

would have answered present on Roll Call No. 1.

IN MEMORY OF AL YOUNG

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Mr. Al Young of Lexington, Kentucky. Mr. Young passed away on December 25, 2019 at the age of 77. Mr. Young was an icon in the bourbon business, one of the Commonwealth of Kentucky's signature industries.

Mr. Young was born in Louisville, Kentucky on June 20, 1942. Following his graduation from Western Kentucky University and later Southern Illinois University, he began his career in the distilling industry in 1967. He served in a variety of roles and became Distillery Manager of Four Roses Distillery in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky in 1990. He was named Brand Ambassador for Four Roses in 2007, where he served until his passing. Mr. Young was a part of the Four Roses family for over fifty years.

Mr. Young was inducted into the Kentucky Distillers' Association Kentucky Bourbon Hall of Fame in 2011. He was one of the KDA's official historians due to his extensive knowledge of the industry. He was also inducted into the Whisky Magazine Hall of Fame in 2015. He authored the book *Four Roses: The Return of a Whiskey Legend*. Mr. Young was passionate for the industry and was well known by bourbon fans around the world.

Eric Gregory, President of the Kentucky Distillers' Association, said "Al was an ambassador for Kentucky bourbon long before the job was even invented. The thing I'll remember most is that Al was always smiling. Always. You just knew he loved his job, his family, and his life. We were lucky to share in his spirit."

Mr. Gregory is survived by Gretchen, his wife of 52 years, their three children Marc, Heather, and Christine, and four grandchildren.

It is my honor to acknowledge the life of this accomplished man, Mr. Al Young, before the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE ELAINE RACE MASSACRE

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, one-hundred years ago, soldiers, returned from the European front in WWI were committed to benefitting from the opportunity and liberty they secured at great risk and sacrifice to themselves. Many took that commitment to autonomy and freedom home to the small towns, communities, and homesteads where families and livelihoods remained. One-hundred years ago, few eyes were turned toward a small agrarian community in Northeast Arkansas, where black sharecroppers, spurred in part by the tales of opportunity and liberty spun by these returning patriots, dared to dis-

cuss fair pay for their crops. To this day, the accounts of the tragic loss of life that took place during the Elaine Massacre, when white mobs killed more than 100 African Americans, remains widely unknown.

In September, I had the opportunity to attend the dedication of a memorial to the victims of the 1919 Elaine Massacre. I also had the distinct pleasure of meeting the Honorable Brian Miller, U.S. District Judge and nephew of Leroy Johnston, WWI veteran, Purple Heart recipient, and murder victim during the Elaine Massacre. I would like to include in the RECORD Judge Miller's remarks from the ceremony.

THE ELAINE MASSACRE MEMORIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY

Court Square Park, 350 Perry Street, Helena, Arkansas, September 29, 2019.

(By Judge Brian Miller)

One-hundred years ago, on September the 30th of 1919, on this block, Phillips County's civic, political, and economic leaders settled in for a night at the Helena Opera House, which used to stand on this block.

One-hundred years ago, on the same night, three men met at the Phillips County Courthouse and drove down to Hoop Spur Church. They went to Hoop Spur Church to check on a meeting of black sharecroppers who were attempting to unionize. And those people were unionizing so that they could be paid fairly. The three men left from that courthouse across the street from this block.

While the black sharecroppers fought for fair pay, the black business class in Helena built movie theaters and cathedrals. They owned rental property. They ran small businesses. They practiced medicine on Walnut Street, which runs on the west side of this block.

While the black business class ran their businesses on Walnut Street, the white business class owned banks, movie theaters, restaurants, and retail stores on Cherry Street, which is that street that runs on the east side of this block. Two sides of this block.

And although there was a wide divide between the black and white business classes, there was an even greater divide between the black business class and the black sharecroppers meeting at Hoop Spur that night.

The 30 miles that separated this block and Walnut Street from Hoop Spur might as well have been a million miles, because there was nothing holding together the black business class and the sharecroppers meeting at Hoop Spur that night, except for shared history and black skin.

But what neither group could have imagined happened 100 years ago. The three men who left the courthouse across the street from this block fired shots into the Hoop Spur Church. And shots were fired out of the church, and a white man was killed.

A posse formed in that courthouse across the street from this block, and mob violence ensued. When the dust settled, five white men were killed, and more than 100 black people were killed. Estimates have gone as much as 800, but most historians have settled on about 200. And the mob raged on.

More than 100 black people were arrested and brought to the Phillips County Jail across the street from this block. Those men were brutally beaten and tortured in that jail across the street from this block. And the mob gathered.

Right here on this block, right where you sit, the mob gathered and chanted and screamed for death. And 12 men were given sham trials in that courthouse across the street from this block and sentenced to die across the street from this block.

But Judge Jacob Trieber stayed those executions in the old federal courthouse that

once stood on that corner across the street from this block.

Now, after 100 years, we return. And where do we return? We return to this block. We return not to relive 1919. We return to this block to remember and honor those who were killed. We return in hope. We return to this block with an earnest yearning for redemption. We return to this block with an earnest yearning for reconciliation.

Those of us who failed to take up the cause of the sharecroppers seek redemption for failing to help those less fortunate than ourselves. And those of us who joined the mob or contributed to the slaughter of the sharecroppers seek redemption for doing the unthinkable.

And all of us, whether we are the descendants of the mob, whether we are the descendants of those who were killed by the mob, or whether we are just people of good will, seek reconciliation with one another.

We return to this block on this day and at this time to face the reality that we stand on the shoulders of our ancestors. We all love our ancestors and we all respect them. But we also accept the reality that they were not perfect. We understand that they were human beings. We understand that they were susceptible to human frailty.

Because of this, we return to this block to announce that we will be vigilant not to repeat their mistakes. We return to this block to forgive one another, and to ask for forgiveness. We return to this block to accept that forgiveness and to allow ourselves to be redeemed.

And this, the Elaine Massacre Memorial, forever stands as a reminder of why we have returned to this block. Every time we feel angry, every time we feel embittered, every time we feel slighted, every time we feel divisive, and every time we feel guilty, we will see that monument and we will remember the nightmare that all of those emotions will bring.

And we will remember this day and how we feel at this moment, and we will recommit ourselves to loving and respecting one another, even when we disagree.

HONORING SETH KOHLER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Seth Kohler. Seth is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 313, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Seth has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Seth has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Seth has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Seth designed and constructed a flag pole outside of his church.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Seth Kohler for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present on January 7, 2020 for Roll Call Vote 1. Had I been present, I would have answered Present on Roll Call Vote 1.

RECOGNIZING DAVID CONDON,
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SPOKANE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Mayor David Condon, who will go down as Spokane's most significant mayor since Expo '74. Mayor Condon is a friend, my former district director and deputy chief of staff, a former U.S. Army Captain, and a visionary and compassionate leader who during his eight years of service to the City of Spokane showed that a good government doesn't have to be an expensive one.

When David earned the trust of Spokane's citizens and was elected as mayor, the crime in the city was high, development had slowed, and the river that runs through the heart of the city was becoming more polluted every day. David set out with a tremendous vision to reverse these trends, and lead a revitalization of the city that will continue to be realized and appreciated for decades to come.

During his time as the Mayor of Spokane—the largest city in my district—David was known for his focus on solutions to help the city grow and modernize for the future. He was instrumental in championing the revival of Spokane's Riverfront Park, cleaning up our river and restoring the lifeblood of Spokane. His efforts were recognized nationally, including by President Obama.

During his thoughtful tenure, Spokane thrived because David always worked to bring new and exciting businesses to our area and provide even more opportunities for people to build a better life. The city's median household income has increased by 37 percent since 2014, job growth is up 3.9 percent since 2015, and the crime rate is down. The future of Spokane's libraries is secured through David's leadership in passing a bond to remodel four existing libraries and build three more. David also championed rebuilding the city's aging infrastructure through smart investment and encouraging private partnerships. He hired more police officers, firefighters, and emergency responders and improved our emergency service response time to better protect and serve the city. Spokane, and all of Eastern Washington, is stronger today because of Mayor Condon's remarkable and visionary leadership.

He put Spokane on the map. We are no longer a medium-sized town in search of our identity, we are a national model and a shining example for other cities to follow. That is because of David's time, talent, sweat, and tears.

I'm proud to call David a friend and colleague. As he embarks on the next chapter, we will miss the leadership that he brought. On behalf of Washington's Fifth Congressional District, I thank Mayor Condon for his eight years of service and commitment to the City of Spokane. He left the city better off than he found it and truly made Spokane the "City of Choice."

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT TRUMP

HON. W. GREGORY STEUBE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. STEUBE. Madam Speaker, in light of how the House concluded 2019 with the passage of Articles of Impeachment, and the current state of the process, the constituents of Florida's 17th Congressional District and all Americans must be informed about the truth of this process as accurately conveyed in this letter from President Trump to Speaker PELOSI.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, December 17, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I write to express my strongest and most powerful protest against the partisan impeachment crusade being pursued by the Democrats in the House of Representatives. This impeachment represents an unprecedented and unconstitutional abuse of power by Democrat Lawmakers, unequaled in nearly two and a half centuries of American legislative history.

The Articles of Impeachment introduced by the House Judiciary Committee are not recognizable under any standard of Constitutional theory, interpretation, or jurisprudence. They include no crimes, no misdemeanors, and no offenses whatsoever. You have cheapened the importance of the very ugly word, impeachment!

By proceeding with your invalid impeachment, you are violating your oaths of office, you are breaking your allegiance to the Constitution, and you are declaring open war on American Democracy. You dare to invoke the Founding Fathers in pursuit of this election-nullification scheme—yet your spiteful actions display unfettered contempt for America's founding and your egregious conduct threatens to destroy that which our Founders pledged their very lives to build. Even worse than offending the Founding Fathers, you are offending Americans of faith by continually saying "I pray for the President," when you know this statement is not true, unless it is meant in a negative sense. It is a terrible thing you are doing, but you will have to live with it, not I!

Your first claim, "Abuse of Power," is a completely disingenuous, meritless, and baseless invention of your imagination. You know that I had a totally innocent conversation with the President of Ukraine. I then had a second conversation that has been misquoted, mischaracterized, and fraudulently misrepresented. Fortunately, there was a transcript of the conversation taken, and you know from the transcript (which was immediately made available) that the paragraph in question was perfect. I said to President Zelensky: "I would like you to do us a favor, though, because our country has been through a lot and Ukraine knows a lot about it." I said *do us a favor, not me, and our country*, not a campaign. I then mentioned the Attorney General of the United

States. Every time I talk with a foreign leader, I put America's interests first, just as I did with President Zelensky.

You are turning a policy disagreement between two branches of government into an impeachable offense—it is no more legitimate than the Executive Branch charging members of Congress with crimes for the lawful exercise of legislative power.

You know full well that Vice President Biden used his office and \$1 billion dollars of U.S. aid money to coerce Ukraine into firing the prosecutor who was digging into the company paying his son millions of dollars. You know this because Biden bragged about it on video. Biden openly stated: "I said, 'I'm telling you, you're not getting the billion dollars' . . . I looked at them and said: 'I'm leaving in six hours. If the prosecutor is not fired, you're not getting the money.' Well, son of a bitch. He got fired." Even Joe Biden admitted just days ago in an interview with NPR that it "looked bad." Now you are trying to impeach me by falsely accusing me of doing what Joe Biden has admitted he actually did.

President Zelensky has repeatedly declared that I did nothing wrong, and that there was No Pressure. He further emphasized that it was a "good phone call," that "I don't feel pressure," and explicitly stressed that "nobody pushed me." The Ukrainian Foreign Minister stated very clearly: "I have never seen a direct link between investigations and security assistance." He also said there was "No Pressure." Senator Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, a supporter of Ukraine who met privately with President Zelensky, has said: "At no time during this meeting . . . was there any mention by Zelensky or any Ukrainian that they were feeling pressure to do anything in return for the military aid." Many meetings have been held between representatives of Ukraine and our country. Never once did Ukraine complain about pressure being applied—not once! Ambassador Sandland testified that I told him: "No quid pro quo. I want nothing. I want nothing. I want President Zelensky to do the right thing, do what he ran on."

The second claim, so-called "Obstruction of Congress," is preposterous and dangerous. House Democrats are trying to impeach the duly elected President of the United States for asserting Constitutionally based privileges that have been asserted on a bipartisan basis by administrations of both political parties throughout our Nation's history. Under that standard, every American president would have been impeached many times over. As liberal law professor Jonathan Turley warned when addressing Congressional Democrats: "I can't emphasize this enough . . . if you impeach a president, if you make a high crime and misdemeanor out of going to the courts, it is an abuse of power. It's your abuse of power. You're doing precisely what you're criticizing the President for doing."

Everyone, you included, knows what is really happening. Your chosen candidate lost the election in 2016, in an Electoral College landslide (306-227), and you and your party have never recovered from this defeat. You have developed a full-fledged case of what many in the media call Trump Derangement Syndrome and sadly, you will never get over it! You are unwilling and unable to accept the verdict issued at the ballot box during the great Election of 2016. So you have spent three straight years attempting to overturn the will of the American people and nullify their votes. You view democracy as your enemy!

Speaker Pelosi, you admitted just last week at a public forum that your party's impeachment effort has been going on for "two and a half years," long before you ever heard