

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING REVEREND CORDY
TINDELL "C.T." VIVIAN

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2020

Mr. LEWIS. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my good friend, Reverend Cordy Tindell "C.T." Vivian.

Born on July 30, 1924 in Howard County, Missouri as the only child to Robert Cordie and Euzetta Tindell Vivian, C.T. grew up in Macomb, Illinois, where he attended Lincoln Grade School and Edison Junior High School. Raised primarily by his dotting mother and grandmother, Annie Woods Tindell, C.T. was often the only African-American in his classroom. Make no mistake; it was not easy, but he managed to adapt, survive, and thrive. Throughout his childhood, his grandmother often instilled the values and teaching of Williams Wells Brown's *The Black Man: His Antecedents, His Genius, and His Achievements*. She believed that education would be his key to success and dedicated every resource and tool she had to inspire and encourage C.T. to stay the course with his studies.

In 1942, their collective hard work and determination paid off. C.T. graduated from Macomb High School and continued his studies at Western Illinois University. He moved to Peoria, Illinois, where he met Octavia Geans, his beloved wife of 58 years, who worked with him at the Carver Community Center. I was only seven years old when Reverend Vivian ignited his life-long flame for equality, equity, and freedom. While in Peoria, C.T. completed his first act of civil disobedience in 1947 when he participated in his first sit-in that successfully integrated Barton's Cafeteria. With that social justice action, he committed all his energy and soul to the movement.

A few years later, faith and fate brought him to Nashville, Tennessee, where Reverend Vivian resumed his studies at the American Baptist Theological Seminary and joined a group of other ministers in cofounding the Nashville Christian Leadership Conference, an affiliate of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). As an undergraduate student at the American Baptist College, I first met C.T. as we learned about the doctrine of nonviolence, and the way of peace, the way of love, and the power of satyagraha—or truth force and nonviolent civil resistance from the esteemed visionary, Reverend James Lawson. Older than many of the other students in the workshops, C.T. was like our big brother—graceful, thoughtful, and inspirational. In Nashville, we formed an unbreakable, life-long bond as we committed our minds, bodies, and spirits to tearing down the barriers of hate, racism, and segregation across the United States and around the world.

Throughout those pivotal years of the Civil Rights Movements, Reverend Vivian was on the front lines—at the lunch counters, on the

Freedom Rides, in Parchman Prison, at the March on Washington, and in the fight for voting rights in Marion and Selma. If there was action, he was there. We, along with so many others, continue to bear the scars of those long days and endless nights, as we dedicated our very lives to bringing about a non-violent revolution as the means to redeem the soul of America.

In his commitment to "develop future leaders and promote brotherhood and academic excellence, while providing service and advocacy for our communities," C.T. embodies the mission of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., of which he is a proud member. His fraternity brother, Dr. King, often remarked, and many agreed, that C.T. was the "greatest preacher to ever live." Madam Speaker, if you ever had the honor and privilege to witness one of his sermons, you know that Dr. King was right. Time and time again, Reverend Vivian gave strength when exhaustion felt crushing, restored hope when faith seemed expired, and created a path forward when every road appeared to be blocked.

As the National Director of Affiliates for the SCLC, Reverend Vivian played a pivotal role in the strategy to advance and eventually pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In the years since the height of the Civil Rights Movement, Reverend Vivian continues to serve and inspire people across the country and around the world. Despite the bruises and battles, C.T. maintains his commitment and dedication to nonviolence as the guiding principle of our mission. In continuing the tradition of his beloved grandmother, C.T.'s lessons were shared with his adored children: Jo Anna, Denise, Kira, Mark, Anita Charisse, Al, and his namesake, Cordy Tindell Vivian, Jr., who passed away in 2010. Reverend Vivian continues to preach and abide by the principle that "everything done to destroy us only becomes a means of developing us."

Across the country, Reverend Vivian selflessly shares his knowledge and experience with others. Lovingly calling all whom he meets, "Doc," C.T. created an extended family united by shared principles wherever he goes. Over the decades, C.T. helped negotiate peace between gangs, confront systematic racism in organized labor, and counseled both Democratic and Republican Presidents on civil rights matters. He trained clergy leaders and community activists in Chicago as the director of the Urban Training Center for Christian Missions and imparted similar lessons during his tenure at the Seminary Without Walls at Shaw University Divinity School in Raleigh, N.C. Make no mistake, Madam Speaker; C.T. is tirelessly and always for the people.

In the years after Nashville, we both managed to make our way to Atlanta, Georgia, the heart of the Civil Rights Movement. In our adopted and adored hometown, Reverend Vivian, with his late wife Octavia, 40 years ago founded BASIC Diversity, Inc. (BASIC) a full service, national consulting firm, established the C.T. Vivian Institute, Inc., and served as

dean of the Urban Institute at the Interdenominational Theological Center. In 2010, Morehouse College honored Reverend Vivian with an honorary doctorate, and noting his life-long commitment to "justice and equality," President Barack Obama awarded Reverend Vivian with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2013—one of the highest, civilian awards in our country.

Madam Speaker, as you can see my heart is full of love and respect for this great man—my brother and fellow nonviolent soldier in the movement for justice, equality, and peace. I appreciate the honor and privilege of sharing a few of my more than 60 years of warm memories of and reflections on Reverend Cordy Tindell "C.T." Vivian's legacy and impact on our nation, people around the world, and generations yet unborn.

HONORING HENRY ONG, JR.

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2020

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Henry Ong, Jr., who passed away on July 2, 2020, at the age of 98. A native son of Arizona, Henry was a part of the Greatest Generation who fought to preserve our freedom and American way of life. As a nation, state, and community, we are forever indebted to Henry's service and sacrifice.

Henry was born to Henry Ong, Sr. and Mar Lai Hing Ong in Phoenix, Arizona. After he graduated from Phoenix Union High School, and despite the widespread anti-Chinese sentiment of the time, Henry and his three brothers answered the call of duty and joined the U.S. Army. He became a bombardier, forming part of a B-24 crew that carried out 29 successful bomber missions. On June 6, 1944, Henry participated in the D-Day invasion of the beaches of Normandy, helping deliver the victory that marked the beginning of the end of the war in Europe.

In his final mission before coming home, the German Army shot down Henry's plane deep in enemy territory. Alive but wounded, Henry was captured, interrogated, and taken as a prisoner of war by the Nazis, surviving nearly nine months of suffering and starvation. As Allied troops advanced through Europe, the Nazis began liquidating the camps and Henry, along with thousands of prisoners, was forced to march over 1,000 miles during the brutal winter. Many perished.

On May 4, 1945, Allied forces liberated Henry and four days later declared victory in Europe. Henry was the only Chinese American from the state of Arizona to have been captured as a prisoner of war. For his selfless sacrifice and wounds sustained in war, he was awarded the Purple Heart.

After the war, Henry returned home to build a life in Arizona. He attended college and married his bride Priscilla (Pat), and together they

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

raised four children: Pamela, Michael, Curtis (Buddy), and Kevin. Even though he hung up his uniform, Henry continued to serve his community. A man of deep faith, he was a Sunday School teacher and deacon at First Chinese Baptist Church in Phoenix. He became a successful real estate and insurance broker and was known for his contagious energy, charismatic spirit, and love and devotion to his wife and family.

Although Henry had survived the depths of darkness, invisible wounds of the war remained with him. After 40 years of silence, Henry began to speak about his encounters with the horrors of war and his imprisonment by the Nazis. He cared deeply for his fellow veterans and encouraged other POWs to share their own experiences and heal from their memories. He was a past commander and life member of the American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans, and he maintained a lifelong friendship with members of his crew.

The American people must never forget Henry's patriotism and bravery. A man of courage and conviction, our nation is better for his presence among us. Godspeed, Henry.

SUPPORTING THE GROTHMAN
AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2

HON. GLENN GROTHMAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2020

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letter in support of my amendment to H.R. 2. This letter is from a stakeholder in my district that owns and operates the dam located in waters where invasive species, like Asian carp, have been found.

JULY 9, 2020.

Hon. GLENN GROTHMAN,
*Member of Congress, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. MARK POCAN,
*Member of Congress, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES GROTHMAN AND POCAN: I am writing in strong support of your invasive species amendment to H.R. 2, the INVEST in America Act which passed the House by unanimous consent on July 1, 2020. Alliant Energy deeply appreciates your commitment to this pro-environment measure and for protecting Wisconsin's watersheds.

As you know, an Alliant subsidiary, Wisconsin Power and Light, owns and operates a dam located in Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin, on the Wisconsin River. The Prairie du Sac dam, now over 100 years old, is responsible for the formation of Lake Wisconsin, which serves as an enormous recreational and wildlife resource for our state.

Over a decade ago, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sought to impose a fishway requirement on the license for the dam, essentially calling for a "fishway" to be installed to allow for the upstream migration of native fish. Since that time, however, scientists and state officials have discovered the existence of non-native, invasive fish species (Asian carp) at the base of the dam. If a fishway were now installed, it seems clear that these invasive species would also be able to migrate—and thereby endanger native fish populations upstream, including Lake Wisconsin.

Your amendment would ensure that, in this particular case, the Fish and Wildlife Service would be required to consider the threats posed by invasive species before imposing a fishway condition on a hydroelectric license. We believe strongly that such decisions should be predicated on the most up to date information available, and your amendment will help guarantee that invasive species are not permitted to threaten the Lake Wisconsin watershed.

Again, thank you for offering your amendment. Please let me know how Alliant Energy may assist you in ushering this much-needed provision into public law.

Sincerely,

DAVID DE LEON,
*President—Wisconsin Power and Light
Company, Alliant Energy.*

GEORGE FUNERAL HOME
CENTENNIAL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on July 7th a centennial celebration was held in Aiken, South Carolina, for the George Funeral Home. The ceremonies were thoughtfully reported by Dede Biles in The Aiken Standard on July 8th.

Pictures accompanying the article were "Several proclamations and resolutions were presented during the Centennial Celebration at George Funeral Home and Cremation Center on Tuesday. Pictured are United States Rep. JOE WILSON, R-S.C., left; South Carolina Rep. Bart Blackwell, R-Aiken; Aiken City Councilwoman and Mayor Pro Tempore Lessie Price; George Funeral Home owner Cody Anderson; S.C. Rep. Bill Taylor, R-Aiken; S.C. Sen. Tom Young, R-Aiken; and Aiken County Council Chairman Gary Bunker, along with photo, "United States Rep. JOE WILSON, R-S.C., left, talks to the Rev. Scott Ayers and George Funeral Home and Cremation Center owner Cody Anderson during George Funeral Home's Centennial Celebration on Tuesday."

100 YEARS OF SERVICE

During the George Funeral Home and Cremation Center's Centennial Celebration on Tuesday in Aiken, three grandchildren of founder D.M. George were in attendance.

Edward D. George Jr., Johanna Gibbs and Tommy Gibbs served as bridges between the past and the present.

Edward lived upstairs at the funeral home with his parents, beginning at the age of 9, and he considered it his residence until he graduated from Clemson University in 1962.

Edward's cousin, Tommy, would play "Taps" on the trumpet for military funerals.

"Uncle Albert (George) and daddy (Edward Sr.) would never let me go off to where Tommy was if he was to play "Taps" because they knew we would get in trouble," Edward said. "I would get Tommy tickled so he couldn't play."

Johanna, Tommy's sister, recalled how many of the family members, in addition to her brother, were involved in helping out at the funeral home.

Some drove cars and transported flowers to churches and then to cemeteries.

They also pitched in to perform other tasks.

"There are not too many businesses in Aiken County—and maybe in this state—that have been run continuously for 100

years," Johanna said. "That is something to be proud of."

Cody Anderson is George Funeral Home's current owner. He purchased the business in 2018 from the Foundation Partners Group LLC of Orlando, Florida.

"We appreciate what Cody is doing so very much," Edward said. "George Funeral Home has meant a lot to us over the years, and we are very appreciative that he has continued the compassionate service and the tradition of George Funeral Home. We also appreciate him keeping the George name on the funeral home."

Anderson considers himself the caretaker of the George family's traditions even though he is not a relative.

"When I bought the funeral home, it wasn't about me," Anderson said, "It was about continuing the legacy that was established in 1920. My goal has been to honor that tremendous legacy."

The Centennial Celebration included a program that was held in George Funeral Home's chapel instead of outdoors because of rain.

It included talks by D.M. George's descendants about the history of the business, and there also were presentations of resolutions from the South Carolina House and Senate along with a proclamation from Aiken Mayor Rick Osborn's office.

U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., spoke briefly, praising the "thoughtful and compassionate" Anderson and his staff for keeping George Funeral Home's legacy of service alive.

South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster was unable to attend the Centennial Celebration, but he sent a proclamation declaring that Tuesday was George Funeral Home 100th Anniversary Day in the Palmetto State.

Anderson discussed the funeral home's future near the end of the program, which was followed by a reception. He revealed a plan to renovate the chapel, a project that is tentatively scheduled to begin in mid-2021.

"Robert Rich Associates, the architectural firm that redid Joye Cottage, another historical Aiken Winter Colony home, has been selected to blend the chapel interior more architecturally to the original house to complement it," Anderson said.

The program was followed by a reception.

George Funeral Home is at 211 Park Ave. S.W. The former Winter Colony home that was known as "Deodara" has been the location of the business since 1948.

JUNE VETERAN OF THE MONTH

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2020

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the First District of Oklahoma's June Veteran of the Month, Sergeant William Parker.

An infantryman in the United States Army, Sergeant William Parker honorably served our nation for two years. During this time, Sergeant Parker was stationed at Fort Sill and sent to basic training at Camp Walters. While at Camp Walters, Sergeant William Parker was trained in Infantry. His training included education on a variety of military machinery. Following Camp Walters, Sergeant William Parker was sent to England to train for the infamous D-Day invasion. Sergeant Parker was part of the first fleet to enter Omaha Beach on D-Day.