

expand the Food Stamp Program. Millions of people in America who may not remember his name will not go hungry today because of George—and others half a world away are alive and whose children are alive because of his service from Food for Peace from 1961 to 2001, when he resigned as ambassador to the U.N. food agency.

His is a dual legacy, of ideas and of so many individuals he brought into politics who stayed to make their own mark.

There was his proposal for tax simplification—lowering rates and closing loopholes—which predated the reform Reagan negotiated with the Democrats by 14 years. The notion is still at the center of campaign conversation today, in the bastardized form Mitt Romney exploits to conceal his giveaways to the wealthy. George would be the first to denounce it; as he once said: “Money made by money should be taxed at the same rate as money made by men.”

Those who enlisted with George in 1972 constitute a legion of significance in our national life, foremost among them the young Yale Law student who was our co-campaign manager in Texas, BM Clinton, along with friend Hillary Rodham. As president, Clinton would cast himself as a centrist Democrat, and George sometimes thought he was wrong, for example, on gay rights and the Defense of Marriage Act. (Clinton now thinks he was wrong too.) But George was also fiercely loyal to Clinton and quietly proud that he had started out in the McGovern campaign, in one of the toughest and most hopeless states.

I have been fortunate. Two leaders were at the center of my life in politics. I was graced by their friendship and the privilege of a place in their campaigns and their causes. Ted Kennedy was the greatest senator in a century, and maybe ever. George McGovern served in the Senate for a little more than a third as long, but he too had a singular greatness. He too changed America—and brought us close to the best America.

I will never forget what happened as the 1972 landslide poured in on us. I walked into the candidate’s suite where he was standing over the sink, shaving. His assistant Jeff Smith, who ran the traveling party, was crying. George put down his razor and said: “Jeff, it’s OK. It’s OK. We’ll wake up in the morning and our lives will go on.” Jeff choked back his tears and replied: “That’s easy for you to say.”

It wasn’t, of course. And things weren’t always easy for him, in politics or in a life where he lost two adult children, his daughter Terry and son Steve. He spent his last years without his Eleanor. But he got up in the morning, and for him life didn’t just go on. He made it count, in his youth and his age, in office and out, in victory and defeat.

People close to George admired him because he held himself to a higher standard. We loved him for the person he was.

It has been used as a term of derision, but I will always be proud to be a McGovernite.

TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF JOSEPH WAMPLER

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to Hood River County Sheriff Joe Wampler. My long time friend, Sheriff Wampler is retiring on January 1, 2013, capping a career in law enforcement that dates back to 1973 when he

began working for Hood River County at the age of 19 as a seasonal Marine Deputy. Sheriff Wampler has dedicated nearly four decades to duty, honor and service to the citizens and visitors of Hood River County, Oregon.

Joe began his full-time career in law enforcement in my home town of Hood River as a patrolman with Hood River Police Department, steadily rising through the ranks to that of captain. He was elected sheriff and took office in 1993. At that time, the entire patrol division had four vehicles to share, prompting Sheriff Wampler to institute a vehicle replacement program that endures today. Every deputy on his watch now has their own dedicated vehicle, improving response time and reducing vehicle maintenance.

During Sheriff Wampler’s five terms in office, the agency acquired much needed, specialized equipment to assist with rural law enforcement and search and rescue needs. Today, the office has three airplanes, a snow cat, snow machines, ATV’s, a mobile command vehicle and a mobile command trailer just to name a few.

This equipment has aided the sheriff’s office in numerous search and rescue operations, including a December 2006 mission that gained national attention. Sheriff Wampler led the search effort for three missing climbers on Mt. Hood, personally piloting the department’s Piper Cub airplane to look into one final tip before making the difficult decision, after two weeks of searching, to focus on recovery of the climber’s remains. His personal passion for the residents and visitors of Hood River County is an inspiration.

Additionally, Sheriff Wampler was one of the founding members of Northern Oregon Regional Corrections (NORCOR), the regional jail facility in The Dalles. NORCOR, which opened in 1999, replaced Hood River and Wasco Counties’ aging jail facilities and gave Sherman and Gilliam Counties a dedicated jail. NORCOR gave Hood River County over 40% more jail space with minimal financial impact.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my fellow colleagues join me in recognizing Sheriff Joe Wampler. He has earned the thanks of a grateful nation not only for his dedication to service, but also for his unwavering commitment to his community. Please join me in wishing him a very long and happy retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, due to mechanical difficulties, I was unable to make votes on Monday, December 17, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on both H.R. 4604 and S. 3193.

HONORING THE HONORABLE WILLIAM C. COLEMAN, JR.

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American patriot, an accom-

plished state and national leader and a wonderful personal mentor and friend, William C. Coleman, Jr. passed away on December 13, 2012. With the passing of Bill Coleman, the Central Florida community and our country has lost one of the outstanding figures of our time.

Born in Tennessee, Bill was first introduced to Central Florida when he would frequently visit his grandparents who lived in Lancaster Park. Hours after graduating High School, Bill enlisted in the United States Army.

During World War II, as an Army Paratrooper with the 101st Airborne Division, he landed in France in June of 1944 during the Normandy Invasion behind enemy lines. After his capture and survival as a Prisoner of War, he returned to civilian life. He is the recipient of the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and POW medal. His passion to aid those who served in our nations military never faltered. Bill would make two more jumps into Normandy; one in 1994 and another in 2004 to mark the 50th and 60th Anniversary of D-Day.

Bill enjoyed a successful real estate career and also taught the subject to many at Rollins College as well as launching what has been decades of community service. He was an active member and leader in numerous organizations including the University Club and Republican Party of Florida. In Central Florida, he was a Charter Member of the Tiger Bay Club, a founding Member of the Central Orlando Kiwanis Club and President of the Central Florida Veterans Council. In addition, Bill served as Chairman of the Orange County and Orlando Mayor’s Advisory Council as well as serving as the Central Florida Veterans Memorial Park Foundation’s first President. Countless community organizations and events were successful because of his tireless work and support.

Bill Coleman was elected to the Florida State House of Representatives in 1955 and later served as Florida’s first Secretary of Transportation. At the national level, he was selected by President George W. Bush to serve as United States Commissioner of Public Buildings.

Bill Coleman’s tireless efforts to aid American Veterans were instrumental in securing a new VA Hospital and extensive medical complex in Central Florida scheduled to open next year.

To honor the service and memory of our veterans and military, Bill also helped to lead and support memorial projects to commemorate and recognize their contributions to keeping America free.

While Bill’s family has lost a loved one, I have lost a wonderful friend and mentor. From my very first days in Central Florida 40 years ago, Bill Coleman never stopped assisting or inspiring me. He, more than anyone in the community, helped me be part of numerous civic endeavors, veterans’ programs and Republican Party and leadership positions. For this special guidance, assistance and friendship I will forever be grateful.

As we honor and recognize Bill Coleman’s many life achievements, our sympathy is extended to his wife, Toni, and family. Bill’s passion for our veterans was only exceeded by his love of his wonderful wife and children. They include his sons Kevin and Billy and his daughter Kim as well as eleven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

In closing, my colleagues, I ask you to join me in both paying tribute and recognizing the life and service of William C. Coleman, Jr.

HONORING MR. LEON PAGE

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Leon Page, who passed away last Monday, December 10, 2012.

Mr. Page was a community leader and philanthropist who helped organize Franklin Bank and Trust and served as chairman of the bank's board of directors for 45 years.

In his 90 years of life, Mr. Page helped open and lead what became the largest bank in Franklin, Kentucky, an area I have the privilege of representing in the First Congressional District of Kentucky.

Mr. Page was active in all facets of the community. He was instrumental in industrial development in Franklin and Simpson County and was active in various community organizations. Having served as President for both the Franklin-Simpson Chamber of Commerce and the Franklin Rotary Club, Mr. Page also helped organize the Caveland Girl Scout Council and was treasurer of the Quarterback Club.

Leon Page served on the Kentucky Bankers Association and various boards and councils at Western Kentucky University. He also established a scholarship fund at Western Kentucky University that awards a four-year scholarship to a Franklin-Simpson High School graduate who majors in business each year.

I join the family, friends, and entire Franklin, Kentucky community in mourning the passing of this great man. He demonstrated the best of the values found throughout the First Congressional District of Kentucky. He is someone who, despite his personal success, will best be remembered as inspiring and helping guide others to achieve success for themselves, and a man who graciously gave back to a community that had given him so much.

TRIBUTE TO ABRAM “CAPTAIN” COLES, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a trailblazing first responder from Columbia, South Carolina. Abram “Captain” Coles, Jr. passed away on December 12, 2012, at the age of 87. He devoted 35 years of service to the Columbia Fire Department that he helped integrate, and this remarkable man will be sorely missed.

Abram Coles, Jr. was born July 7, 1925 in Hopkins, South Carolina to Abram and Patsy Gunter Coles. He was educated in the public schools of Richland County and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Columbia in 1943.

After graduation, Abram was inducted into the U.S. Navy and served from 1943 to 1946.

One of the highlights of his tour of duty was accompanying General Patton on his return from Europe to the United States.

After completing his military service, Abram enrolled at Benedict College in Columbia, and graduated in 1951 with a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry. In 1953, he became one of the original eight African Americans to join the Columbia Fire Department. He was assigned to the Harden Street Fire Station. While employed as a fireman, he taught classes and rose through the ranks to become the first African-American Captain in Columbia.

Abram was also very active in many professional organizations including the South Carolina Firefighters Association, and was the 2002 President of the Retired Columbia Firefighter's Association. He was also a member of the Townsmen's Club of Columbia, where he served as president for several years.

Abram was an avid bridge player and enjoyed gardening and fishing. In his spare time, he painted homes and businesses and enjoyed repairing just about anything.

Abram was baptized at an early age at Zion Benevolent Baptist Church in Hopkins. After relocating to Columbia, he joined First Calvary Baptist Church and served there for many years. Later, he became a member of St. Luke Episcopal Church of Columbia where he served with the men's club until his health declined.

He was married to Lillie Mae Weston for 33 years until her death. In 1988, he married Jacqueline Parks. Abram had one daughter, four grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary contributions of this ordinary man. I, like so many others in Columbia, South Carolina, am proud to call Abram Coles, Jr. a friend. He made a lasting impression on his community and all who knew him, and that is a tremendous legacy.

IN MEMORY OF SENATOR DANIEL INOUYE

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Senator DANIEL INOUYE of Hawaii. Senator INOUYE was an extraordinary leader, family man, and American hero. He leaves behind his wife Irene and son Ken, as well as countless friends and constituents who mourn his passing. He was 88.

Senator INOUYE served nobly in World War II and was awarded a Medal of Honor. He then continued to devote his life to our Nation and the State of Hawaii by becoming the state's first congressman as well as a nine-term senator. He was eventually appointed to the prestigious position of Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and in his work he was always mindful of strengthening our national security and fulfilling our promises to our veterans. Many of my constituents have family and friends in Hawaii, and I know they all directly benefited from his hard work and commitment to the values of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, Senator INOUYE was a model of integrity, courage, and bipartisanship. His

presence will be sorely missed, but I know his memory will inspire our leaders in years to come. I extend my thoughts and prayers to his family and loved ones. I hope they find some comfort in knowing the incredible legacy he leaves behind in hearts across the Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 627 & 628, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on both rollcall votes.

MOROCCAN AUTONOMY PLAN

HON. DAVID RIVERA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. RIVERA. Mr. Speaker, like so many others, I ran for Congress because I believe in the greatness of the American people, the nobility of our national ideals, and the eminence of our principles and rights that have made America that shining city upon a hill.

But there are still many peoples who yearn for freedom and basic human liberties. The Sahrawi people of Western Sahara have been trapped in dreadful and oppressive conditions for over thirty years with the support and enabling of a compromised and corrupt Algerian government and its puppet regime, the Polisario Front.

The Polisario instituted mass kidnappings of Sahrawis from their homes into the Tindouf region in Western Algeria. The majority of these refugees have remained warehoused and imprisoned in Tindouf's sprawling camps for 35 years.

The Polisario partners and collaborates with the likes of Cuba, whose military distributes food in the camps on a quid pro quo basis and “educates” children who have been reportedly stolen from their parents, and Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb.

The Government of Morocco has advanced an Autonomy Plan that does address these issues and provides a clear, simple, transparent and democratic solution to the long drawn out Sahara crisis. This is where America's support should lie.

Mr. Speaker, the United States can and must continue to advance fundamental human rights, freedom and democracy as we, in this chamber, continue to work together for peace, justice, and human dignity in the Western Sahara.

THE MOROCCAN INITIATIVE IN THE WESTERN SAHARA

The Moroccan initiative comes in response to repeated requests of the United Nations Security Council and several of its key members, including the United States, that Morocco propose a solution to this longstanding problem that could facilitate the opening of negotiations for a “just, durable and peaceful” political solution.

After nearly a decade of trying to bring the Polisario and Morocco to agreement to conduct a referendum to determine the territories future, Kofi Annan, then Secretary