Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and co-founder of the Puget Sound Recovery Caucus, Representative Heck, for his partnership on the Puget SOS Act.

As you heard from him, the Puget Sound is truly a great place we need to restore and protect. Generations have enjoyed the ability to swim, fish, and dig for clams in this iconic body of water. They have built lives and made livelihoods on the Puget Sound.

But for the millions of residents that call Puget Sound home and for future generations, we absolutely have to take action to fight for the Sound.

That is why I invite my colleagues to sponsor the Puget SOS Act. This bill raises the profile of Puget Sound by naming it a nationally significant body of water. It enhances the Federal Government’s coordination in addressing these issues. It respects tribal treaty rights. This bill is an important step.

I look forward to continued work for Puget Sound, and I want to congratulate those two little girls, are counting on us.

CONGRATULATING TROOPER J.D. BERRONG
(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Trooper J.D. Berrong, who recently won the Jimmy K. Ammons North American Inspectors Grand Champion Award.

This is the first time a North Carolina trooper has ever won this competition, which recognizes the Nation’s top roadside inspector. Berrong, who resides in the community of Mulberry, competed against 51 other roadside inspectors representing jurisdictions across the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Trooper Berrong is stationed in Wilkes County and is a 14-year veteran of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. He is currently assigned to the motor carrier enforcement section, troop F, district 9.

Troopers who perform motor carrier enforcement duties ensure that all modes of travel, including commercial motor vehicles, are consistently monitored in order to improve highway safety.

Congratulations, Trooper Berrong, and thank you for serving the public good and helping maintain the safety of the highways of North Carolina.

A TRIBUTE TO AMELIA BOYNTON ROBINSON, CONGRESSMAN LOUIS STOKES, AND JULIAN BOND
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROUZER). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designated leader of the minority leader. Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. I am very privileged tonight to lead the Special Order of the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Let me thank our chairman, Chairman G.K. BUTTERFIELD, for continuing this tradition and for his continued leadership, encouragement, and avocation of Members of the Caucus who have been such leaders in our Nation and such major issues that we have been able to contribute to for the understanding of our colleagues.

Let me also make mention of my colleagues, Congressman PAYNE and Congressman HECK, who have led us on this Special Order for the Congressional Black Caucus. I thank them for their leadership and service.

A very special thanks to those of you who are watching at home and have often watched at home and have followed the Congressional Black Caucus through social media, social network, and also know that our major issues of criminal justice reform, civil rights, the restoration of the Voting Rights Act, and many other things have been to speak to the vulnerable. Tonight we once again speak to you, but we speak of those heroes that we have lost over the last couple of months.

Tonight we pay tribute to Amelia Boynton Robinson, Congressman Lou Stokes, and, of course, Julian Bond. Our Nation was built on the values of dealing with the issues of freedom, justice and equality, values and principles that were perfectly embodied by the service and sacrifices of these three leaders.

Mr. Speaker, over the last week we have watched the Pope make his way through a number of American cities and use words that are music to the ears of Members of the Congressional Black Caucus. Let me take just one of many citations that I will utilize to characterize these three individuals: “The complexities of history,” said Pope Francis, “and the reality of human weakness notwithstanding, these men and women, for all their many differences and limitations, were able, by hard work and self-sacrifice, some at the cost of their lives, to build a better future.”

I would offer to say that Amelia Boynton Robinson, Congressman Lou Stokes, and Julian Bond, through the sacrifice of their individual families and their lives, were able to make a better future for us.

We also know the civil rights activist Amelia Boynton Robinson, 1965, was a leader of the Bloody Sunday march and personified the optimism, determination, and courage that are at the heart of the American spirit. She truly made our lives better.

Known as the matriarch of our Nation’s civil rights movement, Ms. Boynton Robinson fought courageously to ensure that every American citizen had the right to vote. Her drive to secure universal voting rights was amazing, and certainly she risked her life when she crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge. In her words, her son said civil rights was her entire life.
We now understand that Congressman Lou Stokes made an amazing and impactful statement legislatively and throughout his life. He was a consummate public servant, a trailblazer who broke down barriers for generations of African Americans.

He was the first African American Congressman from Ohio who served 30 years. Representing a portion of Cleveland, he prioritized the advancement of our Nation’s most vulnerable populations.

He advocated for more funding of education, housing, development projects, access to health care. He was one of the fiercest advocates for public housing.

Mr. Stokes was a major proponent and leader that asked the Housing and Urban Development to assess the poor, deleterious, horrible conditions that children were living in as housing impacted.

In fact, just recently I presented my housing authority a lead poisoning grant which was instigated, was encouraged, was advocated for by Congressman Lou Stokes. He has saved thousands upon thousands of lives.

I thank him for organizing the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust, and I want to thank him personally for allowing me work for him as a staff member of the Select Committee on Assassinations, which he ultimately chaired. We thank him for his amazing service.

He once said, “I am going to keep on denouncing the inequities of this system, one day at a time, I am going to work within it. To go outside the system would be to deny myself, to deny my own existence. I have beaten the system. I have proved it can be done. So have a lot of others.” This is, of course, the kind of leader that Lou Stokes was.

Our friend, Julian Bond, was a civil rights icon. He was a leader in the fight for equality, freedom, and equal justice and opportunity. He inspired generations of Americans to build a better future for all people.

Julian Bond was considered the young one in the movement with Dr. Martin Luther King. He stood as not only an original, but a fierce advocate of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the founding president of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Elected to office, of course, he himself made discrimination. He was discriminated against. When he was refused a seat in the Georgia State Legislature, it did not in any way demean or undermine his courage or inspiration. He went on to be seated and to do great things.

Tonight I am privileged to be able to honor and pay tribute to these three heroes. We are called to follow the example they set, to fight to ensure that all Americans have access to equal opportunity so they will have a fair shot at economic prosperity, have the right to vote, be free from mass incarceration, and do the things that America bestows upon them.

Again, these individuals, at the cost of their lives or their own futures, built a better future for us.

With that, I am delighted to yield to the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Mr. G.K. BUTTERFIELD, a former high superior court judge—I am calling him all kinds of names—but, in any event, a dynamic leader of the Congressional Black Caucus. Again, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE for her friendship, for her leadership, and I certainly thank her for yielding time tonight.

Let me yield to the other Members who are on the floor this evening to help in honoring the lives of Louis Stokes, Amelia Boynton Robinson, and Julian Bond.

These three are icons, absolute icons, of the civil rights movement, who in their own way paved the way for so many. I had the high honor of calling Lou Stokes and Julian Bond personal friends.

As the first African American to represent Ohio in Congress, Representative Lou Stokes was a pioneer in public service. He broke down numerous barriers for African Americans during his extraordinary career as an elected official on the local, State, and Federal levels.

First elected to Congress in 1969 and serving for 30 long years in the U.S. House, he was a founder of the Congressional Black Caucus and the first African American to serve on the House Appropriations Committee. He was the founder of the CBC Health Braintrust, which remains active today in protecting health, equity, and reducing health disparities.

Congressman Lou Stokes was the embodiment of a public servant. He selflessly used his elected positions to increase opportunities for millions of African Americans.

We will miss our dear friend Lou Stokes. But the impact of his legacy of service and commitment to his constituents and to the African American community will be remembered for generations.

Often referred to as the matriarch of the movement, Amelia Boynton Robinson’s role in Bloody Sunday, as you have already heard, and the march from Selma to Montgomery is immortalized in the Oscar-nominated film “Selma.”

She also made history in 1964 by becoming the first African American woman from Alabama to run for Congress. In her congressional election that year, Mrs. Boynton Robinson garnered more than 10 percent of the vote despite the fact that African Americans only made up 1 percent of the voting population in Alabama’s Seventh Congressional District.

Forty-six years later the CBC’s very own representative, TERRI SEWELL, whom we will hear from in just a few moments, now holds that seat here in Congress.

This year, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, we remember the selfless actions of individuals like Amelia Boynton Robinson who fought against systems of injustice so that future generations would have opportunities that were not possible to those in the past.

Tonight we honor Mrs. Boynton Robinson for her legacy which continues in each of us.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, tonight we honor Julian Bond, a forefather of America’s civil rights and one of our country’s greatest advocates for freedom and equality and equitable treatment for all people.

From his work as a student leader during the 1960s to his service in the Georgia House of Representatives and the State Senate, Julian Bond was a leader in the fight against racism and segregation.

I first met Julian Bond at the funeral of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1968. As the founding president of the Southern Poverty Law Center and chairman of the board of the NAACP, Julian Bond continued his fight to bring citizens around the world of the struggles of African Americans and the history of civil rights here in America.

Julian Bond spent his lifetime in public service, calling for equal civil and human rights not only for African Americans, but for every American. Until his untimely death, he was an advocate, activist, and dedicated champion who fought for the most vulnerable individuals and communities among us. We celebrate his life and his lasting legacy.

I want to thank Ms. JACKSON LEE for her leadership and thank her for yielding. I thank the Members for coming to the floor this evening.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman for his very thoughtful statement and for leading us off today and setting the tone for the Congressional Black Caucus. If Congressman Rangel had not done what he did, we would not be here today. I am delighted to yield to him at this time.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative CHARLES RANGEL, who does not need a long introduction. It is important to note that he has led on so many issues. He was not only the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, but also a dear friend of Congressman Lou Stokes and one of the founders of the Congressional Black Caucus. If Congressman Rangel had not done what he did, we would not be here today. I am delighted to yield to him at this time.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman JACKSON LEE for pulling together this tribute. It is moving at exactly the right time for the visit to these Chambers by the Pope, who made it abundantly clear how all of us, no matter how ordinary we are,
can do extraordinary things when we make a commitment to do the right thing.

As some of the older Members know, it is almost unbelievable how people that you know on an everyday basis that go through life with their own problems still can find the time to try to improve the quality of life for so many people.

I feel almost awkward looking at the Representatives from Selma. Alabama this evening because, after Bloody Sunday, there was a call all over the world for people to come to Selma. I was one of those called, and I was one of those that did not think that me going to Selma with my bad feet could make a contribution to anything, and this is especially so after seeing what happened on Bloody Sunday.

But I did go down because of John Lewis and Andrew Young and Martin Luther King and Ralph Bunche, because they said that if I could just come down for the press conference it would be appreciated. So I dressed up and I went down for the press conference. I had a round trip ticket back to New York, but I dressed pretty well, not even thinking that I would be going any further than Selma.

It started to rain, and I felt that this would be the appropriate time for me to get back and go to the airport. When I saw these older people like Amelia Robinson putting plastic on their shoes and starting to sing and starting to march, I said, well, maybe I could go a couple of blocks. I did that, except I found out in Selma there weren't any couple of blocks.

There were no television cameras. There was no one that recognized me down there. I marched 54 miles, cussing every step of the way, trying to figure out what the devil I was doing in Selma.

Congresswoman Sewell, it just proves that if you attempt just to do the right thing, God can push you to do the right thing.

I never did believe, like John Lewis, that the Supreme Court would give us the voting rights and the civil rights. I never thought that President Johnson would ever support these things. Today I tell you the most embarrassing story because you don't have to be a hero to be counted on if you just try to start to do the right thing, and just maybe God will push you to go further.

Certainly, when a woman like Amelia Boynton Robinson is beaten unconscious and someone like John Lewis, who constantly put his life on the line, and of course the late Dr. Martin Luther King, who gave up his life, and God doesn't ask us to do these extraordinary things. But I do believe that the courage that these people have, that each of us have just a grain of it that would allow us to contribute, as the Pope said, to show our respect for God, allowing us to inherit this great Earth to try to make the quality of life better.

Of course, when it comes to a young guy going to Morehouse, as Julian Bond did, dropping out of school, coming from a professional family where education had a higher standard than some of us from the inner cities, it must have broken their heart to know that he was joining a group that would then provide the leadership for our country for so many years.

There is nothing that my heart would allow me to say about Lou Stokes. I came to Congress not knowing that in the Congress was a giant of a man from Cleveland, Lou Stokes, who motivated the 13 of us to form the Congressional Black Caucus. I have walked in the shadows of his giant footsteps since I have been privileged to serve in this House.

Ms. Jackson Lee and members of the Congressional Black Caucus, it is really extraordinary how God has given us the opportunity to say thank you for the blessings that we have, and I do hope that maybe on both sides of the aisle people can talk about those who allowed this to happen, but I also give the sacrifices that so many people have made, and you just don't have to be a giant to appreciate the fact that God has blessed us all.

I thank her for her effort at bringing us together not just tonight, but on every committee, on every bill, and this floor. Sheila Jackson Lee is here to continue to inspire all of us. I thank her for that.

Ms. Jackson Lee, Mr. Speaker, we are so grateful for the special wisdom and insight that Mr. Rangel brings to all of what we do. I know that the late Lou Stokes, the late Amelia Boynton Robinson, and the late Julian Bond are grateful that they knew him and that he is here to tell his story. Even if he considers it embarrassing, I think it is a wonderful testimony for anybody who has said, "I can't do it." We want him to keep telling us that wonderful statement over and over again. I thank him so very much for what he provides the Black Caucus.

I thank him for the kind words he mentioned of Representative Terri Sewell.

I just say to Ms. SEWELL, I don't know what kind of phone message that she had to the Vatican, but I repeat now the words of Pope Francis, as I yield to her. This is Pope Francis, as he spoke just a few days at that very podium:

Here, too, I think of the march which Martin Luther King led from Selma to Montgomery 50 years ago as part of the campaign to fulfill his dream of full civil rights and political rights for African Americans.

Representative Sewell, let me thank you for bringing and infusing life into the wonderful city of Selma, all the wonderful people there, including your dearly beloved mother and father, and having us walk with you every step of the way.

As I yield to her, let me say that we should make a commitment right here today, as we make changes in leadership, that we commit ourselves to the restoration of section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, which she is leading on. It is my delight to yield to her at this time.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I thank our leader of the CBC, Congressman Butterfield, so much for his leadership, exemplary leadership that he exemplifies every day in fighting for the causes that we all hold so dear.

I want to thank Congresswoman Jackson Lee for those wonderful words. Sheila Jackson Lee has not only been an amazing Member of Congress, but she has been a great mentor to me. I want to thank her for all she does for so many of us and the mentoring she continues to provide the younger generation.

What can I say to Charlie Rangel? To even have him know my name is an honor. I know that, but for the remarkable lives of the three people that we celebrate their lives and their legacies together, it would not have been possible. This, I feel, is an extraordinary how God has given us the opportunity to see these trailblazing figures who departed from us way too soon this summer. Their journeys paved the way for myself and so many others serving in this august body. While our hearts are heavy today, we honor them for their historic and notable contributions to this Nation.

Congressman Louis Stokes was the first African American to represent the State of Ohio in Congress, where he served for more than 30 years. He rose to prominence by breaking numerous barriers as the first in so many areas. This included being named the first African American to serve as chairman of the prestigious House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. As an African American who now sits on that committee, I am deeply honored to follow in Louis Stokes' footsteps during his tenure as Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, he stepped into the national spotlight as a vocal critic of the Reagan administration's foreign policy. He spoke boldly on issues of national security and created a legacy of being a fierce advocate for the homeland. In honoring his memory, we must also commit ourselves collectively to continue the fight to promote diversity within the intelligence community. We must also be committed to supporting policies that promote our security in the face of growing threats. It was Congressman Lou Stokes who taught us that our Nation deserves nothing less.
Today we also honor an American treasure and one of my personal heroes, the courageous Mrs. Amelia Boynton Robinson. Mrs. Robinson passed away on August 26, 2015, at the age of 110—yes, 110, Mr. Speaker. Mrs. Amelia Boynton Robinson was a key figure in the voting rights movement in Selma, Alabama. She is often remembered for her critical role in Bloody Sunday.

On that solemn day on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, Robinson was savagely beaten in a photo taken of her shortly after she was attacked and posted in The New York Times became a powerful symbol of the injustices suffered by those who were attempting simply to vote. Yet this tireless, fearless foot soldier continued her work as a leader on the front lines of securing the right to vote for all Americans.

Amelia is best known as the matriarch of the voting rights movement, and it was her courage, along with John Lewis and so many other known and unknown foot soldiers which led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Amelia was such an integral part of the process that the contents of the bill, the voting rights bill, were drafted on her kitchen table in Selma, Alabama, in 1965.

Ms. Boynton not only trailblazed as a voting rights advocate, she put her money where her mouth was and she, herself, ran for Congress. On May 5, 1964, Amelia Boynton broke yet another barrier when she became the first woman in the State of Alabama and the first African American woman in the State of Alabama to run for Congress. In 1964, she garnered 10.7 percent of the vote during a time when very few Blacks were registered to vote. Actually, only 1 percent of the registered voters were African Americans at that time.

Her historic run further solidified her impact on the movement for human rights in Alabama and in this Nation. Without her courageous campaign for the Seventh Congressional District of Alabama in 1964, I know that my election to this seat in 2010, some 50 years later, would not have been possible.

Her sacrifices paved the way for me to walk the Halls of Congress, and I will carry my love and admiration for her in my heart each and every day, for I get to do what she could not, and that is vote on behalf of the members of the Seventh Congressional District of Alabama. For that, I am eternally grateful.

In fact, one of my most memorable moments in this Chamber is the night that she served as my special guest at the State of the Union on January 20, 2015, this past year. I am grateful for the memories of her greeting President Obama. I am so honored not only have called her my constituent, but a beloved mentor and friend. As she is remembered, and she reminds us every day by her life, there is still much work to be done.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to remember the shining legacy of yet another giant figure in the fight for civil and human rights: Mr. Julian Bond. He held several titles over the course of his impactful life, but he is most remembered for his service as the NAACP chairman and the cofounder of the Southern Poverty Law Center. He was also one of the original leaders of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, SNCC, while he was a student at Morehouse College. He later served in the Georgia General Assembly for more than 20 years.

He was first elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 1965. However, because of his longstanding legacy of fighting White supremacy, White statehouse members tried unsuccessfully to block him from taking his seat. This brave spirit was undeterred. He was simultaneously landmark legislation that spoke to the need of Blacks in the State of Georgia.

In addition to his time as an eloquent speaker, he was a celebrated writer, poet, television commentator, communications specialist. He did so much for the Southern Poverty Law Center to set it on its course and so much for the lives of so many.

All three of these wonderful giants tell a story, a story of how ordinary people can do extraordinary things. Working collectively, we as a nation can achieve amazing heights, even if we don’t think so. As Congressman Rangel’s story best exemplified, if we just take one step, hopefully the Lord will give us the strength to take many, many more towards that fight for justice and equality.

In closing, I am reminded of what Amelia Boynton would often say when I and others come up to her and say: “We stand on your shoulders. We stand on your shoulders.” Well, Ms. Amelia Boynton was so infamously known for saying, after hearing it over and over again: “Get off my shoulders. There is plenty of work to be done.” “Do your own work,” is what she said.

And so I say to my colleagues gathered here tonight, my colleagues in this wonderful body called the House of Representatives: We have plenty of work to do. We have plenty of work to do. And while we walk in the footsteps of giants such as Amelia Boynton and Louis Stokes and Julian Bond, let us never forget that they, too, had to take a first step. And as we follow in their footsteps, let us all take many steps towards providing justice and liberty for all Americans, especially those that are most vulnerable.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I think we can leave this evening with the words that Congresswoman SEWELL has just said, and I would add, “do our own work.” That message should carry for whether we are Republicans or Democrats or Independents.

Congresswoman SEWELL, we look forward to doing our own work on the restoration of the Voting Rights Act, section 5, which you are leading and all of us have signed onto. We thank you so much for that eloquent statement and this moment of profound reflection.

Speaking of passion, it is my privilege to introduce a Member who has her own storied civil rights history, someone who has served as the Commissioner on the EEOC, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Battler, one of the trenchers in civil rights, dealing with voting rights cases, dealing with the right to vote in her own District of Columbia. I think she will be the Florence Nightingale, she will be the champion battler; because I believe that this Delegate, Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, will be successful as we fight for the voting rights of the District through her leadership.

I yield to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia, Ms. NORTON.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Representative SHELLA JACKSON LEE, first, for her kind and generous words, but especially today for her leadership of this Special Order, which is characteristic of her leadership in this Congress. I am so pleased that our chair Rep. G.K. BUTTERFIELD has been here and spoken and that we have heard from several other Members.

I just want to say a few words about the trio of African Americans who have written their signatures across our time. You have heard their biographies. I don’t want to recount their extraordinary bios, because that is not the only reason we are honoring them with this Special Order. I just want to say something about what they meant to me.

Two of them I knew personally: Representative Louis Stokes, whose many years in the Congress happened to overlap with my first years here; and, of course, Julian Bond, whom I knew best.

I was not fortunate to know Amelia Boynton. She may have been the most courageous woman in the movement of the 1960s, who insisted upon facing death, if necessary, in that march from Selma to Montgomery, and nearly lost her life. I was privileged to be in her presence, as so many Members of Congress were, when we went to Selma this past summer. That was a privilege in and of itself.

I was fortunate to know Congressman Louis Stokes, who was a founder of the Congressional Black Caucus long before I served. This was a man of great accomplishment. Yes, he can speak about his firsts much more.

He is the first African American to serve in Congress from his hometown of Cleveland, as one of the two famous Stokes brothers—his brother, Carl, the first African American mayor. There is something about the way the men were raised and showed themselves in public life. But it is Rep. Stokes’ career in Congress that stands out for me.
I am not certain there has ever been a more distinguished Member of this body. It looks as if when they were trying to ask somebody to do something hard, they looked to Louis Stokes.

He was the first African American to serve on the House Appropriations Committee. My heaven. And then look at the committees he has chaired—hard ones—the Ethics Committee, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Then they needed someone to do something else that was difficult, and they had to serve on the Iran Contra Committee, and House Select Committee on Assassinations, nothing was more difficult than that.

If you were looking for a Member whom the public would trust and who this body would trust, who do you go to? They went to Louis Stokes. So if you are trying to find out how to serve, recall the life of Representative Louis Stokes.

In the District, we recall his life and his work. Much of his work was done in the field of health. The Howard University Louis Stokes Health Science Library is named for him here in the District of Columbia at Howard University. So we will never forget him.

Of course, I knew best, of course, was my colleague and friend in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, later a client of sorts, and then finally—for 25 years, a constituent.

I met Julian several years after he founded, along with a handful of other students, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. You have got to understand that that group was as different from any student group since. They were not an offshoot of the civil rights movement. They stood on their own.

We never touched racial profiling. It really seemed to have the makings of a landmark case. Indeed, it did become a landmark case. You do not see anybody denying anyone else the right to sit in his seat—or her seat, today—because of that person’s views. The Julian Bond case settled the matter.

What was Julian Bond to do with the rest of his life? First of all, SNCC broke a fair number of people. And though they gave movement to the movement, you may not have heard about many of them since. What Julian did was to give the rest of his life to the movement. For every single day of his life as a man, after he left public service in the Georgia Legislature, he was devoted to the civil rights movement he had entered as a very young man.

He moved to the District of Columbia with his wife, taught at American University and the University of Virginia, and became a man and became a man that makes me chuckle—became the chairman of the NAACP.

At SNCC we thought the NAACP was way too conservative for us, the young and foolish. It tells you how Julian grew. He grew to be the long-time and devoted chairman of the NAACP.

He carried out his devotion to civil rights magnificently. Throughout his entire life, he remained a spokesman for the civil rights movement and for progressive causes, his entire life speaking all around the country, carrying the message.

When he moved here, I had a Black Caucus even then and with John Lewis simply discussing their lives as young men in the civil rights movement. That was to be one of the most memorable moments since I have been in Congress.

Just last February, during Black History Month, I asked Julian to come to Howard University, where he and I engaged in an intergenerational conversation with Howard students about the police shootings in Ferguson, Missouri, and New York. I asked what they meant to this generation and how this generation had to have its own issues and move in its own direction.

One of the things we indicated was that for all of the work of the youth of the civil rights movement of our day, we never touched racial profiling. It remained alive and kicking for a new generation, which has taken it on.

I am, finally, particularly grateful that when Jerry spoke to the District of Columbia, he really became a part of this city, lending his civil rights celebrity to the great cause of this city for full citizenship, for D.C. voting rights, yes, and for statehood for the District of Columbia.

If you came into the District by taxis a few years ago, there was an advertisement. Julian was speaking in a cab, informing you that you were coming to the District of Columbia, where the residents were trying to get their full citizenship.

Wherever he was, he had a way of touching upon the issue of freedom of the day and of the people around him. I will always miss him. This country will always miss him. We are grateful for the life he led. We are grateful, especially, for this Congressional Black Caucus event devoted to his life and the lives of two divergent lives but, in other ways, very similar.

I thank my good friend, Representative Jack Lee, again, for her leadership here.

Ms. Jackson Lee. Let me thank my good friend, Conner Holmes Norton, for giving these three legends the vitality and vibrance of a personal story.

And to just add to his coming to students at Howard University, I want you to know that, at the University of Virginia, where he was, he was the most popular professor with people standing in line because the students sensed his passion and commitment, but they sensed his realness.

Thank you so very much for that very vibrant and informative presentation.

Mr. Speaker, as I introduce this next gentleman, who has his own history, let me quote, again, I indicated, Pope Francis from last week, which captures all of what we are saying tonight: to respond in a way which is always humane, just and fraternal. We need to avoid a situation nowadays to disregard whatever proves troublesome. Let us remember the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

The gentleman that I am going to yield to, Mr. Bobby Scott, is a former chairman of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, now the ranking member on the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and has led his professional, at least his Congressional, life, as I have known it, to be a champion for criminal justice reform, but, more importantly, has been one who has said to us over and over again that you must do unto others as you would like them to do unto you. We must change this criminal justice system to have it be a fair monitoring of how we inspire and restore people’s lives.

I yield now to the gentleman from Virginia, Congressman Bobby Scott. Mr. Scott of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in honor of the lives of three civil rights luminaries. I thank the gentleman from Houston for giving us this opportunity to honor their lives: Congressman Louis Stokes, statesman and educator Julian Bond, both of whom I knew personally, and activist Amelia Robinson.

These champions of social and economic justice lived their lives just as Pope Francis challenged Members of Congress to do.

Specifically, the Pope reminded us of the Golden Rule—do unto others as you would have them do unto you—and that that rule points us in the right direction. He specifically reminded Congress that, if we want opportunities,
Congressman Stokes, the beloved son of the State of Ohio, was affectionately called “Lou” when I served with him in the House. His motto was to aim high, which he did. When he was a Member of Congress when he argued the Supreme Court case challenging the abusive stop-and-frisk policies and practices in the Terry v. Ohio case.

Lou’s integrity was why he was selected to serve on the House Select Committee on Assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the House investigation of the illegal arm sales during the Iran-Contra affair and, of course, his service on the Ethics Committee.

His stride for social and economic justice was on full display when he became the first African American to serve on the House Appropriations Committee. There he directed Federal dollars for justice and inequities by funding programs such as healthcare facilities for veterans, supporting the National Science Foundation, and creating the first office of minority health at the National Institutes of Health.

Statesman and educator Julian Bond dedicated his entire life to this cause of social justice and equity. As a founding member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, or SNCC, he led protests against segregation.

In 1965, Julian Bond was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives, but was denied a seat at the State House because of his opposition to the Vietnam war. In 1966, the Supreme Court ruled 9-0 that the Georgia House’s refusal to seat Julian Bond violated the United States Constitution.

He was subsequently elected for several terms, including service in the Georgia Senate, despite efforts to redraw his district.

He was also the first African American nominated at a major-party convention as a candidate for Vice President of the United States.

Beginning in the 1980s, Julian Bond taught at several universities, including Harvard, Drexel, University of Virginia, and American University.

For more than 20 years at UVA and American University, he taught thousands about the role of the civil rights movement as a seminal part of America’s history.

He stated that the “humanity of all Americans is diminished when any group is denied rights granted to others.”

He served as chairman of the NAACP from 1998 to 2009. At the 2009 commencement at Virginia State University, he told the graduates that, “We all hope that you do well, but I also hope that we do well.”

Activist Amelia Robinson was among the many foot soldiers who fought for civil rights. As a girl, she championed the right to vote for women. As an adult, she opened her home to Martin Luther King and James Bevel and members of SNCC and others to help organize and strategize for civil rights and the right to vote.

Despite the brutal beating she endured during the march for voting rights in Alabama, 50 years ago, she was unwavering in her fight to end segregation and achieve full voting rights for all.

Reflecting on her life as an activist, she stated, “I have been called rabble-rouser, agitator. But because of my fighting, I was able to hand to the entire country the right for people to vote.”

These three African Americans—the legislator, the educator, the activist—were all driven to push towards a more just and equal society. I am honored to recognize their lives and the gifts they gave to our Nation.

Again, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Houston for organizing this fine citizen to pay appropriate tribute to these fine Americans.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentleman from Virginia for citing, in particular, the case law that Julian Bond partakes in particularly the terrific denial of his right to be seated.

Let me also indicate the importance of members of the Congressional Black Caucus sharing the history of these icons, which I hope my colleagues will approach, for many times the history is not remembered or it is not understood.

Certainly, it is my privilege to now yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio, who has firsthand knowledge because she can say that she comes from the State of which Lou Stokes and Carl Stokes were native sons.

She is, of course, an inspirational leader for her district in Columbus, but, more importantly, someone who brings a wealth of experience from her previous service in the Ohio State Legislature and someone who has a passion for the improvement of lives of all people. I believe, as Lou Stokes has said, she understands the value and importance of improving the health of African Americans and all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield to the gentlewoman from Columbus, Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY).

Mrs. BEATTY. Thank you so much, Congresswoman SHELLA JACKSON LEE.

Mr. Speaker, tonight the Congressional Black Caucus honors the life and legacy of three civil rights leaders, Congressman Lou Stokes, Amelia Boynton Robinson, and Julian Bond, who dedicated their lives to making our Nation a better place.

Countless more follow in their footsteps and continue to push for civil rights and voting rights today.

We have come to these chambers tonight, Mr. Speaker, to continue their work in members of the Congressional Black Caucus. We call on Congress to immediately pass the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015. The American people deserve to have real voting rights.

Thank you, Congresswoman SHELLA JACKSON LEE, not only for your leadership tonight, but for being a leader, for walking in their shoes, and for hosting this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order honoring three giants.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. Leaders espoused words in 1965 that still hold true today, words because of the work of these three giants, works like:

We have proved that great progress is possible. We know how much still remains to be done. And if our efforts continue, if our will is strong, if our hearts are right, and if courage remains our constant companion, then my fellow Americans, I am confident we shall overcome. Our objective must be to assure that all Americans play by the same rules, and all Americans play against the same odds. Who amongst us would claim that law is false? Who amongst us would say that the nation is “considered great” when it fosters a culture which enables people to dream of full rights for all their brothers and sisters?

At the White House, he quoted from Martin Luther King, to use a telling phrase of the Reverend Martin Luther King: “We can say that we have defaulted on a promissory note, and now is the time to honor it.”

These three individuals we honor tonight tirelessly contributed to this culture of full rights and equality we are committed to achieving.

Tonight’s roll call: Congressman Lou Stokes.

I am honored to be the third African American from Ohio to follow in his footsteps, following my mentor and dear friend, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, my colleague, mentor and friend, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, who said at his funeral: I don’t get excited about a one hit wonder because Lou Stokes was far from that.

Lou Stokes loved people. He loved the law. He loved the legislative process. He loved his family. And he loved Cleveland, Ohio.

You have heard so much about him, I won’t repeat it. I will submit it for the RECORD, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, if that is okay.

But I will forever be grateful for his encouragement, his friendship, his wisdom, and his leadership. I can’t think of a time or a decision in my life that I didn’t pick up the phone and call Lou Stokes.

Love you, Lou Stokes.

Let me just briefly say we also salute Amelia Boynton Robinson, and much has been said about her. I stand on her shoulders.

And then Julian Bond, another great civil rights leader, whose dedication to equality and justice propelled him to the Georgia Legislature, the NAACP, and the Southern Poverty Law Center, which he co-founded.
His commitment to ending discrimination and injustice continues to inspire us, and his legacy will guide us and the next generation of civil rights leaders and activists to greatness.

He, like the other individuals we pay tribute to tonight, helped change this country for the better.

Thank you, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE. Thank you to all my colleagues with the Congressional Black Caucus for capturing and reflecting on the lives of three great civil warriors as we took a walk in their footsteps of greatness.

The Congressional Black Caucus honors the life and legacy of three Civil Rights leaders—Congressman Louis Stokes, Amelia Boynton Robinson and Julian Bond who dedicated their lives to making our nation a better place.

Countless more follow in their footsteps and continue to push for civil rights and voting rights today.

Tonight the Congressional Black Caucus recognizes the lives of three great civil warrior leaders—Congressman Louis Stokes, Amelia Boynton Robinson and Julian Bond.

This year is the 50th Anniversary of Voting Rights Act. Leaders . . . espoused words in 1965 that still hold true today. Words like:

We have proved that great progress is possible. We know how much still remains to be done. And if our efforts continue, and if our will is strong, and if our hearts are right, and if courage remains our constant companion, then my fellow Americans, I am confident, we shall overcome. Our objective must be to assure that all Americans play by the same rules, and all Americans play against the same odds. Who among us would claim that that level field today?

Just last week, His Holiness Pope Francis delivered a historic, profound, and provocative address to a Joint Session of Congress.

This address reminded us that a nation is "considered great" when "it fosters a culture which enables people to dream of full rights for all their brothers and sisters."

At the White House, he quoted words from MLK . . . to use a tilling phrase of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. . . . we can say that we have defaulted on a promissory note and now is the time to honor it.

The three individuals we honor tonight tirelessly contributed to this culture of full rights and equality and we are committed to achieving.

CONGRESSMAN STOKES

I am honored to be the third African-American from Ohio to follow Congressman Louis Stokes who served for 30 years in Congress. I am grateful for his encouragement, friendship, wisdom, and leadership.

He earned a seat on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, the first person of color to ever do so, and focused on improving housing and urban development for veterans, senior citizens, and the homeless.

In 1971, along with our esteemed Dean of the House, Congressman JOHN CONYERS, Congressman Stokes helped found the Congressional Black Caucus to promote economic, educational, and social issues important to African Americans: this is a purpose he served as chairman of the NAACP. Bond served as the first president of the NAACP, and Julian Bond, and civil rights icon Mrs. Amelia Boynton Robinson.

A centenarian—Mrs. Robinson’s 110 years of life, that in itself is a great honor—she was dedicated to education, Julian Bond, that great statesman from Georgia, was one of 11 African Americans elected to the Georgia House of Representatives after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Bond served 30 years in both legislative chambers in the State of Georgia and served as the first president of the Southern Poverty Law Center. He also served as chairman of the NAACP.

These individuals have impacted the lives of so many African Americans and have undoubtedly advanced the rights and interests of minorities in both our States’ and our Nation’s governments.

Similarly, I would like to just take a moment to recognize two individuals from my own home district of the Virgin Islands. I would like to recognize a former judge and Lieutenant Governor of the Virgin Islands, the late Julio A. Brady, who, like Julian Bond and Congressman Stokes, used his training as an attorney to contribute to his community outside of the courtroom. As a U.S. attorney general, Judge Brady fought to remove barriers of injustice. He was laid to rest this week. Like Congressman Stokes and
Amelia Robinson, Judge Brady’s legacy of service will carry on.

Ursula Krigger was also acentenarian, like Amelia Robinson, and, at age 113 was the oldest living Virgin Islander until her passing this month. She was a griot, an educator whose longevity afforded a unique perspective of witnessing the modern advancement of our territory.

The lives and legacies of these individuals are etched in the annals of our history and their impact forever ingrained in the minds and hearts of the many lives they touched. I am a better person; and, indeed, we are a better nation through the work of these individuals.

I have listened to my colleagues tonight speak about Representative Louis Stokes, Amelia Boynton Robinson, and Julian Bond and the personal impact these individuals had on the work of my colleagues with whom they served and have known personally.

Unquestioned, while many like myself may not have had the great honor and pleasure of toiling and working with them shoulder to shoulder in the struggle for civil rights and the advancement of minorities in our country. Many of us, like myself, wish to commiserate and appreciate their sacrifice, and we understand the work that must still be done. We will continue their legacy here today and in Congress in the future.

Thank you so much, Congressional Black Caucus, for this time. And thank you again to my colleague from Texas, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, for the time that I have been afforded to speak on behalf of these great Americans.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Congresswoman PLASKETT, thank you so very much for laying the groundwork for those who now step into those footsteps, and you have done so with such leadership and certainly such passion. Thank you so very much.

Mr. Speaker, what is my time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RUSSELL). The gentlewoman from Texas has 2 minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me conclude by thanking the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus and my colleagues. It is so important for the Congressional Black Caucus to be able to talk to America—Representative BUTTERSCOTCH, Representative ANDERSON, Representative SEWELL, Delegate HOLMES NORTON, Representative BOBBY SCOTT, Representative JOYCE BEATTY, and, of course, Congresswoman PLASKETT—to be able to give life to why we are here representing all of America. We have taken special people that, without our voices, would not be able to be heard.

I simply want to add these words of the Pope, again, to be able to remind everyone what these icons that we are speaking of tonight in the Congressional Black Caucus—46 of us, along with Senator BOOKER—have a vital role in this place. As the Pope indicated, I would encourage you to keep in mind all those people around us who are trapped in the cycle of poverty. They, too, need to be given hope. The fight against poverty and hunger must be fought constantly on many fronts, especially in its causes.

I believe that Americans today, as in the past, are working to deal with this problem. That is the essence of Julian Bond, who never stopped giving; that is the essence of Amelia Boynton Robinson, who continued to fight for civil rights until her death at the age of 104 on August 6, 2015; that is the essence of Congressman Lou Stokes, a legislative giant, the chairman of an appropriations subcommittee, a person who went to public housing and places where children were and told America that your children are dying because they are living in substandard housing, lead poisoning was killing them, which gave me the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, as I said before, to give a grant to my public housing during this past week on helping with lead poisoning.

I worked for Lou Stokes, and I am very glad to note that, working for him, I can say, truly a gentleman, truly a leader.

To this Congress, I beg of you, let us look at these icons and celebrate not only their lives, but commit to the passion and justice of their lives, and, as well, the words of Pope Francis that tell us to do unto others as we would like others to do unto us.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to again thank the members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, is it with a heavy heart that I rise to speak in praise of Louis Stokes, one of the greatest and most respected Members ever to serve in this body, who died on Tuesday, August 18, 2015, at his home near Cleveland, Ohio at the age of 90.

It is not unusual in these days for commentators and politicians to talk of something called “American Exceptionalism.”

But what is meant by the term?

Mr. Speaker, one way to understand the term: America is exceptional because it produces and finds persons like Louis Stokes and affords them the opportunity to utilize their talents to the fullest in the service of their community and their country.

Think about it: in what other nation does a little African American boy born in 1925 on the east side of Cleveland and raised in the Outhwaite Homes housing project by a mother who worked as a domestic for affluent families in the wealthy Cleveland suburb of Shaker Heights go on to become an exceptional human being?

Think about it: in what other nation does a little African American boy born in 1925 on the east side of Cleveland and raised in the Outhwaite Homes housing project by a mother who worked as a domestic go on to become the first African American member of Congress from Ohio, become the only person to serve on the powerful Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, the Select Committee on Assassinations, and an Appropriations Subcommittee to consider appropriations for the Department of Justice? Louis Stokes was an exceptional human being.

Yes, America is an exceptional nation and Louis Stokes would also graduate from Cleveland Marshall School of Law, which he received in 1953; three years later, his brother Carl would also graduate from Cleveland Marshall School of Law and the two of them would go on to form the law firm of Stokes & Stokes specializing in the areas of civil rights and criminal law.

In 1964, the Supreme Court decided the landmark case of Reynolds v. Sims, 377 U.S. 533 (1964), which established the principle of “one person, one vote” governing the reapportionment of legislative bodies.

The following year, working on behalf of the local branch of the NAACP, Louis Stokes led the legal challenge to the Ohio legislature’s congressional redistricting, which had the effect of diluting African American voting strength in Cleveland.

The challenge was unsuccessful in the federal district court but undeterred, Louis Stokes, joined by Charles Lucas, an African American Republican, successfully appealed the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, which in an order handed down in 1966 made the congressional redistricting plan unconstitutional and ordered it redrawn, resulting in the creation of Ohio’s first majority-black district, the 21st Congressional District of Ohio.

Ironically, Louis Stokes would defeat his one-time ally Charles Lucas to win that seat in November 1968, capturing 75% of the vote, the closest of his 15 successful elections to the U.S. House of Representatives.

For the next 30 years, from 1969 to 1999, Congressman Stokes tirelessly fought for his constituents in Cleveland, Ohio, the best interests of the people of Ohio and the United States.

Louis Stokes, a founding member and Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus from 1972–74, was the epitome of a public servant.

In his second term in Congress, he won appointment to the powerful House Appropriations Committee, where he served for 28 years, later becoming the second African American “Cardinal” in history when he was selected to chair the VA, HUD, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Because of the esteem in which he was held by his colleagues and the leadership, Lou Stokes would also later be selected to Chair the House Permanent Select Committee on
Mr. Speaker, Louis Stokes’ commitment to fairness and equal treatment started long before he was elected to Congress. As a lawyer for the NAACP, he brought antidiscrimination lawsuits, represented demonstrators arrested in antidiscrimination marches, and took the cases of poor persons charged with crimes.

One of those cases was the famous case of Terry v. Ohio, 392 U.S. 1 (1968) won by Louis Stokes in which the Supreme Court held that a police officer could “stop and frisk” an individual only where he could articulate a reasonable basis that the person was, or was about to be, engaged in criminal activity. As a result of Terry v. Ohio, a police officer has the right to stop, frisk, and question an individual he reasonably suspects to be engaged in criminal activity. But because of Louis Stokes’ exceptional advocacy in Terry v. Ohio, the high court of every individual who has been harassed by law enforcement protection from the Constitution from arbitrary and abusive treatment by law enforcement.

But the fight for a criminal justice system that respects the rights of all persons is not over. That is why I am proud to be the Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations and a leader in the effort to reform the criminal justice system so that all persons receive fair and equal treatment regardless of their race, gender, religion, or national origin.

Louis Stokes fought tirelessly to fulfill the promise of the 14th Amendment that “no state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges and immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within his jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.” It is a fight I am proud to continue today.

Mr. Speaker, Louis Stokes will be mourned by friends and colleagues on both sides of the aisle who had the privilege to serve alongside him. He was a mentor to me and I will always remember his commanding presence and cherish the assistance he provided me and the example he set for new Members to follow. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, his loved ones, his grandchildren; and the untold thousands of persons who touched and whose lives were touched by one of Cleveland’s greatest sons.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of Louis Stokes, an exceptional American, and the gentleman from Ohio who served in this chamber for three decades with honor, integrity, and distinction.
the HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes has provided more than $175 million in competitively awarded grants to communities across the nation to investigate and address lead hazards in homes.

The asthma home-visit program in Cleveland that decreases the hospitalization rate of children with asthma, highlighted in The Plain Dealer of June 20, is a direct outgrowth of Congressman Stokes’ work.

In 2012, HUD created the Louis Stokes Healthy Homes Award and presented the first one to him at the City Club of Cleveland. When he received the award, he pointed out that much has been achieved and that much more remains to be done. He also said that he knew what all the fuss was about, as he was just a kid who grew up in public housing, who wanted to do the right thing for our children.

He was an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to speak in praise of Julian Bond, one of the leading lights of the Civil Rights Movement, who died on Saturday, August 15, 2015, at the age of 75.

While he lost his battle to the illness that claimed his life, it is the struggle for civil rights and human dignity he helped to win that will forever remembered and revered.

Horace Julian Bond was born January 14, 1940 in Nashville, Tennessee to Julia Agnes and Horace Julian, Sr.

Julian’s father was the first African-American President of Lincoln University of Pennsylvania, the same institution attended by Thurgood Marshall and Langston Hughes who would both go on to make substantial contributions to the Civil Rights Movement and the advancement of African-Americans.

Julian’s father later became president of Atlanta University and Julian decided to attend Morehouse College, one of the leading black colleges in the nation.

Julian Bond, who came from a long line of educators, determined at an early age to put his journalistic and organizing talents in service of the cause of civil rights and racial equality.

While a student at Morehouse College, Julian helped found The Pegasus, a literary magazine that addressed health and social issues that confront all people, including the LGBT community.

Mr. Speaker, today it is difficult to imagine there once was a time in our country when blacks and whites could not eat together in public restaurants, use the same public restrooms, stay at the same hotels, or attend the same schools.

Julian Bond answered the call to action and put his studies on hold to devote all of his energies and efforts to ending segregation and racial injustice.

Mr. Speaker, it is not unusual these days for us to think of a champion as someone who receives the highest accolades in sports.

Julian Bond was a champion of the people.

His success is measured not in the numbers of trophies, medals, ribbons, and championship banners, but in the number of doors and opportunities he helped to open for those who had been neglected, marginalized, and disenfranchised.

Julian Bond knew that to bring about non-voluntary social change it was necessary to organize people and to build the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

SNCC, which organized and mobilized the participation of students and young people in the Civil Rights Movement, conceived the Freedom Rides that challenged the practice of racial segregation in interstate transportation and the Mississippi Freedom Summer project that undertook the dangerous work of helping African Americans register to vote in the state most committed to maintaining White supremacy by any means.

SNCC was not the first leadership role history and circumstance would call upon Julian Bond to assume; nor would it be the last.

In 1965, after passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Julian Bond was elected to represent the residents of the 32nd district in Georgia House of Representatives.

But on January 10, 1966, his white colleagues in the Georgia House voted 184–12 not to seat him because he had publicly expressed his opposition to the Vietnam War.

Julian Bond challenged the refusal of the Georgia House to seat him and took his case all the way to the United States Supreme Court, which ruled in the unanimous decision of Bond v. Floyd, 385 U.S. 116 (1966), that newspaperman John Stuart, Jr. was protected by the First Amendment and directed that he be seated as a duly elected member of the state legislature.

Julian Bond would go on to serve three more terms in the Georgia House, where he co-founded the Legislative Black Caucus, and six terms in the Georgia State Senate.

In 1971, Julian Bond co-founded and served as president of the Southern Poverty Law Center that tracks the actions of hate groups to better inform and prepare communities about the dangers these groups pose.

Julian Bond consistently identified issues of civil inequality and provided solutions by gathering groups of community leaders, professionals, and educators to protect what the laws and policies would not, our basic civil rights.

In 1998, Julian Bond’s commitment to justice and equality led him to answer the call to serve and accept the position of Chairman of the NAACP, a post he held until 2010.

Mr. Speaker, during the earliest days of his leadership, Julian Bond was among the first to recognize the importance of the contemporary fight to achieve equality into the modern era as he watched African-Americans achieve the highest awards in their professions and continued to break down barriers.

In November 2008, Julian Bond witnessed the election of the first African American President of the United States, a feat thought impossible just a decade earlier.

Mr. Speaker, because of trailblazers like Julian Bond millions of Americans gained access to opportunities previously denied to members of their communities.

Julian Bond spent 5 years with SNCC, 8 years as president of the Southern Poverty Law Center, 12 years as the president of NAACP, 20 years as a state representative, and 75 years an unwavering champion of civil rights for all people, including the LGBT community.

My thoughts and prayers are with Julian’s beloved wife Pamela, his children and grandchildren; and the untold millions of persons whose lives were touched by one of America’s greatest activists.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of Julian Bond, a tireless and eloquent voice for justice, equality, and human dignity who did so much to close the gap between the promise of America’s founding ideals and the reality of people’s lives.

CIVIL RIGHTS GIANT JULIAN BOND NEVER STOPPED GIVING

(Posted By Edna Kane-Williams on August 16, 18, 2015)

President Obama described him as a “hero” who “helped changed this country for the better.” The Rev. Jesse Jackson called him “leader with strength, character,” NAACP Chairman Roslyn Brock said he “inspired a generation of civil rights leaders.”

Teresa Sullivan, president of the University of Virginia, where he graduated for many years, called him a beloved retired professor who “shaped the course of history through his life and work.”

However you choose to describe Julian Bond, one thing is for sure: He taught us all how to stand for what we believe. And he believed in freedom, justice and equality.

For me, one of the most remarkable attributes of this civil rights giant is the fact that he never stopped giving. Even at the time of his brief illness and death on August 15 at the age of 75, he was still serving faithfully as chairman emeritus on the NAACP board. Even after he retired from the professorship at the University of Virginia, he continued to mentor and remained a role model for students and others.

A writer, poet, television commentator, leader and college teacher and former politician—Julian Bond was one of those rare people whose word became legendary while he was still doing it. In fact, the Library of Congress once called him a “living legend.”

And because of the magnitude of his work, he leaves many treasured that will simply keep on giving. UVA, where his papers are housed, has announced its goal to establish a Julian Bond Professorship in Civil Rights and Social Justice, which “will continue Bond’s scholarly legacy.” There will certainly be many more designations in honor of his life’s work.

And surely some will rise, seeking to follow in his footsteps. Mr. Bond believed in young people’s ability to make the rights and social justice gains and run with it. Earlier this year, he voiced encouragement to Howard University students, “I think you know what the problems are. You know what the solutions are, and I’m sure we will be glad to help. But don’t depend on us to tell you what to do. Just go out and do it.”

Well, he left an amazing road map. From his pioneering civil rights work and as a co-founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee to all of his work and contributions thereafter, Julian Bond was a model for anyone who aims to make an impact and leave the world a better place.

In that regard, he was a role model for us all. What a life. What a legacy.

Amelia Boynton was born on August 18, 1907, in Savannah, Georgia. Her early activism included holding black voter registration drives in Selma, Boynton spent her first two years of college at Georgia State College (now Savannah State University), then transferred to the Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) in Alabama. She graduated with a bachelor’s degree in economics before further pursuing her education at Tennessee State University, Virginia State University and Temple University.

In the 1930’s, Boynton Robinson began her activist career by registering African Americans to vote. In 1964, she ran for Congress to represent Alabama. She was the first woman to run for this Democratic seat, and although she did not win, she received 10% of
votes. As the civil rights movement picked up, Boynton asked Martin Luther King Jr., who had witnessed her arrest in January 1965 for seeking to register Black voters, to visit Selma and empower the community. King accepted, and joined Boynton Robinson and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in planning the march from Selma to Montgomery on March 17th, 1965.

As approximately 600 marchers walked across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, they were confronted by 200 state troopers and Alabama policemen who reargued and beat the non-violent protesters. This horrific event came to be known as Bloody Sunday.

At least 17 protesters were sent to the hospital, including Boynton Robinson. A picture of her unconscious body lying on the ground after an officer shot tear gas into her throat spread through every news media outlet across the globe, and quickly became a symbol for race relations in the United States at the time.

The Selma to Montgomery march was a pivotal demonstration in the civil rights movement, leading to future victories such as the Voting Rights Acts of 1965 signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Boynton Robinson was an incredible activist, leader, and woman, and is remembered for her courage and strength throughout the civil rights movement. She worked for equality for all until her last day on this earth.

[From the Two-Way, Aug. 26, 2015]

By Bill Chappell

AMELIA BOYNTON ROBINSON, SURVIVOR OF ‘BLOODY SUNDAY,’ DIES AT 104

Amelia Boynton Robinson, who went from being beaten on a bridge in Selma, Ala., in 1965 to crossing the bridge in a wheelchair alongside the president of the United States, has died at age 104.

Her daughter, Germaine Bowser, confirmed to Troy Public Radio's Kyle Gassiott that Boynton Robinson died early Wednesday morning. She had been hospitalized after suffering several strokes this summer.

Born in Savannah, Ga., Boynton Robinson was a pioneer in the voting rights movement who took part in the event that came to be known as Bloody Sunday," when she and other activists were attacked by state troopers as they tried to march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Along with Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., Boynton Robinson held hands with President Obama as the men walked across the bridge this past March, marking the 50th anniversary of the march in Selma.

The Montgomery Advertiser reports: "Boynton Robinson asked Martin Luther King Jr. to come to Selma to mobilize the local community in the civil rights movement. She worked with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and helped plan the Selma to Montgomery march. Her role in the event was recaptured in the movie "Selma," where she was portrayed by actress Lorraine Toussaint. She was invited as a guest to the signing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson."

Boynton Robinson also "made history in 1964 as the first African-American to run for Congress in Alabama," Alabama Public Radio reported earlier this year, when the civil rights leader ran in the 2015 State of the Union address in Washington, DC. She was the guest of Rep. Terri Sewell, Alabama's first elected African-American congresswoman.

CHRISTIANS UNDER ATTACK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOMHER) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOMHER. Mr. Speaker, I come before this honorable House with an issue that has been rather heart-breaking for so many of us for so long now.

In the Middle East, the cradle of Christianity, where it started 2,000 years ago based on the Judeo principles from thousands of years before that, there has been a massive onslaught. Against Jews, it has been going on for some time; but especially in the last several years, it has become untenable for Christians.

In an article by Debra Heine, September 20, my sister's birthday, she wrote about "2,000 Years of Christian Civilization Destroyed on Obama’s Watch."

It says this in the article: "The Islamic State has managed to destroy two thousand years of Christian civilizations in the Middle East in just a couple of years. Lt. Col. Ralph Peters noted on ‘The O'Reilly Factor’ last week. And he placed the blame squarely on President Obama’s... policy."

"ISIS has been spreading across the Middle East like a plague of locusts, and as they have spread, they have targeted religious minorities, particularly Christians, for destruction. In Syria, tens of thousands of Assyrian Christians have been attacked and displaced."

"They are forgotten refugees."

Mr. Speaker, I have met with Christians and Christian leaders from Syria, and the stories they tell and the horrors they talk about, the inhumanity to man that is being inflicted upon Christians in that area is just untenable. Is there objection to the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Amelia Boynton Robinson, an American hero who devoted her entire life to the fight for equal rights for all. She was a child suffragette, who alongside her mother, advocated for the women’s vote and then as a young woman fought for the right of blacks to have their say at the ballot box. After bold run to represent Alabama in Congress, Mrs. Robinson helped organize the Bloody Sunday March from Selma to Montgomery. She was hospitalized after being knocked unconscious by a white officer, which left her unadvent and even more determined to fight for the African-American vote. It was my honor to nominate her for a Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Phoenix Award earlier this year, but sadly, she died before I could present her. Thankfully, however, Mrs. Robinson was able to share enough stories about her courageous experiences to fill a history book and resonate for generations to come.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I come before this honorable House with an issue that has been rather heart-breaking for so many of us for so long now.

In the Middle East, the cradle of Christianity, where it started 2,000 years ago based on the Judeo principles from thousands of years before that, there has been a massive onslaught. Against Jews, it has been going on for some time; but especially in the last several years, it has become untenable for Christians.

In an article by Debra Heine, September 20, my sister’s birthday, she wrote about “2,000 Years of Christian Civilization Destroyed on Obama’s Watch.”

It says this in the article: “The Islamic State has managed to destroy two thousand years of Christian civilizations in the Middle East in just a couple of years. Lt. Col. Ralph Peters noted on ‘The O’Reilly Factor’ last week. And he placed the blame squarely on President Obama’s... policy.”

“ISIS has been spreading across the Middle East like a plague of locusts, and as they have spread, they have targeted religious minorities, particularly Christians, for destruction. In Syria, tens of thousands of Assyrian Christians have been attacked and displaced. They are forgotten refugees.”

Mr. Speaker, I have met with Christians and Christian leaders from Syria, and the stories they tell and the horrors they talk about, the inhumanity to man that is being inflicted upon Christians in that area is just untenable. Is there objection to the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. Speaker, I would be interested to talk to the President of Togo tomorrow. I have been to his country before. I have seen the poverty, and I have seen the affliction.

But in the Middle East, Christians are not even allowed to be in the area where the Apostle Paul walked. The Apostle Paul planted churches where Christian missionaries were, along the times right after Jesus resurrected. In the early days of the church, churches were planted. And now, while the United States is said to be the sole superpower, Christians are being persecuted in greater numbers around the world than ever in history.

If there is a God who loves Christians, loves all people but has an affinity for Jews and Christians, then there would have to be a price for any nation that allows this to go on.

This article goes on: A Catholic priest who visited Kurdish Iraq last described the wounded souls of the Christians who had taken refuge there. They had been forced from their homes in northern Iraq in the summer of 2014.

“Without question, we are talking about genocide here. Genocide is not only when the people are killed, but also when the soul of a people is destroyed. And that is what is happening in Iraq now,” said Fr. Andrzej Halemba, head of Aid to the Church in Need’s Middle East section, October 26. “It is the most tragic thing that I have ever experienced.”

This is from the priest. The priest goes on: “I have seen people who have been deeply wounded in their soul. In the various crises in this world, I have often seen people who have lost everything. But in Iraq, there are Christians who have had to leave everything and take flight three or four times. They can see no light at the end of the tunnel.”

“Last spring, hundreds of Assyrian Christians fled to Lebanon after ISIS jihadists stormed their villages in Syria’s northeastern province of Hassakeh. “Members of Lebanon’s Assyrian community did their best to welcome the new refugees, but the displacement had left them traumatized.”

“The villages of Khazer are empty now. There is nothing left except some fighters,” lamented Chorbishop Yatron Koliana, as he oversaw the distribution at his diocese.”