unique spirit felt that evening was the same spirit felt that kept it surviving and thriving for seventy-three years and counting.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dick's Place for its 73 years of service in the State of Mississippi.

HONORING THE INCREDIBLE SERVICE OF SOPHIE PABIS

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an incredible milestone reached by Sophie Graczewski Pabis of Enfield, Connecticut, who turns 100 on March 13, 2023. A lifelong resident of Enfield, Sophie has lived out what it means to be a first-generation American, purposing her time on this earth with patriotic-, service- and community-oriented acts. She is a model citizen who we all ought to honor.

Born 1923, to Polish immigrants John and Helen Graczewski, Sophie learned early on the value of humble living and hard work. Growing up on a farm with two sisters and four brothers, Sophie worked on the fields to support her family throughout the Great Depression. She began her education in a one room schoolhouse and eventually moved on to Hazardville Grammar School and later Enfield High School, where she graduated in 1940.

Her first two jobs, in 1941, were at an ice cream parlor and a company that made electric switches, beginning the latter in September of that year. Her life trajectory changed, however, with the attack on Pearl Harbor and our nation's entry into the Second World War. Sophie felt an immediate calling to join the global effort. She rolled up her sleeves