

legendary cultural figures of his time—jazz greats Louis Armstrong and Dave Brubeck, as well as comedy giants Lenny Bruce and Mort Sahl at San Francisco's "Hungry i."

An engaging and enthusiastic raconteur, Lewis could entertain with stories of juicy irony from the day's news, or of his time playing slots with Frank Sinatra in Reno, Nevada when the singer was obtaining his divorce from Ava Gardner. His own performing exploits—he sang and played guitar—ended with producing musicals and comedies in graduate school.

Born with a rare cholesterol disorder, Dr. Lewis first entered NIH in 1964 as an in-patient, and was involved in the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institutes' research protocols that led to the discovery of the statin drugs. Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson, named by President Gerald Ford to become head of the National Institutes in 1974, was Lewis's doctor; Lewis was a research patient in Dr. Frederickson's 1967 paper describing the classification of lipoprotein abnormalities in five types. This became known as the "Frederick classification," later adopted as a standard by the World Health Organization in 1972.

A devoted atheist, Dr. Lewis became a minister in the Universal Life Church, Inc., in the 1960s—he liked to joke that he could marry you or bury you—your choice. In 1999, he experienced a lifetime thrill when he met the Dalai Lama at a dinner in Washington, DC. The Lewises had recently visited Lhasa, Tibet and at the dinner presented the Dalai Lama with photographs of Norbulingka, the summer palace from which he escaped the Chinese in March 1959.

Dr. Lewis is survived by his wife of 47 years, Eleanor G. Lewis of Washington, DC, my former Chief of Staff; his son Joseph J. Lewis of Eugene, Oregon, cousin Ruth Lycette, her son and daughter-in-law, Bob and Kathy Lycette of Palo Alto and San Carlos respectively; his cousin in law, Eve DeLanis of Virginia Beach, VA; a sister-in-law, Roberta Foulke and her husband, Robert, of Las Vegas, Nevada, 11 nieces and nephews, and many great nieces and nephews.

#### DYING IN LINES—U.S. VETERANS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Memorial Day, I was at Houston National Cemetery with Texas veterans and their families. They were irate about the allegations against the VA. They want to know what we plan to do about it.

In a July 2012 speech, President Obama said: "I promised to strengthen the VA, and that promise has been kept." Thanks to whistleblowers, we now know that statement is not accurate.

The more we hear about the VA's treatment of veterans, the worse it gets. And over the past few weeks, we have learned that 26 VA facilities nationwide are being investigated for cooking the books, ensuring that the long wait times sick veterans have to endure are hidden from the public. Secret waiting lists, hidden agendas all driven by the greed of those at the highest level of the VA.

Why greed? Why cook the books? Because if wait times are reported low, VA officials receive bonuses. VA workers have allegedly used different tactics and strategies to give the impression that they were meeting the Department's standard of seeing patients between 14 and 30 days.

To promote this lie, the Phoenix VA hospital allegedly had a secret waiting list to conceal delays and wait times. Meanwhile, dozens of patients' conditions worsened, and many died waiting in line. It has been reported that between 1,400 and 1,600 sick veterans had to wait months to see a doctor.

The Phoenix VA was not the only place where fraud took place. In my home State of Texas, it has been reported that the VA officials in San Antonio and Austin purposely manipulated appointment data to hide the long wait times.

According to whistleblower reports, top level VA staff directed workers to "ensure wait times were as close to zero as possible," in other words, juggle the books. He went on:

It's plain and simple common sense . . . If you have a patient who has a delay in diagnosis of any cancer, that cancer did not stop growing while they were waiting for the doctor to see them.

Mr. Speaker, treating our veterans like cattle in line at the stockyards is unacceptable. Our warriors are dying in line.

According to The Daily Beast, a whistleblower in the Texas VA described this as "an organized crime syndicate . . . People up on top are suddenly afraid they may actually be prosecuted, and they're pressuring the little guys down below to cover it all up."

According to the whistleblower, the problem comes from the higher-ups. "If VA directors report long delays, they won't stay a director very long, and they certainly won't get promoted."

"No one is getting rewarded for honesty. They pretty much have to lie; if they don't, they don't go anywhere."

"If one person comes up with a way to cheat on a report to the government and profit from that lie, that's defrauding the government."

"If hundreds of people are defrauding the government, it's a conspiracy, and that's what you've got now, and it runs coast to coast and bottom to top."

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the administration to stop claiming ignorance and blaming lower-level operatives for a scandal that has been driven from higher up. Secretary Shinseki has overseen a Department that has now been called a "criminal syndicate." He should just be fired.

Those money-hungry executives at the VA who engaged in secret illegal activity that has resulted in veterans dying should be treated for what they are—criminals. And those veterans who are still waiting in line should be given waivers to see the private doctor of their choice.

Mr. Speaker, cancer does not wait for government bureaucracy, incom-

petence, and delay. American warriors have died in lands far, far away. But now, other American warriors are dying in the United States, in line, waiting for VA health care. Put those that committed crimes in line for the stockade, and fix the problem.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1215

#### DENOUNCING THE NAME OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE'S WASHINGTON FOOTBALL FRANCHISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, last year, nine Members of this House and I sent a letter to the National Football League Commissioner Roger Goodell, to the Washington, D.C., franchise owner, Dan Snyder, and to the owners of the other 31 National Football League franchises urging an end to the use of the term "redskins" as an NFL franchise name because it is derogatory, it is demeaning, and patently offensive to Native American Indians. While Mr. Snyder did not respond, Mr. Goodell did so in a dismissive manner, calling this racial slur "a unifying force that stands for strength, courage, pride, and respect."

Mr. Speaker, give me a break.

Last week, 50 Senators joined our effort and also sent a letter to the NFL. Mr. Goodell did not respond, but Bruce Allen of the Washington franchise did respond in a dismissive manner, stating that "redskins" is not a derogatory word and claiming that it actually honors Native Americans.

Mr. Speaker, shame on Mr. Allen, shame on Mr. Goodell, and shame on Mr. Snyder for suggesting that "redskins" is a name of honor when, according to Native Americans, it is "the worst thing in the English language you can be called if you are a Native person."

Mr. Snyder, Mr. Goodell, and Mr. Allen have escaped the public lashing that Don Sterling received just weeks ago for his racist remarks on African Americans who play basketball. I believe if the American public knew the history of this derogatory term, they would call on Dan Snyder to change the name or get out of the League.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues the painful and violent past associated with this despicable term. For many of our Native Americans, the word "redskins" is reminiscent of a time when the colonial government engaged in the practice of trading Indian scalps or skins and body parts for bounties.

In 1749, the British bounty was "10 guineas for every Indian taken or killed." In 1755, the lieutenant governor of the Massachusetts Bay Province issued a proclamation calling for the extermination of the Penobscot Indian Nation. The bounty for a male Indian above the age of 12 was 50 pounds,

and his scalp was worth 40 pounds. The bounty for a female Indian of any age and for males under the age of 12 was 25 pounds, while their scalps were worth 20 pounds. In 1863, the reward in Minnesota was \$200 "for every redskin sent to purgatory."

Mr. Speaker, I submit that today, Chief Kirk Francis of the Penobscot Indian Nation declared that the word "redskins" is "not just a racial slur or a derogatory term," but a painful "reminder of one of the most gruesome acts of ethnic cleansing ever committed against" his people. The hunting and killing of Native American Indians, as stated by Chief Francis, was "a most despicable and disgraceful act of genocide." This photo depicts what genocide looks like, Mr. Speaker, and I want to share this photo with my colleagues.

So, while scalping is a matter of historical debate, Mr. Snyder's response to this disgraceful act is indicative of the racist history behind the Washington franchise's name. Its founder, George Preston Marshall, is identified by historians as the driving force behind the color barrier that existed for 12 years in the National Football League, a sad commentary or chapter from 1934 to 1945, when African Americans were banned from the National Football League by a so-called "gentleman's agreement." For years, Mr. Marshall marketed the Washington, D.C., franchise to appeal to the segregated South. The band played "Dixie," the Confederate flag flew, and after the NFL's color line was crossed in 1946, the Washington, D.C., franchise was the last team to field an African American player—and not until 1962.

I might add, Mr. Speaker, that the Washington team did not welcome African American players with open arms. Oh, no. Then-Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall and Attorney General Robert Kennedy presented the Washington franchise with an ultimatum: unless Marshall signed an African American player, the government would revoke his franchise's 30-year lease on the use of the D.C. stadium.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot simply continue these hateful traditions that mock, belittle, disparage, and disgrace those of a different race because of the color of their skin. The National Basketball Association recently reacted swiftly to Mr. Don Sterling's racist remarks. Why is the National Football League so hesitant? Why is Mr. Snyder so slow to do the right thing when some 6 million of his own people's skins were used for lampshades by the Nazi Germans during World War II? Shame on Mr. Snyder for perpetuating this racism and bigotry. He should know better and do better.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day.

In these days after Memorial Day, we thank You again for the ultimate sacrifices of so many of our citizen-ancestors. Bless their families with Your consolation. Bless as well the men and women who serve our Nation this day in our Armed Forces. May they and their families be assured of our deep gratitude for their service.

O God, You have blessed every person with the full measure of Your grace and given us the bounty of Your spirit. Lead us this day in the ways of peace. We pray for peace in our hearts, that we will be freed from selfishness or envy, that we will replace any enmity with goodwill, and hatred with charity, so we might lead lives of generosity and kindness.

May there be peace in our world among all nations. May each nation sense its shared destiny in a new spirit of hope and trust, one with another.

Help us to be men and women without excuse, and may all that we do this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TAKANO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### THE UNFOLDING SCANDAL AT THE VA

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as the unfolding scandal at the VA demonstrates, the administration has a

standard playbook for dealing with an unfolding PR disaster:

The first step is to say the President learned about the situation on the news and is madder than anyone else about it;

Step two is to declare an investigation underway;

Step three is to implore us all to wait patiently for the always slow investigation to be completed;

Step four is to declare the scandal old news.

The underlying theme is that we must allow the bureaucratic machinery to sort out the problems, and we must not interfere with the process.

Mr. Speaker, Samuel Johnson once said that patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel, but in our political culture today, process is the last refuge of those who seek to avoid true accountability.

#### IN SUPPORT OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, RETIRED GENERAL ERIC K. SHINSEKI

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

Mr. FALCOMA. Mr. Speaker, as a Vietnam veteran, I rise today to offer my strong support for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, General Eric Shinseki.

Since taking over the VA, General Shinseki has made veterans a top priority, enrolling over 2 million new veterans from our wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and reducing veteran homelessness by about 24 percent.

With new reports of coverups at VA facilities, the Secretary has also called for an independent review and nationwide audit, giving his word that he will do all he can to fix a system that was broken long before he took over.

So let us stand together to do right by our veterans. General Shinseki is right for America's veterans. He is a tried and proven leader, the highest ranked Asian Pacific American in the history of the United States, who told our Nation the truth about Iraq when no one would listen. He will now tell us the truth about the VA. And once the independent review and audit is completed, he will hold accountable any and all who have done our veterans wrong.

I say this to Secretary Shinseki: Do not resign. We are with you. Go for broke. And let's clean up this mess that had been there way before you took over.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO ZACHARY VALSECCHI

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, a firm education prepares America's children for lifelong success.