

before? Never mind, here you go. On leisure days, they introduce Kraft durch Freude—Strength Through Joy. Organized holidays for the workers. They vanquish unemployment and play on the strings of national dignity: ‘Germany, rise from the shame of Versailles. Restore your pride.’ At the same time, the regime sees that the people are gradually overwhelmed by the anesthesia of indifference. They stop reacting to evil. And so, the regime can afford to accelerate the process of evil.

From there, things accelerate. A ban on employing Jews. A ban on emigration. Then the evil spreads to the ghettos: to Riga; to Kaunas; to my ghetto, the *tódz* ghetto—Litzmannstadt. Most of those there are sent to Kulmhof—Chetmno—where they will be murdered in gas vans, and the rest are sent to Auschwitz, where they will be murdered with Zyklon B in modern gas chambers. And here we see the truth of what President Van der Bellen said: ‘Auschwitz didn’t suddenly descend from the sky.’ Auschwitz crept up, pattered with small steps, came closer and closer, until the things that happened here began.

My daughter, my granddaughter, peers of my daughter, peers of my granddaughter—perhaps you do not know the name of Primo Levi. Primo Levi was one of the most well-known prisoners of this camp. He once coined the phrase: ‘It happened, therefore it can happen, it can happen everywhere.’

I will share with you one personal memory. In 1965, I was in the United States of America on a scholarship during the fight for human rights, for civil rights, for rights for African Americans. I had the honor of taking part in the march from Selma to Montgomery with Martin Luther King. When my fellow marchers found that I had been in Auschwitz, they asked me ‘Do you think that such a thing could only happen in Germany? Or could it happen elsewhere?’ I told them: ‘It could happen to you. If civil rights are violated, if minority rights are not respected and are abolished. If the law is violated, as happened in Selma, then such things could happen.’ What to do? You must do what you can. If you can defend the constitution, defend your rights, defend your democratic order, defend the rights of minorities—then you can overcome this.

Most of us Europeans come from the Judeo-Christian tradition. Believers and non-believers alike accept the Ten Commandments as the canon of our civilization. A friend of mine, Roman Kent, the president of the International Auschwitz Committee, who spoke here five years ago during the previous commemoration, could not be here today. He coined the ‘Eleventh Commandment,’ which stems from the experience of the Shoah, the Holocaust, the terrible epoch of contempt. It runs thus: ‘Thou shalt not be indifferent.’

And this is what I want to tell my daughter, what I want to tell my grandchildren. My daughter’s peers, my grandchildren’s peers, wherever they might live, in Poland, Israel, America, Western Europe, Eastern Europe. This is very important. Thou shalt not be indifferent in the face of lies about history. Thou shalt not be indifferent when the past is distorted for today’s political needs. Thou shalt not be indifferent when any minority faces discrimination. Majority rule is the essence of democracy, but democracy also means that minority rights must be protected. Thou shalt not be indifferent when any authority violates the existing social contract. Be faithful to this commandment. To the Eleventh Commandment: thou shalt not be indifferent.

Because if you are indifferent, you will not even notice it when upon your own heads,

and upon the heads of your descendants, another Auschwitz descends from the sky.

HONORING THE UPVALLEY FAMILY CENTERS OF NAPA COUNTY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize The UpValley Family Centers of Napa County for 20 years of exceptional public service.

Since 1999, UpValley Family Centers has been the primary trusted resource for low-income and vulnerable households in Napa County. By partnering with different organizations in our community, it has built an impressive infrastructure of over 40 regional agencies that work together to provide access to a variety of services in our community. Such services include education and mentorship initiatives, immigration assistance, tax preparation, substance-use prevention programs, and case management services.

Since 2005, the Family Centers have participated in the Internal Revenue Service’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, making free tax-preparation assistance available for Napa residents. To date, their VITA program has brought more than \$5 million in state and federal refunds back to our community. The UpValley Family Centers also provides licensed staff able to give immigration assistance to non-citizen residents, including naturalization assistance and permanent residence renewals. UpValley Centers have become an irreplaceable resource to our community and today, it serves thousands of individuals across Napa’s region.

UpValley Family Center’s commitment to serving our community is truly remarkable. In addition to running programs that help working families build economic stability, UpValley Resource Centers provides life-saving disaster response and recovery services. These services include updating state fire resources like CalFire, helping people apply for disaster unemployment assistance, and bilingual information about disaster assistance available to all community members.

Madam Speaker, the UpValley Family Centers of Napa County is a dedicated source of support for northern Napa that has made great contributions to better our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor this organization here today.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF RICHARD WAYNE PARKS

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of a great North Carolinian, public servant, role model and recipient of the Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce 2019 Distinguished Citizen Award, Mr. Richard Wayne Parks.

Mr. Parks’ deep dedication to service and community protection led him to spend over 30 years in the law enforcement field in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. His experience includes extensive expertise through his work with the Rocky Mount Police Department, Nash County Sheriffs Office, Rocky Mount Police Department and the Supreme Court of North Carolina Marshals Offices.

Richard Parks experience also includes a wide range of training and education with institutions such as the Coastal Plains Law Enforcement Academy, Police Law Institute (PLI) and the FBI-Law Enforcement Executive Development Association. He has also taken a Management Course for Law Enforcement Executives and was awarded the Intermediate Law Enforcement Certificate and the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate.

Mr. Parks demonstrated strong leadership skills through his state-level law enforcement program participation which includes involvement between 2006 and 2010 with the NC FOP State Executive Board and the NC FOC State Legislative Committee and also his involvement with the North State Law Enforcement Officers Association, NC Peace Officers Memorial Day Steering Committee and the NC Police Executive’s Associations; all of which he serves as a current participant.

Rocky Mount, Nash County, Edgecombe County and the State of North Carolina have all benefited from Mr. Parks’ advancement as a law enforcement professional, and also from his selfless commitment to community service. He has a remarkable track-record of service participation through his current membership with the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police, North Carolina Peace Officers Memorial Day Ceremony Steering Committee, Jim Dickens First Responders Appreciation Day Committee, NC Governor’s Task Force on Safer Schools, North Carolina Police Executive’s Association, Nash County Farmers Market Advisory Board and the Westridge Swim Club Board of Directors. As referred to by many of his colleagues; “Ricky” also serves as a member of the North State Law Enforcement Officers Association. As the only law enforcement association that minority officers could join when it was formed in 1952, Ricky Parks’ enlisted in the Association to demonstrate that the inclusion of all people, regardless of race or gender and in all levels of law enforcement would lead to better and more productive law enforcement in all of the local communities across the State.

With a long and strong history of local and state professional law enforcement experience, Richard Wayne Parks has earned the deep respect of his law enforcement colleagues. He is greatly admired for his leadership and work as a law enforcement professional, his experience and expertise and his efforts to promote unity among law enforcement officers regardless of the branch of service. His efforts have surpassed law enforcement support through his work to serve the needs of domestic abuse victims, those in need of substance abuse treatment, care for the homeless and numerous other community education and family care needs.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the remarkable achievements of one of North Carolina’s own, Mr. Richard Wayne Parks and I congratulate him on being the recipient of the Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Citizen Award.