

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Sheila McNeill for receiving the 2019 Distinguished Civilian Award by the Naval Submarine League.

Ms. McNeill was the first-ever woman to win this award, and I could not be more proud of the work she has done in the First Congressional District of Georgia over the last 20 years.

Living in Camden County, near the Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base, she has advocated for the U.S. submarine force at both the national and local levels, often traveling to Washington and meeting with dozens of Members of Congress to keep our submarines at sea, protecting our Nation.

On one specific occasion, Ms. McNeill was critical in retaining the Nation's first four ballistic missile submarines by converting them into guided-missile submarines. Her commitment to the Armed Forces extends deeply into the surrounding communities, ensuring that they maintain close-knit relationships through her work as president of the Camden Partnership.

Mr. Speaker, I thank and congratulate Ms. McNeill for her work in the First Congressional District of Georgia.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN CONYERS' LIFE AND LEGACY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of the late Congressman John Conyers and to extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Monica, his family, children, former staff, and the people of Detroit, who he served so well for more than 50 years.

Congressman Conyers was a tireless advocate for racial and economic justice and an ardent defender of civil rights. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his unwavering commitment to pushing our Nation to live up to its ideals of liberty and justice for all. That is his legacy.

I met Congressman Conyers during my time as a staffer to our beloved late Congressman Ron Dellums, who was also a cofounder of the Congressional Black Caucus with Congressman Conyers. They were very close friends and worked together on many issues, including the establishment of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal holiday. I always remember staffing the many meetings with Ron, Congressman Conyers, and the legendary Stevie Wonder, who worked with us as we planned our outside-inside strategy for the holiday legislation. And it worked.

John believed in our democracy and the power of the people. He recognized that the only way democracy can work is with the input, vision, and voice of the people.

Congressman Conyers stood on the front lines of the fight for so many important issues during his time in office,

and he was cosponsor of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. I probably wouldn't be standing here as a Member of Congress had it not been for Congressman Conyers.

As a cofounder of the Congressional Black Caucus, he focused the Nation's attention on racial inequality and injustices faced by African Americans around the country, from inequity in education, to poverty, to mass incarceration. He stood up for those who needed his advocacy the most.

Of course, when Rosa Parks fell on hard times after refusing to give up her seat on a segregated Montgomery bus, in what launched the civil rights movement, John hired her to work in his district office in Detroit, where she worked until she retired in 1988.

For more than 30 years, he fought for H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act, which calls for a commission to study reparations for descendants of enslaved people from Africa.

Congressman Conyers, Chairman Conyers, he was masterful, drawing a connection between the historical injustices faced by African Americans and the present-day inequities experienced in our communities.

I am so proud to support H.R. 40 today and to continue his work. In his honor, I hope that my colleagues support Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE's efforts to take H.R. 40 over the finish line.

Congressman Conyers was a progressive champion who fought for all of us. He was an early supporter of single-payer healthcare. I believe the bill was H.R. 676, which I was proud to cosponsor.

He fought to ensure that every American has access to quality, affordable healthcare. He fought to protect our safety net so that folks who needed a helping hand, no matter their color, can keep a roof over their heads and food on the table.

He spoke out vocally against the Trump administration's attacks on civil rights and human rights for people of color and the LGBTQ community. Indeed, though Congressman Conyers represented Detroit, he truly fought for all Americans and earned his affectionate name of "America's Congressman."

Also, John formed the Poor People's Caucus in the House, where he encouraged Members to speak out for the poor and low-income folks.

In his memory, let us fight for the most vulnerable Americans. Like our friend, Congressman Elijah Cummings, who we recently lost as well, Congressman Conyers' legacy and impact will live on, though he is no longer with us. His legacy should continue to inspire us to keep up the fight for justice and equality, which he dedicated his life to.

Mr. Speaker, so today, once again, I offer my condolences to Monica, to Congressman Conyers' family and loved ones, and join them in cele-

brating his life and legacy. May he rest in peace, and may he rest in power.

COMMEMORATING OXI DAY

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to be recognized to address you here on the floor of the House of Representatives. I rise to honor, this week, to celebrate what actually took place on Monday, the 28th of October, Oxi Day, the 79th anniversary.

I wanted to address this because of the strong spirit of the Greek people, who rose up against the Axis Powers 79 years ago this week when a representative of Hitler's Axis Powers, who happened to be the minister from the Italians, arrived at the residence of the Greek leader Metaxas and demanded that they surrender Greece to the Italians and the Axis forces.

There, Metaxas looked him in the eye and said, boldly and strongly, "Oxi," which is Greek for "no." That is the most resounding "no" that I know of in history, Mr. Speaker. That resounding "no" inspired the Greek people.

Within hours, the Italians and the Axis forces had started their invasion of Greece, and they were overconfident. They thought they would waltz in because they had all kinds of military firepower, but what they underestimated was the tenacity of the Greek fighters, their knowledge of the terrain, and defending their own soil.

They were defeated, and the Greeks chased the Italians back to Italy, which forced, then, Adolf Hitler to divert five divisions down through Greece and down through the Balkans into Greece to put down the—they called it a revolution or a resurrection. What it really was, was inspired people defending their country, the very cradle of democracy. As Hitler diverted the five divisions down to Greece, he was already planning the Operation Barbarossa.

I want the body to know, Mr. Speaker, that the original date for the invasion of Russia under Operation Barbarossa by Hitler that his Nazi forces put together was scheduled to be May 12, the following spring. This is late October, the last days of October. So when he diverted his five divisions down to suppress what he said was the resurrection in the Balkans, which was the Greeks defending the cradle of freedom, that delayed his ability to invade Russia.

This tenacious battle on the part of the Greeks—now, I should also put it into context here, that no one expected such a small nation to derail the unstoppable Axis forces. They had watched as the Axis forces had gone through Czechoslovakia and Poland, Romania and France, and down through the Balkans. It looked like those Axis forces were going to sweep over the world. It didn't look like there

was much hope for the United Kingdom and the British Empire across the channel.

When you think about the inevitable clash that was going to take place between the Nazis and the Russians, that would have been the clash that would have determined which power ruled the world—coupled with Japanese imperialism, America isolated as a lone island, sitting over here on this continent, in the Western Hemisphere, awfully tough to battle on both sides when you have the resources of the globe lined up against you.

The future of America may well have turned in that battle as well, Mr. Speaker.

So I rise to honor, support, and, with awe, celebrate the Greek fighters, who George Beres writes: “As Hitler learned, Greeks can be stubborn against all odds. ‘Oxi,’ the word ‘no’ in Greek, may sound like a negative, but it has become the most positive word in the language. It suggests the independence of a small nation when confronted by selfish demands of much larger nations.”

I would point out that if Hitler had been able to launch Operation Barbarossa on May 12—he was delayed 5½ weeks. Those 5½ weeks would have given him time to take Stalingrad, to take Moscow, before the bitter Russian winter. That would have changed the entire course of the war.

The Greeks did it twice for us, in Crete and then again on Oxi Day starting those 79 years ago this week. I am awfully proud of the spirit of the Greeks.

I would close, Mr. Speaker, with this quote from Winston Churchill in the aftermath of the Greek battles against the Nazis, which says: “Hence, we will not say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks.”

Let us honor them. We are a nation that has descended from the democracy that was formed in Greece. We modified it to a constitutional republic and did a little improvement on it, but we can use a lot of Greeks in this country. They understand freedom, and they are great fighters.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF GINNY NiCARTHY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of long-time Seattle resident Ginny NiCarthy.

Ginny was a wonderful friend, author, activist, and advocate. She was humble, brilliant, and deeply compassionate, and she changed the lives of tens of thousands of people across the world through her writing and her activism.

She passed away at the age of 92 last month, choosing to die gracefully on her own terms before dementia could take over her life and her mind.

Ginny was born in 1927 in San Francisco. She was the youngest of five. Her father once served as the mayor of Redwood City, California. Her mother worked as a switchboard operator.

Passionate about social justice as a young woman, Ginny moved to Seattle in her 20s and became involved in her new city’s artistic and political scene. She first pursued a teaching certificate in the 1960s, going on to teach middle school in Seattle’s Central District.

Informed by her experience working as a caseworker at a mental hospital, she decided to pursue a master’s degree in social work at the University of Washington and became a practicing therapist.

Born with the last name McCarthy, she changed her surname to NiCarthy in the 1970s to use an Irish prefix that means “daughter of,” rather than “Mc,” which means “son of.” This was emblematic of her deeply-rooted feminism and her drive to challenge the status quo in every aspect of her life.

In 1972, Ginny cofounded Seattle Rape Relief, which at the time was the only rape crisis center in the country. The volunteer-run organization managed a 24-hour hotline for sexual assault victims.

A decade later, she published her groundbreaking book, “Getting Free: A Handbook for Women in Abusive Relationships.” Her book, based on the premise that women’s voices needed to be heard and believed, became a bible for domestic violence survivors. Translated into multiple languages, her book had and continues to have a global impact.

She went on to publish several more books on abuse at home and in the workplace, as well as many articles addressing issues of disability, race, sexuality, youth, and aging. She volunteered on behalf of countless groups advocating for women’s rights, criminal justice reform, and antiwar efforts.

We first met when I approached her to join the board of Chaya, an organization that supports South Asian survivors of domestic violence that I, too, was on the board of. Much later, Ginny gave me some of her writings that turned into a book of her travels around the world for peace and justice.

I was amazed at her curiosity, her love of life, even with all the traumas that she, herself, had been through. I was struck by the way that she listened to others and absolutely refused to stop living life to her fullest. She was fearless in questioning what she saw as unjust, and her commitment to racial equity was striking.

She was arrested multiple times for peaceful, civil disobedience actions, even at the age of 86, for speaking out for more fair and just immigration policies.

Ginny always found meaning in politics and social justice activism, and her legacy lives on strong—in her books, her friendships, the tremendous work she did her entire life on behalf of survivors of violence, and her quest for justice for all.

Ginny saw the intersectionality of gender, race, and class very clearly. She was right there on every major issue that we fought for, whether that was a \$15 minimum wage, rights for immigrants, mass incarceration of Black and Brown people, sexual assault, and LGBTQ rights. It is fitting that The New York Times devoted a substantial part of one of their pages of obituaries to Ginny and her national impact.

I would like to commemorate Ginny’s lifetime of achievements, her decades of service to our community, and her never-ending dedication to the fight for justice. My heart is with her loving family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, may Ginny rest in peace. May Ginny rest in power. She will long be remembered and missed by all of us.

END SECRET IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS

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

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, there are crossroads in the history of every great nation so historically significant, so fraught with dramatic consequences, that those in position to influence that nation’s direction are compelled to do all they can to ensure it does not fall to the dustbin of history.

□ 1030

We have arrived at one of those moments. That is why, last week, my colleagues and I demanded this majority end their secret impeachment proceedings and bring them into the light of day.

Impeachment of the President of the United States is, next to the declaration of war, this body’s most solemn, important authority. Impeachment begins the process of removing the duly-elected Executive of the United States, who was chosen, not by this House, but by the American people.

In the past, this body has always treated that authority with the solemnity and respect that it demands. Certainly, during the Clinton and Nixon impeachments, this House respected our obligation. In this House, under this majority, no longer.

In the secretive, closed proceedings in the basement of the Capitol, the majority party has monopolized all power, withheld pertinent facts, denied the accused the right to participate, and offered the minority party little more than token rights, all outside the public eye. The American people, and even most elected Members of Congress, like myself, have been able to glean only whatever lies, leaks, and misinformation the majority disseminates.

During Watergate, this House specifically wrote in our rules that we cannot shut out the public, absent extraordinary circumstances, and for over 40 years our rules prohibited the exclusion of Members from attending hearings on investigations. Yet, this majority has put an end to those practices,