

SENATE REPUBLICAN SUPPORT OF
OBAMA'S SUPREME COURT NOMINATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 29, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to urge the Senate Republicans to consider President Obama's Supreme Court nominee. It is disappointing that our democratic process is being so unduly hindered by Senate Republicans who refuse to carry out their basic duties clearly laid out for them in the Constitution. The Constitution clearly informs us that the President has the power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to nominate a successor for open seats in the Supreme Court. The message for Senate Republicans is simple—let the President do his job. It is time to put aside partisan issues and get back to the basics of governing.

In previous years, Supreme Court nominations have been at least considered during an election year; six times in our U.S. history to be exact. So I ask, why change now? If Senate Republicans fail to consider the President's Supreme Court nominee during the current election year, this will be the first time in U.S. history that our Supreme Court will have a vacancy for well over a year. There is simply no legitimate rationale for not giving consideration to the President's nominee once announced. There is an ample amount of time available for the Senate to consider the President's nominee.

The Supreme Court vacancy is a priority that deserves an unbiased hearing and timely vote. Justice and democracy are at stake and there is no time for this kind of divisiveness. Republican Senators have a constitutional obligation to put away partisan issues and fill this vacancy. Senate Republicans, I strongly urge you to fulfil your constitutional duty and consider President Obama's nominee for Supreme Court Justice.

RECOGNIZING BENNETT RICHARD
"BEN" HOUSTON

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 29, 2016

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to recognize the passing of Mr. Bennett Richard "Ben" Houston on February 26th, 2016. Mr. Houston was a beloved and nationally distinguished leader within the livestock industry.

Mr. Houston received many distinct honors throughout his lifetime. He founded the Aristocrat Angus Ranch in 1966, with his wife Nita, where they raised their family. In 1992, Aristocrat Angus Ranch flew Angus seed stock and beef cattle genetics to the Ukraine, establishing them as a leader in the cattle industry.

In addition, Mr. Houston participated in many notable committees and associations. He was elected to the Executive Committee of the Western Stock Show in 1976. He went on to be President in 1985, and ultimately Chairman of the Board in 1999. He was inducted

into the Angus Heritage Foundation, served as a member of the American Angus Association for over 50 years, served as President of the Colorado Cattle Feeders, and was presented with the CSU Leadership in Agriculture Award. Mr. Houston was involved with a number of other organizations, where his limitless knowledge and service will always be remembered.

It is the hard work Mr. Houston embodied throughout his life that makes America exceptional. He has shown true leadership in his industry and community. I extend my deepest sympathies to Mr. Houston's family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Bennett Richard "Ben" Houston for his commitment to family, community, and the livestock industry.

HONORING MATT FRANKS

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 29, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Matt Franks for his outstanding achievement of being named the 2015 United Bowhunters of Missouri Conservation Agent of the Year for the Missouri Department of Conservation Ozark Region. Matt has earned this award after only six years of serving as a Howell County Conservation agent, displaying his exemplary determination and enthusiasm for Wildlife Code enforcement since joining the Conservation Agent Training Academy in 2009.

Matt has exhibited exceptional Wildlife Code enforcement presence throughout his six years as a Howell County Conservation Agent, making 19 arrests related to archery violations in the first two months of the 2015 archery season. In addition to Matt's admirable work ensuring conservation laws are adhered to, he has also served as an influential community leader and role model for local youth.

Matt has led numerous educational-involvement programs for youth over the last year, including bird hunting clinics and youth gigging classes. He has also hosted events for the National Wild Turkey Federation Hunting Heritage Program for young hunters known as Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics and Sportsmanship. Finally, he has served as a judge for Future Farmers of America public speaking contests, and assisted with their trap shooting team.

His involvement and contributions to the Howell County community make Matt an excellent selection for the United Bowhunters of Missouri Conservation Agent of the Year from the Ozark Region. For this award and his outstanding career achievements, it is my pleasure to recognize Matt Franks before the United States House of Representatives.

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF INDIANA AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 29, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the month of February 2016 comes to a close

to recognize a milestone anniversary in the life of Toledo's Indiana Avenue Baptist Church. This month the congregation has been celebrating its 70th anniversary with a series of special gatherings. I was privileged to join the congregation yesterday.

Founded by Reverend M. J. Stephenson in February 1946, the congregation has been shepherded by Reverend John Roberts for more than half a century. Pastor Roberts, in fact, was part of the organizational meeting of the church. Thus, this long standing beacon in our city has been blessed with a continuity of leadership since its beginnings.

Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church's first services in its building were held in its lower level in 1948. An upper level was added twenty years later and since 1980 services have been held in its newer sanctuary. In 1989 a fellowship hall was added which has served the congregation very well, with special focus on activities for youth. The hall bears the name of founding Pastor Stephenson and longtime Pastor Roberts.

Starting with less than 100 members, the congregation of Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church has served over 7,000 people through its seven decades and currently serves about 2,000 people. An anchor in our community, the church serves its faithful while ministering to the needs of its neighbors. One of the wonderful traditions at the church is the Interfaith Mass Choir. The choir's beautiful blend of voices soar in faith-filled praise, lifting up in joy those it reaches through song.

Psalms Chapter 18 Verse 2 tells us, "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." Through the days of its "three-score and ten" years, the shepherds and flock of Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church have lived this truth as their lives have given testament to Jesus' message of love which "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Corinthians 13:7)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 29, 2016

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 85, Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 618—The Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3624—Fraudulent Joinder Prevention Act of 2015, had I been present, I would have voted YES.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 29, 2016

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on February 26, 2016, I was not present for roll call vote 93. Had I been present, I would have voted: YES on roll call vote 93.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
JOHN STEWART BRYAN III

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 29, 2016

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, Congressman DAVE BRAT and I submit these remarks to commemorate the life of John Stewart Bryan who passed away January 23, 2016 at the age of 77.

During Mr. Bryan's more than 50-year career, he worked as a newspaper journalist, served as publisher of four newspapers, the Richmond Times-Dispatch, Richmond News Leader, The Tampa Tribune, and The Tampa Times, and later became the Chairman, President, and Chief Executive of Media General. Mr. Bryan proudly and accurately referred to himself as a "newspaperman."

J. Stewart Bryan III was born on May 4, 1938 in Richmond. A Virginian through and through, he attended St. Christopher's School in Richmond, the Episcopal High School in Alexandria, and the University of Virginia. Afterwards, he served our country as an infantry officer in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Mr. Bryan's accolades were numerous and well deserved. He was awarded honorary doctor of humane letters degrees from Hampden-Sydney College, Emory & Henry College, College of William & Mary, and Randolph-Macon College, and he was inducted as a laureate of the Virginia Communications Hall of Fame and the Richmond Business Hall of Fame. He also received the outstanding service award of the Florida Press Association, the lifetime achievement award of the Virginia Press Association, the Frank Mayborn Leadership Award of the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association, the George Mason Award for significant contributions to the advancement of journalism in Virginia from the Society of Professional Journalists, Virginia Pro Chapter (SPJVA), and the medal of honor of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Moreover, he was well known for supporting, and when necessary staunchly defending, his staff, and he fought steadfastly for the freedom of press.

But perhaps, his career and his passion are best summed up by the Richmond Times-Dispatch in an editorial after his passing: "Stewart Bryan's heart pumped ink. He devoted his life to newspapers. A life devoted to print is a life devoted to time and place. Bryan loved Richmond. He considered The Times-Dispatch and News Leader vehicles of public service. When the press does its job, it improves its surroundings. Bryan may have belonged to a newspaper family but he answered a vocation's call."

He is survived by his wife, Lisa-Margaret "Lissy" Stevenson Bryan: his daughters, Elizabeth Talbott Bryan Maxey "Talbott", and Anna Saulsbury Bryan (Stephen) Sullivan. Five grandchildren: Tennant and Alice Maxey, and Pryor, Stewart, and Harriett Sullivan. Two sisters: Mary Tennant Bryan Perkins and Florence Talbott Bryan Fowlkes.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with the entire Bryan family. Stewart Bryan's dedication to his craft is unmatched and admirable; he will be sorely missed.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 29, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,070,657,293,114.53. We've added \$8,443,780,244,201.45 to our debt in 7 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 29, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, February 26, I was unable to be present for recorded votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted the following on amendments to H.R. 2406, the SHARE Act: "no" on roll call no. 92, the Beyer amendment no. 2; "no" on roll call no. 93, the Jackson Lee amendment; "no" on roll call no. 94, the Beyer amendment no. 8; "yes" on roll call no. 95, the Smith amendment; "yes" on roll call no. 96, the Griffith amendment; "yes" on roll call no. 97, the Ribble amendment; "yes" on roll call no. 98, the Young amendment; "no" on roll call no. 99, Huffman amendment; and "no" on roll call no. 100, the Democratic Motion to Recommit.

I would have voted "yes" on roll call no. 101, final passage of H.R. 2406, the SHARE Act, offered by Mr. WITTMAN. This bill will help ensure access to federal lands for sportsmen, and includes provisions to protect our Second Amendment rights.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 29, 2016

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 86, Adoption of H. Res. 618—The Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3624—Fraudulent Joinder Prevention Act of 2015, had I been present, I would have voted yes.

SEVEN YEARS OF CHANGE THAT
YOU CAN SEE AND FEEL

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 29, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, today is the last day of Black History Month, a time when the nation pauses to remember the contributions of African American men and women that have enriched the fabric of our nation.

That is why it is fitting and proper that we take a moment to recount and appreciate the extraordinary accomplishments of one of the singular figures in American history: President Barack Obama.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who were there remember well that the morning of January 20, 2009 was one of the coldest days on record in Washington, DC.

But it was nothing compared to the chill wind blowing through the American economy and body politic.

The nation was facing economic challenges unseen since the Great Depression: Americans were losing their jobs at a frightening rate of 800,000 per month; the national unemployment rate had risen to 7.8 percent and would continue to climb until reaching its peak of 10.0 percent in October 2009.

For African Americans, the numbers were much grimmer, a jobless rate of 13.5 percent in January 2009 which would grow to 16.5 percent by the end of the year.

And on top of this, tens of thousands of American families each month were losing their health insurance and their homes to foreclosure.

The United States was still bogged down in the quagmire that was the Iraq War and young people by the thousands were being forced to defer or drop out of college because of lack of financial aid.

And the average price of gas exceeded \$4 per gallon.

It was against this backdrop that I watched from the inaugural platform as Barack Obama, surrounded by his radiant and beautiful wife, Michelle, and their two adorable daughters, rose to take the oath of office.

After being sworn in as the nation's 44th President of the United States, President Obama reassured an anxious but hopeful nation, saying:

Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real. They are serious and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this America: They will be met.

Watching Barack Obama address the nation that day, spectators in attendance and viewers across the country and around the world understood they were witnessing a historic president, the first African American ever to hold the nation's highest office.

But more than being a historic president, Barack Obama's actions and leadership over the ensuing seven years would demonstrate his would be a consequential presidency that changed America for the better.

His first and most pressing task was to rescue an economy on the brink of collapse.

Working with the Democratic-controlled Congress, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was passed, which created 3.7 million jobs and saved the jobs of millions of teachers, firefighters, police officers, and social service providers.

The Recovery Act also cut taxes for working families, extended unemployment insurance, and expanded the Earned Income and Child tax credits, which disproportionately benefit African American families.

Seven years later the verdict is in on the economic plan put in place by President Obama and the Democratic Congress.

The Recovery Act ended the Great Recession, transformed the economy from one hemorrhaging jobs to one that has created over 16