

King and played a pivotal role in the Selective Buying Campaign to boycott segregated stores in downtown Birmingham.

Before graduating from Columbia Law School in 1968, Clemon clerked at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, forming a lifelong association serving as local counsel on numerous civil rights lawsuits throughout Alabama.

Judge Clemon always understood the importance of the law in the fight for justice and equality. He quickly gained a reputation as an effective and fearless lawyer, taking on Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant to desegregate the all-White University of Alabama football team. He took on the U.S. Steel Corporation, which led to the desegregation of the American steel industry.

By 1974, Judge Clemon took his advocacy to the Alabama State Legislature, making history as one of the first two African Americans elected to the Alabama Senate since Reconstruction.

His tenure as a pioneering lawmaker and skilled attorney caught the attention of President Jimmy Carter, who appointed then-Senator Clemon to serve as Alabama's first Black Federal judge in 1980. He went on to serve on the Federal bench for 30 years until 2009.

Judge Clemon was a highly respected jurist inside and outside the courtroom. He was known as fair but tough. He demanded that lawyers before him represent their clients competently and effectively. Judge Clemon served as the Chief Judge for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama from 1999 to 2006.

Despite retiring from the bench in 2009, Judge Clemon has remained a vibrant member of the Birmingham legal community where he continues to practice law, serving the underrepresented, vulnerable, and underserved.

He has received numerous awards, holds three honorary degrees, two street namings, and most recently, an elementary school was named in his honor.

On a personal note, Judge Clemon is a trusted adviser, counselor, and a loving father figure to me. My most formative legal experience was serving as a law clerk for Judge Clemon after graduating from law school in 1992.

I learned so much serving as his law clerk. I learned more about the practice of law and saw firsthand what justice looks like by witnessing him in his courtroom. Sitting with him in his chambers was always an educational experience. The judge tested my knowledge, stretched my legal acumen, challenged my views, and inspired me to be a better lawyer and person.

I know that I now serve as Alabama's first Black Congresswoman because I was blessed by a transformative experience clerking for Alabama's first Black Federal judge.

I thank his loving family, his wife of 50 years, Ms. Barbara, and his two children, Michelle and Isaac, for sharing him with so many of us.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 80th birthday and the extraordinary career of an exceptional jurist, lawmaker, public servant, and wonderful counselor, Judge U.W. Clemon, whose life's work stands as a testament to the power of one person to change the world.

May the seeds that Judge Clemon sowed continue to bear fruit for generations to come.

Happy birthday, Judge.

REMEMBERING DEPUTY SHERIFF JOSH OWEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday night, Pope County Deputy Sheriff Josh Owen was tragically shot and killed in the line of duty. He and two other law enforcement officers were responding to a domestic violence call in Cyrus, Minnesota, when the suspect opened fire. It was his 44th birthday.

Deputy Owen spent nearly 12 years with the sheriff's office and recently received a Distinguished Service Award for his actions responding to a house fire.

He is pictured here with his K9 partner, Karma.

He was also a military veteran serving with the Minnesota National Guard and deploying to Iraq for 22 months.

Josh leaves behind a wife, Shannon, and a 10-year-old son, Rylan.

Those of us with ties to law enforcement, who see loved ones risking their lives every day to protect and serve others, share their pain.

Josh's colleagues placed a squad car on the front lawn of the sheriff's office on Sunday, and the community has made it into a memorial to pay their respects to this outstanding member of the community and show his family how loved he was.

Yesterday, there was a procession to bring his body home. Law enforcement agencies from across the State turned out to honor their fallen brother. This is a devastating, heartbreaking reminder that our men and women of law enforcement put their communities above all else every single day.

I am praying for Deputy Owen's family and for Pope County and Minnesota law enforcement communities as they mourn the loss of this hero and continue to serve and protect us every day.

GUN REFORM NOW

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise because too often in our schools the sounds of students talking and lockers clanking in hallways are giving way to silence and violence.

Today, I rise because desks that should be covered in gum are too often covered in blood, the blood of students and their teachers.

Today, I rise because three 9-year-old children and three adults are dead in Tennessee, as well as the person who killed them.

Tennessee State representatives Justin Jones, Justin Pearson, and Gloria Johnson wanted to bring attention to this tragedy. They wanted to honor the victims of the mass shooting at The Covenant School with action instead of insulting their memories with silence. From the floor of the Tennessee House, they led the public gallery in chants of "no more silence," "we have to do better," and "gun reform now."

Tennessee Republicans were so afraid of this message that they expelled Justin Jones and Justin Pearson, the two Black representatives, for their actions.

These two courageous young men knew, as we do, that we cannot wait to be saved from the gun epidemic. They knew there would be more dead.

Unfortunately, since the mass shooting in Nashville on March 27, over 900 additional people were killed by gun violence in our country, 22 in Tennessee alone.

It really makes me sick. It makes me livid that we continue to accept the status quo and that we are comfortable living in a country where at any time our friends, our families, our neighbors, even our children and our grandchildren, can die a horrible death because they were in the wrong place at the wrong time when the wrong person had a gun.

We will be judged if we don't act, not only by history, not only by our God, but by our children who will inherit our country with this metastasized gun cancer still attached.

I am a Christian. As someone who knows and reads and lives Scripture, I can tell you beyond a doubt that the AR-15, the assault rifle, is the golden calf of Washington, D.C. Too many people in the people's House worship this idol and treat it with reverence. However, just like in Scripture, if we continue to worship this idol, the result will be physical and spiritual death.

I stand with representatives Justin Pearson and Justin Jones in saying: No more silence. We have to do better. Gun reform now. No more silence. We have to do better. Gun reform now.

WOTUS RULE SHOULD BE REPEALED

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, today, the House will vote to decide whether to overturn another bad decision by President Biden.

His veto of H.J. Res. 27, which overturned the EPA's and Army Corps of Engineers' overreaching definition of

"waters of the United States," in yet another rule change to that law, keeps the new expanded definition of WOTUS in place.

This change to one of most abused and litigated Federal statutes on the books allows the EPA to regulate every single ditch, every little puddle, every ephemeral stream in America, as if they were somehow the Mississippi River or the Sacramento River, in my home State.

Of course, this is ludicrous, as our Nation's commerce, agriculture, and natural beauty are not dependent on a farmer's self-made ditch or irrigation canal or these ephemeral streams.

With the expanded WOTUS rule, the Federal Government can now regulate almost any activity, from farming to landscaping, which occurs on private property.

Treating Americans' private property as sacrosanct has been a core principle of this Nation for over two centuries.

Our Founders would be horrified to see a United States Government agency, headquartered here in Washington, D.C., granting itself broad power to regulate every single American on their own land.

We have seen the EPA abuse WOTUS before to regulate everything from farming to home building. Ridiculous interpretations on whether you can even plant a fallow field back to a wheat crop that previously had one without a permit can often take 3 years because there is no motivation from the Army Corps or other regulators to get the job done and tell the farmer: Yes, you may farm your ground the way you did it once before. They sued them for it, they fined them, and basically put them out of business over a farming activity that has occurred.

Another example is the couple that are being sued over WOTUS, and it is being used as a weapon to prevent a married couple from building their dream home near the shore of a lake, all within the rules.

I guarantee you, when the Clean Water Act and the Environmental Protection Act were passed in the early seventies by this Congress, they did not have the intent, nor would they have gotten away with, passing legislation that would have been so far-reaching as this.

These are about, yes, clean water. They are about protecting species and some of the habitat for them, not every possible piece of ground in the world that might host one, even though they don't currently.

They would not have been able to pass that through Congress because people would have run them out of here on a rail. Yet, through court interpretations over time, rulemaking, and guidance, this is where we have gotten to. The administration, and the previous Democratic administration, have been hyperaggressive in putting waters of the United States rules in place that have little to do with what the meas-

urement used to be, that it was a navigable stream.

Well, "navigable" used to mean you could actually drive a boat up and down that particular river or what have you. Now, if you can float a rubber duck in it for a half hour after a rain in a pond or a stream or what have you, then they seem to believe that should be a good enough definition for "navigable waterways."

It is ridiculous. With the increasing cost of food to Americans and fewer food choices on our shelves, and even empty shelves in this country, this is the move they make, to restore to previous aggressive limits of waters of the United States and take away the ability to farm our products, already safely, already reliably, already ecologically sound.

This is not needed under the Biden interpretation or the previous Obama interpretation. These are property rights, and these are land rights that are a cornerstone of our country's founding. Indeed, it is a way to take more control and put Washington, D.C., and put bureaucrats in greater charge of things that used to be good rural issues, rural values, which are keeping food on the table for Americans, thereby positioning us to be independent of having to import food, which keeps us strong.

Food is strategic. Food is a security issue. We are seeing our security dissipate rapidly under the weight of crazy regulations like this and others that are so negatively affecting our ability to produce energy in this country. WOTUS is used to stop that, too. If we don't produce our own energy, are we going to import more from the Saudis or other areas?

We have seen these embargoes twice in our past. It doesn't work very well. Energy is the core for everything in a civilized society. As we see our energy dissipating along domestic production, we are seeing the high cost of everything.

WOTUS needs to be repealed, and I hope the House does that today.

□ 1030

LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise.

And still I rise as a proud, unbought, unbosomed, unafraid, liberated Democrat.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, in the name of liberty and justice for all. Liberty and justice for all, not the name of liberty and justice for people of color, for people who happen to be of a different hue, but in the name of liberty and justice for all and, more specifically, in the name of liberty and justice for Ralph Yarl and Kaylin Gillis.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in the name of liberty and justice for them because our

country should be in mourning today. A life was needlessly lost, and no one of great notoriety, or a person who happens to have been a Congressperson, or a person holding some prominent position in society. They were not persons who were out in Hollywood making motion pictures; just an ordinary citizen who lost their life, and we ought to be in mourning.

We ought to be in mourning because the young man was shot for ringing a doorbell. His sin was he was ringing a doorbell. He was a person of color, yes. Apparently, according to at least one statement by an official, there is something to do here with race. But he was ringing a doorbell, and he was shot twice—once in the head.

The young woman that I speak of was White. She went into the wrong driveway, and she was shot.

Is this where we are in this country? People are going to be killed for ringing the wrong doorbell? Going to be murdered for pulling up in a driveway? Innocently, I might add.

Is this where we are?

We ought to be in mourning today. These lives matter. We ought not allow this to happen without some sort of special occasion, something that speaks to them, some sort of way of commemorating this.

We have gotten to the point now where it is just a life lost. Tomorrow there will be more. The day after that, even more.

What is wrong with us?

Can not we see where we are headed? We stand on the eve of destruction and don't know it. We are going to destroy ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, we have the power to do something about this. We cannot allow constitutional carry, meaning just get a gun and not have to take any sort of test. You don't have to prove that you are a person who can manage this level of lethality. You can buy a gun because you have the money to buy it. Then only God knows what you will do with it.

I am not contending that I know the history of these two persons. That is not it. But I am saying to you that if we don't get a handle on what we are doing with this level of lethality by placing these weapons in the hands of people willy-nilly, we are going to see more of this. It can be your child next.

Do not assume that it cannot happen to you. It can be your daughter. These were the children of somebody, and they deserve life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

I am totally, completely, and absolutely antithetical to this notion of constitutional carry, where you can just buy a gun because you have the money to buy it. We ought to have red flag laws in this country. We ought to be able to decide whether or not we are going to allow people to have lethality that can, at a moment's notice, take tens of lives.

Gun manufacturers ought to be held accountable for placing this level of