mobilizing our communities to serve and inspiring younger generations to give back where they can, they are making us a stronger and a better nation.

May God bless all of them, may God bless Texas, and may He continue to bless the greatest country on Earth, the United States of America.

In God We Trust.

COVID–19 AID PACKAGE

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, look, we all know this pandemic is not over—it is far from over—and Congress has to do its job. Families, seniors, small businesses are suffering, and they need Congress to act now before we leave town.

When we were all home over the Thanksgiving holiday, we all saw the same thing: the heartbreaking images of people, people who never have had to seek help, standing in lines for food, millions of people out of work.

Small businesses, well, they are closing. We are losing small businesses every single day, and now Federal unemployment benefits are set to expire.

Look, families are falling into poverty as a result of our inaction.

The people who are hurting are represented by Democrats and Republicans. The people who are hurting are in every district across this country.

We worked to get to a solution. In this House, we passed, twice, legislation that would provide that relief, but, at this moment, we need to come together as Democrats and Republicans.

The people who are hurting are represented by Democrats and Republicans. The solution has to come in a bipartisan form. So let's set aside our differences. Let's find common ground. Let's pass a COVID relief bill now.

LET'S EXTEND THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

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

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of extending the successful and bipartisan Paycheck Protection Program by making $138 billion in already appropriated funds available to help more businesses that are experiencing dire and desperate need.

This week, it was reported that almost 30 percent of small businesses in New York have closed for good due to the COVID–19 epidemic, and many more will face the same fate without further aid.

$138 billion appropriated to the PPP is just sitting here in Washington, D.C., instead of helping our Nation's small businesses.

For months, we have asked the Speaker to allow a vote on H.R. 8265, which simply enables the SBA to do another round of grant awards, getting this $138 billion out on the street before it is too late for many of these hard-hit businesses. This legislation is targeted, addresses a dire need across the Nation, and requires no additional Federal funds.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Speaker and her leadership to reconsider this tactic and allow this legislation to come to the floor for a vote. I am confident it will receive bipartisan support.

CONGRATULATING DR. JUDY WHITE

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Judy White on her retirement from the Riverside County Office of Education.

Known as a history maker and stereotype breaker, Dr. White has been a distinguished educator for the past 40 years. Most recently, she served as the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, where she led the county's 515 schools, ensuring that all 430,000 students in the county received the quality education they deserve.

Dr. White has dedicated her career to bettering public education throughout the Inland Empire. She encouraged students to pursue their educational dreams, and she secured millions of dollars in funding to bridge the digital divide in our communities.

There is no doubt that Dr. White has been an incredible asset to the students of Riverside County, and I am glad to have had the pleasure of working with her. She sets a high bar in everything she does, and I wish her a happy retirement and all the best in her future endeavors.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR AIR AMERICA PILOTS

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I think, without question, one of the parts of our history that has been underreported is that of the great wars against communism, one of which was the Vietnam war.

One part of the Vietnam war that hasn't been discussed enough is that of Air America. It was a CIA-run operation in which they would take airlines, scrub off the markings related to the U.S. Air Force, and then fly over Laos maybe to drop off supplies, maybe to do rescue missions, both with regard to American troops and our Hmong allies.

I have the honor to introduce, together along with Congresswoman MALONEY, the bipartisan Air America Act, which will give those people who risked their lives, and many of them have died, the same retirement benefits as other people who fought for the military in the Vietnam war.

But today I would just like to salute those veterans of Air America, many of whom are still alive, some in my district, and hope that we act quickly to give them the retirement benefits that they should have had many years ago.

REMEMBERING DR. ROGER MANDLE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, last week the arts and education communities lost a giant when Dr. Roger Mandle, the former president of the Rhode Island School of Design for more than a decade, passed away in Dartmouth, Massachusetts, at the age of 79.

I was fortunate to work closely with President Mandle during my time as mayor of Providence. He was a passionate advocate for the humanities and a visionary leader who ensured that Rhode Island remained home to the leading arts and design school in the world.

Most of all, he was an extraordinary human being and talented leader who sought to leave our world in better shape than he found it.

He recognized the influential post he held as a civic leader in the city of Providence, he understood fully the importance that great universities and colleges have to the success of cities, and he worked to ensure that RISD was an asset for Rhode Island's capital city.

He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

My thoughts and prayers are with Roger's wife, the renowned abstract artist Gayle Wells Mandle, and their entire family today.

LAKES FREEMAN AND SHAFER

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise on behalf of the communities and the residents surrounding Lakes Freeman and Shafer.

This summer, these communities witnessed the water levels in Lake Freeman reach a dangerously low level. The low water levels were brought on by drought, but were exacerbated by a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ruling meant to protect several species of mussels.

However well-intended the ruling, it is having devastating consequences for these communities and the city of Monticello. Local businesses are struggling to get by, property values are decreasing, and the ecosystem of the lake is threatened.

Fish and Wildlife have the power to resolve this issue, but the agency has been unable to adjust to realtime circumstances.

I brought this issue to the attention of the Department of the Interior. My hope is that our government can be responsive to the concerns of the people on a problem they have helped create.