

33 years. We will celebrate our 33rd wedding anniversary this Saturday.

Karen and I met at my last Active-Duty Army station in Monterey, California. She allowed me to drag her to my hometown of Collinsville, where I had a teaching job lined up. We have been there ever since.

Karen has allowed me to run for various political offices, winning some races, losing some races. Whether it was my first race for the county board or my last one for Congress, she always supported me.

She always answered the call when needed. It could be stuffing envelopes, painting signs, walking door to door, participating in parades, attending hostile debates, or speaking for me at events when I had a conflict. I never knew her once to say no. You will have to ask her if she enjoyed any of it, but whether she enjoyed it or not, she always participated gracefully.

Our sons are now young men at 27, 25, and 20 years old. I really became an absentee father upon my election to Congress. You see, my two boys were 3 and 1 at the time. Finishing my 24th year tells you that their entire life has consisted of me being a Member of Congress and my wife, Karen, being a single parent. Our boys have turned out to be nice and respectful young men, and Karen gets the credit.

Our marriage is founded on Christ and His church on Earth. Karen is a trained director of Christian education. She has her masters in organ performance and has taught music at the grade school and high school level. I am a former jock, Army officer, and a back pater. We complement each other. And, again, as it says in Genesis: the two shall be one flesh. We are partners. We are a team.

The decades have flown by, and I will never be able to adequately thank Karen for her love and support over the years. She is ready to have me home more, and I am ready to be home. COVID-19 has already allowed us to test this theory of being home more than apart. I think we are going to do just fine.

Thank you, Karen. I owe you a debt of gratitude, and so does this Nation for allowing and supporting my service to it.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND WORK OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN ROBERT LEWIS

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and work of our dear friend and colleague, Congressman JOHN ROBERT LEWIS.

I appreciate the words of Congressman AL GREEN just a moment ago, and I want to associate myself with his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, JOHN LEWIS came to this body in 1987. He came with scars

from a turbulent period of American history.

It was JOHN LEWIS who led the voting rights movement in the South. We refer to it as the Selma to Montgomery march. Some refer to it as Bloody Sunday.

Many Americans don't realize that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 did not include a provision for voting. Voting was left out of that legislation, and because of that, the African-American community was determined to get voting rights.

After Dr. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, he visited the White House to have a conversation with President Lyndon Johnson. He asked Lyndon Johnson for a Voting Rights Act. It was there that President Johnson challenged Dr. King to go back to the South and demand a Voting Rights Act; and, because of that, the voting rights movement began in Selma, Alabama, and it was JOHN LEWIS who led that movement.

Leaving Brown Chapel Church on March 7 of 1965, JOHN LEWIS led the Selma to Montgomery march, demanding a Voting Rights Act and the right to vote.

At the apex of the Edmund Pettus Bridge, JOHN LEWIS and the other foot soldiers encountered 150 State troopers and a mob waiting for them. JOHN LEWIS instructed the marchers to get on their knees and pray. They were beaten, and they were beaten severely.

They returned to Brown Chapel Church and, 3 weeks later, returned for the continuation of their march. By the time they got to Montgomery, there were 50,000 people in the march.

Because of this movement, Mr. Speaker, President Lyndon Johnson led an extraordinary effort to pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which protects the right to vote. The VRA has enabled millions of African Americans to register, which has enabled many of the Congressional Black Caucus to be elected and reelected.

I might say that today is the 16th anniversary of my election to Congress in a special election.

I had the privilege of talking with Congressman LEWIS nearly every legislative day for the past 15 years. We spent countless hours on this floor seated to my left talking about his upbringing in Troy, Alabama, how African Americans seeking the right to vote had to count marbles in a jar and bubbles in a bar of soap. We talked about his first meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr., and how Dr. King would lovingly refer to him as JOHN ROBERT.

As we would walk across the Capitol plaza and walk through airports both in this country and other countries, never did he fail to stop and to greet other people and to take very quick pictures. His courtesy to our Capitol staff was unmatched, and they will tell you so.

JOHN LEWIS served in this body with courage and conviction. It is often said

that the Congressional Black Caucus is the conscience of the Congress. Well, JOHN LEWIS was also the conscience of the Congress.

I recall, Mr. Speaker, the contentious Affordable Care Act debate in 2010. As we left the Capitol that day, there was a confrontational gathering of the Tea Party on the steps of the Capitol. We were advised by the Capitol Police and even by our staffs to return to our offices through the tunnel. It was Congressman LEWIS and Congressman CLEAVER and Congressman CARSON and myself who defied the Capitol Police, and we walked through that mob back to our offices. I remember that so well.

We would fuss from time to time, Mr. Speaker, and I think you may have overheard some of our conversations from time to time. We would fuss with JOHN LEWIS about his grueling schedule, his travels to the West Coast on the weekends and back here to Washington on Monday. He would tell us about how he would get to his home here in Washington and fall asleep on the couch with his shoes on and wake up at 3 o'clock in the morning.

When we suggested he might consider retirement, he would tell us: I have got to keep going. I want to see the African-American museum. I want to see the update of the Voting Rights Act. I want to see the end of police misconduct.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, at the invitation of President Obama, Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, and I were invited to the White House for a viewing of the movie "Selma." After viewing the movie, the President invited us, along with Oprah Winfrey and the cast of the movie, to the Oval Office for a very delightful visit. While there, President Obama said: JOHN, do you remember you gave me a magazine with your picture when I was first elected to the Senate? Well, let me show you.

He took us into a hallway off of the Oval Office, and there hung the magazine with JOHN LEWIS' picture on it.

JOHN ROBERT LEWIS, Mr. Speaker, now belongs to the ages. JOHN ROBERT LEWIS now belongs to the ages. He helped make this world a better place. JOHN would say to us today, "The struggle continues."

TRIP TO NORTH CAROLINA'S FIFTH DISTRICT WITH SECRETARY SCALIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this past Friday, I joined Secretary Scalia of the Department of Labor on a trip to North Carolina's Fifth District to meet with local business leaders and frontline workers.

The events we attended at Innovation Quarter, Forsyth Technical Community College, and Lowes Foods came together in record time, and it is a

clear reflection of Secretary Scalia's and his staff's commitment to witnessing North Carolina's economic drivers in action.

COVID-19 has impacted North Carolina in many ways, but the resiliency of our State's frontline workers and businesses, which we witnessed on a firsthand basis, continues to propel North Carolina in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, no matter the challenge, the American people rise together. The men and women I was privileged to meet on this trip are the epitome of American resiliency in action. Though they are not recognized in the media for their tireless work, they show up to work every day with the same goal: to support their communities.

We still have work to do on the local, State, and Federal levels to combat COVID-19 and to restore our economy, and I am certain progress will continue to be made on all fronts.

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As a Nation, we have overcome monumental challenges before, and we will do it again with the same spirit and grit we have always had.

The great American comeback is unfolding before our very eyes, and the progress we have seen to date is undeniable.

Look to the performance of the stock market, the recent jobs report, the multitude of businesses reopening their doors to the public across the country, and the skyrocketing innovation that has been spearheaded by the private sector.

Many times I have come to the floor and spoken about American resiliency. I have highlighted businesses in my district, constituents who have stepped up to the plate in their communities, and the unwavering spirit of frontline workers.

Resiliency, in and of itself, has no designated boundaries. It does not ebb and flow or wax and wane. It is a trait that is engrained within our work and within our values as Americans. We will continue to work until this virus is defeated, and we will come out stronger and more resilient than ever before.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO U.S. NAVY COMMANDER WILLIAM "BILL" VOGT

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary San Diegan and World War II veteran, U.S. Navy Commander William "Bill" Vogt. Bill passed away in February, at the age of 107, and will be laid to rest at Miramar National Cemetery today.

Bill served with honor and distinction as an intelligence officer for nearly 30 years and was, according to Navy records, the oldest living U.S. military officer.

Bill joined the U.S. Navy Reserve in 1940 and was called to Active Duty on December 8, 1941, the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor. His first assignment was to the District Intelligence Office covering the southern coast of California. There, he searched for submarine activity and intercepted Nazi mail bound for Mexico and sent summaries of it up the chain of command.

He served in Guam, where he headed an operation that led to the surrender of the last two Japanese army holdouts, who had hidden in the jungles there since the U.S. landings in 1944.

Later, Bill served in the Pentagon as an intelligence watch officer during the Bay of Pigs and the Cuban Missile Crisis. In 1969, during his last tour of duty in San Diego, William debriefed sailors of the USS *Pueblo* after they had been held captive in North Korea for 11 months.

At one point during his remarkable career, during a time of significant labor unrest, Bill was contacted by Roy Cohn, Senator Joseph McCarthy's lawyer. Cohn asked Bill to conduct domestic spying in support of McCarthy's anti-Communist hearings. Bill viewed the request as illegal and refused it, and he refused to turn over the files Cohn wanted on the Longshoreman's Union. Then, and until the very end, Bill Vogt was a fierce defender of our Constitution.

Bill was one of the first students to attend San Diego State University and lived to be its oldest known graduate. In 1934, he completed his degree in commerce.

The Nation was in the midst of the Great Depression, so Bill set off immediately to begin working and so never received his official diploma. Eighty-four years after earning it, San Diego State President Adela de la Torre presented it to him at the age of 105.

Bill met his beloved wife, Lillian, in Coronado, and they were married for 67 years. He is survived by his son, Bob; his daughter, Michelle; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Bob described his father as a "best friend, a hero, and a role model."

Bob wrote to me in 2019 and told me his father lived near me and wanted to spend some time talking about his country with his Congressman and have a drink. It was an honor to spend some time with Bill, to raise a glass with this great American.

Still sharp at 106, with somewhat diminished hearing, I must say, he shared stories from his extraordinary military career. He showed me his collection of books about history and politics, and he told me of his deep concern over the state of our democracy. He urged me to keep fighting to protect it and to never give up the fight. He still had not.

Bill Vogt represented the best of San Diego and the best of America. On behalf of a grateful Nation, we thank him and wish him and his family fair winds and following seas.

RECLAIMING ABANDONED MINE LANDS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness to our Nation's abandoned mine lands.

Our abandoned mine lands desperately need to be reclaimed to prevent harm to our communities and to our environment. When these sites are cleaned up and mines reclaimed, it improves the quality of our air, soil, and water.

Pennsylvania has more abandoned mine sites than any other State in the country. In fact, my district, Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District, has more abandoned mine sites than each of the remaining 434 congressional districts combined.

This past September, my Democratic colleague from Pennsylvania's Eighth Congressional District, MATT CARTWRIGHT, joined me to introduce H.R. 4248, the Abandoned Mine Land Reauthorization Act.

The abandoned mine land trust fund is set to expire in September 2021, and this bill will not only reauthorize the fund for the next 15 years but help spur economic growth in coal communities impacted by mine closures.

For more than 40 years, this program has properly closed more than 46,000 open mine portals. To continue this momentum, the AML trust fund must be reauthorized.

There is still work to be done.

This past month, I had the pleasure of visiting the Anderson Creek watershed in Clearfield County. Reed Johnson, a constituent of mine who has owned property in that area for 30 years, has been working tirelessly ever since to clean up the abandoned mine site on that property.

Mr. Speaker, what was mined on that site was clay, and it was clay that was made to manufacture kiln bricks, the kiln bricks that were used to produce the steel that allowed the industrial revolution to occur and allowed us to provide the arsenal of democracy to win World War I and World War II. But we have a legacy that we need to clean up there.

During that visit, Reed welcomed me, as well as State and local officials, for a tour of the property. One of the other attendees was Clearfield County Conservation District's Watershed Specialist Kelly Williams.

The impact of abandoned mine lands on our environment is obvious, but there are community and economic considerations as well. Ms. Williams underscored the impact that abandoned mine lands have, not only on the environment, but on our communities as a whole.

Outdoor recreation is very popular in the area, specifically, boating and fishing. When abandoned mine lands are left untouched for too long, they have