

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN
LEWIS

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I join in the tributes to John Lewis with great personal appreciation for his extraordinary life and work and for the opportunity to have served alongside him as friend and colleague for more than thirty years.

My wife Lisa and I first got to know John and his late wife Lillian as new members of the House, classmates first elected in 1986. I have seen him advance to a senior position on the Ways and Means Committee, fighting especially to secure good, affordable health care for all. He has also invested great effort in protecting, and then restoring, the Voting Rights Act after the Supreme Court eliminated the crucial preclearance process.

From the start, however, John used his position to interpret and educate as well as to legislate. Most famously, he led the annual Faith and Politics pilgrimage to that bridge in Selma, the site of Bloody Sunday, where John almost lost his life, among other civil rights sites. But a day did not go by that he did not recount to colleagues or constituents or total strangers the history and meaning of the Movement. He was never too busy—I expect all of us have witnessed this—to stop whatever he was doing to greet a school group with a word of inspiration or to answer a visitor's questions.

While John's place in history is secured by his bold and visionary civil rights leadership, exemplified by his courage to press forward on that bridge, his greatness also consists of a lifetime telling and retelling the story and calling our country and all of us to our better selves. His leadership had biblical qualities, evoking both the call to justice of the Hebrew prophets and the love ethic of the Sermon on the Mount. We often say that someone was "one of a kind", but of John it was really true.

John's death leaves a huge void. His memory leaves us profoundly grateful to have shared some portion of his journey and also compels us to carry forward his vision of justice that "rolls down like waters" and the struggle it requires.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN
OPERATIONS, AND RELATED
PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2020

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, let me thank Chairman SANFORD BISHOP and Chair NITA

LOWEY. I also appreciate the commitment that Ranking Members JEFF FORTENBERRY and KAY GRANGER have shown to support the hard work of our farmers and the safety of consumers. I had the honor of chairing this subcommittee a number of years ago, and I know firsthand the amount of work it takes. We face a health crisis and an economic crisis that have exposed serious disparities in our systems. This pandemic has further demonstrated how many were living on a knife's edge, and I strongly believe we must be doing more, not less.

This 2021 bill is recommending an increase of \$487 million, almost \$24 billion. It builds on the work we have done in the emergency response bills for our nation's farmers, families, frontline food workers. This pandemic has pinpointed to us where our system of supports, our social safety net, is not as strong as we believed it to be, as strong as our families, our farmers and our food workers need it to be. So, I am glad this bill is making short-term and long-term investments. Let me touch on a few areas of strength.

The bill makes strong investments to address the scourge of hunger in our country. The Census Bureau recently conducted a Household Pulse Survey to gather household information during the COVID-19 Pandemic. They found, quote, "Households with children were more likely to report permanent loss of employment and food shortages since the start of the pandemic."

Along with providing the necessary funding for the Food Stamp Program, Women, Infants and Children, and Child Nutrition Programs, the bill includes language to block implementation of rules that would threaten benefits for hundreds of thousands of people. I want to remind my colleagues that food stamp spending is a powerful anti-recession tool. It has previously been estimated that for each dollar spent from benefits, a \$1.70 is generated in economic activity.

The bill also takes action to ensure the safety of our nation's food supply, as well as the health of the workers producing that food. Workers on the frontline of our food supply chain—food processing, meat and poultry plant employees, and farmworkers—play an essential role in the availability of food. I thank the Chairman for his leadership on including language to prevent USDA from granting linespeed waivers to corporate meatpackers as well as the inclusion of language encouraging USDA to prioritize financial assistance to employers of farmworkers who can show they are complying with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. We must push for leadership and accountability.

Recently, FDA Commissioner Hahn refused to refute the president's false claim about the severity of the virus. As has been reported by the Boston Globe, quote, "the World Health Organization has said about 20 percent of those diagnosed with COVID-19 progress to severe disease, including pneumonia and respiratory failure." But, the president said 99 percent of cases were, quote, "totally harm-

less." CNN's Dana Bash pressed Commissioner Hahn on this false claim. But, Commissioner Hahn said, quote, "I'm not going to get into who's right and who's wrong." That is the mission of the FDA, as the public's primary regulatory agency for public health. The mandate of the agency is to distinguish between right and wrong, especially as it relates to misleading claims about this virus. So, as we invest in the FDA's mission, I look forward to working with others on the subcommittee and the full committee to make sure the agency provides the most accurate information to the public.

Finally, I am proud of the \$2 billion in international food aid provided by this bill. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased hardship around the globe and I believe we have a moral obligation to lend a helping hand. The bill includes \$1.775 billion for Food for Peace grants, \$235 million for McGovern-Dole, and again provides \$1 million in funding for the International Agricultural Education Fellowship program.

I close by thanking the leadership of this committee for continuing to be taking the long term and near-term actions necessary to be protecting the public, for food security, for food safety, and worker safety. This is what the social safety net is for: To assist members of our community in their time of need. No one should fall through the cracks. No one need suffer.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN
OPERATIONS, AND RELATED
PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2020

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my support for H.R. 7608, the State and Foreign Operations, Agriculture, Rural Development, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2021. This year's legislation includes a number of priorities that I have advocated for which will benefit my home state of Rhode Island, protect our environment, benefit families, serve our nation's veterans, and strengthen our national security. I would like to thank Chairwoman LOWEY and Ranking Member GRANGER, as well as the Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Members for their work on this year's House legislation.

The State and Foreign Operations division makes important strides in strengthening our national security. For the past three and a half years, the Trump Administration has made us less safe. The State Foreign Operations and Related Agencies funding bill, however, would make the country, and Rhode Islanders, safer. Along with funds for diplomacy—something that the United States should be investing in,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

rather than making a mockery of—this bill invests in emergency appropriations for global coronavirus preparedness, response, and relief efforts. Because if we do not address the global pandemic, it will continue to come back to us.

In addition, this bill supports global reproductive health and family planning programs; and promotes equality for LGBTI people and people with disabilities. In particular, it contains my increase-decrease amendment to draw attention to the State Department's shameful attempt to turn back time and strip women and LGBTQI individuals of their civil and human rights.

Members of the House and Senate have now sent five letters to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo expressing our strong, continued concern regarding the work of the Department of State's Commission on Unalienable Rights ("the Commission"), but we have received no reply. It is simply inexcusable that the Department of State would not respond in any way to our repeated oversight attempts, in particular as the Commission has proven time and time again that it could undermine our nation's ability to lead on critical human rights issues, including with respect to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and protections for millions of people globally in the LGBTQI community.

As a member of the House Foreign Relations Committee I am particularly disturbed that the Secretary has chosen to create the Commission rather than honor the advice of the State Department's Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, which is vested with the authority to advise the Department on U.S. foreign policy related to human rights. I believe that the Department's strategic priorities should be guided by the Assistant Secretary, Congressionally mandated reporting on human rights, and well established and lasting human rights standards, rather than the Commission. By signaling, through the Commission's mandate and membership, a desire to place religious freedom above all other rights, the State Department is undermining commitments the United States has made abroad. Indeed, the Commission's actions create a risk that the United States will breach those legally binding obligations that do not align with the Commission's view of human rights. Further, the Commission's work could undermine priorities that the United States has encouraged other nations to adopt.

The Trump Administration has shown, time and time again, that it is unwilling to rein in the behavior of despots and dictators. We must not allow the Commission to give them permission to run roughshod over the human rights of even more people around the world.

The United States should be on the front lines of protecting human rights at home and abroad, including those guaranteeing SRHR and protections for millions of people globally in the LGBTQI community. Looking to "natural law" as a method of undermining long established human rights protections for minority groups and elevating religious freedom over other rights is both illegal and immoral.

The Agricultural, Rural Development, and Related Agencies division provides funding for important agricultural research. It is critical for Congress to support research and educational programs to ensure the United States remains a global leader in agriculture. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of

Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA) and their Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) provide investments and grants in key areas of transformative research and development. This year's bill provides an additional \$10 million above the enacted level for USDA-NIFA and AFRI, which will provide educational institutions with grants to continue work in key areas of transformative agricultural and food research. We must ensure that these institutions have the funding needed to continue their vital work and demonstrate our commitment to addressing agricultural challenges.

This year's Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies division will include a number of key priorities which will provide significant benefit to my home state. This bill increases funding for the Operation of the National Park System (ONPS) by \$200 million from the 2020 Fiscal Year. An increase for ONPS funding will allow for continued development and maintenance of the Blackstone Valley National Historic Park, which commemorates and preserves the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution.

The bill also provides an increase for the Southern New England Estuaries Geographic Program. This critical program engages with stakeholders in my home state, and throughout Southern New England, to preserve our region's estuaries, which provide significant and economic benefit. It also helps to preserve fragile ecosystems and wildlife habitats, and helps to manage the impacts of human activity along our coastline.

I also strongly support this bill's commitment to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The increased funding for NEA and NEH will boost Rhode Island's arts economy, and support our renowned community of artists.

I was also very glad to see this year's Interior and Environment appropriation will continue to restrict the issuing of new oil and gas leases in the Outer Continental Shelf. Rhode Island's ocean economy generates more than \$2 billion annually, and supports more than 41,000 jobs in industries such as commercial fishing, tourism, and other recreational activities. Expansion of oil and gas drilling off the coast Rhode Island, and throughout New England, would devastate our local ocean economy, destroy critical marine habitats, and continue to exacerbate the effects of climate change.

Finally, in this year's Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies division, the committee took significant steps to strengthen suicide prevention programs for our nation's veterans. In particular, this bill provides \$313 million for Suicide Prevention Outreach programs. It will also ensure that \$115 million for the Veterans Crisis Line (VCL), a dedicated toll-free hotline for veterans experiencing mental health crises and thoughts of suicide, is available in FY21. This amounts to a \$4 million increase for the VCL from the 2020 level. It is estimated that each day 20 American veterans take their own life. We owe it to the brave men and women who have served our nation in uniform to ensure that they have the best mental health care and available services for them when they return home.

I thank you for the opportunity to express my support for H.R. 7608, and I urge passage by the entire House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2020

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7608, a bill to provide Fiscal Year 2021 funding for the Departments of Agriculture, Interior, and Veterans Affairs, among others. This package includes critical programs that help address important priorities such as helping our most vulnerable escape hunger and our veterans to receive the care and benefits they have earned.

Our country has been hit by an economic freight train and many families have been reeling for months and will continue to do so if the federal government does not step up in the fight against this deadly virus. Food insecurity was a challenge before COVID-19 but it has only gotten worse as tens of millions of Americans have lost their jobs. We have seen long lines at food banks and pantries.

The bill before us ensures that SNAP can continue to help struggling Americans. It blocks ongoing attempts by the Trump Administration to force more people to lose food aid. It supports the WIC program to ensure that we help some of our most vulnerable pregnant women, infants and children.

It also increases funding for grants to help increase access to school breakfast, a priority for me. Unfortunately, too many kids begin the school day without a healthy breakfast and participation in school breakfast lags well behind school lunch. Studies repeatedly show that students who consume nutritious breakfasts have better health outcomes, and better educational outcomes. These dollars will help support innovative and proven interventions that can help increase participation.

I appreciate Chairman BISHOP's leadership in helping to make sure that more families can keep food on the table.

Likewise, I appreciate Chairwoman MCCOLLUM's continued efforts to protect our environment and the Great Lakes. I am pleased that the committee provides a \$15 million increase for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative which has been an unmitigated success in working to help our communities address some of the biggest challenges facing these valuable waters.

This bill also increases funding to help protect water quality. I thank the Chairwoman as well as Congresswoman LORI TRAHAN who worked with me to help push for greater funding to help address combined sewer overflows, which endanger both our waters and the public's health. A great number of CSO's are in the Midwest and Northeast and communities need all the support they can to help make the investments to reduce this threat to our waterways. The bill's investment of \$57 million in regular appropriations and \$400 million in emergency funding will go a long way in helping address this problem.

The bill also includes funding for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, which are the main federal programs supporting investments in critical water infrastructure. Our communities are struggling to

deal with aging infrastructure and the funds in this bill are sorely needed.

And I also appreciate Chairwoman MCCOLLUM's leadership in protecting and strengthening programs that help Native communities. For example, the bill would provide \$6.5 billion for the Indian Health Service, including \$66 million for Urban Indian Health.

And the State-Foreign Operations bill rejects a variety of harmful cuts proposed by the President that would further damage our diplomacy and development efforts. The bill also includes language to permanently repeal the global gag rule, rejects efforts to defend the UNFPA, invests in global health, education, and environment programs, including to address climate change.

It is critical that we invest in our international affairs budget and I applaud chairwoman LOWEY for her steadfast leadership again in helping to protect these key programs. Sadly, this is her last appropriations cycle. While I wish her the best of luck in her retirement, she will be sorely missed.

Lastly, the MilCon-Va bill makes needed investments in health care for our veterans, supports increases for homelessness assistance grants, and to process and pay benefit claims.

This is a good package and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

REMOVAL OF CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS IN NEW ORLEANS

HON. ANTHONY G. BROWN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following speech, "Truth: Remarks on the Removal of Confederate Monuments in New Orleans" delivered by Mitch Landrieu at Gallier Hall in New Orleans, LA on May 19, 2017.

Thank you for coming.

The soul of our beloved City is deeply rooted in a history that has evolved over thousands of years; rooted in a diverse people who have been here together every step of the way—for both good and for ill.

It is a history that holds in its heart the stories of Native Americans—the Choctaw, Houma Nation, the Chitimacha.

Of Hernando de Soto, Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle, the Acadians, the Islenos, the enslaved people from Senegambia, Free People of Color, the Haitians, the Germans, both the empires of France and Spain. The Italians, the Irish, the Cubans, the south and central Americans, the Vietnamese and so many more.

You see—New Orleans is truly a city of many nations/a melting pot/a bubbling cauldron of many cultures.

There is no other place quite like it in the world that so eloquently exemplifies the uniquely American motto: *e pluribus unum*—out of many we are one.

But there are also other truths about our city that we must confront.

New Orleans was America's largest slave market: a port where hundreds of thousands of souls were brought, sold and shipped up the Mississippi River to lives of forced labor of misery of rape, of torture.

America was the place where nearly 4,000 of our fellow citizens were lynched, 540 alone in Louisiana; where the courts enshrined 'separate but equal'; where Freedom riders coming to New Orleans were beaten to a bloody pulp.

So when people say to me that the monuments in question are history, well what I just described is real history as well, and it is the searing truth. And it immediately begs the questions; why there are no slave ship monuments, no prominent markers on public land to remember the lynchings or the slave blocks; nothing to remember this long chapter of our lives; the pain, the sacrifice, the shame . . . all of it happening on the soil of New Orleans.

So for those self-appointed defenders of history and the monuments, they are eerily silent on what amounts to this historical malfeasance, a lie by omission.

There is a difference between remembrance of history and reverence of it. For America and New Orleans, it has been a long, winding road, marked by great tragedy and great triumph. But we cannot be afraid of our truth.

As President George W. Bush said at the dedication ceremony for the National Museum of African American History & Culture, "A great nation does not hide its history. It faces its flaws and corrects them."

So today I want to speak about why we chose to remove these four monuments to the Lost Cause of the Confederacy, but also how and why this process can move us towards healing and understanding of each other.

So, let's start with the facts.

The historic record, is clear, the Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis, and P.G.T. Beauregard statues were not erected just to honor these men, but as part of the movement which became known as The Cult of the Lost Cause.

This 'cult' had one goal—through monuments and through other means—to rewrite history to hide the truth, which is that the Confederacy was on the wrong side of humanity.

First erected over 166 years after the founding of our city and 19 years after the end of the Civil War, the monuments that we took down were meant to rebrand the history of our city and the ideals of a defeated Confederacy.

It is self-evident that these men did not fight for the United States of America, they fought against it. They may have been warriors, but in this cause they were not patriots.

These statues are not just stone and metal. They are not just innocent remembrances of a benign history.

These monuments purposefully celebrate a fictional, sanitized Confederacy; ignoring the death, ignoring the enslavement, and the terror that it actually stood for.

After the Civil War, these statues were a part of that terrorism as much as a burning cross on someone's lawn; they were erected purposefully to send a strong message to all who walked in their shadows about who was still in charge in this city.

Should you have further doubt about the true goals of the Confederacy, in the very weeks before the war broke out, the Vice President of the Confederacy/Alexander Stephens/made it clear that the Confederate cause was about maintaining slavery and white supremacy.

He said in his now famous 'corner-stone speech' that the Confederacy's "cornerstone rests upon the great truth, that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery—subordination to the superior race—is his natural and normal condition. This, our new government, is the first, in the history of the world, based upon this great physical, philosophical, and moral truth."

Now, with these shocking words still ringing in your ears . . .

I want to try to gently peel from your hands the grip on a false narrative of our history that I think weakens us. And make straight a wrong turn we made many years

ago—so we can more closely connect with integrity to the founding principles of our nation and forge a clearer and straighter path toward a better city and a more perfect union.

Last year, President Barack Obama echoed these sentiments about the need to contextualize and remember all our history.

He recalled a piece of stone, a slave auction block engraved with a marker commemorating a single moment in 1830 when Andrew Jackson and Henry Clay stood and spoke from it.

President Obama said, "Consider what this artifact tells us about history . . . on a stone where day after day for years, men and women . . . bound and bought and sold and bid like cattle on a stone worn down by the tragedy of over a thousand bare feet. For a long time the only thing we considered important, the singular thing we once chose to commemorate as history with a plaque were the unmemorable speeches of two powerful men."

A piece of stone—one stone.

Both stories were history.

One story told.

One story forgotten or maybe even purposefully ignored.

As clear as it is for me today . . . for a long time, even though I grew up in one of New Orleans' most diverse neighborhoods, even with my family's long proud history of fighting for civil rights . . . I must have passed by those monuments a million times without giving them a second thought.

So I am not judging anybody, I am not judging people. We all take our own journey on race. I just hope people listen like I did when my dear friend Wynton Marsalis helped me see the truth.

He asked me to think about all the people who have left New Orleans because of our exclusionary attitudes.

Another friend asked me to consider these four monuments from the perspective of an African American mother or father trying to explain to their fifth grade daughter who Robert E. Lee is and why he stands atop of our beautiful city.

Can you do it?

Can you look into that young girl's eyes and convince her that Robert E. Lee is there to encourage her? Do you think she will feel inspired and hopeful by that story?

Do these monuments help her see a future with limitless potential? Have you ever thought that if her potential is limited, yours and mine are too?

We all know the answer to these very simple questions.

When you look into this child's eyes is the moment when the searing truth comes into focus for us. This is the moment when we know what is right and what we must do.

We can't walk away from this truth.

And I knew that taking down the monuments was going to be tough, but you elected me to do the right thing, not the easy thing and this is what that looks like. So relocating these Confederate monuments is not about taking something away from someone else. This is not about politics, this is not about blame or retaliation.

This is not a naïve quest to solve all our problems at once.

This is however about showing the whole world that we as a city and as a people are able to acknowledge, understand, reconcile and most importantly, choose a better future for ourselves making straight what has been crooked and making right what was wrong.

Otherwise, we will continue to pay a price with discord, with division and yes with Violence.

To literally put the Confederacy on a pedestal in our most prominent places of honor is an inaccurate recitation of our full past, it

is an affront to our present, and it is a bad prescription for our future.

History cannot be changed. It cannot be moved like a statue. What is done is done. The Civil War is over, and the Confederacy lost and we are better for it. Surely we are far enough removed from this dark time to acknowledge that the cause of the Confederacy was wrong.

And in the second decade of the 21st century, asking African Americans—or anyone else—to drive by property that they own; occupied by reverential statues of men who fought to destroy the country and deny that person's humanity seems perverse and absurd.

Centuries old wounds are still raw because they never healed right in the first place.

Here is the essential truth/we are better together than we are apart.

Indivisibility is our essence.

Isn't this the gift that the people of New Orleans have given to the world?

We radiate beauty and grace in our food, in our music, in our architecture, in our joy of life, in our celebration of death; in everything that we do.

We gave the world this funky thing called jazz/the most uniquely American art form that is developed across the ages from different cultures.

Think about second lines, think about Mardi Gras, think about muffaletta, think about the Saints, gumbo, red beans and rice.

By God, just think.

All we hold dear is created by throwing everything in the pot; creating, producing something better; everything a product of our historic diversity.

We are proof that out of many we are one—and better for it! Out of many we are one—and we really do love it! And yet, we still seem to find so many excuses for not doing the right thing. Again, remember President Bush's words, "A great nation does not hide its history. It faces its flaws and corrects them."

We forget, we deny how much we really depend on each other, how much we need each other.

We justify our silence and inaction by manufacturing noble causes that marinate in historical denial.

We still find a way to say 'wait'/not so fast, but like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "wait has almost always meant never."

We can't wait any longer. We need to change. And we need to change now. No more waiting. This is not just about statues, this is about our attitudes and behavior as well.

If we take these statues down and don't change to become a more open and inclusive society this would have all been in vain.

While some have driven by these monuments every day and either revered their beauty or failed to see them at all, many of our neighbors and fellow Americans see them very clearly.

Many are painfully aware of the long shadows their presence casts; not only literally but figuratively.

And they clearly receive the message that the Confederacy and the cult of the lost cause intended to deliver.

Earlier this week, as the cult of the lost cause statue of P.G.T. Beauregard came down, world renowned musician Terence Blanchard stood watch, his wife Robin and their two beautiful daughters at their side.

Terence went to a high school on the edge of City Park named after one of America's greatest heroes and patriots, John F. Kennedy.

But to get there he had to pass by this monument to a man who fought to deny him his humanity.

He said, "I've never looked at them as a source of pride . . . its always made me feel

as if they were put there by people who don't respect us."

"This is something I never thought I'd see in my lifetime. It's a sign that the world is changing."

Yes Terence it is and it is long overdue.

Now is the time to send a new message to the next generation of New Orleanians who can follow in Terence and Robin's remarkable footsteps.

A message about the future, about the next 300 years and beyond; let us not miss this opportunity New Orleans and let us help the rest of the country do the same.

Because now is the time for choosing.

Now is the time to actually make this the City we always should have been, had we gotten it right in the first place.

We should stop for a moment and ask ourselves—at this point in our history—after Katrina, after Rita, after Ike, after Gustav, after the national recession, after the BP oil catastrophe and after the tornado—if presented with the opportunity to build monuments that told our story or to curate these particular spaces . . . would these monuments be what we want the world to see? Is this really our story?

We have not erased history; we are becoming part of the city's history by righting the wrong image these monuments represent and crafting a better, more complete future for all our children and for future generations.

And unlike when these Confederate monuments were first erected as symbols of white supremacy, we now have a chance to create not only new symbols, but to do it together, as one people.

In our blessed land we all come to the table of democracy as equals.

We have to reaffirm our commitment to a future where each citizen is guaranteed the uniquely American gifts of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

That is what really makes America great and today it is more important than ever to hold fast to these values and together say a self-evident truth that out of many we are one. That is why today we reclaim these spaces for the United States of America.

Because we are one nation, not two; indivisible with liberty and justice for all . . . not some.

We all are part of one nation, all pledging allegiance to one flag, the flag of the United States of America.

And New Orleanians are in . . . all of the way.

It is in this union and in this truth that real patriotism is rooted and flourishes.

Instead of revering a 4-year brief historical aberration that was called the Confederacy we can celebrate all 300 years of our rich, diverse history as a place named New Orleans and set the tone for the next 300 years.

After decades of public debate, of anger, of anxiety, of anticipation, of humiliation and of frustration.

After public hearings and approvals from three separate community led commissions.

After two robust public hearings and a 6-1 vote by the duly elected New Orleans City Council.

After review by 13 different federal and state judges.

The full weight of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government has been brought to bear and the monuments in accordance with the law have been removed.

So now is the time to come together and heal and focus on our larger task. Not only building new symbols, but making this city a beautiful manifestation of what is possible and what we as a people can become.

Let us remember what the once exiled, imprisoned and now universally loved Nelson Mandela and what he said after the fall of apartheid.

"If the pain has often been unbearable and the revelations shocking to all of us, it is because they indeed bring us the beginnings of a common understanding of what happened and a steady restoration of the nation's humanity."

So before we part let us again state the truth clearly.

The Confederacy was on the wrong side of history and humanity. It sought to tear apart our nation and subjugate our fellow Americans to slavery. This is the history we should never forget and one that we should never again put on a pedestal to be revered.

As a community, we must recognize the significance of removing New Orleans' Confederate monuments.

It is our acknowledgment that now is the time to take stock of, and then move past, a painful part of our history.

Anything less would render generations of courageous struggle and soul-searching a truly lost cause.

Anything less would fall short of the immortal words of our greatest President Abraham Lincoln, who with an open heart and clarity of purpose calls on us today to unite as one people when he said:

"With malice toward none, with charity for all/with firmness in the right/as God gives us to see the right/let us strive on to finish the work we are in/to bind up the nation's wounds . . ./to do all which may achieve and cherish—a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

Thank you.

HONORING CORPORAL LANCE MORRIS

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Corporal Lance Morris of the Roaring Spring Police Department as he receives the Law Enforcement Medal of Valor in recognition of his distinguished service to the citizens of Blair County. Awarded by the Blair County District Attorney, the Law Enforcement Medal of Valor is presented for extraordinary acts of valor and heroism.

On the afternoon of July 26, 2019, Corporal Morris was dispatched to the parking lot of True Value Hardware Store in Roaring Spring to respond to a dangerous situation. As he arrived at the scene, the armed suspect pointed his weapon at Corporal Morris, who quickly fired two shots hitting him in the chest. Corporal Morris' heroic actions protected the lives of innocent bystanders.

Today, we commend Corporal Morris for his courage, commitment to duty, and tactical expertise in this dangerous situation. His actions have made Roaring Spring and Blair County a safer community.

For his valiant actions in the highest traditions of Law Enforcement and the Roaring Spring Police Department, the Medal of Valor is bestowed upon Corporal Lance Morris.

It is my sincere pleasure and privilege to honor Corporal Morris as he receives this highest award. On behalf of the 13th District of Pennsylvania, I thank Corporal Morris for his commitment to our community and congratulate him on his many achievements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATINGOF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, July 24, 2020*

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted AYE in favor of the EN BLOC No. 2 Amendment for H.R. 7608.

IN HONOR OF THE
GROUNDBREAKING OF EXPAN-
SION AT THE KALAMAZOO GOS-
PEL MINISTRIES**HON. FRED UPTON**OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, July 24, 2020*

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize a celebration as the Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries breaks ground on an expansion to their ministry.

I want to recognize the extraordinary accomplishment of Pastor Brown and all the staff and volunteers at the Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries. I am incredibly proud of the work they are doing and send my sincere congratulations today as they break ground on the new women's and children's center.

For over 80 years, and in these uncertain times, the Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries has been a place of hope and healing in the Kalamazoo community. This new expansion, "A Shelter From Their Storm," will no doubt be filled with the same heart and care that they have shown for decades.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries and their team and thank them for their continued service to the Kalamazoo community.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IS
MASKING A DIFFERENCE
ACROSS SOUTH CAROLINA**HON. JOE WILSON**OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, July 24, 2020*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the following was published in the Aiken CEO on Thursday, July 23, 2020:

As the coronavirus continues to impact the Palmetto State, South Carolina Association of Habitat for Humanity announces a statewide effort to ensure nonprofits have the resources needed to safely serve communities during the pandemic. Masking a Difference is a one-day collaboration which will distribute 175,000 masks and 2,800 gallons of hand sanitizer among nonprofit organizations and Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) partners at 17 Habitat locations throughout SC.

"Our toolkit has expanded beyond hammers and shopping carts," shared Nancy Lee, executive director of the state association of Habitat for Humanity. "As nonprofits are being called on to do more with fewer resources, I'm grateful Habitat has been given the opportunity to share these supplies with our fellow philanthropic partners."

Since February, Habitat for Humanity has been working alongside state and federal

agencies to ensure the safety of Habitat teams, partners, and communities. Habitat credits South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for enabling this collaboration to occur.

As of July 12, Habitat for Humanity has already distributed over 150,000 masks and 630 gallons of hand sanitizer throughout 37 counties. Upon conclusion of Masking a Difference, Habitat will have dispersed a total of 325,000 masks and 3,400 gallons of hand sanitizer to assist in South Carolina's coronavirus response.

Nonprofit organizations seeking additional information are encouraged to visit southcarolinahabitat.org. Masking a Difference request forms for cloth face coverings and 50-gallon drums of hand sanitizer will remain open through noon on July 20, 2020. Submissions from eligible organizations will be accepted in the order received. Notifications will be sent out the week of July 20 announcing the locations of pick-up and official distribution date of Masking a Difference.

HONORING THE McALLEN POLICE
DEPARTMENT**HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the McAllen Police Department for another successful year lowering overall crime in the City of McAllen, Texas.

This is the 10th consecutive year the McAllen Police Department has successfully lowered crime, resulting in a 35-year low. McAllen's estimated population of 158,044 had a crime volume of 3,735 and a crime rate of 2,363 per 100,000 residents in 2019.

In 2018, the population was 154,634 with the crime volume being 3,978 and the crime rate being 2,573 per 100,000 residents. This shows that with a 2.2 percent growth in population, the McAllen Police Department was able to decrease the crime volume by 6.1 percent, and the crime rate by 8.1 percent in one year.

I want to thank Police Chief Victor Rodriguez for his leadership in achieving this incredible milestone. Though he credits federal resources, technology and home surveillance systems for his department's success, it takes a true leader and an exemplary team to make a difference of this magnitude.

I also want to thank the brave officers of the McAllen Police Department. Every day, they risk their lives in order to make our community safer. Our city is safer because of devoted officers like Edelmiro Garza, Jr. and Ismael Chavez who unfortunately made the ultimate sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, I stand here today to acknowledge the decade long achievement of the McAllen Police Department in lowering the crime in McAllen. Each member of the police department is an incredible leader in our community, and their legacy will no doubt inspire public service and volunteerism of future generations.

IN MEMORIAL: RABBI ISAAC
FURMAN**HON. DONALD NORCROSS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Rabbi Isaac Furman.

Rabbi Isaac Furman was a pillar of the southern New Jersey Jewish community. Rabbi Furman was the Rabbi of Congregation Beth El in Voorhees, New Jersey and helped found the Beth El Academy in 1961, now known as the Kellman-Brown Academy.

An immigrant to this country, Rabbi Furman's family left Poland in 1939 after the German occupation. His family initially fled east to Siberia before making their way south and then west at the conclusion of the war. It was at the displaced persons camps of Poland that Rabbi Furman met the love of his life, Molly.

Southern New Jersey was truly fortunate that Rabbi Isaac and Molly Furman chose our community to settle down. A graduate of Yeshiva University, Rabbi Furman found his true calling as a teacher. Throughout his nearly 60 years as a rabbi in southern New Jersey Rabbi Furman taught tens of thousands of Jewish children. His former students remember him as kind, funny and generous of spirit.

Rabbi Furman and Molly raised their daughters, Esther and Phyllis in the community, and took great pride as they began families of their own. Molly Furman was an accomplished teacher who was a fixture of the community and I'm told that their love for one another lived on after her passing in 2016. Through Esther and Phyllis, the Furmans were blessed with six grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I am told that his family was truly much larger than his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Rabbi Furman was beloved by generations of students, his congregation and his community. Though Rabbi Furman passed away earlier this month I know his memory will be a blessing for many years to come.

CONGRATULATING CHARLES AND
SHERRY DOBIS ON THEIR 50TH
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Charles and Sherry Dobis on their 50th wedding anniversary. July 25th marks five decades of devoted matrimony for these two esteemed citizens of Irving, Texas.

Originally from Gary, Indiana, "Chuck" and Sherry married in their hometown, and have since accompanied each other on a journey of personal and professional accomplishments.

In 1971, Chuck graduated from the School of Pharmacy at Purdue University where he was a member of Pi Kappa Psi. For the past 49 years, he has been licensed to practice pharmacy in Indiana, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. Throughout his distinguished career, he has assumed a variety of leadership

roles which include President of the St. Joseph County Pharmacist Association; Chairman and President of the Indiana Pharmacist Association (IPA); founding Chairman of the IPA PAC; and Chairman and Treasurer of the American Pharmaceutical Association (AphA) PAC.

In 1979, Sherry also graduated from Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science degree, and continued to enhance her qualifications through a program at the South Bend Medical Foundation. Seeking to further her studies, she obtained her Masters in Public Administration (MPA, '90) from Indiana University where she was involved in the Pi Alpha Alpha honor society. Sherry's professional roles have been extensive. Over the span of her fruitful career, she has served as a Medical Tech. at Mishiana Community Hospital, Lab Director at LaPorte Hospital, Lab Administrator at Parkview Hospital in Vicksburg, MS, Senior Director for Laboratory, Respiratory and Business services at VHA in Dallas, and Vice President for Business Development at Health Network Laboratories in Allentown, PA.

Chuck and Sherry are now semi-retired, but they remain actively involved in the Catholic community and enjoy travelling, reading, gardening, crafting, orchestra and fly tying/fishing. They are also the proud parents of Diane Dobis and loving grandparents of Anthony, Christina, and Vivian Dobis, all of whom reside in Irving, Texas. As Chuck and Sherry's journey continues to unfold, may their commitment to one another continue to serve as an example of how love and dedication can enrich our lives.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing this noteworthy milestone, the 50-year wedding anniversary of Chuck and Sherry Dobis.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR CHRISTIE
PAPILLA CUNNINGHAM

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to Major Christie Papilla Cunningham for her exemplary dedication to duty and service as she transitions from her previous position as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller).

A native of Los Angeles, California, Major Cunningham was commissioned as a Military Intelligence Officer upon her graduation from the University of Southern California with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. She has also earned a Master's degree in Legislative Affairs from the George Washington University.

For the past 13 years, Major Cunningham has honorably served in command and staff positions in the California Army National Guard, U.S. Army Forces Command, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, U.S. Army Cyber Command, and the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command. She has been assigned to Fort Huachuca, Arizona; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Belvoir, Virginia; and Fort Meade, Maryland. Christie deployed to Afghanistan twice in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, first as the Execu-

tive Officer for the Bagram Theater Joint Interrogation Facility and then as the Joint Intelligence Officer for Joint Task Force Paladin South, a Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Task Force in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

In 2018, Major Cunningham was assigned as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the U.S. Army's Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller. In this role, Christie effectively managed the Army's Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation portfolio and worked tirelessly with Members of Congress and their staffs to accurately articulate the Army's budget position to the Appropriations Committees. Christie's professionalism, integrity, and dedication to the mission are unmatched.

Christie cherishes family. Her husband, Patrick, also an active duty Major in the U.S. Army, and her children, Esai, Kai, Kaleo, and Kira, are the foundation of Christie's success. As we know, military families share in the sacrifices made by our servicemembers. The Cunninghams' selfless service to the U.S. Army and to their community is a shining example of what makes our military the best in the world.

Throughout her career, Major Cunningham has positively impacted countless soldiers of all ranks. Our country has benefited tremendously from her extraordinary leadership, intelligence, and passion. I join my colleagues today in honoring her dedication to our nation and her invaluable service to the U.S. Congress as a Congressional Budget Liaison.

I must also note that, as a Defense Legislative Fellow in my office, Major Cunningham consistently provided me with sage advice and quickly became a trusted source of counsel to me, my personal staff, and the House Appropriations Committee. Christie's sterling intellect, versatility, and team-first disposition proved indispensable in addressing the number of challenging tasks placed before her. Further, her incomparable work ethic, poise under pressure, and generosity will be sorely missed. To put it simply, Major Cunningham's performance as a Defense Legislative Fellow was outstanding and reflects great credit upon the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense. I am deeply appreciative of her contributions to my office and the U.S. Congress.

Madam Speaker, it has been a genuine pleasure to have worked with Major Cunningham. On behalf of a grateful nation, I recognize and commend Christie for her service to our country and I wish her all the best as she continues her service in the U.S. Army.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY G. BROWN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Madam Speaker, if I had been present in the House of Representatives on July 20, 2020 for consideration of H.R. 6395, the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, I would have voted YEA on roll call no. 141, Escobar of Texas Amendment No. 3; YEA on roll call no. 142, McAdams of Utah Amendment No. 4; and YEA on roll call no. 143, Smith of Washington Amendment En Bloc No. 1.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, during yesterday's vote on Rep. LOWEY of New York's Amendment En Bloc No. 3, my vote was incorrectly cast as Yea. I intended to vote Nay along with the majority of my colleagues.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, during Roll Call Vote Number 161 on H.R. 7608, I mistakenly recorded my vote as Yea when I should have voted Nay.

MEMORY OF OSCAR TEMORES

HON. TJ COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, we pray for the soul and family of Navy Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Oscar Temores.

Oscar, a native of Lemoore, California and a dedicated husband, father, son and brother, was proudly serving his country and protecting his fellow sailors at Joint Expeditionary Base Fort Story, Virginia Beach, when he tragically lost his life in December 2019.

Unfortunately, the tragedy did not stop there for the family of Oscar Temores. When Bethany Temores, the wife of this fallen hero, joined the Congress as my guest for this year's State of the Union, I learned just how difficult the experience had been for her and the family of Master-at-Arms Temores. Numerous, compounding issues with the Casualty Assistance Program turned the process of laying Oscar to rest—one of the most traumatic things a spouse and family can endure—into what Bethany described as "a nightmare."

All service-connected families deserve our respect. We owe it to our fallen heroes to honor their legacy and to ensure military families have support in their time of need, including timely communication, travel and accommodation assistance, and an understanding of all benefits and other forms of relief.

To ensure that no other family endures what the Temores family endured, I introduced an amendment to the FY2021 National Defense Authorization Act that includes key changes to the way the Department of Defense (DoD) handles the transportation of fallen heroes and to direct the Department to review the current Casualty Assistance Calls Officer (CACO) procedure in order to make improvements to benefit all military families. Specifically, the amendment seeks to correct the miscommunication between the DoD, airports and transportation agencies in order to ensure survivors do not have to travel excessive distances, or experience undue effort, just to get their loved one home.

I thank my colleagues for voting to pass the NDAA with this amendment. It is a fitting tribute to the memory of Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Oscar Temores that we continue to support our brave servicemembers and to ensure their families receive all the support and respect they deserve.

RECOGNIZING BRET BAIER COMMITMENT TO SERVICE IN JOURNALISM

HON. MICHAEL WALTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and career of news anchor Bret Baier as he celebrates his 50th birthday. Mr. Baier has dedicated many years to hard-hitting journalism and pursuit of conveying hard truths to the American people, often putting his own life on the line in warzones to do so. His informative journalism and steadfast moral compass embody the principles of a true servant leader.

Bret Baier earned his bachelor's degree in Political Science and English from DePauw University in 1992. He made his way into the television scene by working for several news stations from Raleigh, North Carolina, to Rockford, Illinois and Beaufort, South Carolina before sending his audition tape to Fox News in 1998 and serving as the Atlanta bureau's first reporter.

When our nation was attacked on September 11, 2001, Bret didn't shy away from danger. He drove all the way to Arlington, Virginia to cover the attack on the Pentagon. The reporting he did during this time landed him a job as the Pentagon correspondent, covering key national security, intelligence, military, and foreign policy issues. In 5 years time, he covered some of the nation's most impactful national security events, including the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He again did not shy away from danger, reporting from Iraq 12 times and Afghanistan 13 times. Baier has interviewed President Donald Trump, Vice President MIKE PENCE, former President Barack Obama, former President George W. Bush and former Vice President Dick Cheney, traveling with these administrations and top military officials to report in 74 countries.

In 2006, he served as the chief White House correspondent, covering the second term of the Bush administration. He has since covered the political cycles of the 2012 and 2016 elections, moderating five Republican primary debates in 2012 and anchoring three GOP debates for Fox News in the 2016 cycle. Bret currently is Fox News Channel's Chief Political Anchor and the anchor of his own show, "Special Report with Bret Baier." It is worth noting that Special Report is the top-rated cable news program in its timeslot and consistently one of the top five shows in cable news.

In a world defined by political division, Baier is known and respected as a straight shooter. His accolades include the 2016 Kenneth Y. Tomlinson Award for Outstanding Journalism by the Robert Novak Journalism Fellowship Program, the 2017 Sol Taishoff Award for Excellence in Broadcast Journalism by the National Press Foundation, and the 2018 Urbino

Press Award by the Municipality of Urbino. He is a New York Times bestselling author, a loving father to his two sons Daniel and Paul, and a devoted husband to his wife Amy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the career and lifelong servant leadership of Bret Baier. It is with great pride that we thank him for his service and wish him continued health and happiness with his friends, family, and loved ones. We hope his 50th birthday is filled with joy, love, and peace. Here's to many more.

HONORING SERGEANT JUSTIN DAVIS

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Justin Davis of the Martinsburg Police Department as he receives the Law Enforcement Medal of Valor in recognition of his distinguished service to the citizens of Blair County. Awarded by the Blair County District Attorney, the Law Enforcement Medal of Valor is presented for extraordinary acts of valor and heroism.

On the evening of February 26, 2020, Sergeant Davis stopped a vehicle in Martinsburg Borough. The suspects began high-speed chase, which took place for 1.4 miles reaching speeds of nearly 100 mph. Though the suspects attempted to flee, Sergeant Davis skillfully apprehended both of them. As a result of the arrest, the police found suspected heroin and a loaded .380 pistol in the defendants' possession. A search warrant of the vehicle yielded plastic bags, two scales, and approximately 15 grams of raw heroin.

Today, we commend Sergeant Davis for his unflinching courage, commitment to duty, outstanding tactical expertise, and communication in this dangerous situation. His actions have made Martinsburg Borough and Blair County a safer community.

For his valiant actions in the highest traditions of Law Enforcement and the Martinsburg Police Department, the Medal of Valor is bestowed upon Sergeant Justin Davis.

It is my sincere pleasure and privilege to honor Sergeant Davis as he receives this highest award. On behalf of the 13th District of Pennsylvania, I thank Sergeant Davis for his commitment to our community and congratulate him on his many achievements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and I missed the following roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call 139, NAY on Roll Call 140, and NAY on Roll Call 162.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF HUMMELSTOWN CHIEF OF POLICE WILLIAM RYAN

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I'm truly honored to congratulate Chief William Ryan upon his retirement on July 31, 2020, from a distinguished career in law enforcement. Chief Ryan has dedicated nearly 35 years to Southeast PA and the Hummelstown Borough Police Department (HBPD), and I'm proud to recognize his exceptional career here today.

Bill Ryan became a Hummelstown Police Officer in 1992, after five years with the George Mason University Police Department. Early in his career, he developed the "Witch Watch" program that organized high school volunteers to patrol for safety issues during Halloween, and keep trick-or-treaters safe. In 1994, he formed the Hummelstown Neighborhood Crime Watch Group, encouraging community volunteers to patrol the Borough on weekends. By 1995, he was promoted to Corporal, and approached the then-chief with the idea of teaching DARE in the Lower Dauphin School District. He continued to organize events, like the National Night Out for Hummelstown, and the infamous "Turkey Bowl"—first a football game, and later a bowling tournament between law enforcement and local schoolteachers to support the local food bank.

In 1996, Bill was promoted to Sergeant, and subsequently Detective, serving as the HBPD criminal investigator. Just a year later, he began teaching DARE at the Lower Dauphin Middle School, which continued for 17 years, forming lasting connections with students and teachers alike—many of whom still refer to him as "Sergeant Ryan" and hold dear their memories of him from those classes.

In 1997, Bill joined the Capital Region Forensic Unit, responsible for the collection of evidence in serious, high profile crimes. That same year, he completed the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency Crime Prevention Course, and joined the County child abuse multidisciplinary team. In 1998, he appeared in a DUI training/public service announcement, which was shown Nationwide.

In 1999, Bill was named PA Police Officer of the Year by the American Legion, and was named Officer of the Year for the Northeast Region—and the National runner-up. He also began teaching at the Harrisburg Area Community College Police Academy, and in 2001, joined the Dauphin County Child Abduction Response Team.

By 2008, Bill was honored with a Career Service Award from the Dauphin County Chiefs of Police Association. He continued to teach the DARE program, and taught his final class in 2013. In 2014, he was awarded the PA VFW John Radko Gold Medal. Finally, in 2016, he earned his highest rank, and was named Acting Chief of Hummelstown Police Department.

Bill was known for ending his e-mails with, "Be safe, stay sharp, and make good decisions," and every phone call with, "Peace"—something we pray for everyday for those who stand on the Thin Blue Line.

Madam Speaker, Chief William Ryan has served with distinction the Borough of

Hummelstown, the HYPD, and our surrounding communities. He is a great credit to the Commonwealth and the Nation, and his legacy of servant-leadership and law enforcement excellence sets the standard for all to follow.

TESTIMONY ON THE ROBERT E.
LEE STATUE REMOVAL ACT

HON. ANTHONY G. BROWN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following testimony, per Mitch Landrieu, who testified in support of my bill, H.R. 970, the Robert E. Lee Statue Removal Act, at the House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands legislative hearing on July 21, 2020. The testimony addresses Confederate statues and symbols on public lands.

I want to thank Chair HAALAND, Ranking Member YOUNG, and the other Members of the Subcommittee for the opportunity to discuss the important matter of Confederate symbols. It is a pleasure to be with you this morning.

My name is Mitch Landrieu I am the president and founder of a social impact organization called E Pluribus Unum, named after our nation's founding motto. Our goal is to help advance racial and economic equity in the South. I also served as mayor of the city of New Orleans from 2010 to 2018 and Louisiana's Lieutenant Governor from 2004 to 2010.

As many of you know, as mayor of New Orleans, I removed four Confederate statues from public land, with a process that started in 2015 and ended in May of 2017, with the removal of a Robert E. Lee statue from the city's most prominent circle.

That process helped reintroduce historical facts and a more proper telling of the history of how and why many of these statues or monuments were put up in the first place.

The historic record is clear, most statues of Confederate leaders were erected not just to honor these men, but as part of the movement which became known as The Cult of the Lost Cause.

The Lost Cause had one goal—through monuments and other means—rewrite his-

tory to hide the truth, which is that the Confederacy was on the wrong side of humanity. It sought to continue to oppress Black Americans.

James W. Loewen, a retired University of Vermont professor, and the author of *Lies Across America: What Our Historic Sites Get Wrong*, put it succinctly in a Washington Post op-ed: "The Confederates won with the pen (and the noose) what they could not win on the battlefield: the cause of white supremacy and the dominant understanding of what the war was all about. We are still digging ourselves out from under the misinformation they spread, which has manifested in our public monuments and our history books."

According to the work of the Southern Poverty Law Center, there are some 700 Confederate memorial monuments and statues erected well after the Civil War. There are over 1000 streets, buildings and other markers named after Confederate leaders. According to their research, "two distinct periods saw a significant rise in the dedication of monuments and other symbols. The first began around 1900, amid the period in which states were enacting Jim Crow laws to disenfranchise the newly freed African Americans and re-segregate society. This spike lasted well into the 1920s, a period that saw a dramatic resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan, which had been born in the immediate aftermath of the Civil War. The second spike began in the early 1950s and lasted through the 1960s, as the civil rights movement led to a backlash among segregationists. These two periods also coincided with the 50th and 100th anniversaries of the Civil War."

In summary, the South lost the war and a group of people got together and decided that they were going to adorn the country with monuments that revered those who fought on behalf of a cause that was lost, which they wanted to make seem noble. It was a propaganda campaign of epic proportions.

You see, these statues are not just stone and metal. They are not just innocent remembrances of a benign history. These monuments purposefully celebrate and perpetuate a fictional, sanitized Confederacy; ignoring the death, the enslavement, and the terror that it actually stood for.

The truth is they were fighting for the right to own and sell black human beings.

History cannot be changed. It cannot be moved like a statue. What is done is done. The Civil War is over, and the Confederacy lost. We are all the better for it.

But in this, the 20th year of the 21st century, we should not debate whether the

United States of America should revere the Confederacy. It is self-evident that these men did not fight for the United States of America. They fought to destroy it. They may have been warriors, but they were not patriots.

Ultimately, as a country, we must grapple with a simple notion—there is a difference between remembrance of history and reverence of it.

To literally put the Confederacy on a pedestal is an inaccurate recitation of our full past, it is an affront to our present, and it is a bad prescription for our future. It ensures that all that our fellow brothers and sisters once fought to end will still continue.

As President George W. Bush said at the dedication ceremony for the National Museum of African American History & Culture, "A great nation does not hide its history. It faces its flaws and corrects them."

Members, you now have an opportunity to do your part correct this past. This is an important first step.

Let me close with a plea to your humanity.

I noted in a speech upon removing the monuments that a friend asked me to consider these monuments from the perspective of an African American mother or father trying to explain to their fifth grade daughter who Robert E. Lee is and why he is revered with a statue.

Can any of you look into her eyes and convince her that Robert E. Lee is there to encourage her? Do you think she will feel inspired and hopeful? Do these monuments help her see a future with limitless potential? Have you ever thought that if her potential is limited, yours is too?

We all know the answer to these very simple questions. When you look into this child's eyes is the moment when the searing truth comes into focus. This is the moment when we know what is right and what we must do.

We cannot continue to walk away from this truth. We must remove these Confederate symbols that dirty the soil of our beloved country. Once that is done, we can better confront the racist systems that have divided us by design for generations and get us closer to that more perfect union we all aspire to be.

Thank you.

Mitchell J. Landrieu

Founder and President, E Pluribus Unum

Former Mayor, City of New Orleans (2010-2018)