

Washington was named Bayard Rustin. In 1963, he was one of the persons who made the occasion. He was Black. He was Quaker. He was also LGBTQ.

I owe a debt, and I am here today to repay some portion of that debt with this resolution.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE JAMES TORMEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, as a proud American and a Member of Congress, I rise today on the floor of the House of Representatives to celebrate the life and career of the Honorable James Tormey III, one of my constituents.

Judge Tormey was a beloved father and husband. He was a distinguished judge and an honorable public servant who passed away far too early on June 22, 2019, just 4 days ago.

A 1972 graduate of State University of New York College at Cortland and a 1976 graduate of Syracuse University College of Law, my alma mater as well, Judge Tormey committed much of his life to public service.

Serving on the Onondaga County Legislature for 10 years and, later, as a Syracuse City Court judge, supreme court justice, and district administrative judge for the Fifth Judicial District of New York, Jim Tormey earned the respect, praise, and trust of many in our community.

Over the course of his esteemed judicial career, Judge Tormey took a measured approach in upholding the law and applying it fairly. He firmly believed in the justice system and worked to ensure everyone had access to it.

As a district administrative judge, his most recent job, Judge Tormey supervised the operations and schedules of more than 300 judges serving in the Fifth Judicial District, many of whom, since his passing this week, have shared stories of his strong leadership, his commitment to ensuring justice, and his respect for all. They have spoken of his commitment to continued legal education and pro bono work and, importantly, of his friendship, mentorship, and distinguished leadership.

Judge Tormey was committed to making central New York a better place to live and work, and the impact of his work went far beyond the courtroom. He used his role to address some of the most pressing issues plaguing our community, overseeing the establishment of local drug courts, which are very successful, the opioid courts, human trafficking court, youthful offender court, and community court for lower-level offenders.

His dedication to central New York was visible in all of his actions, and he will be truly missed.

Above all, though, and far more important to the judge, he was a family man. He deeply loved his wife, Susan; their children, Andrew and Colleen; and his grandchildren.

Susan is now left to carry on the great traditions that she and her husband forged with their children and others in the community. Sue is a successful person in her own right, having a long and storied career, including, most recently, at Onondaga Community College.

To Sue, I say Godspeed. Keep your chin up, cherish your children and your grandchildren, and continue to carry on the legacy that your husband forged in this community.

I ask my colleagues, in closing, to keep them in mind as we honor and remember the life of this devoted civil servant, Judge Tormey.

CENSUS RIGGING: A CONFESSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the clock is ticking down to the hour when the Supreme Court will make its initial decision on whether to include a citizenship question in the 2020 Census.

This administration has repeatedly told the American people, this Congress, and the Supreme Court that its reason for wanting to include the question is to “help enforce the Voting Rights Act.”

It turns out, all that was a lie, and I have the documentation to prove it on my website.

Newly discovered documents and court records clearly show that the only goal was to achieve the desired effect of diminishing the representation of communities of color while also entrenching the power of “Republican and non-Hispanic Whites,” according to the masterminds of the citizenship question.

This may, understandably, sound to some like an outrageous claim to make, but we have the documentation to prove it. You can go to my website to see it. These documents were uncovered thanks to the courageous efforts of a woman who discovered and turned over thousands of documents from her father’s hard drive to pro bono lawyers representing Common Cause in its litigation against gerrymandering.

In doing so, she uncovered evidence that is more powerful and convincing than a smoking gun. It is basically a signed and sealed confession.

The documentary trail of deceit begins on January 7, 2015, when a Census Bureau employee used her private email account to contact a Republican redistricting expert and urged him to push for a citizenship question in the 2020 Census.

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The Census Bureau employee, a Christa Jones, went on to become a political appointee in the Census Bureau. Ms. Jones then became part of Secretary Ross’ core team on the citizenship question.

The redistricting expert she reached out to was Dr. Thomas Hofeller. Hofeller was widely known as the Michelangelo of gerrymandering for the Republican Party.

This conspiracy picked up steam in August of 2015 when Dr. Hofeller concluded in a secret study he had written that simply adding one question, a citizenship question, to the Census would facilitate a redistricting overhaul that would be, and I quote from his work: “advantageous to Republicans and non-Hispanic Whites.”

In late 2016, Dr. Hofeller became the first person to push the incoming administration to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census. Not long after, Hofeller ghostwrote a letter that became, word for word, the basis of the Justice letter that had been cooked up by Commerce to be sent to them that set forth the knowingly fake voting rights rationale.

In October of 2017, Secretary Ross’ general counsel arranged for his key Census advisor to hand-deliver the Hofeller letter to a top Department of Justice political appointee at a secret meeting. That fake Voting Rights Act rationale then appeared in the letter that the DOJ political appointee sent to the Commerce Department, and the U.S. Secretary of Commerce sat before Congress and lied to our faces in an effort to cover up their illegal and immoral activities.

Let no one be misled about the purpose of these efforts. They are a concerted effort by the current administration to undermine the bedrock principle of one person, one vote. Its purpose is to undermine the ability of non-White, non-Republican people and communities of color to have equal representation here in the people’s House.

These deceptive and anti-democratic efforts must not stand. Even if the Supreme Court rules against us, we will continue to fight for the principles of one person, one vote and the Constitution’s requirement that all inhabitants must be counted. Democracy depends on it, our people deserve it, and we will fight until we achieve it.

THANKING DR. MICHAEL MESSINA FOR HIS SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Michael Messina.

Dr. Messina is retiring this week following a distinguished career in academia. Most recently, Dr. Messina has served as the head of the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management at Pennsylvania State University. He earned his bachelor’s degree in forest science from Penn State in 1979 and a doctorate in forestry from North Carolina State University in 1983.

In 2009, Dr. Messina was named director of Penn State’s School of Forest