

he found most important in the world was being a husband to Helen and a father to Allyson and Kaylee.

We need to know why Corey is no longer with us on behalf of the American people, and we are going to find out, but that is not what this is about. This is about honoring the life and the legacy of a man who loved his family, his God, and his country, and laid down his life.

He went to the rally, expecting safety, like everybody else, but in the face of unimaginable danger, when a moment means the difference between life and death, Corey shielded his wife and his daughter, the things he loved most in this world. For that, we honor him, we pray for him, we pray for his family and his community. We also know that he exemplifies the best not only in Butler, Pennsylvania, not only in Pennsylvania and our great Commonwealth, but in the United States of America and for all of humanity.

I thank the gentleman for this time this evening. God bless Corey Comperatore and God bless his family.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, tonight we talked about the tragic loss of Corey Comperatore. What is more tragic or could have been more tragic, what if Corey Comperatore had never been born?

What if there never had been a Corey Comperatore? What if Helen had never had a husband like Corey Comperatore? His daughters would not have had a father. He was called a girl dad.

His entire life was built on his strong faith and in service to his community, his country, and foremost, his family.

In these times, when our country seems to be so torn apart on everything political, I think it is time for us to take a little more time to reflect on who we are as Americans. We are not Republicans, we are not Democrats, we are not Independents; we are Americans. At the very heart of what it is we are, we are Americans.

Mr. Comperatore is exactly the example of those who serve, those who put others above themselves, those who put themselves in harm's way to protect those who are in danger. We come here tonight, and we talk about Corey.

That Saturday was a Saturday that his family will never forget. As they made their way from their home to the Butler Farm Show grounds to hear former President Donald Trump at his rally, they were so excited to be there.

However, tragically, evil struck, and America was once again reminded that at the end of the day, we are all Americans. Yes, we represent different parties. Yes, we represent different peoples, but at the end of the day, we are Americans.

The example that Corey Comperatore puts forward is that of a strong, faithful American, a man of faith, a man who loved his country, a man who loved his community, but above all, a man who loved his wife and daughters.

How tragic it would have been if he had never been born. As we mourn his

death, we also must celebrate his life. We must say a prayer because I know where he is now. I know where he rests. I know he is in the arms of God. As tragic as this has been for his family, I know his family knows the same thing.

I would hope that as we look into what happened, how this possibly could have happened, how in a little farm town in Pennsylvania evil could have prevailed, at least for a moment, but what has happened since then is our firm belief in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and our belief that Corey is now safe at home and will be there when his wife and daughters make that same trip sometime in the future.

Madam Speaker, this is a country that has been torn apart for so long by parties that go at each other day in and day out. I would hope that at some point we sit and take a look at the fact that one and a half million men and women in uniform have given their lives to give us the opportunity to be here on this floor and debate policy, and what is in the best interests of the people who sent us here, and that is the American people. At some point, we have to believe the oath we have taken, and we have to fulfill that oath.

□ 2100

I hope that as we look at the tragic loss of Corey Comperatore, we also give thanks to God that he was born in the first place, that his wife and daughters had an opportunity to have a loving father and a loving husband, and that now he is safe and at home in the Lord's arms.

I thank my colleagues for being here tonight, and I know everything comes from the heart on this. When something like this happens, we need to take a step back, take a deep breath, say a prayer, and ask God to be with us as we make our journey as Representatives of the most incredible Nation the world has ever known, the United States of America.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a resolution that we will be offering, and entering in now. It is H. Res. 1369.

Whereas Corey Comperatore was from Sarver, Pennsylvania, leaving behind his wife, Helen, and two daughters, Allyson and Kaylee;

Whereas Corey Comperatore was a respected community leader who dedicated years of service to the Buffalo Township Volunteer Fire Department of Sarver, Pennsylvania;

Whereas Corey Comperatore served his country as a veteran of the United States Army Reserves;

Whereas Corey Comperatore left behind a legacy of service for his country and his community, a devoted member of the Cabot Methodist Church; and

Whereas Corey Comperatore died a hero, protecting his family, shielding his wife and daughter from danger: Now, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) mourns the loss of Corey Comperatore, a husband, father, volunteer firefighter, community leader, and hero from Sarver, Pennsylvania;

(2) commemorates and celebrates the selfless and courageous life of Corey Comperatore;

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVE SHEILA JACKSON LEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK) is recognized until 10 p.m. as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order hour.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to anchor the CBC Special Order hour. For the next 60 minutes, members of the CBC have an opportunity to honor Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, an individual of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, Congress, the constituents we represent, and all Americans.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD).

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Congresswoman SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK and Congressman JONATHAN JACKSON, for co-chairing our Special Order hour for the Congressional Black Caucus.

I rise tonight with my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus with a heavy heart to pay my personal respects and to remember a woman who meant so much to this body.

The loss that we all feel for our dear friend and colleague, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, is truly immeasurable. On behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, I offer our sincerest condolences to Congresswoman JACKSON LEE's husband, Elwyn; her children, Jason and Erica; the entire Lee family; and, of course, her staff in Houston as well as here in Washington, D.C.

For nearly 30 years, Congresswoman JACKSON LEE served in this body with honor, integrity, loyalty, and her signature style. As chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, it was a tremendous honor to be able to work with Congresswoman JACKSON LEE each and every day.

A woman of deep conviction, she was disciplined and principled. She was fearless in the face of challenge and adversity, and she always put her family, her community, and her country first.

Her impact on Houston, the Congress, and the country will not soon be forgotten. From her time serving on the Houston City Council to her service here in the House of Representatives, she has advocated for social and economic justice and the advancement of the most marginalized. She made children, working families, and the safety of our Nation the cause of her life.

From leading the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act legislation this Congress to H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act, to the Violence Against Women Act, to the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, Congresswoman JACKSON LEE was a bold and courageous leader who always worked to make her community a better place.

I join my colleagues in honoring her memory and her legacy by continuing the fight for the issues she cared for the most.

She was a patriot and fighter to the very end, and this House was made better for her leadership. Words cannot express how deeply she will be missed by members of the Congressional Black Caucus, by the entire body, and by the constituents who she served.

May God rest her soul. We love Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE. May she rest in peace.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, let me first take a moment to thank Congresswoman SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK for her leadership and to thank the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and the entire Congressional Black Caucus for leading this tribute tonight to our colleague, our sister, and our friend.

To SHEILA's family, her community, her friends, my deepest condolences. You know how much we love SHEILA, and we know how much they loved her and how much she is missed already. Now, let me say a couple of things.

First of all, I met SHEILA before I met SHEILA. This was when I was in the legislature. I went to the graduation where my niece was attending college, Prairie View College right out of Houston, Texas.

There was a great orator who spoke at that commencement. This was probably '95, '96. This orator spoke for probably about 2 to 3 hours in the hot sun. It was a great speech, and I will never forget that speech. It was over 2 hours, and everyone was listening intently in that hot sun.

Finally, when I actually met SHEILA, coming to Congress, I felt that I knew her because this speech was so profound.

She was, first of all, an effective legislator. We know her well as being right down here on the floor.

I think she had an amendment for every single bill that came to the floor, and they passed. She worked with Republicans. She worked with all of us.

She was at the Rules Committee until midnight. She had more energy, but she was brilliant with her energy, and she knew how to effectuate legislative change and get bills passed.

Of course, she led the effort for reparations, for the study and development of reparations. She picked that bill up, H.R. 40, from our beloved John Conyers. She led the effort to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. She was the lead author of Federal legislation for the Juneteenth National Independence Day. We cannot forget that. I have to remind people of that, in her absence this year. As we celebrate Juneteenth, we cannot forget the name SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

My grandfather and my great-grandmother were born in Galveston. I had never visited Galveston until SHEILA invited me to Galveston to be with her the first year the legislation passed. What a reunion that was. To be with SHEILA JACKSON LEE in Galveston, Texas, was the highlight of that year for me.

She also was a constituent advocate. Let me tell you, right after Katrina, members of the Congressional Black Caucus were in New Orleans. SHEILA went back to Houston because she received so many evacuees. She called me up and said: Barbara, I don't care wherever you are going, you better come here to Houston.

I said: Yes, ma'am.

I went to Houston, and I saw how SHEILA JACKSON LEE in many ways ministered to these evacuees. She had me out there, and I was honored to be out there with her feeding people, clothing people, finding shelter, on the phones being advocates. She truly loved people.

□ 2110

When people got stuck at the airport in Houston—once my sister did, as well as constituents—I would call SHEILA. She would have me up all night long talking to people on the phone until the problem was resolved. She was dogged about constituent services. She loved people.

She was a caregiver also for her mother. Many don't remember this if you weren't here. Her mother lived in New York, and her mother was very ill. It was during the time that my mother was very ill. SHEILA stayed on that phone talking to caregivers. I was on the phone talking to my mother's caregiver. We were comparing notes, comparing medicines. She would get on a plane and fly up there and come back here. She was a daughter who truly loved her mother and took care of her mother until the very end. I learned a lot from Sheila going through what I went through with my mother as she was making her transition.

SHEILA was a global citizen. For those of you who traveled with her, you know she was a queen. SHEILA went to school in Nigeria. I have been in refugee camps with SHEILA. I have been on many codels with SHEILA, some of

which I led. SHEILA would call me way past the deadline—you all know what I am talking about—24 hours before the codel departed: I am going.

I said: But SHEILA, the deadline was 3 weeks ago.

She said: I am going.

I said: Yes, ma'am.

She went. She provided so much insight and input and brilliance on all of these codels. Members came back more informed and with more clarity about what the issues were we were dealing with.

The last codel that I led to Africa was, I believe, in 2022 when during that period the devastating flood in Pakistan occurred. SHEILA was chair of the Congressional Pakistan Caucus. She had me on the phone, as an appropriator, from Ghana calling back here making sure that we were ready to respond to the devastation in Pakistan.

SHEILA said: You have got to go with me to Pakistan.

I said: SHEILA, we are in Africa, and we have got to get back to America first. I have got to clear my schedule.

She said: No, no, no. You have got to go with me to Pakistan.

I said: SHEILA, I can't go, but I will do everything I can to help.

I could not go, but we landed here at Andrews. SHEILA flew to Houston, and the next morning she left for Pakistan. She spent, I guess, 5 days there helping people through that dire, terrible flood that was taking place.

She would call me every other hour: Where are we? Did you call USAID?

I would say: Yes, ma'am.

That is how SHEILA was. She was a person who was obsessed with taking care of people and changing the world and making life better for everyone.

Our personal friendship was deep and broad. She received the John Lewis award recently for the most number of 1 minutes. She called me that morning. She says: Barbara, I can't be there, but I want you to accept this award for me.

I said: SHEILA, they are not going to let me accept an award for you.

She said: Just do like I would do and tell them you are going to accept it anyway.

That was SHEILA. She would not take no for an answer.

Also, finally, I was her personal photographer. Many of you may have been also. SHEILA wanted to make sure she was in every single picture. If a real photographer wasn't around, she would pull me. I was looking at my pictures. I have more pictures of SHEILA than myself because she made sure she got those pictures taken. They weren't necessarily for her. They were for her constituents, for her family, for her grandchildren, for her husband. She wanted people to know and to be informed about her work as their public servant.

SHEILA deserves to rest now. She was a force of nature. Her spirit will live forever. She was fearless. She was loving. She was powerful.

I am reminded of one Scripture in Second Timothy. This reminds me of

SHEILA: For God did not give us the spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

May SHEILA's soul rest in peace, may she rest in power, and may she rest. God bless her.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE).

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, let me thank my colleagues, Congresswoman SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Congressman JONATHAN JACKSON, the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus STEVEN HORSFORD, and my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus for this opportunity to share some thoughts about our dearly beloved colleague, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

To Elwyn Lee, Erica and Jason, other members of the Lee family and staff, loved ones, friends and constituents, on behalf of myself, the Clarke family, and the people of the Ninth District of New York, I extend my deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences.

Madam Speaker, I rise on this day to remember the gentlewoman from Texas, my friend, my mentor, my dear colleague, the honorable and incomparable Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

SHEILA was the granddaughter of Jamaican immigrants and a daughter of New York. I was blessed to have known her for many years. I have served with her for just short of 18 years. We both served on the Homeland Security Committee.

We bonded over many of our deep connections. My parents are Jamaican immigrants. As it turned out, SHEILA JACKSON LEE's uncle was one of my mother's biggest donors when she was a member of the New York City Council.

I had an opportunity as a councilmember to meet the incomparable SHEILA JACKSON LEE at many events and activities and occasions where we gathered. To come to Congress, as the only Black woman elected to Congress in the year 2007, I ran into someone who I had already become acquainted with and who put me under her wings.

As the author of the Violence Against Women Act, the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, the woman who reintroduced the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, and H.R. 40, the bill to provide a study on reparations, our Nation will long remember the scale and scope of her legislative acumen and successes. We were blessed because she was a justice seeker and relentlessly so.

There was not a piece of legislation, as one of my colleagues—I think it was Barbara—stated where she did not come in with an amendment if she found any inequities within that legislation. She was able to convince Members on both sides of the aisle of the need to include an amendment that would provide that breathing room for the oppressed in our communities.

We are grateful for not only her leadership of the people of Houston, Texas, but by extension the people across this Nation who have benefited from her work.

□ 2120

We in the Congressional Black Caucus and countless others across the Nation will long feel the gravity of her absence.

One of the projects that we worked on together is now resident at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, and that is the Sojourner Truth Legacy Project. Prior to my arrival here in the House of Representatives, Congresswoman LEE led a group of women to make sure that a bust of Sojourner Truth would be placed in the United States Capitol. She worked, and she worked, and she worked, and the year that I was elected, as it turns out, not only was the legislation passed to have that bust created, but it was actually placed in the new Capitol Visitor Center in 2007.

She was an integral part of establishing the Sojourner Truth Legacy Project at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation where we look at the work of Black women across this Nation, those who are overlooked and who are marginalized and lift them up for the great works that they do in our communities and across the Nation in every community.

We will miss her counsel. She often spoke about the struggle to establish that bust which was the presence and the essence of Black women's power in this Capitol. We are forever grateful to SHEILA for her tenacity and her audacity that she was a warrior.

She was a true Representative and an advocate of and for the people who devoted all of her talent, intellect, expertise, and energy to the people. Whatever moments of hardship and uncertainty lie ahead, may we all draw strength from her memory and her legacy.

I pray that my sister, the Honorable SHEILA JACKSON LEE, rest in peace and that she rest in power. To her staff members who have been loyal to her, who have worked hard because she worked harder to make a difference in this body, I extend to you on behalf of the people of the Ninth District of New York, the Clarke family, and of course myself my deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, as well as Congressman JONATHAN JACKSON, for convening us together tonight to host this special tribute to our dearly loved and dearly departed colleague, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Today, I rise with a heavy heart to honor and remember my colleague, but more importantly, my friend, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

The Congresswoman led an extraordinary life, and she leaves an extraordinary legacy of legislative and humanitarian service to mankind. Though short in stature, SHEILA JACKSON LEE stood tall, and she spoke with command and authority.

Never scared, SHEILA was bold and imposing. She never played herself cheap, and she certainly was not going to let anybody else do so.

She was a taskmaster to all who worked for her, and that included whether or not you were paid or just volunteering. The good thing about it is that when you left her office to go to work for someone else, Madam Speaker, they knew, and it was easy for you to get a job because they knew that you had been trained by fire, you had been forged by fire, and you had been trained by the best.

Like her constituents I often found myself calling her "Congresswoman." I had great respect for her. She was a dear friend who inspired me and countless others with her unwavering dedication, spirit, and work ethic.

I find solace in the knowledge that her spirit will live on through the lives she has touched and changed and the causes that she has championed. Her legacy will continue to guide us as we strive to build a more just and equitable society.

I extend my deepest condolences to her family, friends, and constituents. Let us honor her memory by continuing her work, lifting our voices to pursue justice, and most importantly, embodying the values she holds so dear. This is how we can truly honor her legacy.

Madam Speaker, I thank her for her service.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the Seventh Congressional District of Maryland (Mr. MFUME).

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from Florida for yielding. I know there are a lot of people who have a lot to say about someone whom we cared about and loved, and so I do appreciate this opportunity. I thank her and the honorable gentleman from the State of Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD), who is the chair of the caucus, for convening this Special Order tonight.

It is a Special Order for a lawyer and a legislator, a woman who saw things that were not and found it in her heart to find a way to make those things come into existence. I extend my condolences to her husband, Elwyn, to her two adult children, to other members of the JACKSON LEE family, and to the people of Houston who knew her, embraced her, loved her, and kept her.

I first heard of SHEILA JACKSON LEE before she ever got here. In fact, I was a Member of the House then, and she came in with a big class. I think she got here in '95, and she won the election in 1994. I think JIM CLYBURN was a part of that class, BOBBY SCOTT, and MAXINE WATERS, a number of people

who came in the door bigger than life, and there was SHEILA who was also bigger than life.

They taught us along the way things that were sometimes not so obvious about fighting for what you believe in. She was a member of the Houston City Council before she got here, and they didn't know what to do with her because she would not stop fighting for the things that she believed in. Madam Speaker, one of which was gun control and gun safety long before it became something popular for people to talk about and to advocate.

It was in that Houston City Council that SHEILA passed their first-ever gun safety ordinance, putting the onus on parents to keep guns away from children in the house, to keep them locked, or to not have them there altogether. Some people thought it was an overreach, but nobody knows to this day how many lives may have been saved and how many children could have been injured that were not. It was many years later that that same council and many of the people of Houston thanked her for what she had done.

Before SHEILA got here, Craig Washington was the elected Member of that district, and in his first term, Sheila challenged him for the congressional seat.

She said: I need your support.

I said: SHEILA, Craig just supported me to be chair of the Black Caucus 2 years ago. I can't turn my back on him.

She said: Well, don't turn your back, turn your front. Just stay out of it.

I said: Okay, I am going to stay out of it.

Everybody said she couldn't do it, you can't beat Craig Washington, and we all now know how that story concluded.

When she came here and took the oath of office, I, like so many others, gave her a great big hug because I knew not just the Congressional Black Caucus but the Congress in general was going to be made better because of her indefatigable spirit.

SHEILA is a woman who never rested. You could walk the Halls here at midnight and see her hanging out at a Rules Committee meeting trying to make sure she can get an amendment or trying to make sure she can find a way to make a difference.

□ 2130

I remember that first year of 1995 when she got here. She went up to Charlie Rangel and said: I want to know everything you knew about Barbara Jordan.

Charlie said: Well, you did know Barbara, right?

She said: Yes. I loved her and admired her, but you know what I don't know because you served with her, so tell me all about the way she was here and how she made a real difference.

Then, she came over to me afterward and said: And I want you to stay here because I want you to tell me all about Mickey Leland. You served with him.

You and Mickey were buddies, and you sat with him the night before he left to take that flight that he never came back from. I want to know what you talked about and what is going to happen now that he is gone and I am here. How do I find a way, like with Barbara Jordan, to make a real difference in this House?

Her spirit was irrepressible. She had a personality that was all her own.

The word was that witnesses coming before the Judiciary Committee didn't want to come before the Judiciary Committee if they were wrong because they knew, as a trained lawyer, she would find a way to pick them apart. She did so over and over again. She did it not for herself but to have the truth come out and to make sure that the testimony was something that people could build on and learn from. She worked so hard.

I am looking at this white bouquet of flowers, and I almost picked it up and walked it over to that aisle, on the edge where, every year, every President that came down that aisle had to shake the hand, say hello to, and pay some homage to SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

We loved her. We still love her, and we will always love her. She was a worker who made all of us around her work harder, and we are all so much better because of the fact that she served here.

Madam Speaker, our dear friend, DON PAYNE, Jr., passed away a couple of months ago, and many of us went to Newark for the funeral. It was a tough loss, just like this is. I had served with his dad, so it was especially tough for me because his dad and I were buddies.

I point now to Congressman JACKSON of Illinois, who I said to that day: Thank you so much for taking care of SHEILA.

She could barely get up to Newark with us, but she cared so much about paying tribute and honor to someone she worked with and cared about that she found a way, barely walking, to get on that plane to go to that funeral and to come back.

I commended Congressman JACKSON for taking the time to do all that he could to make her trip better and to keep her safe from all that could have gone on, not so much on the trip but in terms of her health because we all knew that she was declining. We didn't know what was going on.

I thank JONATHAN for that. My thanks to all the members of the caucus who are here, all of whom have stories about SHEILA and our love for her.

Madam Speaker, I can say because I feel her spirit will remain in this place for a long, longtime to come. Every time somebody says Juneteenth, they are going to say SHEILA JACKSON LEE, or reparations, SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

She would run behind us: Have you signed on to H.R. 40 yet?

We would say yes. She would say: Go get me two others.

Again, I thank my colleague so much for yielding. My thanks to all from the

caucus who are here, and I thank Congresswoman LEE for reminding us of some stories that we had long since forgotten.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to yield to the Honorable Assistant Leader JOE NEGUSE.

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, first, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) for hosting this important Special Order hour to honor our friend, our beloved colleague, Judge JACKSON LEE.

It is a blessing to be able to serve in the people's House with giants—Madam Speaker, you have had the opportunity tonight to hear from several—to be able to serve with Congresswoman LEE and to serve with Congressman MFUME, among many others, and to hear their perspectives on their time serving with Judge JACKSON LEE.

Mark Twain is credited with saying that history doesn't often repeat itself, but it does rhyme.

As Mr. MFUME was describing the late JUDGE JACKSON LEE and her adulation, respect, and admiration for Barbara Jordan, the first Black woman to ever be elected to United States Congress from the State of Texas, I am reminded of a story.

At the end of Congresswoman Jordan's life, she had a bone-deep devotion to the Constitution, bone-deep devotion and faith in the Constitution, which was shown on full display during her service in the Congress, in particular during the Watergate proceedings.

In 1996, when Barbara Jordan passed away, they were searching through her belongings, and they found in her purse a copy of the U.S. Constitution. I can see, as clear as day right now, our friend, Judge JACKSON LEE, on the Judiciary Committee, where myself and Representative JOHNSON and others had the privilege to serve with her, holding the Constitution out as she was questioning a variety of different witnesses who have come through that committee.

Judge LEE's faith, devotion, and commitment to the Constitution was bone deep. To hear Representative MFUME describe his conversations with her as she asked him about the great Barbara Jordan, it is beyond moving.

As I try to come up with the right word to describe Judge LEE—I call her Judge LEE because I would always call her Judge LEE. She would call me attorney general, although I have never been an attorney general, but she had decided that would be my moniker.

I have spent time over the past several days to conjure up the word that I would use to describe her. The best word that I have been able to come up with is prolific.

She was a prolific orator. One need only look at the C-SPAN records to see

that she spent more time on the House floor in this Chamber speaking directly to the American public than any Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Think about that legacy.

She was a prolific legislator. We have heard from many of our colleagues about the many bills that she was able to get across the finish line, signed into law by multiple Presidents. For me, the work that I remember most vividly is her work to combat gun violence, which was a lifelong passion of hers that she pushed for on the Judiciary Committee.

She was a prolific colleague. I, too, joined my colleagues at the funeral for DON PAYNE, Jr., and I remember well seeing Judge LEE at that service and being so moved that someone fighting such a terrible disease would somehow muster the physical stamina, courage, and strength to venture to New Jersey to say good-bye to her friend.

About a month ago, 6 weeks ago, I got a call here in Washington, at 10:50 p.m. on a Wednesday night, from Representative JACKSON LEE. She was in Houston.

I thought perhaps that she was calling to check-in. I was eager to talk to her about her fight against cancer. She had fought so valiantly, as Representative BARBARA LEE articulated earlier, in her first bout with breast cancer over a decade before. I had shared with her that my wife had been battling breast cancer for the last year and that we were drawing strength knowing that she was steadying herself for this next battle.

She didn't call me to talk about the disease. She called to harangue me about a press conference that was scheduled for the next day, and she was eager to solicit my help in securing speakers for an important bill that she intended to roll out. Notwithstanding whatever physical ailments she might have been fighting at the moment, she was working until the end.

□ 2140

I know I am not the only one who was the recipient or a beneficiary of her calls. She was prolific.

I will close with my final observation. I remember coming into the Congress—and Representative MFUME mentioned this. I suspect others have as well—one of my first images of Judge JACKSON LEE was her sitting here, right next to the main entryway to this august Chamber during the State of the Union Address.

Without fail every year, she would be seated right here. A few days ago, I came across a commendation, a recounting of Judge JACKSON LEE's life, and this particular author's view of why Judge JACKSON LEE always found herself right here.

Their view, their belief, their theory was that for a Black woman representing tens of millions of people from the State of Texas, a woman who was in one of the first coed classes at Yale, one of the first Black women to

matriculate from that institution, it was important to her that others see her. It was important that young, Black women, like my 6-year-old daughter, could see her, could be inspired by her. It was important for them to know that if they worked hard enough, they too could find themselves shaking the hand of every President for the better part of the last quarter century. Reading that, it all made sense.

Godspeed, Judge LEE. Thank you for your service to our country. Your family is in our prayers.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, it is now my privilege to yield to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts, Representative AYANNA PRESSLEY.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK and Congressman JACKSON for convening this Special Order hour for, indeed, a special woman.

Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE of Texas' 18th District.

SHEILA was a legislator, scholar, orator, truth teller, and justice seeker.

From Houston to Boston, from the Nation's Capitol to throughout the African diaspora, SHEILA JACKSON LEE is a name you should know. If you don't, trust me, you have benefited from her work—recognizing Juneteenth as a national holiday, reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act, advocating for police accountability, reparations, and so much more.

Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE will always be remembered as a force to be reckoned with, who loved her constituents dearly, and represented them with sincerity.

I can see her now in my mind's eye: folders full of notes spilling over, research, question lines, floor statements, multiple bags, and layered clothing. She wore a colorful scarf to beat the chill and show her own unique style with her hair always in a regally braided crown.

With nearly 30 years of service in Congress, she spent every moment working toward progress. In our final text exchange before her transition to ancestor, she said to me, keep working on our priorities. We cannot give up.

So in her memory, alongside my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, her staff, current and former, her constituents and her family, we will continue the fight for justice.

SJL, I already miss your rich and powerful voice, but most of all, I will miss how you used it for the people. Rest in peace and power.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, it is now my privilege to yield to the gentleman from Louisiana, Mr. TROY CARTER.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank very much my esteemed colleagues for the opportunity to be here.

We are here to honor the memory of a dear friend and colleague, Congress-

woman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, a true stateswoman and a fierce defender of justice, fairness, and our great democracy. A dedicated member of the Congressional Black Caucus, her contributions have been nothing short of transformative and incredible.

I was blessed to visit her numerous times in Houston, Texas, and travel with her around the world. She was also instrumental in helping so many Louisiana natives during Hurricane Katrina, providing exceptional case-work services in Houston.

After Katrina, so many of our people were homeless, lost, in need of love and care. SHEILA JACKSON LEE was there. She called us regularly to give us reports. Whenever there was an issue in Houston and it was someone from Louisiana, she was Johnny-on-the-spot.

It wasn't her district. It wasn't her people. They couldn't vote for her. It was her true love and passion for people that caused her to step up. She was a giant, although small in stature. Her heart was so big and her brain was even bigger.

I have never met anyone as passionate and as smart on every single issue she touched. When she stepped up, she spoke with a degree of power, familiarity, intellect, energy, and grace. They just don't make them like that anymore.

You heard my colleagues say that she would show up everywhere. Once we came back from a codel across the country, and because we had plane trouble, we were stuck waiting for another aircraft. There was an issue going on in India. We were all exhausted trying to make it home.

SHEILA said, I have to go there. I have a lot of natives of India in my community. We were all exhausted and everyone chuckled and said, we are all going home.

Next thing I know, I looked at CNN when I got home and there was SHEILA JACKSON LEE. She was there in the midst of it all by herself, not a part of a codel, not a part of a team, not a part of anything other than a person with a big heart that knew that she was needed.

She was the first female ranking member of the Judiciary Subcommittee for Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security. As a senior member of the House Committees on Judiciary, Homeland Security, and Budget, she spearheaded critical policies for institutional change.

□ 2150

Her reintroduction of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act exemplified her unwavering commitment to uplifting the Black community and improving our Nation.

SHEILA called me, as our assistant leader just mentioned, and she said: I need you to go and run this press conference for me. I can't be there, but I need you to go and run the press conference, and I need you to address the family and let them know how much

we love them and how much we care. I can't be there, but I will be on the phone.

She was on the phone. We couldn't see her. I suspect she may have been in the hospital, but she spoke with the same degree of love, passion, and strength for the family who had been so wronged.

I was honored when she made that call to me personally in May to partner with her on the press conference promoting this critical piece of legislation. It is one of my most recent and fond memories of working closely with her. It was one of the very last official actions of her passion, and there are so many.

We will forevermore miss the intellect, the passion, the strength, and the courage of SHEILA JACKSON LEE. Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE will be sorely missed by her immediate family, her Congressional Black Caucus family, her Democratic Caucus family, all the citizens of Texas, and countless others she touched around the world. Her unwavering commitment to her principles and her tireless advocacy for the underrepresented has left an indelible mark on our Nation.

On a personal note, SHEILA was not just a colleague but also a treasured friend and mentor to me and many others. We devoted a bond of service for mankind. Her wisdom, compassion, and strength have guided us through many challenges. Her legacy will continue to inspire all of us as we strive to be better, do better, and try to continue the incredible work that she has done.

Rest in peace, my dear sister. Rest in peace.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has until 10 p.m., so there are about 9 minutes remaining.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON), my co-anchor.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank the Honorable SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, my co-anchor on this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour, for yielding.

I affiliate myself with all the comments that my colleagues have shared regarding this remarkable woman, our colleague and dear friend, SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to lend my voice to the chorus of those who have gathered in this Chamber to honor and give mournful recompense to the life and legacy of Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, a woman of such grave significance who even in repose remains a towering figure among us.

SHEILA JACKSON LEE was no shrinking violet. She was no harbinger of demure expectations, and she did not cower in the face of adversity, nor did she retreat in the midst of a storm.

SHEILA JACKSON LEE did not do as some have already done; namely, get

elected to political office and forget where they come from. SHEILA JACKSON LEE carried the people of Houston with her because her dreams were their dreams too. Their adversities were her adversities too. She wanted for them no less what she wanted for herself.

Here is a woman who in her lifetime had to deal with policies who told her she had to sit in the back of the bus. She went from having people tell her she had to go through the back door to being a Member of Congress who passed laws to make America a better place for all people.

She lived long enough to see President Barack Obama ascend to the Presidency. She lived long enough to see Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown elevated to the Supreme Court. She was just a few days away from living to see Vice President HARRIS selected to be the Democratic nominee for the Presidency of the United States. What a life. What a witness. What a legacy.

Tonight, I say to you, a mighty oak has fallen. I shared so many evenings and days and times with Congresswoman LEE, my heart is filled, and I thank God for her having come this way.

I felt in many ways like the words in the book of "Animal Farm," "All animals are equal, but some are more equal. . . ." I never looked at myself as a peer of Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE. I was honored to carry her bags. I was honored to walk beside her. I was honored to be in the midst of her company. I thank God for having put me in a place where I could be from afar and then in my lifetime be able to work up close and hand in hand with her.

In this place where she will no longer stand is a hole that will never be filled in this Chamber because while none of us are indispensable, some of us can never be replaced. That is the legacy of SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

This is the brightness of the one who we remember, who in death has become both the singer and the song. Let the word go forth from this time and place that SHEILA JACKSON LEE was a steel magnolia, one of the daughters of thunder, a woman of such invention and personal power that you could hear the sound of the oceans gathering in her voice. She was, she is, and she will always be one of the great gifts of the African-American community to the future of America.

Tonight, we remember her. Tonight, we sit upon the ground and tell sad stories, and we laugh and joke about the death of a queen here in this Chamber. Under the canopy of this temple of democracy, we dare to make letters of her once and glorious life.

From serving as the first female ranking member of the judiciary Subcommittee for Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, Sheila's talents made room for herself.

She will be missed, she will be mourned, and she will be lamented, but now she belongs to the ages. Like Bar-

bara Jordan, Shirley Chisholm, John Lewis, and Donald Payne, she will be watching over us.

Sleep on, my sister. You deserve your rest. You have won the race. God will bless you.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The Nation mourns the loss of a tireless advocate for justice and a beacon of hope for so many. Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE was not just a Member of Congress. She was a force of nature, a relentless champion for civil rights, and a voice for the voiceless.

For nearly three decades, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE's work in this Chamber showcased her unwavering commitment to justice and equality. Her reintroduction of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act is just one example of her dedication to fight for equal justice.

This bill, which I was so proud to co-sponsor, aimed to hold law enforcement accountable, improving training, and rebuilding the trust of the communities they serve. It is a testament to her vision for a fair and more just America.

Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE believed deeply in the power of the Federal Government to enact meaningful reform. She knew that while no single policy could erase decades of systemic racism, it was imperative to take bold steps toward structural change. Her legacy will be felt in every stride we make toward justice.

To me, SHEILA JACKSON LEE was the originator. We always joked around when she said: She is the first SHEILA, and I am the second SHEILA. I always said: SHEILA, you are the originator.

Every time she saw me, she asked if I needed anything. I remember when I last spoke to her, I said: SHEILA, you sound strong today. And she said: SHEILA, whatever you need, call me. I will be there. If you need to know how to do it, I will show you. She made me a promise. She said: I will always be there.

The day she passed, I said: SHEILA, we will remember your legacy. She was at every Special Order hour, every single one, and the last one I looked back, and I said: SHEILA, are you ready? And she said she couldn't do it. Jonathan held her, and I knew that was the last time.

Rest in power, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE. I yield back the balance of my time.

#### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Kevin F. McCumber, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1105. An act to amend the DNA Analysis Backlog Grant Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3019. An act to establish an inspections regime for the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes.