Deutch (Rice (NY))
Dingell (Kuster)
Frankel, Lois (Clark (MA))
Gaetz (Franklin, C. Scott)
Gonzalez, Vincente (Gomez)
Gosar (Wagner)
Grijalva (Garcia (IL))
Hastings (Cleaver)
Huffman (Thompson (CA))
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Langevin (Lynch)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Beyer)
Lofgren (Jeffries)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Moore (WI) (Beyer)
Moulton (Trahan)
Napolitano (Correa)
Neguse (Perlmutter)
Payne (Pallone)
Pingree (Kuster)
Porter (Wexton)
Roybal-Allard (Bass)
Ruiz (Aguilar)
Rush (Underwood)
Stevens (Wexton)
Vargas (Correa)
Wasserman Schultz (Soto)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE LOSSES CAUSED BY COVID–19

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, just a few minutes ago, Members stood on the steps of the United States Congress, reminiscent of the unity of this Nation and the words of our Pledge of Allegiance that we stand united.

I rise to offer words of condolence and remembrance for the 500,000 lives taken by COVID–19. The Nation, over the last 12 months, has faced a crucible of suffering, death, and disease that has taken lives, devastated the economy, and put millions at risk of greater hardship due to the death of a loved one, unemployment, loss of healthcare or forgone education opportunities.

I continue to remember the little 4-year-old boy in Texas who lost both of his parents; or those who continue to mourn losing a mom, dad, husband, wife, children, yes, and siblings.

Yesterday, as the news broke that this Nation has lost 500,000—more than World War I, World War II, the Korean war, and the Vietnam war—my heart was heavy, and this loss is a sad mark.

So I come today to this floor to say to those who have lost: You will never be forgotten.

To those who remain: Your loved one will never be forgotten. Their lives will not be in vain. Their deaths will not be in vain.

And though these are staggering proportions, our commitment as the United States Congress should be to ensure this moment.

Madam Speaker, I end by a quiet moment of silence at this moment.

Madam Speaker, I rise to offer words of condolence and remembrance for the five hundred thousand lives taken by COVID–19.

The Nation over the last twelve months has faced a crucible of suffering, death, and disease that has taken too many lives, devastated the economy and put millions at risk of greater hardship due to the death of a loved one, unemployment, loss of health care or forgone education opportunities.

Yesterday, as news broke that the Nation had reached the milestone of losing five hundred thousand people to COVID–19, I was at the dedication of a Community Vaccination Center at the NRG Stadium located in Houston Texas.

Today, with a heavy heart our nation sadly marks the loss of 500,000 American lives to the coronavirus: an unimaginable human toll in our modern era of medical and technological advances.

These deaths are of staggering proportions and cause incomprehensible sadness, but we cannot think of them as the end of COVID–19.

As we have learned COVID–19 can surge again claiming even more lives.

This is why we cannot be complacent by accepting so much death without continuing to fight to save lives and end this pandemic.

Every life lost is a profound tragedy and earth-shattering moment in the lives of families, neighborhoods, and communities that touch each of us in countless ways as we mourn and console our family members, coworkers, neighbors and friends.

Today, I joined my colleagues of the House to observe a moment of silence on the steps of the Capitol for the 500,000 lives lost.

Members of Congress will join tens of millions of Americans in prayer for the lives lost or devastated by this vicious virus.

As we pray, we must commit ourselves to honoring those we have lost by wearing face coverings, observing social distance, washing of hands—and most important getting the vaccine when it is our time to do so as a pledge to all who have been taken from us far too soon that we will act swiftly to put an end to this pandemic and to stem the suffering felt by so many.

My commitment is to save lives and also livelihoods through public and personal action.

As Texans work to overcome the tragic winter disaster that befell the state last week, I wrote to President Biden asking that he grant the state's request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration, which he did and today FEMA is on the ground providing water delivery, food distribution, and other vital services to help Texans get back on their feet.

I also encourage those who have lost health insurance during the economic crisis created by the COVID–19 pandemic to take advantage of the extended enrollment period for getting health insurance through healthcare.gov, which is open until May 15, 2021.

Currently, 36 states are using HealthCare.gov. Since President Biden announced the creation of the Special Enrollment Period for HealthCare.gov, all 14 states and D.C. that have their own state-based marketplaces have announced that they would also have Special Enrollment Periods.

President Biden has extended a lifeline to struggling small businesses, to save American jobs and power the American economy, while promoting equity and fairness across Main Street.

The reforms he had made will expand access to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to the hardest-hit businesses that anchor our low and middle-income and communities of color.

Importantly, they will ensure that sole proprietors, which are overwhelmingly women and minorities, and which also serve our immigrant communities, are not left behind.

My unwavering support of these Biden Administration reforms will also build on recent PPP successes that increase assistance to businesses with ten or fewer employees in underserved and rural areas.

They also build on the work of increasing assistance through community-based lenders that specialize in serving those markets.

As President Biden advances these actions, I can say with pride that I participated in the Budget Committee's Markup of the American Rescue Plan intended to end COVID–19 pandemic and save the nation's economy.

Real Help is on the way. We will win this battle against COVID and save the economy by working together.

I conclude with these words "Precious Lord take my hand" and lead me on. We will together win the battle.

PENN STATE THON

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give a big thank-you to Penn State students for their commitment to an incredible cause.

Each year, students spend countless hours raising awareness and money in the fight against pediatric cancer. Every February, these efforts culminate in a 46-hour dance marathon known as THON.

THON provides financial and emotional support to thousands of families across the Commonwealth who have a child battling pediatric cancer.

THON is normally a celebration of thousands in the Bryce Jordan Center on campus—an opportunity for children with cancer to focus on simply being a kid even just for the weekend.

Sadly, the pandemic forced this proud tradition online this year. However, despite a global pandemic, students still managed to raise $10.6 million this year.

Since 1973, Penn State students have raised more than $180 million. Those figures, combined with nearly 17,000 student volunteers, makes Penn State THON the largest student-run philanthropic effort in the world.

I am proud of the Penn State students who are so committed to this cause, and I am even more proud of the children and families who keep fighting.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: HONORING COBB COUNTY SHERIFF CRAIG OWENS

(Mrs. MCBATH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month, I rise today in honor of a trailblazer in Black history, Cobb County Sheriff Craig Owens.

This past November, Sheriff Owens made history as the first African American to be elected sheriff in Cobb County, in my district.

Born and raised in Atlanta, Sheriff Owens has served over 30 years in the Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, and Cobb County Police Department. His career in law enforcement utilizes the leadership skills that he gained from his experience serving in our Armed Forces.