

When my son Burns was young, my husband and I took him to the Martin Luther King Historic Site in Atlanta. As we moved through the exhibits we came across the photographs of fire hoses in Birmingham, the 16th Street Baptist Church, Governor Wallace standing in the Schoolhouse Door and the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Burns stood still as the truth of his family's past washed over him. He turned to me and asked, 'Why did Paw Paw do those things to other people? I realized that at that moment I was at a crossroad in my life and the life of my son. The mantle had passed, and it was now up to me to do for Burns what my father never did for me. It was the first step in my journey of building a legacy of my own. I knelt down beside my son, drew him close and said, 'Paw Paw never told me why he did those things, but I know that he was wrong. So maybe it will just have to be up to me and you to help make things right.'

Standing here before you today is yet another day for the fulfillment of the promise that I made to my son. For today and for all the tomorrows to come there are opportunities for all of us to raise the call for justice in our lifetime.

Montgomery, Alabama, Dexter Avenue and the State Capitol are enshrined in the annals of American history. A historic place for historic times. But for me, it is much more personal, for it brings to mind the events that shaped my life.

It was here that I attended four inaugurations of my father and one of my mother.

It was here that I heard my father say the words "segregation now, segregation tomorrow and segregation forever."

It was here that my father fought to support a culture of exclusion, riding on the wings of fear rather than seeking justice on the wings of eagles.

It was here that my mother Governor Lurleen Wallace lay in state following her death at the age of 41 while thousands of Alabamians both white and African American stood in line for hours to pay their last respects.

It was here that my father met Vivian Malone for the second time and told her that she was an icon of the civil right movement.

It was at the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Church that my father went to ask for forgiveness for his racist past. A moment that could not rewrite his personal history but an opportunity brought about by my father's own suffering that allowed him to see the hurt of history in the eyes of African American men and women who had been denied the right to live the American Dream.

But on March the 25th of 1965, as Ralph Abernathy, Juanita Abernathy, Martin Luther King and thousands more gathered in the shadow of this Capitol, there was never an opportunity to address their concerns or state their grievances to the one person who could have changed the course of American History then and there. For Governor Wallace watched through a window in the privacy of his office, while others persevered and changed the history of America without him.

Today, we must not allow others to make the right choices for us. We must have courage each day to stand up for equality and the rights of all Americans. We must lead by example and live our lives with inspiration, always aspiring to make the choices that lead us to higher ground, that guides us to understanding and purpose of not just who we are but who we can become. An opportunity for each of you, an obligation for all of us, to see others, feel others and celebrate others, respecting their humanity for who they are.

Working each day to inspire the nobility that lies in the heart of each of us, Martin

Luther King taught that there is power in all of us to reach out, to support and stand firm in the belief that all of our lives count for something. There is no better time than now for Americans to hold hands, rather than holding down, the inherent rights of the common man.

One can never measure the true worth of a mended heart that beats again because someone cared. How many more anniversaries of the struggle for civil rights can we celebrate by looking over our shoulder rather than standing shoulder to shoulder to face the challenges that lay ahead? How can Americans reach for higher ground if we do not inspire others with what we do? We cannot expect the next generation of Americans to do something to change the world, if we aspire to do nothing to protect liberty and recognize our individual obligations to service.

How can we teach future generations about positive social change if we see injustice and turn our backs? For injustice knows no death. It rises like a dark mist on the horizon, laying low in the hearts of those that are unwilling to accept the notion of unconditional love.

We must promise that when we say all men are created equal, it means something, protects something and encourages us to embrace the belief that the diversity among us has nothing to do with equality, but has everything to do with strength. Tolerance must be more than what we believe, it must be what we live and leading by example is what we must do. Tolerance does not always mean agreement, but tolerance always requires understanding and compassion for others.

Very few of us will have monuments built to honor us after we are gone, but ALL OF US can do monumental things each day to help America be better. Those moments in Selma yesterday will stand as a testament to all of our lives. For there is power in moving forward, there is joy in an unburdened heart and there is strength in stepping away from beneath the shadows of your lives.

I sometimes wonder what my mother and father would think of their daughter that stands here today, and my mind's eye returns to a wood framed house on Eufaula Street in Clayton, Alabama, when life was uncomplicated and happiness was something you lived not something you just hoped for. And my father would smile at me and say "little girl, you're doing just fine, I sure am proud of you."

But for today, I am most thankful for the life and inspiration of Congressman John Lewis.

Congressman Lewis, in March of 2009 you held my hand and walked with me across the Edmund Pettus Bridge; the very bridge where, as a young man, you were beaten by Alabama State Troopers. That walk with you helped me understand the power of forgiveness and gave me the courage to speak with my own voice. Since that time I have looked for an opportunity to return, in some small measure, the gift of love and understanding you gave to me.

Fifty years ago, you stood here in front of your State Capitol and sought an opportunity as a citizen of Alabama to be recognized and heard by your Governor and he refused. But today, as his daughter and as a person of my own, I want to do for you what my father should have done and recognize you for your humanity and for your dignity as a child of God, as a person of goodwill and character and as a fellow Alabamian and say "Welcome Home."

TRIBUTE TO MS. DORIS WELLS

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, Ms. Doris Wells' service to DeKalb County can be seen in the programs instituted in the Public Library System in our district; and

Whereas, her dedicated service touched the lives of many in our district from the moment she was hired as the first African American employee for the DeKalb County Library System in 1974, she has innovated the service of the Wesley Chapel-William C. Brown Library by introducing programs such as the Kwanzaa Awareness Festival and the Jubilee of Reading Adult Book Club Conference; and

Whereas, this remarkable, positive woman gave of herself, her time and her talent; educating and assisting those in need; and

Whereas, she led by example as the manager of the Scott Candler Library and the Wesley Chapel-William C. Brown Library; she was dedicated to her family, community, her church Clifton United Methodist Church and her beloved Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; and

Whereas, this virtuous Proverbs 31 woman was a mother, a daughter, a friend, a warrior, a matriarch, and a woman of great integrity; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow a Congressional recognition on Ms. Doris Wells for her leadership, friendship and service to all of the citizens in Georgia and throughout the Nation; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby attest to the 114th Congress that Ms. Doris Wells of DeKalb County, Georgia is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Honor": Ms. Doris Wells, U.S. Citizen of Distinction in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 4th day of March, 2015.

A TRIBUTE TO NICK ACKERMAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Nick Ackerman for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Nick has the determination and drive to be successful in all that he does. At the American

Prosthetics & Orthotics Inc., Nick works as a technician, where he is passionate in providing prosthetic limbs for those in need. Nick's commitment to his work is evident in his philanthropic activities. As a member of the Amputee Golf Association he assists annually in a golf event to raise money for charity. Nick also organizes a Wounded Warrior softball game for veterans of our military. In all aspects of his life, Nick gives his full effort; it is that effort and dedication that makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Nick in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Nick on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, on February 27, 2015, I was unable to vote on roll call votes 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, and 105. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on Ordering the Previous Question for H. Res. 129, "yea" on H. Res. 129, "yea" on the Motion to Request a Conference on H.R. 240, "nay" on Approving the Journal, "yea" on H.J. Res. 35, and "nay" on a Motion to Instruct Conference on H.R. 240.

Mr. Speaker, on March 16, 2015, I was unable to vote on roll call votes 113, 114, and 115. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 647, "yea" on H.R. 648, and "yea" on H.R. 876.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. NANCY McDARMET

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nancy McDarmet on her retirement after 40 years of working for the Tule River Tribe and its members.

Ms. McDarmet was born on March 2, 1947 to Joe Vera and Bonnie Kambick. She has been married to her husband, Willie McDarmet, for over thirty years and is blessed with four children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Around 1968, Ms. McDarmet began her service to the Tule River Tribe in a position with the Tule River Indian Health Center. In September 1974, she went on to work for the Tule River Tribal Council, where she would spend the rest of her career in a variety of different positions. She began as a secretary for the Tule River Tribe, before going on to serve as the Contract and Grant Manager for many years with intermittent terms as both the Secretary of the Tule River Tribal Council and the Acting Tribal Administrator.

After a final two year term as Secretary of the Council and forty years of service to the Tule River Tribe, Ms. McDarmet is retiring.

The Tule River Tribe has been extremely fortunate to have had someone as talented and dedicated as Ms. McDarmet working on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Nancy McDarmet for her 40 years of dedicated service to the Tule River Tribe and congratulating her on her retirement.

LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARDSMEN REMEMBERED

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the lives and service of eleven Guardsmen and Marines who were lost to us on March 10, 2015, when their UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter crashed off the coast of Florida during a training exercise.

The lives of these brave service personnel, who perished while serving our country, are remembered by my colleagues Congressman WALTER JONES of North Carolina and the North Carolina delegation, the state which is home to those Marines who trained at Camp Lejeune, and Congressman JEFF MILLER of Florida and the Florida delegation, the location of the sad incident.

I am joined by the Louisiana delegation on the House floor today to share with our colleagues the memory of our Louisiana Guardsmen, to stand silently in a moment of prayer, and to state for the record the poignant words of Louisiana Adjutant General, Major General Glenn Curtis, who eloquently memorialized the honorable service of our Louisiana Guardsmen in his March 16, 2015, statement, which is submitted for the RECORD herein:

Four Louisiana National Guardsmen from the 1st Assault Helicopter Battalion, 244th Aviation Regiment who died in a training accident, March 10, have been identified.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 George Wayne Griffin Jr., 37; Chief Warrant Officer 4 George David Strother, 44; Staff Sgt. Lance Bergeron, 40; and Staff Sgt. Thomas Florich, 26; died when a UH-60M Black Hawk they were riding on crashed into the Santa Rosa Sound, Florida.

"These Guardsmen represent the best of us," said Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, the adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard. "These are brave men, true men. These Heroes' names will forever be etched on our hearts and in our minds."

Griffin, of Delhi, joined the Louisiana National Guard in 1994. He deployed to Iraq in 2004-2005 and again in 2008-2009. He also served during state deployments during Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Isaac as well as in support of Operations River Guardian and Deepwater Horizon.

Griffin commissioned as a warrant officer in 1999 before going on to become the battalion standardization pilot with over 6,000 flight hours, including more than 1,000 combat hours.

"G Wayne Griffin was born to be an Army Aviator," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Reggie Lane, commander of Detachment 38, Operational Support Airlift Command. "As one of

the most talented and respected Warrant Officers in the Louisiana National Guard, he had a tremendous passion for flying, and a God-given natural ability to fly both helicopters and airplanes and to teach others to be the best aviators and crewmembers that they could be.

"He was a great friend and brother to all. With his loss, there will be a void that may never be filled."

Griffin is survived by his wife, four children and father.

Strother, of Alexandria, served in the Louisiana National Guard from 1988-2007, and again from 2009 until his death. He deployed to Iraq in 2004-2005, Afghanistan in 2011 and Kosovo in 2014. He also served during state deployments for Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Isaac.

Strother commissioned as a warrant officer in 1994 before going on to become an instructor pilot with over 2,400 flight hours, including more than 700 combat hours.

"To describe Dave Strother as a big personality would not be accurate. He was more like a force of nature that could best be observed and marveled at, never opposed or altered," said Maj. Andre Jeansonne, commander, F Co., 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment. "His huge heart touched the lives of all he met."

Strother is survived by his wife, son and step-daughter, and mother.

Bergeron, of Thibodaux, enlisted into the U.S. Marine Corps in 1998 before joining the LANG in 2001 as a Black Hawk repairer. His extensive experience as a qualified enlisted flight instructor, graduate of the aircraft crewmember standardization instructor course, aircraft maintainer course, and warrior leader course made Bergeron a crew chief others aspired to be, according to members of his unit.

The combat veteran deployed to Iraq twice, in 2004-2005 and 2008-2009. Bergeron also served during state deployments for Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Isaac and Operation River Guardian.

According to Sgt. 1st Class Brian Marquez, platoon sergeant, A Co., 1-244th AHB, Bergeron was one of the most qualified crew chiefs in the Guard, with more than 1,300 flight hours, including 377 combat hours.

"Lance was one of the most dedicated crew chiefs that I have ever had the pleasure of serving with during my leadership," Marquez said. "As the senior most standardization crew chief instructor in the Battalion, he was a subject matter expert in his job who exhibited an excitement of learning new skills and educating new unit members on the UH-60 aircraft, pilots and crew chiefs alike."

"Lance was a very family oriented father and husband, and he impacted many in the ranks. He will be greatly missed."

Bergeron is survived by his wife, two children and his parents.

Staff Sgt. Thomas Florich, of Fairfax County, Virginia, enlisted in the LANG in 2007 as a Black Hawk repairer. He was posthumously promoted from sergeant to staff sergeant.

Florich served during state deployments for Operation Deepwater Horizon and Hurricane Isaac. He earned more than 125 flight hours and was a graduate of the warrior leader course.

"Tom was full of life, and his personality could light the room," said Marquez. "He was 'family' with unit members and felt at home working with his brothers in Alpha Company. His dedication to duty and loyalty was without equal, always ready to accept any mission and extra duty in order to help the unit meet the mission. He will be greatly missed by the unit and the flight facility."

Florich is survived by his wife, father and stepmother.