

was unable to vote on June 29, 2021 for these reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 189; NAY on Roll Call No. 190; NAY on Roll Call No. 191; YEA on Roll Call No. 192; NAY on Roll Call No. 193; YEA on Roll Call No. 194; NAY on Roll Call No. 195; and NAY on Roll Call No. 196.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COLONEL
VANG FONG

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Colonel Vang Fong. Vang passed away on February 17, 2021 in Fresno County. Vang was a husband, father, and grandfather and a leader in the Secret War in Laos.

Vang was born on January 1, 1944 in Rhaw Zeb, Xieng Khouang, Laos to Cheu Xang Vang and Nai Lor. He was one of eight children. In the year of 1960, Vang left school at the age of 12 to join the CIA's Secret Army in Laos. He was chosen by the late Brigadier General Vang Pao in 1962 to attend military training at Savannakhet. It was there that Vang obtained the CCB/Premier Degree from Pham Khaum.

Vang was stationed to Long Cheng, Laos. After hard work and dedication to protect all around him, he quickly rose rank and he was promoted to W-4 Chief Warrant Officer. After a brief period as W-4 Chief Warrant Officer, he was named to Lieutenant Colonel in 1964. Nine years later, he was appointed to represent the second military region at Luang Prabang, Laos.

His love for his family encouraged him to make a decision on the subject of moving. He moved in 1980 and his family resettled in Hamilton, Montana. After living in Montana, he then had everyone move to Huntington Beach, California to reunite with the rest of his family. This move inspired Vang to be active in whatever community he resided in. He was a member of the Lao Veterans of America; incorporated since 1989, and the Special Guerrilla Units (SGU) Veterans and Families, incorporated since 2009.

Even while Vang worked alongside the late General Vang Pao to ensure equality, social justice and opportunities for Hmong families in America, he still enjoyed being around his family. In 1964 he married Mylee Vang, and in 1968 he married Kao Lee. Throughout his life, he raised 10 children.

Vang was well-respected in the Hmong community for his courage and leadership in protecting many people during the Secret War in Laos. Vang participated in numerous events. He participated in the Central Valley Veterans Day Parade in Fresno, California, where he settled for the remainder of his life. His love for his culture was evident and admirable to many in the community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Colonel Vang Fong. His service and contributions to the Nation and State of California will not be forgotten. He will be fondly remembered in the Central

Valley. I join his family and friends in celebrating Vang's life.

MS. ANN WHITAKER

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ann Whitaker for her upcoming 50th anniversary with the Annie Gardner Foundation in Graves County, Kentucky.

Ann began her career with the Annie Gardner Foundation on July 5, 1971, as an administrative assistant. She has helped so many in the Mayfield community, going above and beyond to assist the less fortunate in their times of need. Those who are lucky enough to know Ann describe her as dependable, compassionate, and sincere.

Anyone who spends half a century with one organization is incredibly dedicated and genuinely loves what they do. Ann is loved by all of those in her community, and I am honored to represent her in Congress.

Once again, I congratulate Ann on this achievement. I look forward to hearing about all the wonderful work she will continue to do in her role at the Annie Gardner Foundation and beyond.

IN HONOR OF RAYANN DIONNE

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rayann Dionne, who is the 2021 recipient of the NH Coastal Adaption Workgroup's Climate Champion Award. The CAW Climate Champion Award is given to members of the Seacoast community who are powerful advocates for climate-related research and adaptation work. For 12 years, Rayann served as the Conservation Coordinator for the Town of Hampton where she championed climate adaptation efforts. In addition, Rayann also serves as Vice President and Treasurer of the Seabrook-Hampton Estuary Alliance.

Rayann has been an invaluable part of the Hampton community, overseeing complex issues including conservation efforts, stormwater management, and floodplain management. Hampton has several miles of coastline and an ecologically critical estuary, and Rayann was critical in working with FEMA to enroll the town of Hampton in FEMA's Community Rating System. She has been able to engage all members of the community in her efforts including by working with local students on projects to maintain the health of the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary, as well as coordinating an auction of rain barrels painted by local middle school and high school students.

Throughout her career, Rayann has been a fierce advocate for climate resilience. A leader on environmental issues, she has overseen both the designing and running of workshops

and community events for Hampton residents. From beach clean-ups to snowshoe tours and the installation of a rain garden at the local library, Rayann has dedicated herself to improving the Seacoast community by always bringing others into her work.

Rayann Dionne has made an immeasurable impact on her local community and the state of New Hampshire not only through her concrete actions but also through the energy and positivity she brings to all her endeavors. Foregrounding the importance of climate action, Rayann has served her community in a way that warrants our recognition. Her continued involvement in her work puts her community, and the entire state of New Hampshire, on a pathway towards a more climate-resilient future.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I thank Rayann for her decades of enthusiastic dedication to our state. The Granite State is a better place because of the public service of Rayann Dionne.

IN RECOGNITION OF ATLANTIS
YACHT CLUB'S 60TH COMMISSIONING DAY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Atlantis Yacht Club of Monmouth Beach, New Jersey on its 60th Commissioning Day. As its officers and members gather to celebrate this milestone, I would like to join with them in honoring its history and spirit.

Upon returning from World War II, a group of veterans and their families from Barnegat Bay to Englewood would meet up with each other at various locations along the eastern shoreline from New Jersey to Connecticut. Boating became a relaxing pastime for these families and provided an outlet from their memories of the war. In 1961, the group founded the club to further the fellowship that their boating engagements had developed.

Begun at rented docks and an old Victorian home converted into apartments in Sea Bright, New Jersey, the club outgrew its first location after just three years. Needing a larger location, the group constructed its new home in Monmouth Beach, New Jersey. The area was marsh and needed dredging, fill, and construction to transform it into a beautiful club house, pool and docks. The extensive work was completed with each founding member contributing what he could in his area of expertise. The Atlantis Yacht Club welcomed its members to its current home in Monmouth Beach in 1968.

Since then, its membership has continued to grow, but the kinship remains. The club worked together to rebuild after Superstorm Sandy and again to remain operational during the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout its 60 years, the Atlantis Yacht Club has provided a welcoming and inclusive club for families of all backgrounds to enjoy and share.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in honoring the rich history of the Atlantis Yacht Club and celebrating its 60th Commissioning Day.

REPLACEMENT OF BUST OF
ROGER BROOKE TANEY WITH
BUST OF THURGOOD MARSHALL

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3005, which directs the Joint Committee on the Library to replace the bust of former Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney in the Old Supreme Court Chamber of the Capitol with a bust of civil rights legend and former Supreme Court Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall.

The legislation also directs the Joint Committee on the Library to remove statues of individuals who served voluntarily at any time as a member of the Armed Forces of the Confederate States of America or of the military of a State while the State was in open rebellion against the United States, and any individual who served as an official of the Government of the Confederate States of America or as an official of a State while the State was in open rebellion against the United States, is deserving of a place of honor in the Capitol of the United States.

Madam Speaker, it is long past time that Congress take this fitting and appropriate action.

Hallowed places in the Capitol should be reserved for persons recognized for their contributions to the defense, protection, and advancement of the American experiment in democracy—what President Lincoln called the ‘testing of the proposition’ whether a nation conceived and dedicated to the principle of equality can long endure.

Simply put, Roger Brooke Taney does not meet this test; Thurgood Marshall easily exceeds it.

At a moment of crisis in challenge for our young nation, Chief Justice Roger Taney faced a critical decision and he chose poorly and to his everlasting shame.

The decision in *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, 60 U.S. 393 (1856), which he authored is perhaps the most offensive, pessimistic, and racist decision ever handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court, far worse than the infamous decisions in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, 163 U.S. 537 (1896), and *Korematsu v. United States*, 323 U.S. 214 (1944), and *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 529 (2013).

Dred Scott was a slave in Missouri, who from 1833 to 1843, resided in Illinois (a free state) and in the Louisiana Territory, where slavery was forbidden by the Missouri Compromise of 1820.

After returning to Missouri, Dred Scott filed suit in Missouri court for his freedom, claiming that his residence in free territory made him a free man.

Dred Scott’s master maintained that no “negro” or descendant of slaves could be a citizen in the sense of Article III of the Constitution.

In ruling for the slave master, Roger Taney wrote to his eternal shame: “The [negroes] had for more than a century before been regarded as beings of an inferior order, and altogether unfit to associate with the white race either in social or political relations, and so far

inferior that they had no rights which the white man was bound to respect, and that the negro might justly and lawfully be reduced to slavery for his benefit.”

According to Chief Justice Taney, black persons were not, and could not be made to be, citizens of the United States under the Constitution.

The decision in *Dred Scott* was a major factor leading to the Civil War because Chief Justice Taney’s opinion also held, obiter dicta, that Congress lacked the power under the Constitution to prohibit slavery in territorial areas of the United States, which vitiated the Missouri Compromise of 1820.

Madam Speaker, to anyone who professes to doubt the existence of white supremacy or claims not to understand what it means, I would recommend they actually read Chief Justice Taney’s opinion in *Dred Scott*; they will be disabused of any pretension that the danger of white supremacy is a figment of the imagination.

In contrast to Roger Taney, Thurgood Marshall represents everything that is good and decent and optimistic about our country.

Madam Speaker, in this nation’s new birth of freedom that was prophesied by President Abraham Lincoln, Thurgood Marshall was perhaps the principal architect of equality, working through the judicial system to eradicate the legacy of slavery and destroy the segregation system of Jim Crow.

Before Thurgood Marshall ascended to the federal bench as a Circuit Judge in 1961 and later to the Supreme Court as the nation’s first African American Associate Justice, he was Solicitor General of the United States and would argue 32 cases before the Supreme Court, winning 29 victories, more than any other individual in history.

For more than a half century, Thurgood Marshall championed the cause of justice and equality in America, fighting valiantly and tirelessly on behalf of African-Americans and others to secure their civil rights and liberties and the full measure of justice and equality for all.

At a time when African-Americans were treated as second-class citizens and the scourge of slavery was still rampant, Thurgood Marshall worked against overwhelming odds to ensure that the rights, interests and voices of African-Americans did not go unheard.

Thurgood Marshall is perhaps best known for the practice he pioneered with the legendary Charles Hamilton Houston of “impact litigation,” the strategy of bringing carefully selected cases to court to establish legal precedents of beneficially affecting thousands, and frequently millions, of persons beyond the immediate parties to the case.

Among the historic victories won by Thurgood Marshall and his lawyer colleagues at the NAACP were:

1. *Chambers v. Florida*, 309 U.S. 227 (1940), which established that confessions obtained as the result of police coercion are inadmissible at trial;

2. *Smith v. Allwright*, 321 U.S. 649 (1944), which outlawed the South’s “white primary”;

3. *Shelley v. Kraemer*, 334 U.S. 1 (1948), which ruled racially restrictive covenants and unconstitutional and legally enforceable;

4. *Sweatt v. Painter* 339 U.S. 629 (1950), and *McLaurin v. Oklahoma State Regents*, 309 U.S. 637 (1950), which held that separate law and graduate schools are inherently unequal and thus constitutional;

5. *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954), the landmark case overruling separate but equal doctrine of *Plessy v. Ferguson*; and

6. *Browder v. Gayle*, 352 U.S. 903 (1956), which outlawed the practice of racial segregation on buses and led to the end of the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

As Chair for the Congressional Children’s Caucus, I am especially concerned with fair access to quality education for today’s youth and am personally grateful to Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP for its leadership in winning the greatest legal victory for civil rights in American history, the 1954 landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954), in which the Supreme Court struck down de jure segregation in elementary schools.

NAACP General Counsel Thurgood Marshall, who would later become the first African American Solicitor General and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, forcefully argued and persuaded the Court to rule unanimously that in the field of public education, “separate but equal” was inherently unequal.

That decision gave hope to millions of Americans that their children might enjoy the full promise of America that had been denied their forebears for more than three centuries.

There is still a need for justice and equal treatment for African Americans and other vulnerable populations in our country, and thankfully, we still have leaders following in the footsteps of Thurgood Marshall as we make our way on the path to a more perfect union.

It is therefore fitting that the bust of the great Thurgood Marshall adorns the Old Supreme Court Chambers in the U.S. Capitol as a rebuke to Roger Taney and a symbol of the commitment of the Constitution and of American democracy that in this country all persons are equal before the law and entitled to equal justice.

Madam Speaker, Thurgood Marshall famously said: “I wish I could say that racism and prejudice were only distant memories. We must dissent from the indifference. We must dissent from the apathy. We must dissent from the fear, the hatred and the mistrust . . . We must dissent because America can do better, because America has no choice but to do better.”

The refusal to tolerate injustice is what led millions of persons of goodwill across the nation to take to the streets in peaceful protest to demand equal justice for all and an active, engaged commitment to making the promise of America real for all Americans.

Equality requires unity of purpose and unity requires reconciliation, which requires accountability which requires truth.

Thurgood Marshall recognized, as President Lincoln recognized, the truth is that slavery is America’s Original Sin, a crime against nature and humanity so horrific and understood that the Almighty gave to both North and South this terrible war and may will it continue “until all the wealth piled by the bondsman’s two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword.”

And if that happened Lincoln told his countrymen that “as was said three thousand years ago so still it must be said ‘the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.’”