

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.

□ 1015

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.

Every day, on average, we are now apprehending almost 5,000 people crossing the border illegally. We are housing, feeding, and providing healthcare to over 40,000 people daily. We literally have run out of bed space. We now have over 900,000 people waiting for asylum hearings, of which only 10 percent have a legitimate claim.

Even in the words of the most liberal of newspapers, the New York Times agrees this is a crisis: “While lawmakers wring their hands and drag their feet, tens of thousands of migrant children are suffering.

“Congress needs to get serious about dealing with that suffering.”

Mr. Speaker, it is a shame that Congress won't do its job, that we won't secure the border, and that we won't overhaul a broken immigration system. Instead, the Democrats drive the agenda that started, for all practical purposes, an agenda that brings in the ghost of Christmas past, a convicted liar and felon, as their star witness for impeachment hearings.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to learn lessons about leadership. Leaders must at times endure criticism and attacks and stay the course. Leaders keep their word, they demand results, and they hold people accountable. Leaders keep the ship moving into high headwinds. Leaders think outside the box. They use the tools given them. They don't make excuses. They never, never give up. Somehow, they always bring the light back to the objective, the goal at hand. When others won't lift, they lift the entire weight. They show the path, they shine the light, and they go first when others are afraid. Leaders don't repeat the mistakes of those who went before them over and over again.

Mr. Speaker, great leaders all have their own unique style. One of my heroes was President General Dwight David Eisenhower, who was a visionary, able to move pieces around for the D-day invasion, but also had the vision to see the need for an interstate highway system, a space program, and civil rights.

Another hero of mine is John Wayne's Rooster Cogburn, the mythical marshal from the movie “True Grit,” who often, when he couldn't get people to follow, well, I guess I would say, he just ran over them.

Mr. Speaker, I thank our President for showing us what true leadership looks like, and what true grit looks like in real time, in real life.

Mr. Speaker, we need the President to keep leading.

LETTER FROM A CONSTITUENT

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

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read a letter from my constituent, Pastor Dr. Ronald S. Williams.

Mr. Williams writes: “A mobster, con man, gangster in the White House? I think so.

“This past week, Special Counsel Robert Mueller gave a verbal synopsis of his 2-year investigative report. He is quoted as saying: ‘If we had confidence that the President clearly did not commit a crime, we would have said so.’ He also said: ‘The Constitution requires a process other than the criminal justice system to formally accuse a sitting President of wrongdoing.’

“This process would be impeachment. The question is, why hasn't the United States Congress started a formal impeachment investigation?

“In our Nation's Pledge of Allegiance, we state that the United States of America is ‘one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.’ Many of us have been taught to recite this pledge since elementary school. Today's society compels one to ask the question: Are we truly one nation under God?

“NANCY PELOSI is a woman who I respect. However, I do believe her hesitancy to impeach this President is her opinion, based upon polls and her belief that it would further polarize the country. However, the country is already divided and polarized, which can be greatly contributed to the madness of the present executive administration of the country.

“As a pastor, a father, a grandfather, and a friend of many, my answer to this question is, no, we are not.

“I recently engaged in a conversation with a pastor's wife who resided in the small community that I attended graduate school. I knew the town was small and malignant with bigotry, ignorance, and racism. As we conversed, I discovered that she, too, was a bigot. She stated that the present administration was the ‘smartest and most intelligent to ever reside in the White House.’

“I asked her if she was out of her mind. ‘What about Roosevelt and Kennedy?’ she asked. I responded by asking her what was she talking about. She responded by saying, ‘They exploited women, and it was Obama that divided and polarized the Nation.’

“I knew at that point that she was steeped in her ignorant opinion. I responded by telling her that I was not alive during the Roosevelt years and during the administration of John F. Kennedy we did not have internet and the means of communication that we have today. Regardless, at least they both were sophisticated statesmen who publicly presented themselves as leaders. Secondly, the rightwing went after Clinton for his indiscretions and Obama was scandal free.

“It is glaringly apparent that many who support the present administration are either racist, steeped in religious beliefs, ignorant, or, as my mother used to say, ‘just plain dumb.’ They have chosen to support a president who has a proven record of being sexually condescending to women, will not oppose the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan and other hate organizations, is indecisive, condescending to anyone who challenges him, and hides behind

his Twitter account, rather than dealing with the real issues in our country and around the world, and, to put icing on this cake, he is a proven liar.

“I believe the crooked ascension of Trump to the Oval Office is a gauge that measures the declining patriotic and moral values of many of the citizens of America, as well as being the revelation of the hidden bigotry, judgmental attitudes that yet exist in many of those who call themselves evangelicals.

“This President has surrounded himself with yes-men and -women who apparently refuse to challenge his madness for fear of his wrath. I believe I can safely assume that the United States is no longer a democracy. A democratic government is one that is governed by the people or their elected representatives. In 2 years, this man has turned the tide and the Nation is spiraling downhill quickly.

“My growing concern is that the Congress and Senate of these United States have more of a personal interest for themselves rather than a patriotic duty to the people they represent. The Republicans appear to have become a Trump cult, and the Democrats refuse to move against this man in a collective, decisive way.

“I remember the time that we were guided by principle and not by party. Congress, Senators, you were not elected to collect a paycheck, you were elected to be women and men of principle and maintain the health of a Democratic nation.

“It does not take a genius to discern that this man wants to be a dictator in the truest sense of the word. He appears to be drawn to the evil of tyrannical dictators and is alienating our country from our closest and most trusted allies. This President praises the leaders of Russia and North Korea, while at the same time has been condescending to the leaders of Canada, the United Kingdom, and Germany, just to name a few. Something is wrong with this.

“Despite all of this, there are still many, including evangelicals and people of color, who are resolute in their support of this administration.

“Thomas Paine wrote:”

Men must conquer their own spirits. Even in the shadows of the guillotine, we must preserve and endure in spite of the threat.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members that remarks in debate may not engage in personalities toward the President, including by repeating remarks made elsewhere that would be improper if spoken in the Member's own words.

□ 1030

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT CARL MANN

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible life and heroic service of Sergeant Carl Mann.