

A young Martin managed to find a dream, one that he pieced together from his readings—in the Bible, and literature, and just about any other book he could get his hands on.

And not only did those books help him educate himself, but they also allowed him to work through the destructive and traumatic experiences of blatant discrimination, and the discriminatory abuse inflicted on himself, his family, and his people.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that we celebrate here today could have turned out to be just another African-American who would have had to learn to be happy with what he had, and what he was allowed.

But he learned to use his imagination and his dreams to see right through those “White Only” signs—to see the reality that all men, and women, regardless of their place of origin, their gender, or their creed, are created equal.

Through his studies, Dr. King learned that training his mind and broadening his intellect effectively shielded him from the demoralizing effects of segregation and discrimination.

Dr. King was a dreamer and his dreams were a tool through which he was able to lift his mind beyond the reality of his segregated society, and into a realm where it was possible that white and black, red and brown, and all others live and work alongside each other and prosper.

But the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was not an idle daydreamer.

He shared his visions through speeches that motivated others to join in his nonviolent effort to lift themselves from poverty and isolation by creating a new America where equal justice and institutions were facts of life.

In the Declaration of Independence in 1776, Thomas Jefferson wrote, “We hold these truths to be self evident, that all Men are Created Equal.”

At that time and for centuries to come, African-Americans were historically, culturally, and legally excluded from inclusion in that declaration.

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” Speech, delivered 56 years ago this year, on August 28, 1963, was a clarion call to each citizen of this great nation that we still hear today.

His request was simply and eloquently conveyed—he asked America to allow of its citizens to live out the words written in its Declaration of Independence and to have a place in this nation’s Bill of Rights.

The 1960s were a time of great crisis and conflict.

The dreams of the people of this country were filled with troubling images that arose like lava from the nightmares of violence and the crises they had to face, both domestically and internationally.

It was the decade of the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Vietnam War, and the assassinations of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Malcolm X, Presidential Candidate Robert Kennedy, and the man we honor here today.

Dr. Martin Luther King’s dream helped us turn the corner on civil rights.

It started when Dr. King led the Montgomery Bus Boycott, with Rosa Parks and others, which lasted for 381 days, and ended when the United States Supreme Court outlawed racial segregation on all public transportation.

But the dream did not die there.

It continued with a peaceful march for suffrage that started in Selma, Alabama on

March 7, 1965—a march that ended with violence at the hands of law enforcement officers as the marchers crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Dr. King used several nonviolent tactics to protest against Jim Crow Laws in the South and he organized and led demonstrations for desegregation, labor and voting rights.

On April 4, 1967, at Riverside Church in New York City, he spoke out against the Vietnam War, when he saw the devastation that his nation was causing abroad and the effect that it had on the American men and women sent overseas.

When the life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King was stolen from us, he was a very young 39 years old.

People remember that Dr. King died in Memphis, but few can remember why he was there.

On that fateful day in 1968 Dr. King came to Memphis to support a strike by the city’s sanitation workers.

The garbage men there had recently formed a chapter of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees to demand better wages and working conditions.

But the city refused to recognize their union, and when the 1,300 employees walked off their jobs the police broke up the rally with mace and Billy clubs.

It was then that union leaders invited Dr. King to Memphis.

Despite the danger he might face entering such a volatile situation, it was an invitation he could not refuse.

Not because he longed for danger, but because the labor movement was intertwined with the civil rights movement for which he had given up so many years of his life.

The death of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will never overshadow his life.

That is his legacy as a dreamer and a man of action.

It is a legacy of hope, tempered with peace. It is a legacy not quite yet fulfilled.

I hope that Dr. King’s vision of equality under the law is never lost to us, who in the present, toil in times of unevenness in our equality.

For without that vision—without that dream—we can never continue to improve on the human condition.

For those who have already forgotten, or whose vision is already clouded with the fog of complacency, I would like to recite the immortal words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the State of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but for the content of their character.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day down in Alabama with its vicious racists, with its Governor having his lips dripping with words of interposition and nullification—one day right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough place will be made plain and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

Dr. King’s dream did not stop at racial equality, his ultimate dream was one of human equality and dignity.

There is no doubt that Dr. King wished and worked for freedom and justice for every individual in America.

He was in the midst of planning the 1968 Poor People’s Campaign for Jobs and Justice when he was struck down by the dark deed of an assassin on April 4, 1968.

It is for us, the living, to continue that fight today and forever, in the great spirit that inspired the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

HONORING STEPHEN OWEN HEDSTROM

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Stephen Owen Hedstrom on his retirement from the bench after forty-two years of exceptional and diligent public service to the people of Lake County, California.

Judge Hedstrom was born in Oak Park, Illinois and graduated from Salesian High School in Richmond, California in 1966. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1970 from the University of San Francisco and a Juris Doctorate from the Hastings College of Law at the University of California in 1974. Judge Hedstrom began his career in 1975 as a private practice attorney and contract public defender in Lakeport. In 1976 he became the Deputy District Attorney in Lake County, a position he held until 1986. From 1987 to 1999 Judge Hedstrom served as the District Attorney of Lake County. In 2001, Judge Hedstrom was appointed Lake County Superior Court Judge, a position in which he has served since.

Throughout his career, Judge Hedstrom has remained humble and focused on public service and the greater good. Additionally, he has spent his free time giving back to our community. He coached Little League and youth soccer teams, was active in his local Lions Club chapter and was a member of his local Peace Officers Association while he served as a District Attorney.

Madam Speaker, Judge Hedstrom is a model public servant who has dedicated his career to public service. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Stephen Hedstrom here today.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the FY 2019 Financial

Services Appropriations Bill, which provides more than \$23 billion to partially re-open the government.

This important bill would reopen the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)—ensuring hardworking families receive their tax returns on time. It would also help to restart the taxpayer assistance centers, which serve approximately 2.5 million citizens monthly.

This shutdown is affecting real lives, Madam Speaker; real people.

According to the Washington Post, IRS furloughed employee Krystle Kirkpatrick, said she and her family of four can scrape along on her partner's machinist salary for a while, but she's already thinking about signing up to be a plasma donor to earn extra cash—that's only an extra \$200.

Let me reiterate. A federal employee is considering becoming a plasma donor—because her paycheck, from her federal government job, won't be coming in the mail.

This is no way to run a country.

Madam Speaker, the Trump shutdown is hurting real families and it's hurting our economy. Let's pass this bill.

Let's get the government back open and get workers their paychecks.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes on the Financial Services Bill.

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS H.
DOOLEY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Thomas H. Dooley, a prominent attorney and businessman from Vernon, CT, who passed away on January 6, 2019.

Born in 1934 to Lawrence and Lauretta Dooley, Tom was raised in Middletown, New York and graduated from Clarkson University in 1956 with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration. He subsequently joined the U.S. Army, serving his country for two years before beginning his career with the Connecticut General Life Insurance Company as an assistant claims examiner. Soon thereafter Tom enrolled at UCONN School of Law where he was editor of the UCONN Law Review and a Starr Fellow. Tom graduated in 1964 and became a partner at Flaherty & Dooley Law Firm. Tom eventually returned to Connecticut General Life Insurance, this time as an Assistant Counsel in their legal department. Eventually he moved into a management position becoming Second Vice President of Group Insurance Operations. Then, in 1985 he became Executive Vice President of CIGNA and President of Connecticut General.

Tom did not slow down after his retirement in 1992. He became Executive-in-Residence at the University of Hartford and taught at Manchester Community College and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Graduate Center. He also chaired Connecticut's Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board from 2010 to 2011 and was trustee emeritus at his alma mater, Clarkson.

Tom was not just a businessman and attorney; he was also a public servant. He was the attorney for the town of Vernon for several

years as well as a town council member and deputy mayor in our hometown of Vernon. He even served in the Connecticut General Assembly from 1970 to 1974.

Madam Speaker, on a personal note, I had the privilege of knowing Tom Dooley for many years since I practiced law with his former partner Leo Flaherty for over twenty years. Leo and Tom remained good friends after Tom left their partnership and because he was such a talented lawyer, all of us in the firm frequently looked to him for advice on thorny legal issues, for which he was happy to provide well-thought out and sound advice. Tom's two terms in the Connecticut General Assembly from Vernon's 56th Assembly District preceded my own election to that seat which I held from 1986 to 1994. I can attest to the fact that his outstanding legacy and reputation at the state Capitol still resonated years after his departure. His record of ethics and professionalism in the practice of law and public service in the political arena is an example that all should emulate.

Lastly his devotion to his beloved wife Antoinette and all their children and grandchildren who are leading successful lives is another life achievement that will ensure his memory will live on. Tom Dooley made eastern Connecticut a better place, and we are all better off because of him. I ask my colleagues to please join me in honoring Tom's life and memory and expressing our deepest sympathies for his family and friends.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Roll Call 38. I would have voted "Nay" on Roll Call 38 had I been there.

THE TANF EXTENSION ACT OF 2019

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 430, the TANF Extension Act of 2019. This bill would provide a much-needed short-term TANF extension through June 30, 2019.

TANF, unfortunately, expired in December and many states, including my home state of California, are unable to pick up the lack of federal funding for this program. So, this bill is not only necessary, it's incredibly timely.

Madam Speaker, more than 3.4 million struggling working moms and dads are on TANF, providing critical income, childcare, and employment support.

But, sadly TANF does not reach enough families, especially families of color. For every 100 families living in poverty, only 23 receive direct financial assistance from TANF—down from 68 families in 1996.

Let me be clear—funding for the TANF program has not kept pace with the growing need in our country. As a result, 4 out of 5 children living in poverty are not being reached.

And for those families with 50 percent below the poverty line their situation is even worse. In 2015, TANF only lifted 349,000 children out of deep poverty.

Because of this, many families are forced to choose between paying their rent, putting food on the table, or paying their medical bills.

This is outrageous. This program literally does not fulfill its mission—which is to reduce child poverty.

Madam Speaker, I was in the California legislature on the conference committee that negotiated California's TANF program—and let me tell you—I voted against my own conference committee's report because as a former welfare recipient myself, I didn't want to see more welfare recipients being penalized with onerous work requirements with no real incentive or job supports to actually help women—and men—obtain good-paying jobs.

And while I am pleased to support this vital short-term TANF extension, I hope that we can get to work with changing TANF to ensure that it is reaching more poor families and helping them meet their basic needs.

With that, I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this bill and let's ensure that we strengthen and improve TANF moving forward.

IN HONOR OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION (NHSA)

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association (NHSA) and their charitable fund raising event that helps provide summer camp experiences to underprivileged, disabled and challenged children.

The New Hampshire Snowmobile Association is made up of 105 independently incorporated Snowmobile Clubs across the Granite State. They work together as a unified voice to speak for support of snowmobiling and to promote it as a safe family recreation. Member clubs voluntarily maintain and groom 7,000 miles of recreational trails that interconnect with Maine, Vermont, and Canada. These trails are a major economic driver, generating more than \$580 million dollars of economic activity annually.

Every year for the past 47 years, they have partnered with Easter Seals and hold the annual New Hampshire Snowmobile Association Easter Seals Ride, where clubs from across the state gather to compete and challenge each other to raise money for Easter Seals Camp Sno-Mo. Camp Sno-Mo is for children with disabilities and unique healthcare needs. Camp Sno-Mo is in Gilmington Iron Works, New Hampshire.

Since the inception of the Easter Seals Ride-in in the 1970's, the group has raised more than \$3.2 million. Those proceeds ensure more than 100 children attend camp each year.

It is a privilege and an honor to recognize the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association, its member clubs, and their membership for their commitment and volunteerism for nearly five decades. Countless children who may