

YEMEN

costs. Let's protect U.S. jobs. Let's make our energy system more resilient. And let's lower CO₂ emissions.

I think that is pretty bipartisan. And as I go to work on the Select Committee on Climate Crisis, I will be working toward writing and introducing legislation, and I look forward to hearing all the great ideas from my colleagues in this body. I don't claim to have all the answers, but I know that we do. But for goodness' sake, let's not wait.

HONORING JUDGE ASHFORD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Judge William Mark Ashford of the Fourth Judicial District Court of Nebraska who was known for his jovial smile, gregarious nature, and being a fearless voice for justice. February 14th marks what would have been his 67th birthday. His untimely passing is a great loss for his family, friends, and for the people of our community whom he served with the highest level of commitment, integrity, and honor.

Appointed to the bench in 1988, Judge Ashford's work ethic and uncompromising professional integrity quickly garnered the respect of most and ruffled the feathers of some. Armed with a sharp legal mind and even sharper focus on the public he served, Judge Ashford was a stalwart judicial advocate, fighting for transparency in and out of the courtroom.

His eternal faith in humanity and in the power of justice will continue to serve as an unyielding example. Nebraska Supreme Court Chief Justice Mike Heavican noted that Judge Ashford's work with the young adult treatment court and his pioneering efforts to establish the Douglas County Veterans Treatment Court would be sorely missed.

Veterans treatment courts are tapping into the unique aspects of military and veteran culture and using them to the benefit of the veteran. According to the Omaha World Herald: "Ashford felt a calling to oversee veterans court because his father was a World War II pilot who once flew a fighter plane called the Aksarben Knight."

I extend my deepest condolences to his friends and family members, especially his wife, Deb Ashford; sons, Steven and Sam Ashford; stepsons, Keith, Kristopher and Kent; and brothers, Brad and Carl Ashford.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the occasion of African American History Month to recognize two key figures in Nebraska history, Will Brown and George Smith, both murdered by lynching at the hands of lawless mobs. This is not a past Nebraskans are proud of, but it is a story we must continue to tell so we never for-

get them or allow acts of hate like these to ever be repeated.

Nearly 100 years ago in the summer of 1919, Black people were killed amid violent race riots occurring across the country. Omaha, Nebraska, was not immune during that Red Summer and regrettably became known for one of the most heinous acts of hate and racial violence in American history.

According to research, the destructive flames of hatred and racism at the time were fanned by a series of politically motivated articles published in newspapers like the Omaha Bee. Alarmed at the Bee's promotion of racial prejudice, Reverend John Albert Williams, first president of the local chapter of the NAACP and minister of St. Philip's Episcopal Church called upon the editors of the Bee to stop their propaganda.

On September 28, 1919, a raucous crowd of more than 4,000, emboldened by the destructive rhetoric, grew violent and set fire to the Douglas County Courthouse. When Omaha Mayor Edward Smith tried to calm the crowd, he was assaulted and nearly killed by the mob before being rescued by local law enforcement. Without a trial, the riotous horde seized Mr. Brown, who had been accused of rape and robbery. Despite his exclamations of innocence, and physical evidence supporting his claims, Mr. Brown was brutally murdered. His body was paraded through the streets as a form of racial terrorism.

Equally disturbing was the lynching of George Smith, also known as Joe Coe, 28 years earlier in October of 1891. Mr. SMITH was falsely accused of raping a young girl, despite having a valid alibi and witnesses who attested to his innocence. Again, unchecked hatred fueled the unjustified lynching without any judicial process.

By shining light on these horrid shadows of injustice in America, we can begin to speak truthfully about this difficult history so that reconciliation can be achieved. It also allows us to honor the inspirational leaders who rise up to promote equality and eradicate racial subjugation. The work of the NAACP was tremendously effective in awakening the Nation to the urgency of stopping lynching.

Today in my community a coalition has been formed called the Omaha Community Council for Racial Justice and Reconciliation, to coordinate efforts to memorialize victims of lynching and raise awareness of racial violence in Douglas County.

I call on all who hear these words to stand against hate, racism, and injustice whenever and wherever it may be found. We must ensure acts like these are never allowed to occur again and that the lessons of Will Brown and George Smith's deaths are never forgotten. We are a nation that respects life, liberty, equality, and the rule of law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ROSE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROSE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say that I was proud to vote for H.J. Res. 37 and to stand in opposition to continued U.S. engagement in hostilities in Yemen as yet undeclared by Congress. However, this is just the first step in addressing just how far astray we have gone when it comes to Yemen and in our foreign policy more broadly.

Let's be clear: the crisis unfolding in Yemen right now is a consequence and the responsibility of actions by both Republican and Democratic administrations. We took a low level conflict, and we put it on steroids. We took a regional issue, and we turned it into the biggest humanitarian crisis in the world.

For what?

We started supporting the anti-Houthi coalition because we didn't want Iran to expand its influence, and here we are, the Houthi are closer than ever to Tehran, and they are launching Iranian-made missiles at Riyadh.

I thought we were done doing dumb stuff.

On top of all of this, the President compounded this humanitarian crisis by implementing a travel ban which left the families of American citizens stranded in a war zone that we ourselves helped create.

Now, I represent one of the largest Yemeni-American communities in the United States. I have hundreds of families in my district, Staten Island and south Brooklyn, who worry about their husbands, their wives, their children, and their parents, who only want to be reunited with them in the United States.

Now, many families have told me that they can apply for a waiver which somehow makes this constitutional. But not a single person from the Secretary of State on down can tell me how my constituents can actually get the waivers that their family members so desperately need. We still don't know.

Nobody cares about national security more than I do, but this isn't it. We are the most powerful country in the world, and we have trapped my constituents' loved ones in a war zone with no answers for how they can get out of there.

How does this make us more safe?

It is time we have a clear-eyed look at how we conduct our foreign policy and, more importantly, how we decide to use military force in the first place. This resolution is just one step in the right direction.

□ 1030

CONGRATULATING KENTUCKY SUPREME COURT JUSTICE BILL CUNNINGHAM ON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Supreme Court Justice Bill Cunningham from Lyon County, of the First District of Kentucky, on his upcoming retirement from the Kentucky Supreme Court.

After serving in the United States Army, Bill Cunningham was the Eddyville city attorney, the public defender for the Kentucky State Penitentiary, and the Commonwealth's attorney for the 56th Judicial District. He then served on the bench as a circuit judge for 15 years before his election to the Kentucky Supreme Court in 2006.

As an avid writer, Bill Cunningham documented important parts of Kentucky's history in his books. Through his writings and life as a concerned citizen, he sought improved race relations and minority representation on juries.

Justice Cunningham evidently passed his passion for public service on to his son, Congressman JOE CUNNINGHAM of South Carolina. I am proud to serve alongside Congressman CUNNINGHAM and look forward to working with him to promote bipartisan legislation in the 116th Congress.

As Justice Cunningham begins the next phase of his life, I join with the people of western Kentucky to express our gratitude for his lifetime of public service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

CONGRATULATING KENTUCKY SUPREME COURT JUSTICE BILL CUNNINGHAM ON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise today to call attention, along with Congressman JAMIE COMER, to one of Kentucky's most fearless, tireless public servants, who recently retired from the Commonwealth's highest court at the beginning of this month and who is my father, Justice Bill Cunningham.

He began his long and distinguished career by serving as a JAG officer in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war, serving in Germany, Vietnam, and Korea.

He returned home to serve later as the city attorney, then the public defender, then the prosecutor, followed by circuit court judge, all before being elected to Kentucky's highest court, the Kentucky Supreme Court, where he has been a justice for the last 12 years.

His skills in the courtroom were not just limited to the courtroom. Growing up the youngest of five unruly boys, we

found that he brought those skills home with him.

I recall one time when three of my older brothers came home late, past curfew, with the smell of alcohol. Their stories did not jibe with one another, so he immediately sequestered each brother in three separate rooms and went from room to room interrogating each of them, only to find out their story of a flat tire fell apart very quickly when they could not decide on which tire was flat and who fixed it.

He acted as the judge, the jury, and the executioner of our household in disciplining five boys.

I recall one time being disciplined at school for fighting. I came home. My father told me: If you are in trouble at school, you are in trouble at home.

He took a 25-pound weight, put it in a backpack, and made me carry that backpack around with me everywhere I went—to school, back from school to home—with the message that, if I was going to be a weight on him, he was going to put a weight on me. No doubt, such behavior would probably call attention to child services these days.

He is the bastion of public service; he is the example of integrity; and, last but not least, he is my hero.

Thank you, Dad, for all of your hard work, for leading by example.

He treated every single person with dignity and with respect. Even today, when he goes inside the walls of Kentucky's State Penitentiary, the maximum security penitentiary, he walks around in the yard and people approach him—people he has prosecuted, people he has sentenced to the penitentiary—and they come up and want to shake his hand because he treated every single person with dignity and with respect.

I want to thank my father, Justice Bill Cunningham, for making this world a better one.

And to my mother, who will be the beneficiary to all of his newfound free time, I wish to say to her: Good luck.

HONORING BUCKS COUNTY FIRST RESPONDERS AT HEARTS FOR OUR HEROES RECEPTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, is home to some of the most thoughtful and compassionate people in the Nation. This was on full display earlier this month when parents and students from the Howard Hersch Religious School at Congregation Brothers of Israel held a reception for first responders, called Hearts for Our Heroes.

Held at the Newtown Township Building, first responders in attendance received letters of appreciation and cookies for their service and their sacrifice. Students also sang a song of gratitude to the heroes in our community.

I would like to honor several people, Mr. Speaker, who played a pivotal role in ensuring that our community's first responders received the recognition they deserve: Joan Hersch, Congregation Brothers of Israel Religious School director; and Janet Barudin and Amy Stinson, who co-chair the congregation's Caring Committee; as well as Rabbi Aaron Gaber.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to all first responders in Newtown Township and throughout Bucks County for all they do to keep us safe.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE REA B. BOYLAN

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable career of a public servant in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who will be retiring at the end of her term.

Judge Rea Boylan, a resident of Hilltown, has spent 20 years on the bench and is the most tenured member of the Bucks County court of common pleas.

In her years of service, Judge Boylan has worked in the public defender's office, the office of the district attorney, and also was Bucks County controller before her judgeship.

Throughout Judge Boylan's tenure, she has been known as a fair judge who is not afraid to hold people accountable and always seeks to rehabilitate those in need.

Notably, her work with juveniles and those struggling with addiction truly embodies her dedication to both justice and fairness.

I wish Judge Boylan all of the best in her retirement, and I speak on behalf of all of Bucks County when we thank her wholeheartedly for her service.

CONGRATULATING NORTH PENN HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING COACH JEFF FAIKISH

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate North Penn High School swimming coach Jeff Faikish for being named Pennsylvania Coach of the Year for girls swimming and diving during the 2017–2018 school year.

The National Federation of State High School Associations awards coaches who exemplify the high standards of sportsmanship, ethical and moral character, and have received the endorsement of their State high school association.

Last fall, the North Penn High School swim team won the State championship and, under John's leadership, has competed in seven State championship meets.

Mr. Speaker, we congratulate John for receiving this honor and all the athletes of the North Penn girls swim team for their outstanding achievements. We wish them all continued success in their future endeavors.

BORDER SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, in fiscal year 2018, more than 2,000