

2017. Had I been present for roll call vote number 88, ordering the previous question of H. Res. 99, I would have voted yea. Had I been present for roll call vote number 89, Adoption of H. Res. 99, the combined rule providing for consideration of H.R. 428—Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act and of H.J. Res. 42—Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to drug testing of unemployment compensation applicants, I would have voted yea. Had I been present for roll call vote number 90, ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 116—I would have voted yea. Had I been present for roll call vote number 91, Adoption of H. Res. 116—The combined rule providing for consideration of H.J. Res. 66—Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by States for non-governmental employees and of H.J. Res. 67—Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by qualified State political subdivisions for non-governmental employees, I would have voted yea.

PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU VISIT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, President Donald Trump warmly welcomed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the White House today on his first official state visit of the new Administration. Under the leadership of President Donald Trump and Vice President MIKE PENCE, I am confident that this visit will leave no doubt that the United States stands firmly with our ally, Israel.

Throughout his campaign and since being sworn in as President, Donald Trump has made it a priority to stand up for Israel and promote peace in the Middle East, specifically, by opposing growing Iranian aggression. Just last week, the President swiftly imposed strong sanctions on Iranian officials for testing yet another intercontinental ballistic missile to threaten American families with death.

I look forward to working with President Trump to show our support for Israel and I appreciate that he has appointed Governor Nikki Haley as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, where she will be a strong voice for American families.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism. God Bless Benjamin Netanyahu, a dynamic leader of peace through strength.

TRIBUTE TO BILL C. HUNTER

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take a moment to pay tribute to Bill Hunter, the father of one of my long-time staff. I did not have the privilege of knowing

Bill personally. However, I know how deeply he was loved and how greatly he is missed. I offer my condolences to his family as they both mourn his loss and celebrate his life after his home-going on January 17th of this year.

Known to many as Hunter, Bill was raised in West Texas and embodied many classic American traits—Independent, driven, and fiercely loyal. His childhood was not easy, and it engendered in him his lifelong drive to work hard, fight for the underdog, and aid those in need. Bill lost his father when he was only 5, causing him to grow up early to help his mother pay the bills, whether as a paperboy, grocery clerk, or telegram courier. He recalled how it was cold in West Texas and his family couldn't make the gas payment. So, at only 7, he biked a paper route around 5 in the morning and then wore his cold, wet shoes the remainder of the day at school just to do his part. Bill put himself through college at Texas Tech and law school at Southern Methodist University. Key accomplishments for a boy from Monahans, Texas.

Bill lived, loved, and practiced law for over 50 years. Legal adversaries and allies agree that Bill was a brilliant attorney and a formidable opponent who earned the respect of his peers for his innovative legal arguments and his vigorous advocacy for his clients. Bill was tough as nails but soft as a kitten. He could aggressively fight a bully in court or quietly teach Sunday school or speak in silly voices to show his pets how much he cared for them. Bill deeply enjoyed providing high-caliber legal assistance to those who couldn't afford it. However, he didn't announce his efforts to help others. Rather, his family and friends learned of his extensive pro bono work when community members would share how much Bill had helped, be it the staff of his favorite restaurant or the workers at his retirement village.

Dallas was Bill's true home. He was President of the Dallas School Board, a member of Highland Park Presbyterian Church, a part-owner of the ABA basketball team the Dallas Chaparrals, a frequenter of Dallas' wonderful museums, and an avid Cowboys fan. He loved God and his family. He was very proud of his children and delighted in watching his grandchildren and step-grandchildren grow.

Bill leaves behind many who loved him: his wife, Pati, her 5 children and 5 grandchildren; his three children—Sam, Chris, and Jill, and his 9 grandchildren; and hundreds of attorneys, judge and friends who know that Dallas and the legal community lost an important member.

Although I did not know Bill personally, I know how much his family and community miss him. I imagine that his family can take comfort in knowing that Bill can still enjoy many of his favorite past times in heaven—engaging in some healthy arguments with St. Peter, listening to country music, whistling some tunes to pass the time, working challenging crossword puzzles, laughing at clever comic strips, or, most importantly, watching his beloved Cowboys.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call votes 89, 90 and 91 on February 14, 2017.

I missed these votes while attending the swearing-in ceremony at the White House for VA Secretary Shulkin.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 89, YEA on Roll Call No. 90, and YEA on Roll Call No. 91.

RECOGNIZING MR. ROBERT MILLER

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Robert Miller's retirement after a lifetime of service to the state of Colorado and the United States.

Bob Miller has dedicated his life to the pursuit of justice and order in our country. Bob received his Juris Doctor from the University of Colorado in 1965. He then worked 51 years in the legal profession as the first full-time District Attorney of Weld County, the U.S. Attorney for the District of Colorado, and an equity partner at Perkins Coie LLP. In addition to his work in the legal profession, he also served our nation as a member of the United States Air Force.

Besides his incredibly successful career, Bob Miller is most proud to have raised his family in Greeley, Colorado. In fact, his fondest memory is of watching his son, now Assistant District Attorney of Weld County, succeed in cracking a horrendous murder cold case.

Though he is stepping down as a partner at Perkins Coie LLP, Mr. Miller will continue to serve the people in a consulting role with the firm. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Robert Miller for his accomplishments.

HONORING THE NAACP FOR 108 YEARS OF REMARKABLE SERVICE AND EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 108th anniversary of the oldest, largest, most historic and most influential civil rights organizations in the United States, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, known to all simply as the NAACP.

The NAACP is the oldest, largest, most historic and most influential civil rights organizations in the United States.

First organized in 1905, the group was known as the Niagara Movement when members began meeting at a hotel situated on the Canadian side of the Niagara Falls.

Members of the group had to meet in Canada because American hotels in Niagara Falls were segregated.

Under the leadership of the Harvard-educated scholar, the great W.E.B. Du Bois, the group would later be known as the National Negro Committee before finally adopting the name by which it has been known for the last 106 years—the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, or NAACP—at its second conference in 1910.

The first official meeting was held in 1909 exactly 108 years ago this past Sunday: February 12, the centennial of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln.

The mission of the association was clearly delineated in its charter:

To promote equality of rights and to eradicate caste or race prejudice among the citizens of the United States;

To advance the interest of colored citizens; to secure for them impartial suffrage; and

To increase their opportunities for securing justice in the courts, education for the children, employment according to their ability, and complete equality before law.

Mr. Speaker, for more than a century, the NAACP has stayed true to its charter and championed the cause of justice and equality in America.

It has fought valiantly and tirelessly on behalf of African-Americans and others to secure their civil rights and liberties and the full measure of justice and equality for all.

At a time when African-Americans were treated as second-class citizens and the scourge of slavery was still rampant, the NAACP emerged to ensure that the rights, interests and voices of African-Americans did not go unheard.

During World War I, the NAACP successfully campaigned for African Americans to be commissioned as officers in the army, resulting in President Woodrow Wilson commissioning 600 African American officers.

During World War II, the NAACP persuaded the administration of President Franklin Roosevelt to issue an executive order banning racial discrimination in war-related industries and federal employment.

In 1948, President Harry Truman became the first president to formally address the NAACP and he worked with the NAACP in appointing a commission to study and offer ideas to improve civil rights and equality of opportunity for all persons in the United States.

The NAACP's close relationship with President Truman helped to influence him to issue Executive Order 9981, which desegregated the United States Armed Services by announcing the new "policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin," and that this policy be put into effect as rapidly as possible.

Mr. Speaker, the NAACP was perhaps the leading member of the "Big Six"—the coalition of religious, labor and civil rights organizations that organized and staged on August 28, 1963 the historic March on Washington, the most famous act of peaceful protest in our nation's history.

Other members of the Big Six were the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC); the National Urban League; Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC); the International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car

Porters; and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).

The March on Washington was a seminal event in our nation's history and awakened Americans of goodwill to the urgent need to rededicate ourselves to the great unfinished task of making real the promise of America for all Americans, especially African Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the current president of the NAACP is Cornell William Brooks and the Board Chairman is Roslyn M. Brock; through the years, the NAACP has been led by some of bold, visionary, and effective leaders, including:

Walter White;

Roy Wilkins;

Benjamin Hooks;

Benjamin Chavis;

Merlie Evers-Williams, widow of Medgar Evers;

Kweisi Mfume;

Bruce S. Gordon; and

Benjamin Todd Jealous.

Mr. Speaker, America would be a very different place were it not for the brilliance of the NAACP's Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., the legendary Director of the Washington Bureau from 1950 to 1978.

So effective was Clarence Mitchell in the campaigns to win passage of civil rights laws, including the 1957 Civil Rights Act, the 1960 Civil Rights Act, the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the 1965 Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968, that his sobriquet was the "101st Senator."

The NAACP is perhaps best known for the practice pioneered by the legendary Charles Hamilton Houston and Thurgood Marshall of "impact litigation," the strategy of bringing carefully selected cases to court to establish legal precedents of beneficially affecting thousands, and frequently millions, of persons beyond the immediate parties to the case.

Among the historic victories won by NAACP lawyers are:

1. 1940—Chambers v. Florida, which established that confessions obtained as the result of police coercion are inadmissible at trial;

2. 1944—Smith v. Allwright, which outlawed the South's "white primary";

3. 1948—Shelley v. Kraemer, which ruled racially restrictive covenants and unconstitutional and legally unenforceable;

4. 1950—Sweatt v. Painter and McLaurin v. Oklahoma State Regents, which, held that separate law and graduate school are inherently unequal and thus unconstitutional;

5. 1954—Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, landmark case overruling separate but equal doctrine of Plessy v. Ferguson; and

6. 1956—Browder v. Gayle, which outlawed the practice of racial segregation on buses and led to the end of the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair for the Congressional Children's Caucus, I am especially concerned with fair access to quality education for today's youth and am personally grateful to the NAACP for its leadership in winning the greatest legal victory for civil rights in American history, the 1954 landmark decision in Brown v. Board of Education, 347 U.S. 483 (1954), in which the Supreme Court struck down de jure segregation in elementary schools.

NAACP General Counsel Thurgood Marshall, who would later become the first African American Solicitor General and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, forcefully argued

and persuaded the Court to rule unanimously that in the field of public education, "separate but equal" was inherently unequal.

That decision gave hope to millions of Americans that their children might enjoy the full promise of America that had been denied their forebears for more than three centuries.

Mr. Speaker, the NAACP remains committed to achieving its goals through non-violence, the legal process, and moral and political suasion, and through direct actions such as marches, demonstrations, and boycotts to give voice to the hopes and aspirations of African-Americans and others who lack the power to make their voices heard.

There is still a need for justice and equal treatment for African Americans and other vulnerable populations in our country, and thankfully, we still have a vibrant NAACP to advocate their cause and fight for their interests.

I am grateful for the many battles for equality that the NAACP organization has fought and won, and thankful that the NAACP will be there in the future to wage the fight for justice wherever and whenever justice needs a champion.

Happy 108th birthday, NAACP, and thank you for all you have done to make our country better.

TRIBUTE TO THE EAGLE HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SECOND GRADE CLASS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD some very special words of advice for our nation's 45th President, Donald Trump. These are words of welcome and advice from the students of Eagle Heights Elementary School's second grade class in Clinton, Iowa.

As their teacher Wendy Jennings notes, "My second grade class has been following the election and your road to becoming our new president. They were interested in the important things: the name of your son, the color of your ties, if you would use the bowling alley in the White House, why other grown-ups made mean faces when you were speaking and the fact you always smile. It has been fun to watch all of this through their eyes."

These following letters I include in the RECORD were hand written by each group of the seven and eight year olds in the class. I regret that I cannot include the wonderful artwork each student drew at the top of their notes. They drew American Flags, airplanes, hearts, houses, bowling alleys, and some pretty good drawings of our new president.

Please enjoy the wisdom and advice of these students, in their own words.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT TRUMP

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I watched you become President. You have a beautiful wife. My teacher loved her blue dress. What does it look like in the White House? Is it beautiful? If I was President I would fix cancer.

Love, LILLIAN ASSAY.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: My class watched your speech last week. When I watched your speech one man did not like what you said. I still love you. Oh! Your family is so sweet.

Love, VENELEA DUNCAN.