

of the pioneer. They will be old, oppressed, battered Negro women, symbolized in a seventy-two year old woman in Montgomery, Alabama, who rose up with a sense of dignity and with her people decided not to ride the segregated buses, and who responded with ungrammatical profundity to one who inquired about her weariness: "My feet are tired, but my soul is at rest." They will be the young high school and college students, the young ministers of the gospel and a host of their elders, courageously and non-violently sitting in at lunch counters and willingly going to jail for conscience' sake. One day the South will know that when these disinherited children of God sat down at lunch counters, they were in reality standing up for what is best in the American dream and for the most sacred values in our Judeo-Christian heritage, thereby bringing our nation back to those great wells of democracy which were dug deep by the founding fathers in their formulation of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.

Never before have I written so long a letter. I'm afraid it is much too long to take your precious time. I can assure you that it would have been much shorter if I had been writing from a comfortable desk, but what else can one do when he is alone in a narrow jail cell, other than write long letters, think long thoughts, and pray long prayers?

If I have said anything in this letter that overstates the truth and indicates an unreasonable impatience, I beg you to forgive me. If I have said anything that understates the truth and indicates my having a patience that allows me to settle for anything less than brotherhood, I beg God to forgive me.

I hope this letter finds you strong in the faith. I also hope that circumstances will soon make it possible for me to meet each of you, not as an integrationist or a civil-rights leader but as a fellow clergymen and a Christian brother. Let us all hope that the dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched communities, and in some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty.

Yours for the cause of Peace and Brotherhood,

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mr. President, I am struck by a fortuitous phrase in the closing of this remarkable letter: "One day the South will recognize its real heroes."

The South will recognize its real heroes indeed—heroes like Dr. King, like Rosa Parks, like my old friend Fred Shuttlesworth; heroes like Congressman JOHN LEWIS, like Fannie Lou Hamer, like Ida B. Wells; heroes like the countless others who stood alongside them in the fight for civil rights and like the innocent victims swept up in the brutal crackdowns during this hopeful movement toward universal human dignity.

We carry on their legacy in our daily lives—in our schools, in our houses of worship, in our workplaces, and throughout our society. That includes in the institution of the U.S. Senate. It is also carried on in the work of Dr. King's family members, like Martin Luther King III.

Dr. King wrote his letter in the midst of this struggle and knew that much work still lay ahead. Less than 6 months after his arrest, the Klan in

Birmingham planted a bomb outside the ladies' lounge of the 16th Street Baptist Church, and it killed four innocent young African-American girls.

A year later, though, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The year after that, it passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Historic changes were afoot. Yet, despite this incredible historic progress—or perhaps because of it—in April 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated in Memphis, TN. He was just 39 years old. He gave his life for this cause. He gave his life in a struggle during which so many gave their lives.

We have to remember this is not ancient history. We know that we still have our challenges albeit in a world that has, no doubt, benefited tremendously from the progress he achieved, but it is still a work in progress. It will always be a work in progress.

If we truly believe in carrying on his legacy, we must recognize that we cannot stand idly by when we see injustice and that we cannot stand idly by when we see a reemergence of hateful rhetoric in our public discourse. We have seen it before. We have seen it before in Birmingham and elsewhere. We have seen before the devastating violence that can follow, and it lives with us today. It lives with us today in tragedies like those of Charleston, Charlottesville, Pittsburgh, and now New Zealand.

We need to strive not just for civility but to make sure we live in a country that does not hold each other in contempt. That bears repeating. We talk a lot in this Chamber about civility and respect and dignity, but the fact is, when we leave this Chamber and go out into the world, people will hold each other in contempt more so than is just public discourse. That has to change, ladies and gentlemen. It has to change. Importantly, we—each of us—should continue to do our part to ensure that the art of the moral universe continues to bend toward justice.

I thank my colleagues who joined me this evening for this historic event. It has been an honor and a privilege.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). The Senator from Ohio.

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD COLE

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, we lost an American hero today—the last in the line of heroes that will I explain in a moment. He was Ohio native Lt. Col. Richard Cole, and he was the last of the fabled Doolittle Raiders.

In the spring of 1942, the Nation was reeling from Pearl Harbor, and 80 Americans embarked on a mission that many thought to be impossible. They knew the dangers. They knew many of them would not come home. The Raiders showed America and the world that the United States and the Allied Forces could win the war. It was considered a turning point in the news coverage and in people's minds.

Like my dad, the Doolittle Raiders came from a generation that spoke

proudly of their service to their country. They rarely drew attention or talked much about their own courage. They sought no recognition but, oh, how they earned it.

It was an honor to help award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Doolittle Raiders in Washington 4 years ago—a long time in coming and so deserved. I believe, at that time, there were five Doolittle Raiders left, and after the death of Mr. COLE, there are none today.

I am so glad that Dick Cole was able to live to receive that medal, as were a handful of others. These men are no longer with us, so it is all the more important that we continue to tell their story. My heart goes out to the families and friends of Lieutenant Colonel Cole and to those of all the Raiders. I thank the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders Association for keeping that memory alive.

NOMINATION OF CHERYL MARIE STANTON

Madam President, President Trump has made big promises to workers in Alaska and Ohio and across the country. He has promised workers everywhere that he will put American workers first. Yet we know in Lordstown and from his court appointments, which have put a thumb on the scale of justice as they have chosen corporations over workers, that he has betrayed those workers. The people he has put in charge haven't looked out for workers. Over and over again, they have put their thumbs on the scale for corporations. His Cabinet, frankly, looks like a retreat for Wall Street.

His latest nominee for the Department of Labor is more of the same, another nominee who puts corporations over workers. Cheryl Stanton is nominated to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division.

This is not an especially well-known Agency to most Americans, but it is a critical job for all American workers. The Administrator is the person in charge of enforcing overtime rules, the minimum wage, child labor, and the Family Medical Leave Act. These are all Federal laws. The minimum wage is a Federal law. The overtime rule is a Federal law. The Family Medical Leave Act is a Federal law, as is the law regarding child labor. These are all Federal laws, but they don't mean much if they are not enforced.

You don't want a fox in a chicken coop. You want to make sure that these laws are enforced by somebody who is not on the side of corporate interests, as too many in this Senate are and as too many in this administration are; you want somebody who is on the side of the workers. The job of Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division should be to look out for American workers when companies try to cheat them out of the pay that they have earned.

But Ms. Stanton spent a decade defending corporations—that is right, defending the corporations against American workers when they stole workers'

wages. So she has been on the side of these companies when workers tried to make sure they got fair wages and fair overtime and that child labor laws were protected and the Family Medical Leave Act. She has taken the other side, that of the corporations. Now the President has put her in a job where she is supposed to look out for workers, but who knows if she will really do that.

Let's look at some of her history: a decade defending corporations and then she headed South Carolina's workforce agency that manages State unemployment insurance. When accounting errors resulted in overpayments of unemployment insurance—these weren't errors made by workers; these were accounting errors made that the workers didn't have anything to do with. When accounting errors resulted in overpayments of unemployment insurance to workers looking for jobs, she went after the workers, garnishing their wages.

Maybe worst of all, interestingly, she failed to pay her own house cleaners until they took her to court. Think about that. The person who is supposed to be in charge of making sure corporations pay their workers, whether it is minimum wage, whether it is overtime, whether it is enforcing child labor laws, whether it is enforcing the Family Medical Leave Act—she is the person who is supposed to be in charge of making sure corporations pay their workers, and she didn't pay workers at her own house.

If you want to get a measure of a person, look at how they treat people whom they are allowed to mistreat, say it that way. Look at how they treat people who have less power than they do; how they treat the waitstaff at a restaurant, how they treat the entry-level staff in their office, how they treat the person who cleans their hotel room or cleans their office.

My favorite quote from the Bible—one of my favorite quotes—is from Matthew 25, when Jesus said as follows:

When I was hungry, you fed me; when I was thirsty, you gave me drink; when I was a stranger, you welcomed me. What you did for the least of these, you did for me.

I thought about that, and I know there is no way Jesus or Muhammad or Buddha or any of the great religious leaders would say somebody is worth less than somebody else, that a page is worth less than a Parliamentarian, for instance, or that the Presiding Officer is worth less than the person who is sitting at the desk.

So Matthew 25 is exactly right. No worker is worth less than Ms. Stanton. No Senator is worth more or less than anybody else. I mean, Matthew 25 speaks to equality, speaks to the sort of way we should be treating people who may have lesser titles than we have.

I think of that when I think about Ms. Stanton and the job she has been nominated for. The workers whom she will be in a position to help or hurt—

her career so far, she has been in positions where she has hurt workers, but the position she is in that she can help or hurt workers, these workers shouldn't be treated with less respect. Their work has dignity. Whether they swipe a badge or punch a clock, whether they work for tips, whether they work on a salary, whether they raise children, whether they take care of an aging parent, their work has dignity.

If you love your country, you fight for the people who make it work, regardless of their kind of work. Whether they are working construction, whether they are a nurse, whether they are a housekeeper, whether they are a salesperson, whether they work at a counter in a fast-food restaurant, whether they are a page, whether they are a Senator, all work has dignity.

I think it is important, when you think about Ms. Stanton and the job she has, that these workers have earned this pay, whether it is minimum wage, whether it is overtime, whether it is child labor laws, whether it is the Family Medical Leave Act.

When work has dignity, people are paid the wages they earn; they are paid a living wage; they have power over their schedules. It is about wages; it is about benefits; it is about the dignity of work; and it is about a safe workplace; it is about childcare. It is about all of those things.

Workers should not be intimidated into accepting less just because they can't afford a fancy law firm. We need people in government who understand that. We need people who understand that, when you love this country, you fight for those people who make it work.

The last thing we need is an administration with more people serving in Washington who don't value work or respect the Americans who do.

This is another nominee from the President of the United States who will put her thumb or who has put his thumb on the scale to support corporations over workers, to support Wall Street over consumers, to support big insurance companies over sick people. We don't need another one of those in this administration, whether at EPA, whether at the Department of Labor, whether at the Federal Reserve, or whether at the White House.

I urge my colleagues, as this nomination comes forward, as Ms. Stanton comes forward to be Chief of the Wage and Hour Division—Cheryl Stanton—to be Administrator for the Wage and Hour Division, I urge my colleagues to listen a little more to the Americans whom we serve and a little less to big corporations that always have their way in this body—always have their way in this body. I urge my colleagues to listen a little less to those corporations trying to squeeze every last penny out of their workers and reject this nomination.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise to commend the incredible work done by the men and women of Offutt Air Force Base during the historic flooding that has affected the State of Nebraska.

Offutt Air Force Base is home to some of our Nation's most essential missions. The men and women of STRATCOM stand constant vigil. They provide command and control for the U.S. nuclear deterrent and maintain watch over space operations, missile defense, and global strike.

Airmen of the 55th Wing execute some of the most sensitive and complex missions, ensuring that battlefield commanders and the Nation's decision makers have the most up-to-date intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance information available.

The Air Force's only weather wing, the 557th Weather Wing, provides timely, accurate, and relevant weather information at any time and for any place around the globe.

Throughout Offutt, many other tenant units work in tandem with base leadership to fulfill vital missions that support our national security. These men and women pride themselves on being ready for every threat, but the arrival of a once-in-50-year weather event provided a test unlike any other they have previously faced.

In 2019, Nebraska has seen severe flooding—the worst and most widespread natural disaster in the history of our State. When the waters began to rise, the lives of those at Offutt and the base's critical equipment were put at risk, and the response was immediate. With less than 48 hours to prepare, highly essential aircraft such as the RC-135 were quickly routed to safe locations. The planes that could not be relocated were moved to higher ground. Contingency plans were put in place to ensure continuity of operations.

Across the installation, scores of airmen turned out to answer the call and move sensitive electronics and valuable equipment away from the reach of damage, fighting as a team against the oncoming flood.

Personnel worked around the clock to fortify facilities with more than 235,000 sandbags and 460 flood barriers to minimize damage as much as possible. These men and women mounted a Herculean effort to defend their base and do everything possible to protect their fellow airmen.

Across Offutt, we have seen a remarkable demonstration of what makes this base so very special: everyday airmen offering to do all they could to protect the base, personnel working tirelessly to ensure the highly critical operations of STRATCOM and