

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

million new jobs over a record 71 consecutive months.

The national unemployment rate has dipped under 5% for the first time since President Clinton left office, the deficit has been cut by 71%, and the Dow Jones stock market index topped 18,000 in 2015, an increase of 177% over where it stood the day President Obama took office.

And, as an added benefit, the average price of gasoline has been reduced from more than \$4.11 per gallon to \$1.80, the lowest price since before the tragedy of September 11.

These last seven years also effected policy changes in the areas of criminal justice reform, health and education, national security, and foreign affairs.

A partial listing of these achievements is substantial, impressive, and varied.

President Obama signed the Fair Sentencing Act in August 2010, which reduces the disparity in the amounts of powder cocaine and crack cocaine required for the imposition of mandatory minimum sentences and eliminates the mandatory minimum sentence for simple possession of crack cocaine.

In July 2015, President Obama became the first president ever to tour a federal prison when he visited the El Reno Federal Correctional Institution outside of Oklahoma City.

President Obama launched the Smart on Crime initiative through which the Department of Justice modified its charging policies for certain federal low-level drug-related offenses, improved diversion and re-entry policies, and strengthened protections for the most vulnerable.

President Obama established Smart on Juvenile Justice grant program to expand the use of effective community-based alternatives to youth detention and launched the Second Chance Pell Pilot Program for incarcerated individuals to test new models to allow incarcerated Americans to receive Pell Grants and pursue the postsecondary education with the goal of helping them get jobs, support their families, and turn their lives around.

President Obama directed the Office of Personnel Management to take action where it can to "ban the box" by modifying its rules to delay inquiries into criminal history until later in the hiring process and called on Congress to enact legislation "banning the box" on job applications in the private sector.

President Obama increased the use of body-worn cameras through \$20 million in grants to state and local law enforcement.

President Obama issued an Executive Order to increase the capacity of VA mental-health programs by hiring 1,600 more mental-health professionals and expanding the capacity of the Veterans Crisis Line.

President Obama provided nearly \$60 billion in benefit payments under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill to over 1.5 million individuals and relaxed the evidence requirements for veterans seeking disability pay for post-traumatic stress disorder with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

President Obama acted to reduce gun violence by issuing executive orders requiring background checks for people trying to buy some of the most dangerous weapons and other items through a trust or corporation and an overhaul of the background check system to make it more efficient and effective.

President Obama signed into law the Affordable Care Act passed by the Democratic Congress which has provided access to quality,

affordable health insurance to nearly 20 million previously uninsured Americans.

President Obama launched the "My Brother's Keeper" Initiative in 2014 to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color and ensure that all young people can reach their full potential.

In October 2009, Congress passed and President Obama signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, historic legislation extending coverage of federal hate-crime law to include attacks based on the victim's race, religion, nationality, or actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

President Obama established the new Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy for young undocumented people who came to the U.S. as children in an effort to better focus enforcement resources.

President Obama expanded opportunity for America's children by strengthening Head Start.

President Obama made college more affordable by increasing Pell grants, keeping interest rates on student loans low, and helping students manageably repay their loans.

President Obama signed the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act, which made historic investments in improved child nutrition and health for the 31 million children who rely on school meals and updated science-based school meal standards to increase fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean protein and low-fat dairy, while reducing fats and sodium.

In December 2010, the Congress passed and President Obama signed the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010 into law, allowing gay men and women to serve openly and with integrity in the U.S. military.

President Obama also made history by appointing two women to the U.S. Supreme Court, including the first Hispanic American to serve on the Court.

President Obama appointed the first African American man and woman to serve as Attorney General and the first woman to Chair the Federal Reserve Board.

In the area of foreign affairs and national security, President Obama ended the Iraq War, assembled and led an international coalition to impose sanctions so crippling on Iran that it was forced to the negotiating table that yielded the Iran Nuclear Agreement that prevents Iran from ever attaining a nuclear weapon.

And of course, as the world knows, because of President Obama's leadership, General Motors is alive and Osama Bin Laden is dead.

For seven years, President Barack Obama has represented our country with grace, integrity, honor, and distinction.

He has provided consolation, hope, and healing in the face of unspeakable tragedies such as the massacre of innocent children at Sandy Hook, worshippers at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, spectators at the Boston Marathon, and mass shootings in Aurora, Colorado and Tucson, Arizona.

He expressed and symbolized our joy and pride in the progress made over the last half century—and the distance we still have to travel—when he marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge and addressed the multitude from the spot on the steps where the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. shared his dream for America's future.

So as President Obama serves the final year of his presidency, it is clear beyond doubt

that he kept the promise he made to the nation seven years ago on that cold day in January when he said:

Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real. . . . But know this America: They will be met.

They were more than just met; under his leadership they were overcome with amazing grace.

And because of President Barack Obama, today the United States is stronger, more prosperous, and better positioned than ever to win the future.

As a presidential candidate in 2008, then Senator Obama promised the America people "change you can believe in."

In office, President Obama made good on that promise, delivering positive change that the American people can see and feel.

And that is what makes his one of the most consequential presidencies in American history.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 29, 2016

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Friday, February 26, 2016 due to important events being held in our district in Houston and Harris County, Texas.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 2

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine S. 2446, to amend subtitle D of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to encourage recovery and beneficial use of coal combustion residuals and establish requirements for the proper management and disposal of coal combustion residuals that are protective of human health and the environment, S. 1479, to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response,