

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO AMELIA BOYNTON ROBINSON, CONGRESSMAN LOUIS STOKES, AND JULIAN BOND

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor three civil rights legends: Ms. Amelia Boynton Robinson, Mr. Julian Bond, and my dear friend and mentor, Congressman Louis Stokes. Each a leader in his or her own right, these trailblazers laid the foundation we stand upon today.

They paved the way for us and have inspired us to continue fighting for equality and justice. Because of them, we must do more.

Ms. Boynton Robinson's legacy moves us to never stop fighting for voting rights. All Americans should have full access to the ballot box. The strength of our democracy rests upon the participation of every citizen.

Mr. Bond's life's work commits us to striving for equality and full protection under the law for all Americans. Our country will never fulfill the promise of the land of the free and the home of the brave, if any citizen is denied justice and legal fairness.

In honor of my dear friend Congressman Stokes, we will never stop advocating for our nation's most vulnerable. We must continue to give voice to the voiceless and work to ensure all Americans have access to the American Dream. It is our obligation to serve the best interests of the people of this country, whether a pauper or the populace.

Mr. Speaker, we stand on the shoulders of giants. This great woman and these great men remind us why we stand here today and who we are here to represent. We thank them for their service and sacrifice, and pledge to continue to fight in honor of their legacies.

In closing, I'd like to take a moment of personal privilege and thank my colleagues in the Ohio Delegation and the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) for signing on to H.R. 427, a resolution honoring the life and legacy of Congressman Stokes. We currently have 57 co-sponsors on the bill.

It is so important that the world knows who Congressman Stokes was and what he did. Congressman Stokes is etched in Ohio's history, and with this resolution will be firmly woven into the fabric of this great nation forever.

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SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of

three very special leaders from the African American community who have passed away this year. Through their personal sacrifices and steadfast leadership, Representative Louis Stokes, Amelia Boynton Robinson, and Julian Bond have impacted the lives of countless Americans and I would like to join my colleagues in honoring their legacies.

I have had the distinct honor of working alongside Representative Stokes before he retired from the United States Congress in 1999. Before being elected to Congress, Representative Stokes was a tireless advocate for promoting civil rights as a lawyer. In 1968, Representative Stokes was elected as Ohio's first African American congressman, where he would go on to become a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. After serving for 30 years in Congress, Representative Stokes is remembered by his commitment to public service and his insatiable desire to help the most disadvantaged segments of the population.

Amelia Boynton Robinson was a prominent figure from the Civil Rights Movement, most well-known for her strong efforts to encourage voter participation among African Americans. Ms. Boynton was key to organizing civil and voting rights demonstrations in Alabama, including a march to the state capital of Montgomery. It was during this march on Bloody Sunday when Ms. Boynton was beaten unconscious in the defense of basic voting rights for African Americans. Ms. Boynton would live to the age of 110 before passing away in Montgomery, Alabama.

Julian Bond was another Civil Rights leader whose life we honor this year. Mr. Bond helped to co-found the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), which served as a platform to drive the success behind organizing African American voters during a critical time in our nation's history. Mr. Bond also co-founded and was named the first president of the Southern Poverty Law Center, a legal organization dedicated to protecting the most vulnerable while advocating for basic rights for all. He also served in the Georgia House of Representatives despite a bitter vote by his colleagues not to seat him. Later in his life, Mr. Bond served as chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) from 1998 to 2010.

Representative Louis Stokes, Amelia Boynton Robinson, and Julian Bond were model citizens whose legacies will be idolized long into the future. These three leaders have left lasting impressions that will set examples for new generations. Mr. Speaker, it saddens me and countless others to have to honor these individuals after their passing. However, we are forever grateful for their contributions and countless lives have been improved as a direct result of their sacrifices.

IN HONOR OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of myself and Mr. COSTA, to honor the 125th anniversary of Yosemite National Park.

October 1, 2015 marks 125 years since President Benjamin Harrison signed the legislation establishing our third national park. This law preserved over 1,500 square miles for the public use, resort, and recreation of the American people for all time. Indeed, approximately 275 million people enjoy the majesty of the park annually.

The creation of Yosemite National Park added Tuolumne Meadows, the park's high country, Hetch Hetchy, and lands surrounding Yosemite Valley to those areas already protected by the Yosemite Grant Act of 1864.

Yosemite offers a vast expanse of natural beauty. This national treasure encompasses the iconic Half Dome and El Capitan, numerous waterfalls, deep valleys, grand meadows, ancient sequoias, and a vast array of recreational opportunities. Park visitors have the opportunity to explore an extensive trail system, camp at 13 different sites, bike, bird watch, fish in a number of streams and rivers, horseback ride, rock climb, swim, kayak, and raft. Yosemite is also home to the largest intact subalpine meadow complex in the Sierra Nevada, 30 properties and districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and five National Historic Landmarks.

Mr. Speaker, Yosemite National Park is undoubtedly one of the most extraordinary features of our national landscape. I hope that generations to come will be able to enjoy its many wonders.

CONGRATULATING THE VERMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH ON ITS 70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the Vermont Christian Church D.O.C. on the occasion of their 70th anniversary.

During the summer of 1945, members of the Flint community were concerned with the need of what they called a "Negro Disciples of Christ Church". After many visits from Rev. Courts and Rev. R.L. Jordan of Detroit a meeting was held on October 7th, 1945. The church was then formed with Rev. Courts as its first pastor and \$17.00 in its coffer.

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