

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.

□ 0915

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

an incredibly damaging impact on local waterways.

When outdoor recreation is a big part of the local economy, our communities feel that financial loss. Ms. Williams estimated that Clearfield County could lose as much as \$3 million a year due to this impact.

Reed continues to work to raise awareness about abandoned mine lands. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection says the project would take years to finish, but I know Reed won't stop fighting.

In the meantime, Congress needs to reauthorize the AML trust fund to ensure abandoned mine land sites are reclaimed, our environment is protected, and our communities are safe.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 22 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

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#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CROW) at 10 a.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, Father of us all, Father of all our ancestors, thank You for giving us another day.

The Congress returns mourning the loss of a sweet man, a saint, warrior, and prophet, JOHN LEWIS.

A saint in his commitment to non-violence in a violent world, where all too often people are oppressed because of their nationality, their tribe, their religion, their color.

A warrior in his lifelong commitment to engaging in good trouble, to breaking down the forces of separation, especially in this Nation of ours; to challenge those who would claim innocence in their actions designed to maintain a caste society based on race and address the systems of exclusion from full participation in the freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution—especially participation in the vote.

A prophet who spoke of Your will that we become the beloved community he has now joined among the community of saints, the cloud of witnesses to Your love and Your truth.

In all of this, JOHN's work must now be our own.

Bless the Members of this Chamber with the courage and wisdom to address the ongoing challenges that JOHN LEWIS encountered in his entire life. Help them, help us all, to bring forth the beloved community in our midst, where all men and women might live,

together, in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

May all that is done in the people's House this day, and in all the days to come, be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PERLMUTTER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that in light of the passing of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), the whole number of the House is 430.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I have walked with JOHN LEWIS at least 15 times across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where, with courage and commitment, he made a seminal difference in the life of our country.

Many of us walked with him. As we followed in JOHN LEWIS' footsteps, I suspect my colleagues saw, as I did, that the man we knew to be a veteran legislator and a person of wisdom and experience still carried in his heart the same energy, optimism, and determined spirit that he bore in his youth.

JOHN never stopped being the young man who dreamed of change and knew it could be achieved. In that springtime Alabama Sun, he beamed with a passion for justice and shone that light back on all of us who marched with him.

Even at 80, JOHN ROBERT LEWIS had the heart and fiery soul of a young protestor for a righteous cause, an organizer for the community and the country he served.

Every day of his life, JOHN marched for justice, civil rights, peace, and equality. On every step of his journey, he brought all of us and this country he loved with him.

On Friday, JOHN's march on Earth came to an end, and he was revered as

a good and faithful servant. Now, Mr. Speaker, he rests in the bosom of God.

He made sure that we know the way forward:

Toward racial justice;

Toward communities safer from gun violence;

Toward a cleaner and healthier planet;

Toward an America where everyone can access quality, affordable healthcare and where no child goes to bed hungry;

Toward a world where peace and plenty replace conflict and scarcity;

And toward an America whose people heed Dr. King's call to sit together at the table of brotherhood and sisterhood.

Mr. Speaker, we have a long way to go on that march. But if we continue to walk in JOHN LEWIS' footsteps, we will make it. He would say we must make it.

Our struggle to realize the beloved community was his vision and our mission. Surely, he will be with us as we continue that mission of the movement.

Where he was the veteran at our side, now JOHN will be the wind at our backs and, as the song says, beneath our wings. With his guidance and inspiration, we can, as he did, walk with the wind as we march on towards justice, equality, and peace until victory is won.

He was our inspiration; he was our guide; he was our friend; he was our colleague. As I said on Saturday morning, there is a hole in the heart of America.

#### CONGRATULATING RUTH KELLEY

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ruth Kelley, an exemplary student from Kernersville, North Carolina, who was selected to be part of the National Youth Orchestra of the United States.

Every year, thousands of students submit applications to take part in the National Youth Orchestra, and only 200 applicants are selected. This, without question, is an amazing achievement.

In this program administered by Carnegie Hall, young musicians are exposed to digital learning, mentorship, and performances by principal players from top American orchestras. Additionally, participants are invited to take private lessons, studio sectionals, and master classes to perfect their craft.

Congratulations to Ruth. I am confident this experience will propel her to new heights and teach her lessons she will carry with her into her future career.

#### NATIONAL HEROES DAY

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House