

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY and Congressman DONALD PAYNE for hosting this important Special Order. I appreciate your leadership in organizing this important discussion.

I would also like to thank Chairman BUTTERFIELD and Assistant Leader CLYBURN for their continued leadership and dedication to fighting racism and racial bias.

Tonight's special order is particularly important because of recent high profile events that have forced our nation to reflect on race.

Our nation continues to grieve those lost in the terrible tragedy at Mother Emmanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston, S.C. and my thoughts and prayer remain with their families.

In the wake of this senseless tragedy, Americans all over the country are asking: why do we still celebrate the Confederate battle flag? The confederate battle flag is a true symbol of hate and discrimination.

Late Wednesday night, as the South Carolina legislature debated bringing down the Confederate battle flag that had flown over its statehouse, Congressman KEN CALVERT, a Republican from California, introduced an amendment—in the dark of night—to allow for the sale and display of this symbol of hate in our national parks and federal cemeteries.

That's simply outrageous—this symbol of hate has no place at these federal landmarks. It's past time that we put away these symbols of hate and division.

It's past time that we confront America's long and dark history of racism and work to address the legacy of slavery, Jim Crow and institutional racism that continue to disadvantage too many African American families.

Now I grew up in El Paso, TX and I remember vividly Jim Crow. I remember the segregated schools and separate drinking fountains. I wasn't able to go to the Plaza Theatre with my white and Latino friends—because I was black.

Thankfully, those days of legal segregation have ended but in many ways, we know that segregation and the wounds of racism still persist.

And the Confederate battle flag is a symbol of that hate and racism. It is a symbol that only serves to divide us and that never should have existed.

From its conception, the confederate battle flag has represented white supremacy, and oppression.

In the words of William Thompson, the designer of the confederate battle flag, "As a people we are fighting to maintain the Heaven-ordained supremacy of the white man over the inferior or colored race. A white flag would stand fourth our southern cross, preserving in beautiful contrast the red white and blue"

He continues by saying ". . . it would soon take rank among the proudest ensigns of the nations, and be hailed by the civilized world as the White Man's Flag."

Mr. Speaker—I could not have put it more plainly.

This flag means hate—it always has and always will.

The intent for the confederate battle flag was to create a symbol that will remind the whole world of white supremacy, discrimination, and opposition to America.

It was also the banner under which millions fought against the preservation of our great union.

Under this flag, the Ku Klux Klan; a terrorist organization solely devoted to promoting hate and white supremacy, would unlawfully lynch blacks and burn churches to the ground.

Under this banner, lawmakers instituted laws that established and preserved segregation for generations.

And Dylann Roof looked to the flag as his guiding symbol that legitimized his actions: the murder of 9 peaceful parishioners looking to develop a deeper connection with God and their community.

Mr. Speaker—enough is enough. This symbol of hate has no place in our society—it's past time to take it down.

However, it is not enough to simply take it down. We must get serious about deconstructing the system that the Confederate battle flag represents—a system designed to close off economic opportunity for African Americans. It's past time that we get serious about ensuring liberty and justice for all.

To start, we must pass Congressman BENNIE THOMPSON's resolution to bring down the Confederate battle flag from our nation's Capital. This is a common sense step and I urge the House Administration Committee to quickly move on his legislation.

We can and must do more to put away hate and ensure justice for all.

We must start by creating good-paying jobs that are open to all Americans.

In my role as co-chair of the CBC Task Force on Poverty and the Economy and Chair of the Democratic Whip's Task Force on Poverty, Income Inequality, and Opportunity, I am proud to be working with more than 100 of my colleagues, to advance policies that give all Americans—a fair shot.

This work includes working to pass the Pathways out of Poverty Act (H.R. 2721), which I am proud to have introduced this Congress. This legislation is a comprehensive approach to address poverty in America that starts by creating good-paying jobs that empower families to build pathways out of poverty.

We also need to raise the minimum wage—and fight for a living wage because no one working full time should live in poverty.

To that end, I am proud to be a cosponsor of Congressman AL GREEN'S The Original Living Wage Act (H.R. 122) and Congressman SCOTT'S Raise the Wage Act (H.R. 2150) to

increase paychecks for families living on the edge.

We also need to fight against the disparities that persist in our health care system. The Affordable Care Act was a good start but more is needed.

For years, the Congressional tri-caucus has championed this effort by introducing The Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA). Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY will have the honor of introducing this important legislation this Congress and I am proud to co-lead this effort as co-chair of the CAPAC Health Task Force. This legislation builds on the Affordable Care Act and puts us on track to eliminate health disparities in our country.

Lastly, we need criminal justice reform. For too long we have ignored the systemic racial bias that's endemic in our criminal justice institutions and which has created an entire "missing generation" of black men.

That is why Congress should pass the bipartisan Stop Militarizing Law Enforcement Act (H.R. 1232), which I am a proud cosponsor of, to stop the militarization of our nation's police forces.

We need to pass the Police Accountability Act (H.R. 1102) and the Grand Jury Reform Act (H.R. 429) so we can ensure that deadly force cases are heard by a judge and there is more accountability among police officers.

Mr. Speaker—we have the legislation before us to start ending systemic poverty and injustice in America—let's call a vote and pass these bills.

It's time that we get serious about deconstructing the institutions that have oppressed millions and denied them and their families' opportunity to live the American dream.

But first, we must take down the Confederate battle flag—a symbol of those biased institutions.

A symbol of hate—

Of racism and

Of treason.

Mr. Speaker—it's past time to take it down.

RECOGNIZING THE TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE APACHES' 2015 NJCAA DIVISION III WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is an extraordinary privilege of extending recognition to a team winning, not merely a state or conference championship, but a national title, not for the first time, but for the second year in a row. Once again, the Tyler Junior College Apaches Baseball Team has achieved national prominence by winning the 2015 NJCAA Division III World Series baseball tournament.

This back to back national title is the third national baseball championship title for Tyler

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Junior College, and marks the fifty-second national championship for TJC since athletics was first organized at the school back in the 1940s.

The TJC Apaches traveled to Kinston, North Carolina along with a host of devoted Apache fans, where the doggedly tenacious team defeated Joliet (Illinois) Junior College with a final score of 10–9. They never lost sight of their unified goal of capturing another national title for TJC. The TJC Apaches pushed onward with unmitigated perseverance and determination, despite a season wrought with weather related delays and cancellations.

A tremendously skilled coaching and administrative staff helped lead the Apaches to another consecutive victory. Those individuals include Head Baseball Coach Doug Wren (NJCAA Div. III Baseball Coach of the Year); Assistant Coaches Chad Sherman, Taylor White, and Trent Buchhorn.

The exceptionally talented, resolute, relentless national championship team is comprised of Zane Ancell, Austin Ballew, Cody Brown (Tournament MVP), Landon Brune, Jace Campbell, Derek Clemons (Tournament Elite Hitter & All-Tournament Team), Aaron Clemons (All-Tournament Team), Michael Crews, Manny Galvan, Jonathan Groff, Jacob Hickman, Chantz Holland, Tim Hunter, Jimmy Johnson, Garrett Johnston, Alex Masotto (All-Tournament Team), AJ Merkel, Chandler Muckleroy, Brady O'Borski, Zane Otten, Jared Pauley, Gunnar Quick, Reese Read, Taylor Rich, Drew Robertson, Adan Ross, Reid Russell, Sam Sitton, Weston Smart, Travis Smith, Brady Usherwood, Jace Vines, and Brandon Webb (All-Tournament Team). Of course, every great team needs assistance to round out and hold them together as a team and keep them physically on the field playing, and that help came in the very able assistance of Training Staff Eddy McGuire, Jeff Derrick, Spenser Deeken, Lynsee Jistel, and Nathan Tanaka; and Student Support Staff consisting of Chad Cunningham and Justin Doelitsch.

Without question, there is a long legacy of academic and athletic achievement at Tyler Junior College, even as it continues to reach new levels of prestige under the meticulous leadership of TJC President Dr. L. Michael Metke; Athletic Director Dr. Tim Drain; Assistant Athletic Director Chuck Smith; Athletic Department Coordinator M. Angela Clemons; and Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Juan Mejia.

One must also recognize the unwavering support of the players' families, Tyler Junior College alumni, faculty, staff members, and the entire East Texas community. Without this remarkably loyal support system, the Apaches' road to back-to-back national championships would have been a much more difficult journey.

It is with great pride that I join the constituents of the First District of Texas in congratulating the players and athletic staff of the 2015 NJCAA Division III World Series National Champions, the TJC Apaches Baseball Team, whose legacy is now recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

RECOGNIZING GOTEMBA, JAPAN ON ITS 55TH ANNIVERSARY AS CHAMBERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA'S SISTER CITY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Gotemba, Japan on the occasion of its 55th year as Chambersburg, Pennsylvania's Sister City.

In 1958 the Gotemba City Assembly took the first step in creating an exciting international bond when it voted to establish a Sister City relationship with Chambersburg, PA. With a vibrant population of nearly 89,000 people and a picturesque location near the base of Mt. Fuji, Gotemba has been an extraordinary partner and gracious host.

Originally presented as an opportunity for building friendships and exchanging ideas and cultural interests, this arrangement has created long-lasting connections and spurred experiences that any international city would be lucky to have.

Long after the first personal contact by citizens of Chambersburg visiting Gotemba occurred in April, 1960, our friendship remains strong. It is my honor to help welcome the Gotemba citizens and highlight their 2015 visit to Chambersburg, as it is not only the first of its kind in a decade but also marks the 55th year of our unique relationship. Additionally, I would like to recognize those who have built and maintained the Sister City status, for they have made this milestone and all of its positive impacts on both of our communities possible.

Today I am proud to celebrate the 55 years Chambersburg and Gotemba have shared as Sister Cities and wish this international union endless success in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BREVARD SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE COUNCIL

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, small businesses are the backbone of our economy and have historically created the bulk of new jobs in America. Wherever and whenever efforts are undertaken to encourage small business development and entrepreneurship, we make our economy stronger and provide new opportunities to hard working Americans and their families. One such organization dedicated to this cause is the Brevard Small Business Assistance Council (BSBAC).

Founded in 1985, BSBAC is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting the growth of small businesses in Brevard County, Florida, by providing networking opportunities, learning and coordinating advocacy on issues that influence businesses in Brevard County. Some of its members include Brevard County's local governments and chambers of commerce, banks, legal offices, the federal government and many prime contractors for the Air Force and NASA.

On August 1, 2015 the Brevard Small Business Assistance Council will achieve a great milestone in its life and celebrate its 30th Anniversary.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating BSBAC for their successful efforts over the past 30 years to support local business development, and salute their continued commitment to enhancing commercial and government procurement opportunities for Brevard County and Florida's small businesses.

RECOGNIZING KEN "KENNY" STABLER OAKLAND RAIDER LEGEND ON HIS PASSING

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with Congressman JIM COSTA of California, and Congressman BRADLEY BYRNE of Alabama to recognize Oakland Raider legend Kenny Stabler on the occasion of his passing away from colon cancer on July 9, 2015 at the age of 69.

After playing football at the University of Alabama, Stabler joined the Oakland Raiders and was their quarterback during the franchise's glory years from 1970–1979.

In his time as the Raiders' starting quarterback, Stabler compiled a record of 69–26–1, was named to the Pro Bowl four times, earned NFL MVP honors in 1974, and won a Super Bowl in 1977. He was one of the most accurate passers in football and revolutionized the quarterback position with his mobility in an illustrious career that also included stops with the Houston Oilers (1980–1981) and New Orleans Saints (1982–1984).

More than any statistics or records, (which were impressive enough in their own right), Stabler was a clutch performer who was cool under pressure. Nicknamed "the Snake," he embodied the toughness, grit, yet fun-loving spirit that epitomized the Silver and Black during a storied era.

Stabler was at the helm for some of the NFL's most iconic moments including the "Sea of Hands" completion to Clarence Davis to defeat the Miami Dolphins in the 1974 playoffs, the "Ghost to the Post" to Dave Casper leading to a victory against the Baltimore Colts in the 1977 playoffs, and the "Holy Roller" fumble he initiated to secure a victory over their AFC West rival San Diego Chargers in 1978.

In fact, NFL Hall of Fame Coach and Commentator John Madden said that if he could only have one quarterback in all of NFL history to lead a final game-winning drive, it would undoubtedly be Kenny Stabler.

Kenny's Commitment to Excellence with Pride and Poise was truly extraordinary. Along with Congressman COSTA and Congressman BYRNE, I want to acknowledge him for his stellar career and pass along my condolences to his family, friends, and the Oakland Raiders franchise.