I will greatly miss Pat, and I offer my heartfelt condolences to his family and all those who loved him.

RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH AND LATINA EQUAL PAY DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. BOURDEAUX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BOURDEAUX. Madam Speaker, I rise today, October 21, to recognize Latina Equal Pay Day, the day when the pay for Latina women catches up to that of White men from the previous year. Latinas typically earn only 57 cents for every dollar earned by White men.

This disparity harms women, their families, and the communities that depend on their wages for survival. This inequity is why I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 7, the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would close loopholes in the Equal Pay Act in an effort to break the patterns of pay discrimination and strengthen workforce protections for women, especially women of color.

I would also like to take this time on Latina Equal Pay Day to acknowledge the recent conclusion of Hispanic Heritage Month and to recognize and celebrate the many contributions, diverse cultures, and extensive histories of the American Hispanic community and the over 60 million Americans who identify as Hispanic or Latino.

I am proud to represent one of the most diverse districts in the United States and the more than 170,000 Hispanic Americans who call Georgia's Seventh District home.

One of my most significant legislative accomplishments was borne out of conversations with Tony Rodriguez, CEO and president of the Aurora Theater in Lawrenceville. My conversations with him encouraged me to introduce the Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act, which extended the deadline to apply for forgivable PPP loans from March 31 to May 31 and gave small businesses more time to access this critical assistance.

I would also like to recognize Antonio Molina, chair of the board of Georgia's Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, for his hard work ensuring Hispanic small business owners have the resources they need to be successful.

I also recognize Santiago Marquez, the executive director of the Latin American Association, which provides a critical safety net service for so many in the Seventh District.

I would also like to thank two Hispanic members of the Cabinet: Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra and SBA Administrator Isabel Guzman, who visited Georgia's Seventh District this year. It was an honor to host each of them and introduce them to the wonderful place we call home.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge my chief of staff, Estefania ''Stefy'' Rodriguez, for her work leading my staff to serve the great people of the Seventh District.

As I host and attend events across my district, I am struck by the vibrancy of the Hispanic communities.

Recently, I visited with the Latino Lions Club of Norcross, the Latin American Association, the Hispanic Health Coalition of Georgia, and Latino Community Services to discuss how we can work together to address the issues that matter most to our community.

We all benefit from the contributions Hispanic Americans have made and will continue to make. The inclusion of their voices and values in our community make my district and the United States so much stronger.

They are the scientists, doctors, nurses, and essential workers who have helped us get through the COVID–19 pandemic; the teachers who educate the next generation of Americans; the artists who grace our television screens and our stages; the small business owners who drive our economy; and the many Hispanic elected officials, some who walk these very halls, who work every day to make a positive difference for our community.

I am a proud cosponsor of critical legislation, such as H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act, and H.R. 1603, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, which extends the American Dream to millions of people who already call this great Nation home.

Today, on Latina Equal Pay Day, and following the conclusion of Hispanic Heritage Month, I reaffirm my commitment to always work to support and strengthen our vibrant Hispanic communities.

HORRIFIC EVENT ON SEPTA TRAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I am here today to talk about something that apparently the person whose representative serves in this Congress refuses to talk about, and that is the horrific events that occurred last Wednesday on a SEPTA train.

''SEPTA'' stands for Southeast Public Transit Authority. It is the transit system that runs around Philadelphia.

Now, I don't know whether folks in the House know it, but for nearly 40 minutes, a woman on the train was harassed and groped before an illegal alien forcibly ripped off her clothes and raped her right there on the train, while up to 10 riders watched without intervening. They didn't even bother to call the police.

Imagine this. It actually gets worse. This hellacious experience continued as the train passed 20 train stations. Instead of taking action, other passengers watched and some actually are reported to have filmed the attack.

It actually gets worse. The perpetrator of this horrific crime is here in our country illegally. Despite previous convictions of sexual abuse and drug crimes, he is another one that was released from immigration detention rather than being deported.

Now, the severe emotional and physical trauma experienced by the victim could and should have been prevented by our elected officials, who often advocate for open borders and defunding the police. They have failed her, they have failed us, and they have created an environment where she was victimized in front of others by a man who should have been deported years ago.

While the man should have been deported years ago, the man should not have been in our country in the first place. We have laws for these things, and we should enforce those laws so that this lady could live safely in her American city.

This horrific crime raises questions and concerns about where we are as a Nation and how we got here.

When my colleagues on the other side of the aisle decide they want to speak on this floor and attack law enforcement and denigrate our immigration officials, like the ones that were down at the border on horseback trying to enforce the laws that are passed in this very Chamber, and they actively seek to release dangerous criminals into society, I wish they would realize that there are real human victims of their reckless, irresponsible, and absolutely dangerous policies and rhetoric.

I hope the majority keeps this in mind as they continue to work on their $3.5 trillion spending bill that promises amnesty to dangerous criminals and puts Americans citizens in danger. That is what it does; Amnesty, letting criminals stay here without consequence, without accountability.

But there is accountability for this poor lady, I guarantee you that.

Open borders, abolish ICE, no bail, and defund the police are not merely harmless catchphrases that Big-Government, socialist politicians can spew without consequence. That rhetoric results in horrific crimes against citizens that are someone's constituent, someone who took an oath to the Constitution to defend this country and the citizens of this country. They are someone's family member. This was someone's daughter, someone's little girl.

I want to commend the off-duty SEPTA employee for having the courage to step up and do the right thing, calling the police and ending the most horrific event of this young woman's life.

I also want to thank the SEPTA police officer—law enforcement. Yes, I want to thank law enforcement who intervened and brought this nightmare to an end.

But I do want to take a moment and ask my colleagues: How much more must we endure?

There are so many others, so many other victims, from this side of the country to the other side: Kate Stienle