

Declaration of Independence.
Galatians 5:1.
Gettysburg Address.

TRIBUTE TO NICHOLAS MITCHELL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 2, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nicholas Mitchell, of Clive, Iowa and a member of Boy Scout Troop 182 for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to demonstrate how they live out the Scout Spirit in their life, to serve as a leader in their troop, earn a total of 21 merit badges, and, finally, to complete an Eagle Scout Project to benefit the community. For his project, Nicholas raised the necessary funds and materials needed to build a storage shed for the Waukee post of the VFW. The work ethic Cole has shown in his Eagle Scout Project and throughout his scouting career speaks volumes about his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and bettering his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family and community demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent Nicholas and his family in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating him on obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking and in wishing him nothing but continued success in his future education and career.

2018 BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 2, 2018

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I take this time to recognize Black History Month and its 2018 theme, African Americans in Times of War. This year's theme reflects on the crucial role of African Americans in the military. Throughout our history, millions of African American men and women have bravely served our country, and their contributions to the betterment of our nation are to be revered. We applaud those who continue to work so diligently to improve and expand upon military opportunities for African American men and women, but we must always acknowledge that there is more progress to be made.

We take this time to honor and reflect on the struggles and triumphs of African American people throughout America's history. African Americans have played a major role in every war, from the Revolutionary War to the Civil War. However, for a large majority of those wars, these brave individuals failed to receive ample recognition for their achievements. Let us take the time this month to recount and praise the African American men and women who served our country during wartime, and to commend those who serve in the military today.

The First Congressional District of Indiana, which I proudly serve, has a rich history steeped in military service. The late Quentin Smith, of Gary, Indiana, serves as a perfect example of what this year's theme means to the community of Northwest Indiana and the entire country. Quentin Smith was a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, the renowned African American World War II air corps. This group escorted and protected bombers as they flew missions over Europe, and they seldom lost a plane. For his bravery, courage, and heroism, Quentin Smith, along with his fellow Airmen, was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. Following his military career, Mr. Smith continued to serve his community, especially the youth, through teaching and serving as the first principal of Gary West Side High School. A committed public servant, Mr. Smith was also involved in local government as a member of the Gary City Council, among many other exemplary accomplishments. Mr. Smith passed away in 2013 at the age of 94, but his legacy will live on for generations to come. For his truly honorable military career and his dedication to his community, Quentin Smith is held in our highest esteem.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other colleagues join me in celebrating Black History Month and honoring the African American men and women who served in the past while commending those who serve today. We are forever indebted for their contributions to protecting our great nation, and we thank them for their perseverance, sacrifice, and struggle.

A THREAT TO LABOR UNIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman SCOTT for yielding and for anchoring this very important Special Order on the value of the labor unions, and the pending case of *Janus v. AFSCME*, Council 31, No. 16-1466, which is scheduled to be heard and decided by the Supreme Court this term.

Mr. Speaker, it is my strong hope and expectation that the Supreme Court will uphold the position advanced by Respondent AFSCME, Council 31.

All workers should chip in their fair share to cover the cost of representing them.

That is because unions work because all employees benefit from the terms and conditions of employment negotiated by unions.

Fair share fees provide public service workers with the power in numbers they need to negotiate better wages, benefits and protections that improve work conditions and set standards for everyone.

The corporate special interests supporting this attack on labor unions want to weaken the ability of unions to build strength in numbers.

That is why they want the Supreme Court to rule that workers can receive all the benefits of a union contract without contributing anything in return.

I know it is fashionable today to disparage, downplay, or minimize the importance of organized labor to our country.

That is easy to do but it would be wrong.

Those who would destroy or further limit the rights of organized labor—those who would

cripple collective bargaining or prevent organization of the unorganized—do a disservice to the cause of democracy.

Fifty years or so ago the American Labor Movement was little more than a group of dreamers, and look at it now.

From coast to coast, in factories, stores, warehouse and business establishments of all kinds, industrial democracy is at work.

Employees, represented by free and democratic trade unions of their own choosing, participate actively in determining their wages, hours and working conditions.

Their living standards are the highest in the world.

Their job rights are protected by collective bargaining agreements, and they enjoy benefits that were unheard of less than a generation ago.

Our labor unions are not narrow, self-seeking groups.

They have raised wages, shortened hours and provided supplemental benefits.

Through collective bargaining and grievance procedures, they have brought justice and democracy to the shop floor.

But their work goes beyond their own jobs, and even beyond our borders.

Our unions have fought for aid to education, for better housing, for development of our national resources, and for saving the family-sized farms.

They have spoken, not for narrow self-interest, but for the public interest and for the people.

Unions are as important as they ever were—because corporations are just as dedicated to their bottom line, regardless of the consequences for workers.

Employers are trying to shed responsibilities—for providing health insurance, good pension coverage, reasonable work hours and job safety protections.

The simple truth is that no one is forced to join a union and no one is forced to pay any fees that go to politics or political candidates.

Rather, each public service worker chooses whether or not to join a union, but the union is still required by law to represent and negotiate on behalf of all public service workers—members and non-members alike.

All employees receive the wage increases, benefits and workplace rights negotiated through the union.

All workers should chip in their fair share to cover the cost of representing them.

When working people have the freedom and opportunity to speak up together through unions, we make progress together that benefits everyone.

Working people need a voice at work to keep employers from making our jobs look like they did 100 years ago, with sweatshop conditions, unlivable wages and 70-hour workweeks.

And lest we forget, it was the men and women of organized labor who rushed into the burning World Trade Center Towers when others were rushing out.

The men and women of organized labor put their lives on the line for their fellow Americans everyday.

They do not ask for much. All they ask is to be treated with respect and dignity.

They want what we all want: to do their jobs and to make a better life for their families.

The least we in the Congress can do is to go on record in support of our working men