

33 years. We will celebrate our 33rd wedding anniversary this Saturday.

Karen and I met at my last Active-Duty Army station in Monterey, California. She allowed me to drag her to my hometown of Collinsville, where I had a teaching job lined up. We have been there ever since.

Karen has allowed me to run for various political offices, winning some races, losing some races. Whether it was my first race for the county board or my last one for Congress, she always supported me.

She always answered the call when needed. It could be stuffing envelopes, painting signs, walking door to door, participating in parades, attending hostile debates, or speaking for me at events when I had a conflict. I never knew her once to say no. You will have to ask her if she enjoyed any of it, but whether she enjoyed it or not, she always participated gracefully.

Our sons are now young men at 27, 25, and 20 years old. I really became an absentee father upon my election to Congress. You see, my two boys were 3 and 1 at the time. Finishing my 24th year tells you that their entire life has consisted of me being a Member of Congress and my wife, Karen, being a single parent. Our boys have turned out to be nice and respectful young men, and Karen gets the credit.

Our marriage is founded on Christ and His church on Earth. Karen is a trained director of Christian education. She has her masters in organ performance and has taught music at the grade school and high school level. I am a former jock, Army officer, and a back pater. We complement each other. And, again, as it says in Genesis: the two shall be one flesh. We are partners. We are a team.

The decades have flown by, and I will never be able to adequately thank Karen for her love and support over the years. She is ready to have me home more, and I am ready to be home. COVID-19 has already allowed us to test this theory of being home more than apart. I think we are going to do just fine.

Thank you, Karen. I owe you a debt of gratitude, and so does this Nation for allowing and supporting my service to it.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND WORK OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN ROBERT LEWIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and work of our dear friend and colleague, Congressman JOHN ROBERT LEWIS.

I appreciate the words of Congressman AL GREEN just a moment ago, and I want to associate myself with his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, JOHN LEWIS came to this body in 1987. He came with scars

from a turbulent period of American history.

It was JOHN LEWIS who led the voting rights movement in the South. We refer to it as the Selma to Montgomery march. Some refer to it as Bloody Sunday.

Many Americans don't realize that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 did not include a provision for voting. Voting was left out of that legislation, and because of that, the African-American community was determined to get voting rights.

After Dr. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, he visited the White House to have a conversation with President Lyndon Johnson. He asked Lyndon Johnson for a Voting Rights Act. It was there that President Johnson challenged Dr. King to go back to the South and demand a Voting Rights Act; and, because of that, the voting rights movement began in Selma, Alabama, and it was JOHN LEWIS who led that movement.

Leaving Brown Chapel Church on March 7 of 1965, JOHN LEWIS led the Selma to Montgomery march, demanding a Voting Rights Act and the right to vote.

At the apex of the Edmund Pettus Bridge, JOHN LEWIS and the other foot soldiers encountered 150 State troopers and a mob waiting for them. JOHN LEWIS instructed the marchers to get on their knees and pray. They were beaten, and they were beaten severely.

They returned to Brown Chapel Church and, 3 weeks later, returned for the continuation of their march. By the time they got to Montgomery, there were 50,000 people in the march.

Because of this movement, Mr. Speaker, President Lyndon Johnson led an extraordinary effort to pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which protects the right to vote. The VRA has enabled millions of African Americans to register, which has enabled many of the Congressional Black Caucus to be elected and reelected.

I might say that today is the 16th anniversary of my election to Congress in a special election.

I had the privilege of talking with Congressman LEWIS nearly every legislative day for the past 15 years. We spent countless hours on this floor seated to my left talking about his upbringing in Troy, Alabama, how African Americans seeking the right to vote had to count marbles in a jar and bubbles in a bar of soap. We talked about his first meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr., and how Dr. King would lovingly refer to him as JOHN ROBERT.

As we would walk across the Capitol plaza and walk through airports both in this country and other countries, never did he fail to stop and to greet other people and to take very quick pictures. His courtesy to our Capitol staff was unmatched, and they will tell you so.

JOHN LEWIS served in this body with courage and conviction. It is often said

that the Congressional Black Caucus is the conscience of the Congress. Well, JOHN LEWIS was also the conscience of the Congress.

I recall, Mr. Speaker, the contentious Affordable Care Act debate in 2010. As we left the Capitol that day, there was a confrontational gathering of the Tea Party on the steps of the Capitol. We were advised by the Capitol Police and even by our staffs to return to our offices through the tunnel. It was Congressman LEWIS and Congressman CLEAVER and Congressman CARSON and myself who defied the Capitol Police, and we walked through that mob back to our offices. I remember that so well.

We would fuss from time to time, Mr. Speaker, and I think you may have overheard some of our conversations from time to time. We would fuss with JOHN LEWIS about his grueling schedule, his travels to the West Coast on the weekends and back here to Washington on Monday. He would tell us about how he would get to his home here in Washington and fall asleep on the couch with his shoes on and wake up at 3 o'clock in the morning.

When we suggested he might consider retirement, he would tell us: I have got to keep going. I want to see the African-American museum. I want to see the update of the Voting Rights Act. I want to see the end of police misconduct.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, at the invitation of President Obama, Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, and I were invited to the White House for a viewing of the movie "Selma." After viewing the movie, the President invited us, along with Oprah Winfrey and the cast of the movie, to the Oval Office for a very delightful visit. While there, President Obama said: JOHN, do you remember you gave me a magazine with your picture when I was first elected to the Senate? Well, let me show you.

He took us into a hallway off of the Oval Office, and there hung the magazine with JOHN LEWIS' picture on it.

JOHN ROBERT LEWIS, Mr. Speaker, now belongs to the ages. JOHN ROBERT LEWIS now belongs to the ages. He helped make this world a better place. JOHN would say to us today, "The struggle continues."

TRIP TO NORTH CAROLINA'S FIFTH DISTRICT WITH SECRETARY SCALIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this past Friday, I joined Secretary Scalia of the Department of Labor on a trip to North Carolina's Fifth District to meet with local business leaders and frontline workers.

The events we attended at Innovation Quarter, Forsyth Technical Community College, and Lowes Foods came together in record time, and it is a