

say thank you. There are times I wouldn't say thank you that you beat me on the floor, but I respected how hard you worked at it. I am a better Member because you made me prepare more, knowing you were on the other side.

I thank you for your counsel and for your friendship. You will be missed on this floor, but we will still be friends.

□ 1215

#### COVID RELIEF PACKAGE

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to implore my colleagues to come together and pass a COVID relief bill that will help communities that are still struggling to recover from this pandemic.

Since the beginning of December, over 150 people a day have died from COVID-19 in Illinois. Across the Midwest, heat maps are glowing red with the increased rates of transmissions and deaths. We cannot wait any longer. Families and small businesses are looking for Congress to act. Time and time again, we have seen the House take action, only to have the GOP Senate ignore the crisis facing this country. The increase in empty chairs around kitchen tables and vacant storefronts will only continue if we do not take decisive action.

Mr. Speaker, a recent study found that 1 in 3 African Americans know someone close to them who died of COVID-19. I fall into this category, as I lost my uncle in May, and I know many of my constituents do as well. Something has to be done. People need money now to meet their expenses. Businesses need support now to continue operating, and State and local governments need assistance now to provide services. Inaction is not an option.

Mr. Speaker, lastly, I say Happy Hanukkah to all our Jewish friends.

#### RECOGNIZING CUBA'S PRO-DEMOCRACY ACTIVISTS

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to the brave action of the pro-democracy leaders in Cuba and the brutal repression that they face as a result of their demands for freedom.

For example, in the last few weeks, the San Isidro Movement has stepped up its calls for freedom and the release of all political prisoners. Their protests include such dangerous activities as poetry readings and sit-ins. And for that, these young rappers, artists, and writers have faced arbitrary arrests, harassment, and abuse.

Mr. Speaker, some remain in prison, which is why many activists have

begun a hunger strike in protest. But despite the brutal repression in Cuba, the pro-democracy movement is growing. Mothers, scientists, and so many others have joined its calls for freedom and the release of political prisoners.

I commend President Trump and his administration for their solidarity with the Cuban people in imposing serious sanctions against the Cuban dictatorship. We must all stand with the brave pro-democracy activists in Cuba, who are risking their lives at this very moment, and join them in their pleas for freedom and the immediate unconditional release of all political prisoners.

#### IN HONOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, FREE THE PANCHEN LAMA

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on Human Rights Day, we mark the adoption of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Mr. Speaker, 72 years ago, China was among the countries committing itself to the principle that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." In this spirit, I call on the Chinese Government to release Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the 11th Panchen Lama.

In May of 1995, only days after Gedhun Choekyi Nyima was chosen to serve as the 11th Panchen Lama, the Chinese Government kidnapped him and his family. The outside world has neither seen nor heard from them since. Chinese authorities tell the world that the Panchen Lama and his family are safe, and they say that they are well, but they refuse to allow anyone to visit and verify his well-being.

Mr. Speaker, the Universal Declaration enshrines the rights to liberty and religious freedom and precludes arbitrary detention. China should honor its international obligations by freeing the true Panchen Lama.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLES ELLZY

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a very special human being, Mr. Charles Ellzy, who our community lost earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, Charles was a proud graduate of Bensalem High School and Temple University.

In 1963, Charles met the love of his life, Rosia. They would go on to have two children, Samantha and Vincent.

Charles dedicated his entire life to bettering our community. He spent over 25 years working for the Department of Defense in Philadelphia, and Charles was also the president of the Lin-Park Civic Association.

Under his leadership, the LPCA established a community baseball league, organized fundraising events, and collaborated with Betz Laboratories to create the Lin-Park Betz Scholarship.

Mr. Speaker, Charles also served for years as a deacon at the Linconia Tabernacle Christian Center in Bensalem. His connection and love for God fueled his complete and total dedication to others.

And in August, the Bensalem Township Council unanimously passed a resolution renaming Warren Avenue to Charles Ellzy Way in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, I had the honor of joining Charles' family and congregants of the Linconia Tabernacle Christian Center for the unveiling of such a fitting tribute to an amazing man.

Mr. Speaker, we are extremely grateful for Charles' contributions, for his 80 years of life, and may the spirit of his generosity and service continue to inspire our community. Charles is now reaping the reward of a life he spent serving others.

#### RECOGNIZING COLORADO'S FIREFIGHTERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

(Mr. NEGUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt gratitude to our Colorado firefighters and first responders.

This year in Colorado, in my district, we have experienced a devastating and relentless wildfire season; the Cameron Peak fire in Larimer County, the East Troublesome fire in Grand County, the Calwood fire, and the Williams Fork fire.

With over a half a million acres burned, Colorado has experienced great loss, damage, and destruction. For months, our firefighters and first responders have worked around the clock to save lives, save homes, and to protect our communities. We know this work is not easy, especially in the midst of a pandemic, and we are so grateful for the service, the sacrifice, and the commitment of our firefighters, our first responders, our local emergency management officials and law enforcement in Grand County, in Larimer County, in Boulder County, and across the State of Colorado.

Together, we will rebuild and we will continue to work together. Thank you for your work. We are so incredibly grateful.

#### CONGRATULATING ROBERT E. JAMES, II

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Savannah native, Robert E. James, II, of