

other one, naturalization and getting legal permanent status, continues to be a process. One process doesn't get in front of the line of the other.

I want to go back to one point. At some point, we are going to have to deal with the issue of immigration reform in a constructive, proactive way. And it is going to have to be dealt with because I think the economic security of this country is at stake; the domestic well-being and quality of life for this country is at stake; the economy is at stake; and the security is at stake; and if for no other reason, to look at the benefits of those areas in the discussion of comprehensive immigration reform.

We could continue on the path of making immigration reform and immigrants the cannon fodder in the 2016 election. We could continue to make immigration reform the collateral damage in any piece of legislation that is brought before this Congress, with the assumption that the individuals affected by these laws are not real human beings. We can continue to deny the obvious and the reality of this Nation, that when you have 11 million undocumented living, working amongst us, that the prudent, smart, and pragmatic thing to do is to deal with that issue and not exploit it or ignore it.

We have heard so much pandering to this issue. We have heard of disease being brought to this country, which was proven untrue. The young children that were in detention that came in that surge across the border 6, 7 months ago, their rate of infection was no higher than the rate of infection for children throughout this Nation. We have heard the pandering about terrorism coming over the border. Not one incident has been qualified as fact—that, indeed, that has become a pathway for terrorism.

The issue that somehow it is tearing at what America is, I think that is the most important point that we should take into consideration. “From many, there is one” is the motto that this Nation holds dear to itself, that all of us come here, and that by being here, we began to form this Union of ours, integrating the values, the aspirations, the rule of law, and the history of that Nation in making it one.

To continue to pretend that we can have a two-tiered society without consequences to the economy and the social well-being of this Nation is wrong. It is wrong for very humane and just reasons, but it is profoundly wrong on what this Nation is and what I learned and all of us have learned this Nation is and will continue to be: a nation founded on the rule of law, a nation founded by immigrants.

I also want to say—and I will say it as delicately and as carefully as I can—that the issue of immigration reform to many people who are citizens—maybe second and third generation whose original folks were immigrants who happened to be of color, who happened to come from a country of origin

where the language and the culture were different from the mainstream of this Nation, whom it integrated fully and who have contributed to the defense and the well-being of this Nation—they feel that the constant drumbeat of accusation, of “it is us versus them,” of division, that this issue not only is an issue of immigration reform for the people who need it and for the Nation that needs it, but it is also an issue of civil rights, that no one should be profiled into a situation where they are less than someone else because of where their parents came from, because of the language that they spoke or the country that they came from or the color of their skin.

That is not America. And we continue to pander to those emotions, fear, as a means to score political points and possibly win an election here and there. That we do it at our own peril.

So for many generations of Americans that have served this country, the issue of immigration strikes us as an issue about our rights, our presence, our history, and our ability to proudly stand with anyone else and be as American as the next person.

With that, I thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey for organizing this, and I thank her for the opportunity that she has granted me to be able to state some things that sometimes the confines of our debates here don't allow us to.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Thank you very much.

I am very grateful to my colleague, the gentleman from Arizona, for sharing his vast knowledge, experience, and dedication to such an important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I am relatively new to this Chamber; but I must tell you that, as I have been working here and observing, I am always reminded of the fact that this is a nation of immigrants. This is a nation that was conceived of by immigrants. It was created by immigrants. It was made great by immigrants because all of our Founding Fathers who are responsible for the way this country operates and the way we operate this democracy came to this land from another land.

According to our polling that has been released by the Public Religion Research Institute in February, 77 percent of the country supports either a pathway to citizenship or permanent legal residency for undocumented immigrants. Only 19 percent want to enforce deportation. Citizenship is also favored over deportation in every single solitary State in this Nation, frequently by very wide margins.

In the last Congress, as my colleague from Arizona noted, the Democratic-led Senate passed legislation that would have provided that pathway for 11 million immigrants seeking the American Dream but currently living in the shadows. That bill also would have strengthened border security, something I hear my Republican colleagues argue about quite frequently.

That measure passed with significant Republican support, 68–32 votes; yet our Speaker, Speaker BOEHNER, declared that that bill was dead on arrival in the House.

It is not just my constituents, it is not just Democrats that know it is time for a change on immigration. The American people are quickly reaching consensus that the American Dream should not be withheld and that there is nothing to fear from those who are seeking it.

The American people are beginning to understand that the absolutely deplorable rhetoric used to keep immigrants in the shadows is just that, rhetoric. The American people are starting to agree that our legacy as a nation of immigrants means that offering the same opportunities to new generations should be the order of the day.

Mr. Speaker, I am calling on my Republican colleagues right now to open the discussion on real immigration reform.

This, as I said, is a nation of immigrants, built by people who came from different worlds, seeking opportunities to change their futures. So we should be having a conversation about how we honor that legacy and protect the promise of the American Dream for a new generation that is ready to work hard, play by the rules, and seize it.

This is not a nation that will thrive by keeping our immigrants in the shadows. This is a nation right now that is just gaining traction and economic growth, with plenty of people still looking for employment and a government too burdened by austerity measures to provide any relief.

So we should be having a conversation about the economic benefits of comprehensive immigration reform and the extraordinary impact it would have on job creation and innovation. It is not just the right thing to do; it is the fiscally right thing to do; it is a morally right thing to do; and it is a timely thing to do.

We need to let go of our excuses and end the scare tactics. Let's get together and pass comprehensive immigration reform right now.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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DESIGNATION OF FUNDING FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114–15)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with language under the heading “Coast Guard, Operating Expenses” of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015

(the “Act”), I hereby designate for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism all funding so designated by the Congress in the Act pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed memorandum from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

BARACK OBAMA.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 4, 2015.

HONORING THE REMARKABLE LIFE OF FATHER THEODORE HESBURGH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the great life of Father Hesburgh.

Today I looked up on Wikipedia some information about Father Hesburgh. It says:

Born: Theodore Martin Hesburgh, May 25, 1917, Syracuse, New York, United States. Died: February 26, 2015 (age 97), Notre Dame, Indiana, United States. Alma mater: The Catholic University of America. Profession: Priest. Religion: Roman Catholic.

And then it shows his signature.

Well, today, in South Bend, Indiana, and on the University of Indiana, flags are flown at halfstaff to honor the passing of a giant among men, a warrior for peace and a champion for civil rights, Father Theodore Hesburgh.

I want you to just think for a minute and let your mind drift to what we will see in the future as a tombstone that is going to have Father Hesburgh’s name, and it is going to say: Born May 25, 1917; died February 26, 2015. And I want you to forget about those two dates and, for a minute, think about the 97 years in between those dates—not just the day Father Hesburgh was born or the day Father Hesburgh died, but the 97 years that Father Hesburgh spent on Earth doing great work because, truly, a man is measured not so much by his years on Earth but what he accomplished while he was here.

For those of us at Notre Dame, I think it is important to go back and think about just who Father Ted was. Father actually passed away last Thursday at 11:30 p.m.

I want you to think about Father Hesburgh’s last day. He rose in the morning. It was very important for him to celebrate Mass, which he did that day. Throughout the course of the day, he wasn’t feeling quite right; but, again, he was 97 years old. That evening, as he was accustomed to do, he smoked a cigar, and then he went to bed. And for whatever reason, he was surrounded by some very good friends, but he was also surrounded by a nun.

Father Hesburgh’s last moments were the recitation of the rosary. Now,

he was very fluent in five different languages. The language that he thought was the most beautiful was the French language, and the rosary was recited in French.

□ 1545

Picture, if you can, a 97-year-old man lying in a bed, friends around him, knowing that something was going to happen, and Father Hesburgh closed his eyes and passed. But think about the glorious moment right after the closing of those eyes. Because in the next instant they were opened, not on Earth, not on the University of Notre Dame, not in a bed where he was a dying old man, but in Heaven, surrounded by all those folks who knew Father Ted, who loved Father Ted, and who have been patiently waiting for his arrival, because that is what we believe. We know that he is at home.

Now, I told you Father Hesburgh was born in Syracuse, New York. He was educated at Notre Dame and at the Gregorian University in Rome, from which he received a bachelor of philosophy degree. He was ordained a priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross in Sacred Heart Church, now the Basilica, on Notre Dame campus in June of 1943.

Earlier today, Mr. Speaker, at 2 o’clock, the funeral mass for Father Hesburgh was held at this very same church, Sacred Heart Basilica on our beautiful and beloved campus. Now, as I stand here, the funeral mass for Father Ted is concluding, and the Notre Dame community will be following Father Ted on St. Mary’s Road out to his final resting place at the Holy Cross Community Cemetery. It will be a sad march, but it will also be a rejoicing march because certainly we miss him, and we are going to miss him, but we rejoice in what he was able to accomplish.

For generations of students at Notre Dame, Father Hesburgh was simply known as Father Ted. That is all—Father Ted. Now, I was one of those people that was fortunate enough to be there when Father Ted was there. And some of my colleagues, I think that PETER KING was there, PETER VISCOSKY was there, KEITH ROTHFUS was there, and my good friend Senator JOE DONNELLY was there. Today Senators DONNELLY and COATS and I wanted to pay tribute to this national treasure by introducing a bicameral resolution to honor the life of this truly amazing man. Father Ted faithfully served Notre Dame for decades. He served as Notre Dame’s president from 1952 to 1987.

Now, I want you to think about what Father Ted has done, because mostly when people talk about Notre Dame, they say, oh, yeah, heck of a football team, and at times we have been very good. But he was able to transition us from not just a team or a little school in the Midwest that was known for the way it played football—and we were originally called the Ramblers. We were not called the Fighting Irish. We

were called the Ramblers because we had no home, and so we kind of had to go around the country to play different teams, so we kind of rambled around the country. We were the Ramblers. Then we adopted the name Fighting Irish, and it was for the very immigrants that came to the university. It was one of those universities that honored the fact that people were coming from all over the world. They were coming to the United States, and there were really not a lot of institutions of higher learning that they could get entrance to. Notre Dame was one of those institutions.

So his leadership at Notre Dame just didn’t stop in South Bend, and it certainly didn’t stop at the university’s gates. His commitment to education and social justice extended way beyond the boundaries of my alma mater and well beyond Indiana and, in fact, well beyond America’s shores. His dedication is one of shared humanity that knew absolutely no bounds.

His strong belief that what unites us is far greater than that which divides us made him a champion of civil discourse and social justice. One only needs to look at a photo that I brought with me today, and in the annals of America, it is hard to look at Dr. King and Father Ted and not look at these two lions for social justice, these two lions for civil rights, to understand that they were locked arm in arm on a mission that they knew had to take place and that they could no longer turn a blind eye or a deaf ear to. That is who Father Ted was. He believed to the very soul of who he was, the very fabric of who this man was, that this is what America needed. He not only preached it, he not only taught it, he lived it.

So this week, Mr. Speaker—and, truly, I think it is almost providential—is the 50th anniversary of the march on Selma’s Edmund Pettus Bridge, commemorates the 50th anniversary. Again, this was called Bloody Sunday. This was in 1965. It is hard for us to imagine that that could have taken place, but it did. In fact, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of it this Saturday. That is what helped secure the passage of the Voting Rights Act so that every American citizen could equally participate in her democratic process. This was a milestone. This just wasn’t something to be marked on a calendar. This was a great event in terms of how we advanced democracy in our country.

Now, as we honor Selma’s legacy this Saturday, I know that the spirits of these two great lions, these people that really stood up and took time to stand up when it wasn’t really easy to stand up and it certainly took a lot of courage, they stood up to what they knew to be right, for what they knew to be true, and for what they knew to be truly American.

Now, as I said earlier, I just can imagine right now that when Father closed his eyes last Thursday night and