

I thank my colleagues for voting to pass the NDAA with this amendment. It is a fitting tribute to the memory of Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Oscar Temores that we continue to support our brave servicemembers and to ensure their families receive all the support and respect they deserve.

RECOGNIZING BRET BAIER COMMITMENT TO SERVICE IN JOURNALISM

HON. MICHAEL WALTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and career of news anchor Bret Baier as he celebrates his 50th birthday. Mr. Baier has dedicated many years to hard-hitting journalism and pursuit of conveying hard truths to the American people, often putting his own life on the line in warzones to do so. His informative journalism and steadfast moral compass embody the principles of a true servant leader.

Bret Baier earned his bachelor's degree in Political Science and English from DePauw University in 1992. He made his way into the television scene by working for several news stations from Raleigh, North Carolina, to Rockford, Illinois and Beaufort, South Carolina before sending his audition tape to Fox News in 1998 and serving as the Atlanta bureau's first reporter.

When our nation was attacked on September 11, 2001, Bret didn't shy away from danger. He drove all the way to Arlington, Virginia to cover the attack on the Pentagon. The reporting he did during this time landed him a job as the Pentagon correspondent, covering key national security, intelligence, military, and foreign policy issues. In 5 years time, he covered some of the nation's most impactful national security events, including the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He again did not shy away from danger, reporting from Iraq 12 times and Afghanistan 13 times. Baier has interviewed President Donald Trump, Vice President MIKE PENCE, former President Barack Obama, former President George W. Bush and former Vice President Dick Cheney, traveling with these administrations and top military officials to report in 74 countries.

In 2006, he served as the chief White House correspondent, covering the second term of the Bush administration. He has since covered the political cycles of the 2012 and 2016 elections, moderating five Republican primary debates in 2012 and anchoring three GOP debates for Fox News in the 2016 cycle. Bret currently is Fox News Channel's Chief Political Anchor and the anchor of his own show, "Special Report with Bret Baier." It is worth noting that Special Report is the top-rated cable news program in its timeslot and consistently one of the top five shows in cable news.

In a world defined by political division, Baier is known and respected as a straight shooter. His accolades include the 2016 Kenneth Y. Tomlinson Award for Outstanding Journalism by the Robert Novak Journalism Fellowship Program, the 2017 Sol Taishoff Award for Excellence in Broadcast Journalism by the National Press Foundation, and the 2018 Urbino

Press Award by the Municipality of Urbino. He is a New York Times bestselling author, a loving father to his two sons Daniel and Paul, and a devoted husband to his wife Amy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the career and lifelong servant leadership of Bret Baier. It is with great pride that we thank him for his service and wish him continued health and happiness with his friends, family, and loved ones. We hope his 50th birthday is filled with joy, love, and peace. Here's to many more.

HONORING SERGEANT JUSTIN DAVIS

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Justin Davis of the Martinsburg Police Department as he receives the Law Enforcement Medal of Valor in recognition of his distinguished service to the citizens of Blair County. Awarded by the Blair County District Attorney, the Law Enforcement Medal of Valor is presented for extraordinary acts of valor and heroism.

On the evening of February 26, 2020, Sergeant Davis stopped a vehicle in Martinsburg Borough. The suspects began high-speed chase, which took place for 1.4 miles reaching speeds of nearly 100 mph. Though the suspects attempted to flee, Sergeant Davis skillfully apprehended both of them. As a result of the arrest, the police found suspected heroin and a loaded .380 pistol in the defendants' possession. A search warrant of the vehicle yielded plastic bags, two scales, and approximately 15 grams of raw heroin.

Today, we commend Sergeant Davis for his unflinching courage, commitment to duty, outstanding tactical expertise, and communication in this dangerous situation. His actions have made Martinsburg Borough and Blair County a safer community.

For his valiant actions in the highest traditions of Law Enforcement and the Martinsburg Police Department, the Medal of Valor is bestowed upon Sergeant Justin Davis.

It is my sincere pleasure and privilege to honor Sergeant Davis as he receives this highest award. On behalf of the 13th District of Pennsylvania, I thank Sergeant Davis for his commitment to our community and congratulate him on his many achievements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and I missed the following roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call 139, NAY on Roll Call 140, and NAY on Roll Call 162.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF HUMMELSTOWN CHIEF OF POLICE WILLIAM RYAN

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I'm truly honored to congratulate Chief William Ryan upon his retirement on July 31, 2020, from a distinguished career in law enforcement. Chief Ryan has dedicated nearly 35 years to Southeast PA and the Hummelstown Borough Police Department (HBPD), and I'm proud to recognize his exceptional career here today.

Bill Ryan became a Hummelstown Police Officer in 1992, after five years with the George Mason University Police Department. Early in his career, he developed the "Witch Watch" program that organized high school volunteers to patrol for safety issues during Halloween, and keep trick-or-treaters safe. In 1994, he formed the Hummelstown Neighborhood Crime Watch Group, encouraging community volunteers to patrol the Borough on weekends. By 1995, he was promoted to Corporal, and approached the then-chief with the idea of teaching DARE in the Lower Dauphin School District. He continued to organize events, like the National Night Out for Hummelstown, and the infamous "Turkey Bowl"—first a football game, and later a bowling tournament between law enforcement and local schoolteachers to support the local food bank.

In 1996, Bill was promoted to Sergeant, and subsequently Detective, serving as the HBPD criminal investigator. Just a year later, he began teaching DARE at the Lower Dauphin Middle School, which continued for 17 years, forming lasting connections with students and teachers alike—many of whom still refer to him as "Sergeant Ryan" and hold dear their memories of him from those classes.

In 1997, Bill joined the Capital Region Forensic Unit, responsible for the collection of evidence in serious, high profile crimes. That same year, he completed the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency Crime Prevention Course, and joined the County child abuse multidisciplinary team. In 1998, he appeared in a DUI training/public service announcement, which was shown Nationwide.

In 1999, Bill was named PA Police Officer of the Year by the American Legion, and was named Officer of the Year for the Northeast Region—and the National runner-up. He also began teaching at the Harrisburg Area Community College Police Academy, and in 2001, joined the Dauphin County Child Abduction Response Team.

By 2008, Bill was honored with a Career Service Award from the Dauphin County Chiefs of Police Association. He continued to teach the DARE program, and taught his final class in 2013. In 2014, he was awarded the PA VFW John Radko Gold Medal. Finally, in 2016, he earned his highest rank, and was named Acting Chief of Hummelstown Police Department.

Bill was known for ending his e-mails with, "Be safe, stay sharp, and make good decisions," and every phone call with, "Peace"—something we pray for everyday for those who stand on the Thin Blue Line.

Madam Speaker, Chief William Ryan has served with distinction the Borough of

Hummelstown, the HYPD, and our surrounding communities. He is a great credit to the Commonwealth and the Nation, and his legacy of servant-leadership and law enforcement excellence sets the standard for all to follow.

TESTIMONY ON THE ROBERT E.
LEE STATUE REMOVAL ACT

HON. ANTHONY G. BROWN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following testimony, per Mitch Landrieu, who testified in support of my bill, H.R. 970, the Robert E. Lee Statue Removal Act, at the House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands legislative hearing on July 21, 2020. The testimony addresses Confederate statues and symbols on public lands.

I want to thank Chair HAALAND, Ranking Member YOUNG, and the other Members of the Subcommittee for the opportunity to discuss the important matter of Confederate symbols. It is a pleasure to be with you this morning.

My name is Mitch Landrieu I am the president and founder of a social impact organization called E Pluribus Unum, named after our nation's founding motto. Our goal is to help advance racial and economic equity in the South. I also served as mayor of the city of New Orleans from 2010 to 2018 and Louisiana's Lieutenant Governor from 2004 to 2010.

As many of you know, as mayor of New Orleans, I removed four Confederate statues from public land, with a process that started in 2015 and ended in May of 2017, with the removal of a Robert E. Lee statue from the city's most prominent circle.

That process helped reintroduce historical facts and a more proper telling of the history of how and why many of these statues or monuments were put up in the first place.

The historic record is clear, most statues of Confederate leaders were erected not just to honor these men, but as part of the movement which became known as The Cult of the Lost Cause.

The Lost Cause had one goal—through monuments and other means—rewrite his-

tory to hide the truth, which is that the Confederacy was on the wrong side of humanity. It sought to continue to oppress Black Americans.

James W. Loewen, a retired University of Vermont professor, and the author of *Lies Across America: What Our Historic Sites Get Wrong*, put it succinctly in a Washington Post op-ed: "The Confederates won with the pen (and the noose) what they could not win on the battlefield: the cause of white supremacy and the dominant understanding of what the war was all about. We are still digging ourselves out from under the misinformation they spread, which has manifested in our public monuments and our history books."

According to the work of the Southern Poverty Law Center, there are some 700 Confederate memorial monuments and statues erected well after the Civil War. There are over 1000 streets, buildings and other markers named after Confederate leaders. According to their research, "two distinct periods saw a significant rise in the dedication of monuments and other symbols. The first began around 1900, amid the period in which states were enacting Jim Crow laws to disenfranchise the newly freed African Americans and re-segregate society. This spike lasted well into the 1920s, a period that saw a dramatic resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan, which had been born in the immediate aftermath of the Civil War. The second spike began in the early 1950s and lasted through the 1960s, as the civil rights movement led to a backlash among segregationists. These two periods also coincided with the 50th and 100th anniversaries of the Civil War."

In summary, the South lost the war and a group of people got together and decided that they were going to adorn the country with monuments that revered those who fought on behalf of a cause that was lost, which they wanted to make seem noble. It was a propaganda campaign of epic proportions.

You see, these statues are not just stone and metal. They are not just innocent remembrances of a benign history. These monuments purposefully celebrate and perpetuate a fictional, sanitized Confederacy; ignoring the death, the enslavement, and the terror that it actually stood for.

The truth is they were fighting for the right to own and sell black human beings.

History cannot be changed. It cannot be moved like a statue. What is done is done. The Civil War is over, and the Confederacy lost. We are all the better for it.

But in this, the 20th year of the 21st century, we should not debate whether the

United States of America should revere the Confederacy. It is self-evident that these men did not fight for the United States of America. They fought to destroy it. They may have been warriors, but they were not patriots.

Ultimately, as a country, we must grapple with a simple notion—there is a difference between remembrance of history and reverence of it.

To literally put the Confederacy on a pedestal is an inaccurate recitation of our full past, it is an affront to our present, and it is a bad prescription for our future. It ensures that all that our fellow brothers and sisters once fought to end will still continue.

As President George W. Bush said at the dedication ceremony for the National Museum of African American History & Culture, "A great nation does not hide its history. It faces its flaws and corrects them."

Members, you now have an opportunity to do your part correct this past. This is an important first step.

Let me close with a plea to your humanity.

I noted in a speech upon removing the monuments that a friend asked me to consider these monuments from the perspective of an African American mother or father trying to explain to their fifth grade daughter who Robert E. Lee is and why he is revered with a statue.

Can any of you look into her eyes and convince her that Robert E. Lee is there to encourage her? Do you think she will feel inspired and hopeful? Do these monuments help her see a future with limitless potential? Have you ever thought that if her potential is limited, yours is too?

We all know the answer to these very simple questions. When you look into this child's eyes is the moment when the searing truth comes into focus. This is the moment when we know what is right and what we must do.

We cannot continue to walk away from this truth. We must remove these Confederate symbols that dirty the soil of our beloved country. Once that is done, we can better confront the racist systems that have divided us by design for generations and get us closer to that more perfect union we all aspire to be.

Thank you.

Mitchell J. Landrieu

Founder and President, E Pluribus Unum

Former Mayor, City of New Orleans (2010-2018)