

We have a claim, a very strong claim to being the greatest nation on Earth, and it has got nothing to do with the military, and it has got nothing to do with our GDP. It has got to do with the way we were created, what our founding ideals were, and then the commitment of the people always to try to realize those ideals and engender a more perfect Union as we go along.

Let's keep America moving in that direction so we will continue to be a beacon of light to oppressed people all over the world.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FERGUSON). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GENERAL BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) for 30 minutes.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to recognize the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina on the occasion of its 150th anniversary. The story of this great Baptist convention is a testament to its founders, Reverends William Warrick, Edward Eagles, C. Johnson, L.W. Boone, B.B. Spicer, H. Grimes, John Washington, Charles Bryant, Sutton Davis, and R.H. Harper, the visionary men who founded the convention on October 18, 1867.

Since its founding, Mr. Speaker, great men and great women have maintained the convention's strength and viability. The General Baptist State Convention is the oldest convention of African-American Baptists in the United States of America. The General Baptist State Convention consists of more than 500,000 Baptist believers belonging to more than 1,400 churches, including my home church, the Jackson Chapel First Missionary Baptist Church of Wilson.

The convention is subdivided into 58 associations, each presided over by a moderator. Over the last 150 years, the convention has been led by well-trained and spirit-led theologians. The current president and executive board chair is my friend Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II, of Salisbury, North Carolina. He is the 32nd president of the convention.

Mr. Speaker, the current officers of the convention are: First Vice President At Large, Dr. Leonzo Lynch; First Vice President, Dr. Ricky Banks; Second Vice President, Dr. J. Vincent Terry, Sr.; Third Vice President, Reverend O.D. Sykes; Fourth Vice President, Reverend Prince R. Rivers; Recording Secretary, Reverend Curtis O. Donald; Assistant Recording Secretary, Reverend Matthew Rouse, III; Statistician, Dr. Nathan Scovens; Parliamentarian, Reverend Reginald Wells. The

Historian is Dr. Harry L. White, and the hardworking Executive Secretary-Treasurer is Dr. Haywood T. Gray.

Mr. Speaker, the Black church in North Carolina did not begin at the end of slavery. It became more pronounced and more transparent at slavery's end, but it existed for many years. It existed for many years prior to the end of slavery.

In 1831, the North Carolina General Assembly passed a law making it a crime for any free person of color or slave to preach or exhort in public, or in any manner officiate as a preacher or a teacher in any prayer meeting or other association for worship where slaves of different families were collected together.

Can you imagine?

The punishment for preaching the gospel—beginning in 1831, it was a crime. The punishment for violation was a whipping of up to 39 lashes on the bare back.

Notwithstanding this prohibition against preaching, the Black church existed as a secret association of slaves who worshipped privately. As the antebellum period proceeded, a few of the White churches, at the urging of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention, finally allowed people of color to hold church meetings under the supervision of a White person; and, at times, a member of the White race would conduct the service.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when the Emancipation Proclamation was signed on January 1, 1863, and the 13th Amendment ratified on December 6, 1865, there were 4 million slaves who obtained their freedom; 300,000 of those lived in North Carolina. The former slaves, with assistance from White northerners and the Freedmen's Bureau, began the struggle toward freedom and equality. It was the Black church that led the way. This movement consisted of Black Baptist leaders and Black Methodist leaders and other religious leaders, both Black and White, who understood the importance of the former slaves having the ability to worship and serve their God without fear.

□ 2015

At the end of the Civil War, the former slaves built churches throughout North Carolina. Many were of the Baptist denomination, and they were erected with lightning speed.

In 1867, they came together, Mr. Speaker, at First African Baptist Church in Goldsboro, North Carolina. And I have a picture of it on display. They came together at the First African Baptist Church in Goldsboro to form the General Association of Colored Baptists of North Carolina, which was the original name for the convention. And I might say, Mr. Speaker, that my grandfather, Reverend Fred Davis, would, in 1916, become the fourth pastor of this church.

Not only did Black Baptists build churches, but one of their greatest

achievements was the establishment and maintenance of historic Shaw University in Raleigh, which will be discussed by my colleagues, Congressman DAVID PRICE and Congresswoman ALMA ADAMS, in just a moment. Shaw University's contribution to African-American empowerment must be known and understood by all North Carolinians.

Those pioneers, who were trained at Shaw University, went into communities and established institutions and engaged in professions that empowered future generations. They went to all corners of our State. They went to eastern North Carolina; Piedmont, North Carolina; Triad; and the Federal area, which is where our esteemed sergeant at arms grew up in, Ms. Hamlett. Ms. Joyce Hamlett grew up in the Federal area. There were many other areas that were covered by graduates from Shaw University.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to include in the RECORD a list of names of African-American physicians, dentists, pharmacists, lawyers, ministers, and teachers who were also trained at Shaw University.

PRESIDENTS OF THE GENERAL BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION OF NORTH CAROLINA (1867–2018)

William Warrick 1867–1869
A. B. Williams 1869–1872
E. Eagles 1872–1874
L. W. Boone 1874–1875
Joseph Baysmore 1875–1876
Caesar Johnson 1876–1882
Joshua Perry 1882–1884
Caesar Johnson 1884–1885
N. F. Roberts 1885–1889
A. W. Pegues 1889–1895
C. S. Brown 1895–1897
Augustus Shepard 1897–1911
B. D. Griffin 1911–1918
O. S. Bullock 1918–1924
J. S. Brown 1924–1928
R. R. Cartwright 1928–1932
J. T. Hairston 1932–1940
P. A. Bishop 1940–1958
W. H. Davidson 1958–1959
R. M. Pitts 1959–1964
John W. White 1964–1970
Chancy R. Edwards 1970–1974
Joy J. Johnson 1974–1978
John R. Manley 1978–1982
E. Burns Turner 1982–1986
J. B. Humphrey 1986–1990
Willie B. Lewis 1990–1994
Clifford A. Jones, Sr. 1994–1998
John D. Fuller, Sr. 1998–2002
Charles T. Bullock 2002–2006
Gregory K. Moss, Sr. 2006–2010
Howard W. Parker, Jr. 2010–2014
Nilous M. Avery, II 2014–2018

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS), a former Bennett College professor.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 150th anniversary of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and join my colleagues, Congressman BUTTERFIELD and Congressman PRICE, in congratulating them on their achievements and the appointment of their 32nd president, Dr. Avery.

In North Carolina, the convention partners with Shaw University, the

oldest Historically Black University in the South and one of the oldest in the Nation.

As a retired professor, as you heard, of 40 years from Bennett College in Greensboro, founder of the Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus, and a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee here in the Congress, it gives me great pride to reflect on the general support that the convention gives to Shaw and its students.

I feel a special attachment to Shaw, since that is what became my alma mater. North Carolina A&T State University was located on Shaw's campus during its first year. Its history of leadership, activism, and service is well-documented. The Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee, founded on Shaw's campus in 1960, and the Center for Alternative Programs in Education—CAPE—had its beginnings there in 1980.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman ADAMS for those enlightening remarks and for her extraordinary leadership not only here in Congress, but for 40 years that she spent in the classroom at Bennett College. She has been a trailblazer for sure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), who also is a former college professor, who represents the Fourth Congressional District. I thank him for joining us tonight.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding, and I commend him for taking up this Special Order and giving Representative ADAMS and myself the opportunity to participate and to pay tribute to the General Baptist State Convention.

The mention of Shaw University brings me to my feet because I, too, want to reflect on this significant Baptist institution, which is in the Fourth Congressional District, in downtown Raleigh.

Shaw has also recently celebrated its 150th anniversary, a history that parallels that of the General Baptist State Convention.

I was there last week in historic Estey Hall. I have to say—yes, point out the historic building there on the campus—when I first came to the Congress in the 1980s, my first appropriations earmark was for Estey Hall. Believe me, that was just a little bit of seed money. But Shaw has restored that building in a beautiful way. The acting President of Shaw, Dr. Paulette Dillard, is doing a wonderful job of leading that university.

But the occasion last week was an inaugural lecture. The Adam Clayton Powell-Ella Baker lecture is going to be an annual occasion at Shaw. I was honored to give that lecture to a very lively group of students and faculty. Then we had a luncheon in Estey Hall afterwards and a great discussion, just liberal arts education at its best. I appreciated being part of that occasion,

and I certainly, over the years, have come to appreciate what Shaw means: a Baptist institution. It is tied very, very closely. Shaw University Divinity School is affiliated—an institution that this convention has nurtured and that, in turn, has served thousands of people, and enriched the life of North Carolina.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman PRICE very much for those words. I thank him for his leadership and his relationship with Shaw University, and I especially thank him for mentioning Estey Hall.

For many of us, who have grown up in North Carolina, we know the relevance and the importance of Shaw University. We know how Shaw University trained many hundreds, if not thousands, of individuals, who came into communities all across North Carolina and made a difference. They came into the classroom, and they taught at elementary schools and high schools all across our State. They went onto college campuses and became college professors. Many of them became lawyers because Shaw University had a law school during those days. Some became physicians and dentists. Some became pharmacists.

Shaw University was a real educational engine not just in North Carolina, but throughout the country, during those very difficult days. And I say all that to say that it was the General Baptist State Convention and its predecessor that helped enable Shaw University to be born. Shaw University has done so much for so many.

I recall, as a child, my parents would tell me that they, too, attended Shaw University. My dad went to Shaw University from 1919 to 1923. My mother attended Shaw University for high school. During those days, African Americans did not have the benefit in most communities of a high school education and so many of the young teens would go to Shaw for high school. It was there at Shaw University that my parents met. My dad was in undergraduate school, my mother was in the high school, and they met right on the porch of Estey Hall back in 1919.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. Price and Dr. Adams for raising up Shaw University and just telling the world what the General Baptist State Convention did by creating the environment where Shaw University could thrive.

Mr. Speaker, I thank both of them for coming to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS) for any concluding remarks.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BUTTERFIELD for yielding.

I just wanted to add that he was almost a Shaw Bear with his parents attending there. Just last year, I had the opportunity to address Founder's Day to all of the students there.

Many firsts Shaw boasts: the first college in the Nation to offer a 4-year medical program, the first Historically

Black College in the Nation to open its doors to women, and the first Historically Black College in North Carolina to be granted an "A" rating by the State Department of Public Instruction.

Over the years, as Mr. BUTTERFIELD has said, many scholarships have been provided to those students. They have encouraged the students to not only attend their divinity school, but we find that many of them have become college presidents: the founder of North Carolina Central, the first President of Elizabeth City State, and North Carolina A&T State University were all Shaw Bears, and we are delighted. So the lives that the General Baptist State Convention has touched throughout its existence is beyond admirable and almost beyond comprehension.

I want to close by saying that W.E.B. Du Bois reminded us that of all the civil rights of which the world has fought for for 500 years, the right to learn is undoubtedly the most fundamental.

So I praise the General Baptist State Convention and its commitment to education, and Shaw University, as well, for their charitable giving and for their dedication to educating young people through these 150 years, a century and five decades.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Very well said, Congresswoman ADAMS.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) for any concluding remarks.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for this opportunity.

I would like to conclude by reflecting on some of the outstanding pastors who have led this convention and led the congregations that comprise this convention. I hesitate to name any because there are so many who have served so faithfully and so well.

But I want to share some memories, and I think our listeners in North Carolina will remember these as well. They exemplify what this convention has been all about and the leadership it has offered.

Dr. Charles Ward, for example, long-term pastor of the First Baptist Church in Raleigh, a civil rights leader, a mentor to so many people over the years, and a revered pastor. I remember him so well as I first began to think about running for Congress and sought his counsel. He unfailingly gave wise counsel and encouragement. He, of course, was a leader in the General Baptist State Convention.

Reverend Lorenzo Lynch, from Durham, North Carolina, another former leader of the convention. His son, Leonzo, is now the vice president of the convention. Leonzo Lynch is a powerful prophetic preacher. He had a huge impact on the city of Durham. The Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People recently honored his lifetime achievements. And his daughter, former Attorney General Loretta Lynch, returned to Durham to be part of that recognition.

I think of C.R. Edwards, former president of the convention, pastor for so many years at the First Baptist Church of Fayetteville, a long-term leader of the North Carolina General Assembly, and special assistant to North Carolina's Governors. Again, a mentor, a wise man, someone who was a good man and who knew how to bring out the best in others.

I think of W.B. Lewis, who recently passed away, another former president of the convention. He was pastor for a long time of the—I say a long time—decades upon decades of the First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church in Raleigh. He was a pioneer in figuring out how to work with the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development to form a nonprofit corporation to build affordable housing, which, to this day, stands in Raleigh—rental housing for the elderly.

Finally, I think of John R. Manley, 60-plus years as pastor of First Baptist Church in Chapel Hill, a dear friend of mine. Another former president of the convention, by the way. This was a pattern for these leading pastors to offer that kind of State leadership, as they were offering local leadership. John Manley also was a champion of housing. Manley Estates stands right there in that community. I know how hard John Manley worked on that because we worked together. We have this housing in the community because of his vision.

I can go on and on. But this is such an impressive honor roll of leaders—pastors—who have not only led their flocks, but they have led the State and, in many cases, national religious organizations.

The General Baptist State Convention has enabled millions of people over these years to deepen their faith and to express that faith in ministering to those whom Jesus called, “the least of these,” and to advance the struggle for justice in this country.

So I am proud to join my colleagues in this tribute tonight. And I say to the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina that many faithful members of the congregations, the leaders, may you go from strength to strength, and may you continue to approach the gospel powerfully and be a force for good and justice and right in our community.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina has 9 minutes remaining.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, as I was listening to Congressman PRICE a moment ago recite the names of those great men who have led the General Baptist State Convention, I could not help but to think that I, too, remember all of them. And then I glanced down at the list of presidents that I am going to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in just a few moments from now, and there have been 32 men who have served as presidents of this great con-

vention, and I have had the privilege of knowing 12 of them.

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I did not realize that until I actually pulled out the list and started counting: C.R. Edwards, who Mr. PRICE recognized a moment ago; Joy Johnson; John Manley; E.B. Turner; J.B. Humphrey; W.B. Lewis; Clifford A. Jones, Sr.; John D. Fuller, Sr.; Charles T. Bullock; Gregory K. Moss, Sr.; Howard W. Parker, Jr.; and the current president, Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II.

I might say, Mr. Speaker, that of these names that I just mentioned, three of those passed away in this calendar year.

They have been great Baptists and they have been great North Carolinians and great Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues and I want to thank the General Baptist State Convention for 150 years of incredible work in North Carolina, and I thank the men and women of both clergy and laity who keep this convention alive and well.

Mr. Speaker, if I can close by simply using my dear, departed uncle as but one example of a Black preacher who gave his entire life to his ministry.

Reverend F.L. Bullock of Enfield, born 1896, pastored four churches that were one-Sunday-per-month churches. Married to my mother's sister who was a teacher, he was paid very little. Every day of his life, Reverend Bullock would visit the sick and minister to the needs of his community.

After serving as pastor for 64 long years, he was diagnosed with cancer. No health insurance, no life insurance, no pension from any of his churches, he died at age 84, several days after preaching his last sermon.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of pastors have devoted their entire life to the ministry. Many are remembered, but so many of them are not.

Today, the three of us pay tribute to all of them from the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

May God bless the memory of each of them for making our communities a better place to live, and may God continue to bless the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and its current leaders as they continue to serve God and his people of all races, creeds, and stations in life.

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

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1766. An act to reauthorize the SAFER Act of 2013, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill

and joint resolution of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2266. An act making additional supplemental appropriations for disaster relief requirements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 111. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Arbitration Agreements”.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 504. An act to permanently authorize the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Card Program.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, October 26, 2017, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2928. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting a report entitled “Live Fire Test and Evaluation Management Plan for the T-AO 205 Fleet Replenishment Oiler Program PRE-MDAP-ACAT IC Milestone B/C”, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2366(c)(1); Public Law 99-500, Sec. 101(c) (as amended by Public Law 99-591, Sec. 101(c)); (100 Stat. 3341-144); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2929. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's interim final temporary rule — Regulation Crowdfunding and Regulation A Relief and Assistance for Victims of Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, and Hurricane Maria [Release No.: 33-10416] received October 20, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2930. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rules — Wool Products Labeling; Fur Products Labeling; Textile Fiber Products Identification (RIN: 3084-AB29, 3084-AB27, 3084-AB30) received October 20, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2931. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report covering the period from June 9, 2017 to August 8, 2017 on the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1541 note; Public Law 107-243, Sec. 4(a); (116 Stat. 1501) and 50 U.S.C. 1541 note; Public Law 102-1, Sec. 3 (as amended by Public Law 106-113, Sec. 1000(a)(7)); (113 Stat. 1501A-422); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2932. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report to