

Nothing would do more to reassure the American people that the President-Elect is committed to unifying the nation than the nomination and appointment of a person to be Attorney General who has a record of championing and protecting, rather than opposing and undermining, the precious right to vote; the constitutionally guaranteed right of privacy, criminal justice reform, and support for reform of the nation's immigration system so that it is fair and humane.

Regrettably, Sen. JEFF SESSIONS of Alabama is not that person and he should not be confirmed by the Senate to be the nation's 84th Attorney General.

REVEREND PAUL MARTIN
KWIATKOWSKI

HON. MARCY KAPTUR
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 13, 2017

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Reverend Paul Kwiatkowski, who passed away in early December.

Rev. Kwiatkowski was known throughout Northwest Ohio for his intellect, humor, knowledge, and empathy. Ordained a priest at St. Peter Basilica in Rome in 1964, Father Kwiatkowski has dedicated his entire life to serving the people in parishes at Our Lady of Lourdes, Holy Spirit Seminary, St. James, Immaculate Conception, and St. Hedwig in Toledo, as well as St. Mary Parish in Bluffton and St. Joseph Parish in Maumee. St. Hedwig is notable as Father Kwiatkowski's great-grandfather was one of the original bricklayers of the church in 1891. He was incredibly dedicated to the parishes and the communities he served, a truth highlighted in Rev. Kwiatkowski's presence as a violinist with the Perrysburg Symphony for 45 years.

As many parents do, Rev. Kwiatkowski's parents, Ted and Evelyn, knew he was musically inclined from a young age. Few parents experience the joy of knowing their child is also inclined to serve others. When neighborhood children gathered to play, Rev. Kwiatkowski often pretended to be their priest. His dream was realized when he enrolled in seminary studies at St. Meinrad Seminary in Indiana and the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

His devotion to people and his community led him to accept a teaching position at his alma mater, Central Catholic High School, after his retirement. Father Kwiatkowski's parishioners, students, family and friends, were buoyed by the joy and fellowship he brought into their lives each and every day. For many who knew him, the first words to describe the Reverend would be "fun" and "compassionate." A man with a bright, infectious spirit, Father Kwiatkowski will be dearly missed. He was an institution unto himself in Northwest Ohio, and will long be remembered as such.

In every parish community he served, Father Paul left a neighborhood and his church property in an improved condition. Buildings were restored, streets paved, festivals established, church celebrations enhanced. He was gifted and kind.

As a fellow Polish-American, I will remember his participation every Memorial Day at the Veterans' Mass at Mt. Carmel Cemetery in To-

ledo. He arranged for an organ to be brought on site, he played the violin as his vestments blew in the soft spring breeze, he distributed communion to the gathered worshippers who were dressed so royally for the solemn occasion. Fr. Paul made each occasion beautiful and worthy of the people he served. He was an extraordinary diocese priest who cared and shepherded his flock with great love.

JAMES "BIMBO" BREWER

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 13, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the loss of a Northeast Georgian whose voice has touched tens of thousands in the Ninth District.

To the Hall County community James "Bimbo" Brewer was known as a cheerful radio personality. For many years, his personality and storytelling brought happiness and entertainment to not only those who tuned in to his show, but also to those who were close to him.

"Bimbo" was a dedicated servant to the people of Gainesville. He volunteered as deacon at his church and later joined the Hall County Sheriff's Office, where he worked as an advocate for crime victims and their families.

In that role, Bimbo walked with many Hall County citizens through the trials and heartbreak that fall on the victims of violent crimes. Reverend Bill Couch of the First Baptist Church of Gainesville said it best when he described "Bimbo" as someone who "no matter how traumatic the scene . . . was strong and dependable."

The Ninth District of Georgia will always remember this encouraging, steadfast member of our community. Mr. Speaker, I ask that we all keep his loved ones in our thoughts and prayers in the coming days, as we reflect on Bimbo's many contributions to our corner of Georgia.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. DAVID SHULKIN

HON. JOE WILSON
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 13, 2017

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on January 11th, President-elect Donald Trump nominated Dr. David Shulkin to serve as the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Dr. Shulkin has served as the undersecretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs for Health since June 2015. Having seen the inner-workings of the Department of Veterans Affairs, he is an excellent candidate to reform the department and serve the needs of our veterans.

President-elect Donald Trump said that he has "no doubt Dr. Shulkin will be able to lead the turnaround our Department of Veterans Affairs needs. His sole mandate will be to serve our veterans and restore the level of care we owe to our brave men and women in the mili-

tary. Dr. Shulkin has the experience and the vision to ensure we will meet the healthcare needs of every veteran."

I am confident in the appointment of Dr. David Shulkin and I look forward to working with him in this new role. He will continue the promotion of positive reforms by former House Veterans Affairs Chairman Jeff Miller of Florida.

In conclusion, God Bless our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

SUPPORT FOR ACA—THE STORY OF ONE ALABAMIAN

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 13, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, More than 20 million Americans woke up today with the security of health coverage they didn't have 8 years ago. Of the Americans who stand to lose their health insurance under the GOP repeal plan, 82 percent are from working families, including 150,000 enrollees in my State of Alabama.

Despite facts, Republicans have done a remarkable job convincing the American people, even those who are on the exchanges, that the ACA only benefits people who don't work. They perpetuate the tired fallacy that ACA, Medicaid, and even Medicare recipients are living off the government without contributing to our economy.

Mr. Speaker, this brings me to a story about Hank Adcock. Hank is a life-long farmer who has been working on his family farm in Alabama for the majority of his 62 years. Back in 2015, his hands got stuck in a hay baler and he lost his right hand. Before the ACA, Hank's family hadn't had health coverage since the 1980s. His ACA policy ended up covering his entire hospital bill, which he says could have cost him his farm if he hadn't had insurance. If the farming work that Hank, his wife, Sharon, and their children have committed their lives to isn't enough to qualify as "hard work" to my Republican friends, then I suggest we let Hank and Sharon come up here to Washington while we all go down to North Alabama to trade jobs for a few days.

The ACA is far from perfect. This is why I have worked across the aisle to try to make meaningful changes to the ACA that don't compromise the law's benefits. But after 7 years of engaging in a fact-free, taxpayer-funded crusade against the ACA, the GOP should have a stellar replacement plan that we can all agree on.

Every member in this body has constituents who have insurance because of the ACA. While I understand that the law is unpopular in many districts across the country, political expediency has no place in this hallowed body, especially when the economy and American lives are at stake.

The American people deserve a Congress that will work together to fix what's wrong with the ACA and build upon what's working. We need to work towards increased access, market stabilization and cost reduction. I stand ready to work with my colleagues to achieve these goals and protect the millions of Americans who like Hank were at one time just one medical emergency away from financial ruin.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 13, 2017

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll call votes 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, and 54, I was not present because of an urgent family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted: on Roll Call Vote 46: AYE, on Roll Call Vote 47: AYE, on Roll Call Vote 48: AYE, on Roll Call Vote 49: AYE, on Roll Call Vote 50: AYE, on Roll Call Vote 51: NAY, on Roll Call Vote 52: NAY, on Roll Call Vote 53: AYE, on Roll Call Vote 54: NAY.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 13, 2017

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 12, 2017, I erroneously voted “yes” on roll call vote 52, an amendment to H.R. 238 offered by Mr. Conaway of Texas. I intended to vote “no” on the amendment.

HONORING RUFUS SAMES FOR HIS TIRELESS WORK TO BETTER THE LIVES OF MAINERS

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 13, 2017

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a tireless advocate in my state who is retiring after nearly two decades of working to improve the lives of his fellow Mainers.

In 1997, Rufus Sames began his 19-year career with the Maine Department of Labor, starting as a Claims Taker and ending as a Labor Program Specialist. Through it all, he has lifted the burdens of claimants, employers, and advocates with prompt help, good information, and a deep understanding of the stresses individuals and families face navigating the maze of benefits following job loss and transition.

For years, whenever my staff has had a question about unemployment benefits in my state, Rufus was there to respond, often with a message sent in the wee hours of the morning when he arrived at his desk at the crack of dawn. He has been tireless, good-hearted, efficient, and effective, and will be missed immeasurably.

Public servants like Rufus are unsung heroes. He has touched many lives with his can-do spirit and deep commitment to serving the people of Maine.

I wish him all the best in his retirement and thank him wholeheartedly.

TRIBUTE TO THREE POWER LINEMEN VOLUNTEERS

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 13, 2017

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three of my constituents, Mr. Anthony Spaeth, Mr. Lucas Bakken, and Mr. Troy Seter, who volunteered three weeks of their time to build and upgrade power lines in Haiti. They work for Lake Region Electric Cooperative in Pelican Rapids, MN.

These men decided to put their skills to work as power linemen in an area that desperately needs help. They were selected and sent to Haiti by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International, a non-profit development corporation which helps build energy distribution infrastructure in regions of need.

Mr. Spaeth, Mr. Bakken, and Mr. Seter worked side-by-side with NRECA International on the U.S. Agency for International Development-funded Pilot Project for Sustainable Electricity Distribution in Haiti. This project is commercializing power from the Caracol Industrial Park generation station that is currently serving more than 10,000 Haitians in Caracol, a community in northern Haiti. These volunteers provided their expertise to NRECA International to eventually connect 20,000 Haitians in the local area with electricity.

Only thirteen percent of Haitians currently have access to electricity. This alarming statistic provided an opportunity for these three men to impact the lives of thousands of Haitians who depend on reliable electricity for health care services, education, and economic expansion. Today, I urge lawmakers to join me in commanding Mr. Anthony Spaeth, Mr. Lucas Bakken, and Mr. Troy Seter for their service.

RECOGNIZING SIGNIFICANCE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 13, 2017

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, January 16, 2017, our nation will signify the tremendous life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Each year, on the third Monday in January, we remember and celebrate a man who led a non-violent movement that urged our country to become more fair and more just and provide equal opportunity for all.

As our nation honors the life of Dr. King, I call to mind his statement, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: what are you doing for others?”

This year, on what would have been his eighty-eighth birthday, countless people in my home state of Ohio are answering his call to serve by advocating for civil rights and greater access and equal opportunity at the ballot box, inspiring the next generation of community and national leaders, helping the sick, elderly, and poor and many more profound acts of service.

Like Dr. King, they understand the power and impact of service—not just on our com-

munity and State, but on our entire country and across the world. We all need to be more and do more for others and to promote unity and peace. This is of what Dr. King dreamed.

Because this day isn’t meant to be a “day off,” it is meant to be a “day on”: a day on of service.

In that spirit, as we celebrate the thirty-first MLK Day of Service, I challenge all Americans to make a difference in their community.

Indeed, that is how we can best honor Dr. King’s legacy and how we make his dream—where we are not judged by the color of our skin, but by the content of our character—a reality for all people.

Happy Birthday Dr. King. He should be pleased his legacy endures.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 13, 2017

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Black Panther Party.

Originally called The Black Panther Party for Self Defense, the Party was founded in 1966 by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale in response to the wide-spread poverty, lack of economic and educational opportunities, and police oppression experienced by the African American community in Oakland, California.

Promoting the idea of “All Power to the People”, and unwilling to wait for the political and social leaders of the time to address the needs of the African American community, the Panthers took action themselves to force change and bring about liberation from all forms of human exploitation and oppression.

The most immediate need that the Party addressed was the rampant abuse of power by the police, and they soon began undertaking patrols and holding rallies to highlight incidents of police brutality throughout the East Bay. The images of armed Panthers storming the State House in Sacramento in 1967 in opposition to the Mulford Act brought national attention to these efforts, and highlighted the dire circumstances that many African Americans experienced on a daily basis.

Beyond self-defense, the Panthers undertook a wide assortment of social programs to help improve the quality of life for inner-city blacks, organized around the Party’s Ten-Point Program. The Panthers started a free breakfast program for children, medical clinics, drug and alcohol rehab programs, free groceries and clothing giveaways, legal aid, education and a housing cooperative, among other initiatives.

As the Panthers numbers and influence grew nationwide, federal authorities saw their work as a threat to national security and undertook operations to monitor, obstruct, and undermine the party’s activities. FBI Director Hoover even called the Party the “greatest threat to the internal security of the country” in 1968, and directed the covert “COINTELPRO” to neutralize the Party and its members.

Despite this opposition by the authorities, throughout the 1960’s and 1970’s the Panthers became a national force for social