

Avant Coleman, Mr. Speaker, better known as A.P., is a native of Edgecombe County, but he has resided in Wilson County for many decades. He received his formal education, earning his bachelor of science degree in agriculture and biology from historic North Carolina A&T State University. He went on to earn a master of science degree in adult education with a minor in sociology from North Carolina State University and a graduate of the Extension Executive Development Institute.

Professionally, A.P. used the full potential of his education and passion in his career, which began with teaching vocational agriculture in Lenoir and Greene Counties. His desire to pour into our youth a conviction for community engagement led him to join the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, where he worked for 31 long years, retiring in March 1994. In this role, Mr. Speaker, he was responsible for countywide 4-H programs, a national initiative that embraces young people of all beliefs and all backgrounds and empowers them with leadership skills training for the betterment of their lives and their communities.

A.P. Coleman has earned numerous distinctions, honors, and achievements. Elected in 1975, A.P. Coleman has served for 38 long years as a member of the Wilson City Council. He served as mayor pro tempore from 1989 to 1995.

His campaign slogan embodied his mantra of service to the community to improve the lives of its people. He would say, "A new way for a new day." His early platform for service included economic and business development, balanced growth, housing, crime and violence, and most importantly, contact with citizens.

His retirement from elected office was effective a few days ago on 31 May 2019.

A.P. Coleman has served on several council-appointed boards and committees throughout the State and the city, such as president of the North Carolina League of Municipalities, 1991 to 1992; chairman of Region L Council of Governments, 1990 to 1992, 2006 to 2007; a member of the Small Cities Council and National League of Cities, 1988 to 1995.

He has served on the board of directors for Carolina Family Health Centers, Incorporated. That is our FQHC in the city. He served as director since 1999 and even served as chairman.

Mr. Coleman previously served as a board member for the local and regional Nations Bank and was the recipient of many leadership awards, including the Extension Service Superior Leadership Award. He received a certificate of appreciation after completing a 4-H caravan 6-week study tour of the United Kingdom, honoring his leadership roles in the States of Maryland and North Carolina.

He has served, Mr. Speaker, as finance committee chair for Carolina

Smart Choices for Youth and as a chairman of the Wilson Preparatory Academy charter school.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Coleman has been a very engaged individual for decades. Throughout his years of public service, A.P. Coleman has been active with his local church, civic affairs, and other charitable organizations. He is a member of Calvary Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., where he serves as an elder. He is a past member of the board of directors for United Way, president of the Wilson County chapter of the North Carolina A&T State University Alumni Association, vice president of Crime Stoppers, past member of the Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf's human rights committee, member of the Presbytery of the New Hope disaster committee, and recipient of prestigious accomplishments and awards.

Coleman is also a proud member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and a life member of the NAACP.

The most important thing to Avant Coleman has always been his family. He was married to the late Willa Monroe Coleman and is the proud father of three, Elliotte, Wanda, and Jacqueline, and a proud grandfather of one grandson, Juan.

Avant is a family man, dear friend, and colleague to so many others. Mr. Speaker, he is also my neighbor, my next-door neighbor for the past 25 years. A man of principle and conviction to the importance of brotherly kindness, A.P.'s motto in life is the golden rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Coleman has lived an incredible life that, by the grace of God, has impacted the lives of so many. His selfless and lifelong dedication to public service and community are beyond remarkable, and he is truly a role model. His love for his family, friends, church, and community know no bounds.

I am honored today to pay tribute to such a dedicated and honorable public servant. I am proud to have A.P. Coleman as a constituent and friend. I thank him for his dedication, service, and continued role as an inspiration to all of us. God continue to bless A.P. Coleman and his family.

HONORING JANIE L. MINES

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

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize one of the most accomplished constituents in the Fifth District of South Carolina.

Janie L. Mines, who lives in Fort Mill, encompasses what it means to serve and honor one's country. In 1975, after the United States Congress authorized the entrance of women into our first-rate military service academies, Janie soon applied to enter the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Out of 81 women who entered the academy in 1976, Ms. Mines was the first and only Black woman to graduate from her class and the first ever Black woman to graduate from the United States Naval Academy as a whole.

After her departure from the academy with the rank of ensign and a bachelor of science in engineering, Ms. Mines was trained as a supply officer and became a supervisor at the former Naval Training Center in Orlando, Florida. She proceeded to serve in the former Naval Annex at the Pentagon, aboard the USS *Emory S. Land*, and as a senior adviser to the Secretary of the Navy. In fact, she has continued her work in the Armed Forces on the Defense Advisory Committee on Women.

Her exceptional accomplishments include being granted the position of torchbearer for the 2002 Olympic Games, starting a foundation that tends to the needs of socioeconomically disadvantaged boys, and being honored by the United States Navy with a business achievement award in 2010.

In 2018, Ms. Mines wrote and published the book "No Coincidences: Reflections of the First Black Female Graduate of the United States Naval Academy." In it, she shows us the true meaning of faith, patriotism, and persistence. We can all learn from her story and her deep love of this country.

I will end with a quote from her book: "God has a plan for us all. If we submit to His will, we need not fear. We are prepared and protected."

We thank Ms. Mines for her continued service to this great country.

HONORING SOUTHSIDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Southside Fire Department on March 19.

The fully volunteer fire department has protected the people and property of Union County since 1974 when the first call rang. The station has grown from as little as five calls a year to 98 calls in 2018 alone.

The foundation of Southside Fire Department was a community effort. The seed was planted in 1969 when a meeting was held at Roper Chevrolet to hear the public's opinion on the organization of a fire district for the local area in Union County.

However, it was not until 1972 that Southside received its first truck and could finally open its station. Supported by the local community's generosity, the fire department established itself and eventually joined South Carolina's Firefighters Association.

For almost 50 years now, Southside Volunteer Fire Department has fought fires to protect the great folks in the district. The station currently has an ISO Class 3/9 rating and serves over 3,500 residents.

As a Nation, we ask much of our citizens. Yet, even on top of the burdens and the toil of everyday life, some

choose to volunteer to save the lives and property of their neighbors. With nothing to gain and everything to lose, they head straight toward danger.

I congratulate the fire chief, Michael Lancaster, and the rest of the crew at Southside Fire Department on this incredible milestone. We thank them for their tireless, continued service to our community and our great Nation.

HONORING OTIS WASHINGTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of the late Coach Otis Washington.

A native of Selma, Alabama, Coach Washington was a legendary Louisiana Football Hall of Famer who instilled in his players his winning spirit, strong character, and quest for excellence.

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Sadly, Coach Washington passed away on Friday, May 24, 2019, at the age of 80.

Coach Washington was born on February 12, 1939, in Selma, Alabama, to Sadie and Otis Washington, Sr. He graduated from R.B. Hudson High School in 1957, where he was class president and a star athlete. He then graduated from Xavier University in New Orleans, where he was captain of the football team and an all-conference guard and linebacker.

Coach Washington's resume speaks for itself. As the head football coach, he led St. Augustine High School in New Orleans, Louisiana, to three State championships and, in his 11 seasons there, he guided the Purple Knights to 11 consecutive winning seasons and seven district titles.

In 1979, Coach Washington became the first African American football coach at LSU when he joined the staff as offensive line coach. Later, Coach Washington was hired as the head football coach at Southern University, where he led the Jaguars for six seasons.

Because of his many outstanding football achievements, Coach Washington was inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in 2015 and the St. Augustine Hall of Fame in 2017, among many, many other honors.

His success on the football field was matched by his many efforts in the community to promote fairness, equity, and justice. Coach Washington was a key figure in integrating the Louisiana High School Athletic Association.

While Coach Washington was often quick to downplay his role in integrating the league, he did so as a humble man who knew his place, but, more importantly, knew that his place was rising above the stars and making sure that his players knew that they were just as good, if not better, than any other player on the field.

Coach Washington was a devout Catholic and a devoted member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. His devotion to his faith began as a young boy in Selma, Alabama, where he was a member of the Don Bosco Catholic Boys Club, founded by Father Nelson Ziter in 1947.

He was also a devout husband to his wife of 52 years, Linda Patterson Washington of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, whom he met while coaching at St. Augustine. He is also survived by his siblings, Carol, Olivia, Charlene, Theopolis, Sharon, and Irma; and many godchildren, special grandchildren, as well as nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends. They will all miss him dearly.

On a personal note, I knew this amazing man as my "Uncle Otis." He was one of my father's childhood best friends growing up in Selma, Alabama. Uncle Otis, my dad, Charles Williams, and Ted Washington referred to themselves as the "Four Amigos" in grammar school, a name that stuck with them throughout their lives. These men never forgot the lessons that they learned from Father Ziter at the Don Bosco Boys Club in Selma. Their love for their hometown of Selma and their commitment to service through sports will always be remembered.

Uncle Otis and Auntie Linda were a constant presence in the lives of my twin brothers and myself. I could always count on them for words of encouragement and boasts of pride on my many accomplishments. I know that I stand today as Alabama's first Black congresswoman because of the love, support, nurturing, and prayers of the mentors, family, and friends like Uncle Otis and Auntie Linda.

Like my dad, Uncle Otis will be missed but never forgotten. The legacy that Uncle Otis leaves behind will live on in the many lives that he impacted. May we find comfort in knowing that his legend lives in us, and we are stronger and better because Uncle Otis' light shines bright within us.

On behalf of Alabama's Seventh Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary life and legacy of Selma's own Coach Otis Washington, a football coaching legend and Louisiana hall-of-famer. May we celebrate the totality of his life today and honor always his great accomplishments in sports and contributions in shaping the hearts, minds, and character of many men.

IT IS TIME TO MOVE ON

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, while the Judiciary Committee should be focused on securing the borders and overhauling a very broken immigration system, they, instead, bring a clown and circus show to town.

When I looked up yesterday and saw John Dean, it took me back to the hot

summer of 1974, when we saw John Dean and his cohorts on our television screens for days at a time. In an era with only three television stations—that is right, Mr. Speaker, we only had three stations growing up—Mr. Dean was on all three of them for hours at a time, for days on end.

Bringing another convicted felon, and a biased one at that, a person who has tweeted 970 times anti-Trump propaganda, to bring this criminal to these Chambers was yet another embarrassment to the majority party. All of America realizes the Democratic leadership has dug a deep, deep hole for itself and, for all practical purposes, has started this impeachment process and hearings. Nevertheless, in contradiction to public wishes, it appears the Judiciary chairman will continue to dig a deeper hole by calling such a slanderous, offensive witness and move forward with impeachment.

After doing over 38 townhalls across the State of Kansas since January, everywhere I go, folks tell me the same thing: It is time to move on.

Mr. Speaker, we have real problems that need to be addressed. My folks back home are dealing with floods and tornadoes. The farmers can't get their crops in the field, and China and the European Union are blocking us from exporting our commodities. All these things are things we cannot control. We have enough problems without the Washington swamp adding to our misery.

Folks back home want our border secured. They want a fair, streamlined immigration system, which helps fill the 70,000 open jobs we have across the State. From agriculture, to the aircraft industry, to high-tech jobs, Mr. Speaker, we need more people who are able and willing to work. And we all know this immigration reform is exactly what the Judiciary Committee should be taking up as we speak. Instead of fixing real problems, the Democrat-controlled House just keeps digging deeper down this false impeachment hole they have initiated.

Mr. Speaker, I want to stop and applaud the President for his most recent efforts to secure our borders. As we all know, over the course of less than 2 weeks—record time for diplomacy in this age—the President was able to leverage potential tariffs into real action by the Mexican government. That is right, real action with real results.

Thanks to these efforts, Mexico is going to place 6,000 new troops to control their southern border. Additionally, Mexico has agreed to shelter, feed, and help those who apply for asylum in this country. This all matters to Kansans, and we thank the President for his efforts.

This is huge. How huge is it? Well, I have been to the border, almost a year ago now, and I know a crisis when I see it. It was a crisis then and, by all measures, this crisis has literally doubled.