

PRESERVING HISTORY: THE GREAT WORLD WAR

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the day was October 8, 1918, a century ago, when the events of the Meuse-Argonne offensive would be etched into history eternal. The largest operation of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEFs) was taking place with over one million American doughboys deployed.

Soldiers were tasked with a dangerous mission, penetrating the Argonne Forest, which was a force in itself to be reckoned with. Thick vegetation, jagged hills, and the entrenchment of German forces made this the single deadliest battle in American history. 125,000 American casualties were sustained, with over 26,000 deaths.

What was to be the final Allied push against German forces on the Western Front, October 8th proved to be a day that would always be remembered by all the nations that participated in the War.

United States Corporal Alvin C. York was in small squadron of about 20 fellow Americans, just boys really, a world away from home. Their task was to take German-held positions. The geography made this objective a difficult one, but York along with his men knew what had to be done.

Following orders, the group advanced, but was fired upon from a nest at the top of a nearby hill. The German gunners cut down nine men, including a superior officer, leaving York in charge of the squad.

Now in charge, and with little to no time to regroup, he fought to avenge the lives of the fellow soldiers that lost their lives. After it was all said and done, York successfully took the position while taking down 20 German soldiers, as well as taking 132 German prisoners. His honorable service in this battle earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor.

York described the events in his diary: "Those machine guns were spitting fire and cutting down the undergrowth all around me something awful. . . . I didn't have time to dodge behind a tree or dive into the brush, I didn't even have time to kneel or lie down.

As soon as the machine guns opened fire on me, I began to exchange shots with them. In order to sight me or to swing their machine guns on me, the Germans had to show their heads above the trench, and every time I saw a head I just touched it off. All the time I kept yelling at them to come down. I didn't want to kill any more than I had to. But it was they or I. And I was giving them the best I had."

The "best he had" was more than enough. The German commander, thinking he was grossly outnumbered, surrendered his garrison of nearly 90 men. Like many men of his time, York never made much of his accomplishments of that day, but his heroic actions did not go unnoticed. Promoted to the rank of sergeant, he remained on the front lines until November 1, ten days before the armistice.

The New York Times called York "the war's biggest hero." General John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), called him "the greatest civilian soldier" of World War I. The American doughboy born

in a log cabin near the Tennessee-Kentucky border became an American hero and his actions became the basis for the iconic movie, Sergeant York, starring Gary Cooper. Upon York's death in 1964, President Lyndon Johnson called him "a symbol of American courage and sacrifice" who epitomized "the gallantry of American fighting men and their sacrifices on behalf of freedom."

As we honor the 100-year anniversary for the Great World War, let us not forget the more than two million Americans that crossed the Atlantic to fight for freedom in Europe, and the 116,000 of them that never came home. One such soldier that answered the call was my friend, Frank Buckles. Frank died in 2011; he was the last living link to the story of the American Doughboy.

I introduced the Frank Buckles WWI Memorial Act, to restore the local DC memorial and to recognize the service and sacrifice of all the men and women that served in the Great World War. Finally, after 100 years a memorial will finally be built in the nation's capital for all of those who fought in the Great War. I was honored to work with my colleague, Rep. EMANUEL CLEAVER of Missouri in a bipartisan way to make sure that Congress did its part in authorizing the construction of the World War I Memorial on our National Mall.

I often talk about those of our Greatest Generation, but without the fathers from the Great World War, the Doughboys, the Frank Buckles—the rest wouldn't be possible. America goes to war to free, to liberate, to protect, and to bring justice to bear. We owe it to them and our future generations to honor our veterans in our nation's capital. Because, the greatest tragedy of war is to be forgotten.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING ELLENVILLE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

HON. JOHN J. FASO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ellenville Regional Hospital in their efforts to develop a comprehensive, collaborative, community-based and region-wide initiative to help combat the opioid epidemic in Upstate New York.

In 2017 alone, this epidemic claimed more than 72,000 lives across the country. Ellenville Regional Hospital is working with local care providers including, the Columbia Memorial Health and Albany Medical Center and the Greene County Rural Health Network, to develop a model of dynamic care to better treat individuals who are shouldering the tremendous burden of opioid addiction.

Ellenville's plan focuses on providing patients who have overdosed an entry path to treatment that combines medical efforts to counter withdrawal and immediately connecting them with primary health care services, mental health, and addiction services as well as other basic services such as housing, transportation, and nutrition.

The opioid epidemic knows no bounds—spanning across all socioeconomic standings, in every state, in every district, and in every community throughout the country. I extend my sincerest thanks and appreciation to

Ellenville Regional Hospital for their dedicated efforts to spearhead this initiative, share their knowledge, and reverse the dangerous trend of opioid abuse and addiction.

Aside from trailblazing this pathway to more impactful care and treatment for the many struggling with addiction in our Upstate communities, Ellenville Regional Hospital is a leader of rural care in the greater Ulster County region, always innovating and finding ways to improve, and most importantly ensuring our friends and neighbors have access to quality care in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Ellenville Regional Hospital for their dedicated efforts in addressing the opioid epidemic as well as their legacy of innovative and quality care.

HONORING HEIDI WHEELER WITH CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Heidi Wheeler as a woman of the year. She is a hardworking and dedicated advocate for seniors in Yolo County. In her 22-year career at St. John's Retirement Village, Ms. Wheeler has helped provide care to seniors with kindness and compassion. She has grown professionally, seeking further education, and taking on multiple leadership roles. She is now the Skilled Nursing Administrator responsible for the Stollwood Convalescent Hospital within St. John's Village where she cares for some of her community's most vulnerable. Both her professional life and personal time have been dedicated to improving the lives of seniors throughout Yolo County. She lends her time, talent, and expertise to Woodland's Commission on Aging where she recommends and coordinates programs and services for seniors. Through her work on the commission she helps promote a better quality of life for aging individuals ensuring that critical support services are available. She is also a part of Leading Age, a network of nonprofit leaders committed to supporting and empowering seniors in their community. Through this organization, she helps fight for quality senior living and care. Ms. Wheeler is a passionate advocate on behalf of seniors, working to ensure a full and rewarding life for all people in her community.

HONORING THE NAACP-HOUSTON BRANCH FOR 100 YEARS OF REMARKABLE SERVICE AND EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CAUSE OF EQUALITY FOR ALL

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Houston Branch of the oldest, largest, most

historic and most influential civil rights organizations in the United States, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, known to all simply as the "NAACP."

Founded in 1918, the Houston Branch of the NAACP has played a pivotal role in some of the most pivotal moments and landmark voting and civil rights cases, including *Smith v. Allwright*, 321 U.S. 649 (1944), which overturned a Texas statute that authorized the Democratic Party to set its internal rules, including the use of white primaries; and *Sweatt v. Painter*, 339 U.S. 629 (1950), which successfully challenged the doctrine of "separate but equal" in higher education and helped pave the way for the Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954), four years later.

The NAACP-Houston Branch's tradition of service continues today under the dynamic leadership of its president, Dr. James Douglas, and Executive Director, Yolanda Smith.

First organized in 1905, the group was known as the Niagara Movement when members began meeting at a hotel situated on the Canadian side of the Niagara Falls.

Members of the group had to meet in Canada because American hotels in Niagara Falls were segregated.

Under the leadership of the Harvard-educated scholar, the great W.E.B. DuBois, the group would later be known as the National Negro Committee before finally adopting the name by which it has been known for the last 108 years—the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, or NAACP—at its second conference in 1910.

The first official meeting was held on February 12, 1909, the centennial of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln.

The mission of the NAACP was clearly delineated in its charter:

To promote equality of rights and to eradicate caste or race prejudice among the citizens of the United States;

To advance the interest of colored citizens; to secure for them impartial suffrage; and

To increase their opportunities for securing justice in the courts, education for the children, employment according to their ability, and complete equality before law.

Mr. Speaker, for more than a century, the NAACP has stayed true to its charter and championed the cause of justice and equality in America.

It has fought valiantly and tirelessly on behalf of African-Americans and others to secure their civil rights and liberties and the full measure of justice and equality for all.

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

During World War I, the NAACP successfully campaigned for African-Americans to be commissioned as officers in the army, resulting in President Woodrow Wilson commissioning 600 African-American officers.

During World War II, the NAACP persuaded the administration of President Franklin Roosevelt to issue an executive order banning racial discrimination in war-related industries and federal employment.

In 1948, President Harry Truman became the first president to formally address the NAACP and he worked with the NAACP in appointing a commission to study and offer ideas

to improve civil rights and equality of opportunity for all persons in the United States.

The NAACP's close relationship with President Truman helped to influence him to issue Executive Order 9981, which desegregated the United States Armed Services by announcing the new "policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin," and that this policy be put into effect as rapidly as possible.

Mr. Speaker, the NAACP was perhaps the leading member of the "Big Six"—the coalition of religious, labor and civil rights organizations that organized and staged on August 28, 1963 the historic March on Washington, the most famous act of peaceful protest in our nation's history.

Other members of the Big Six were the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC); the National Urban League; Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC); the International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).

The March on Washington was a seminal event in our nation's history and awakened Americans of goodwill to the urgent need to rededicate ourselves to the great unfinished task of making real the promise of America for all Americans, especially African-Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the current president of the NAACP is Derrick Johnson and the Board Chairman is Leon W. Russell; through the years, the NAACP has been led by some bold, visionary, and effective leaders, including:

Walter White; Roy Wilkins; Benjamin Hooks; Benjamin Chavis; Merlie Evers-Williams, widow of Medgar Evers; Kweisi Mfume; Bruce S. Gordon; Benjamin Todd Jealous; and Cornell William Brooks.

Mr. Speaker, America would be a very different place were it not for the brilliance of the NAACP's Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., the legendary Director of the Washington Bureau from 1950 to 1978.

So effective was Clarence Mitchell in the campaigns to win passage of civil rights laws, including the 1957 Civil Rights Act, the 1960 Civil Rights Act, the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the 1965 Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968, that his sobriquet was the "101st Senator."

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

Among the historic victories won by NAACP lawyers are:

1. 1940—*Chambers v. Florida*, which established that confessions obtained as the result of police coercion are inadmissible at trial;

2. 1944—*Smith v. Allwright*, which outlawed the South's "white primary";

3. 1948—*Shelley v. Kraemer*, which ruled racially restrictive covenants and unconstitutional and legally unenforceable;

4. 1950—*Sweatt v. Painter* and *McLaurin v. Oklahoma State Regents*, which held that separate law and graduate school are inherently unequal and thus unconstitutional;

5. 1954—*Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, landmark case overruling separate but equal doctrine of *Plessy v. Ferguson*; and

6. 1956—*Browder v. Gayle*, which outlawed the practice of racial segregation on buses and led to the end of the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the NAACP remains committed to achieving its goals through non-violence, the legal process, and moral and political suasion, and through direct actions such as marches, demonstrations, and boycotts to give voice to the hopes and aspirations of African-Americans and others who lack the power to make their voices heard.

There is still a need for justice and equal treatment for African-Americans and other vulnerable populations in our country, and thankfully, we still have a vibrant NAACP to advocate their cause and fight for their interests.

I am grateful for the many battles for equality that the NAACP organization has fought and won, and thankful that the NAACP will be there in the future to wage the fight for justice wherever and whenever justice needs a champion.

So on this day I am so proud to salute the 100th anniversary of the remarkable Houston Branch of the NAACP, and express the appreciation of the nation for all it has done to make our country better.

RECOGNIZING GA 09 CBYX AND NSLI-Y SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 3 outstanding high school students from Georgia's 9th Congressional district that have been selected for highly competitive scholarships from the U.S. Department of State.

Ms. Sarah Kudyba has been accepted into the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange. This program is for motivated high school students who want to fully immerse themselves in German culture by living with a host family and attending a local high school. The program is designed to strengthen ties between youth, improve their career skills through formal study and work experience, and expand their cognizance of other cultures, society, history, and politics.

Ms. Victoria Zappi-Colombine and Ms. McKenzie Hooper have been accepted into