

is an affront to our present, and it is a bad prescription for our future.

History cannot be changed. It cannot be moved like a statue. What is done is done. The Civil War is over, and the Confederacy lost and we are better for it. Surely we are far enough removed from this dark time to acknowledge that the cause of the Confederacy was wrong.

And in the second decade of the 21st century, asking African Americans—or anyone else—to drive by property that they own; occupied by reverential statues of men who fought to destroy the country and deny that person's humanity seems perverse and absurd.

Centuries old wounds are still raw because they never healed right in the first place.

Here is the essential truth/we are better together than we are apart.

Indivisibility is our essence.

Isn't this the gift that the people of New Orleans have given to the world?

We radiate beauty and grace in our food, in our music, in our architecture, in our joy of life, in our celebration of death; in everything that we do.

We gave the world this funky thing called jazz/the most uniquely American art form that is developed across the ages from different cultures.

Think about second lines, think about Mardi Gras, think about muffaletta, think about the Saints, gumbo, red beans and rice.

By God, just think.

All we hold dear is created by throwing everything in the pot; creating, producing something better; everything a product of our historic diversity.

We are proof that out of many we are one—and better for it! Out of many we are one—and we really do love it! And yet, we still seem to find so many excuses for not doing the right thing. Again, remember President Bush's words, "A great nation does not hide its history. It faces its flaws and corrects them."

We forget, we deny how much we really depend on each other, how much we need each other.

We justify our silence and inaction by manufacturing noble causes that marinate in historical denial.

We still find a way to say 'wait'/not so fast, but like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "wait has almost always meant never."

We can't wait any longer. We need to change. And we need to change now. No more waiting. This is not just about statues, this is about our attitudes and behavior as well.

If we take these statues down and don't change to become a more open and inclusive society this would have all been in vain.

While some have driven by these monuments every day and either revered their beauty or failed to see them at all, many of our neighbors and fellow Americans see them very clearly.

Many are painfully aware of the long shadows their presence casts; not only literally but figuratively.

And they clearly receive the message that the Confederacy and the cult of the lost cause intended to deliver.

Earlier this week, as the cult of the lost cause statue of P.G.T. Beauregard came down, world renowned musician Terence Blanchard stood watch, his wife Robin and their two beautiful daughters at their side.

Terence went to a high school on the edge of City Park named after one of America's greatest heroes and patriots, John F. Kennedy.

But to get there he had to pass by this monument to a man who fought to deny him his humanity.

He said, "I've never looked at them as a source of pride . . . its always made me feel

as if they were put there by people who don't respect us."

"This is something I never thought I'd see in my lifetime. It's a sign that the world is changing."

Yes Terence it is and it is long overdue.

Now is the time to send a new message to the next generation of New Orleanians who can follow in Terence and Robin's remarkable footsteps.

A message about the future, about the next 300 years and beyond; let us not miss this opportunity New Orleans and let us help the rest of the country do the same.

Because now is the time for choosing.

Now is the time to actually make this the City we always should have been, had we gotten it right in the first place.

We should stop for a moment and ask ourselves—at this point in our history—after Katrina, after Rita, after Ike, after Gustav, after the national recession, after the BP oil catastrophe and after the tornado—if presented with the opportunity to build monuments that told our story or to curate these particular spaces . . . would these monuments be what we want the world to see? Is this really our story?

We have not erased history; we are becoming part of the city's history by righting the wrong image these monuments represent and crafting a better, more complete future for all our children and for future generations.

And unlike when these Confederate monuments were first erected as symbols of white supremacy, we now have a chance to create not only new symbols, but to do it together, as one people.

In our blessed land we all come to the table of democracy as equals.

We have to reaffirm our commitment to a future where each citizen is guaranteed the uniquely American gifts of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

That is what really makes America great and today it is more important than ever to hold fast to these values and together say a self-evident truth that out of many we are one. That is why today we reclaim these spaces for the United States of America.

Because we are one nation, not two; indivisible with liberty and justice for all . . . not some.

We all are part of one nation, all pledging allegiance to one flag, the flag of the United States of America.

And New Orleanians are in . . . all of the way.

It is in this union and in this truth that real patriotism is rooted and flourishes.

Instead of revering a 4-year brief historical aberration that was called the Confederacy we can celebrate all 300 years of our rich, diverse history as a place named New Orleans and set the tone for the next 300 years.

After decades of public debate, of anger, of anxiety, of anticipation, of humiliation and of frustration.

After public hearings and approvals from three separate community led commissions.

After two robust public hearings and a 6-1 vote by the duly elected New Orleans City Council.

After review by 13 different federal and state judges.

The full weight of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government has been brought to bear and the monuments in accordance with the law have been removed.

So now is the time to come together and heal and focus on our larger task. Not only building new symbols, but making this city a beautiful manifestation of what is possible and what we as a people can become.

Let us remember what the once exiled, imprisoned and now universally loved Nelson Mandela and what he said after the fall of apartheid.

"If the pain has often been unbearable and the revelations shocking to all of us, it is because they indeed bring us the beginnings of a common understanding of what happened and a steady restoration of the nation's humanity."

So before we part let us again state the truth clearly.

The Confederacy was on the wrong side of history and humanity. It sought to tear apart our nation and subjugate our fellow Americans to slavery. This is the history we should never forget and one that we should never again put on a pedestal to be revered.

As a community, we must recognize the significance of removing New Orleans' Confederate monuments.

It is our acknowledgment that now is the time to take stock of, and then move past, a painful part of our history.

Anything less would render generations of courageous struggle and soul-searching a truly lost cause.

Anything less would fall short of the immortal words of our greatest President Abraham Lincoln, who with an open heart and clarity of purpose calls on us today to unite as one people when he said:

"With malice toward none, with charity for all/with firmness in the right/as God gives us to see the right/let us strive on to finish the work we are in/to bind up the nation's wounds . . ./to do all which may achieve and cherish—a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

Thank you.

HONORING CORPORAL LANCE MORRIS

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Corporal Lance Morris of the Roaring Spring Police Department as he receives the Law Enforcement Medal of Valor in recognition of his distinguished service to the citizens of Blair County. Awarded by the Blair County District Attorney, the Law Enforcement Medal of Valor is presented for extraordinary acts of valor and heroism.

On the afternoon of July 26, 2019, Corporal Morris was dispatched to the parking lot of True Value Hardware Store in Roaring Spring to respond to a dangerous situation. As he arrived at the scene, the armed suspect pointed his weapon at Corporal Morris, who quickly fired two shots hitting him in the chest. Corporal Morris' heroic actions protected the lives of innocent bystanders.

Today, we commend Corporal Morris for his courage, commitment to duty, and tactical expertise in this dangerous situation. His actions have made Roaring Spring and Blair County a safer community.

For his valiant actions in the highest traditions of Law Enforcement and the Roaring Spring Police Department, the Medal of Valor is bestowed upon Corporal Lance Morris.

It is my sincere pleasure and privilege to honor Corporal Morris as he receives this highest award. On behalf of the 13th District of Pennsylvania, I thank Corporal Morris for his commitment to our community and congratulate him on his many achievements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATINGOF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted AYE in favor of the EN BLOC No. 2 Amendment for H.R. 7608.

IN HONOR OF THE
GROUNDBREAKING OF EXPAN-
SION AT THE KALAMAZOO GOS-
PEL MINISTRIES**HON. FRED UPTON**OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize a celebration as the Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries breaks ground on an expansion to their ministry.

I want to recognize the extraordinary accomplishment of Pastor Brown and all the staff and volunteers at the Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries. I am incredibly proud of the work they are doing and send my sincere congratulations today as they break ground on the new women's and children's center.

For over 80 years, and in these uncertain times, the Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries has been a place of hope and healing in the Kalamazoo community. This new expansion, "A Shelter From Their Storm," will no doubt be filled with the same heart and care that they have shown for decades.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries and their team and thank them for their continued service to the Kalamazoo community.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IS
MASKING A DIFFERENCE
ACROSS SOUTH CAROLINA**HON. JOE WILSON**OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the following was published in the Aiken CEO on Thursday, July 23, 2020:

As the coronavirus continues to impact the Palmetto State, South Carolina Association of Habitat for Humanity announces a statewide effort to ensure nonprofits have the resources needed to safely serve communities during the pandemic. Masking a Difference is a one-day collaboration which will distribute 175,000 masks and 2,800 gallons of hand sanitizer among nonprofit organizations and Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) partners at 17 Habitat locations throughout SC.

"Our toolkit has expanded beyond hammers and shopping carts," shared Nancy Lee, executive director of the state association of Habitat for Humanity. "As nonprofits are being called on to do more with fewer resources, I'm grateful Habitat has been given the opportunity to share these supplies with our fellow philanthropic partners."

Since February, Habitat for Humanity has been working alongside state and federal

agencies to ensure the safety of Habitat teams, partners, and communities. Habitat credits South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for enabling this collaboration to occur.

As of July 12, Habitat for Humanity has already distributed over 150,000 masks and 630 gallons of hand sanitizer throughout 37 counties. Upon conclusion of Masking a Difference, Habitat will have dispersed a total of 325,000 masks and 3,400 gallons of hand sanitizer to assist in South Carolina's coronavirus response.

Nonprofit organizations seeking additional information are encouraged to visit southcarolinahabitat.org. Masking a Difference request forms for cloth face coverings and 50-gallon drums of hand sanitizer will remain open through noon on July 20, 2020. Submissions from eligible organizations will be accepted in the order received. Notifications will be sent out the week of July 20 announcing the locations of pick-up and official distribution date of Masking a Difference.

HONORING THE McALLEN POLICE
DEPARTMENT**HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the McAllen Police Department for another successful year lowering overall crime in the City of McAllen, Texas.

This is the 10th consecutive year the McAllen Police Department has successfully lowered crime, resulting in a 35-year low. McAllen's estimated population of 158,044 had a crime volume of 3,735 and a crime rate of 2,363 per 100,000 residents in 2019.

In 2018, the population was 154,634 with the crime volume being 3,978 and the crime rate being 2,573 per 100,000 residents. This shows that with a 2.2 percent growth in population, the McAllen Police Department was able to decrease the crime volume by 6.1 percent, and the crime rate by 8.1 percent in one year.

I want to thank Police Chief Victor Rodriguez for his leadership in achieving this incredible milestone. Though he credits federal resources, technology and home surveillance systems for his department's success, it takes a true leader and an exemplary team to make a difference of this magnitude.

I also want to thank the brave officers of the McAllen Police Department. Every day, they risk their lives in order to make our community safer. Our city is safer because of devoted officers like Edelmiro Garza, Jr. and Ismael Chavez who unfortunately made the ultimate sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, I stand here today to acknowledge the decade long achievement of the McAllen Police Department in lowering the crime in McAllen. Each member of the police department is an incredible leader in our community, and their legacy will no doubt inspire public service and volunteerism of future generations.

IN MEMORIAL: RABBI ISAAC
FURMAN**HON. DONALD NORCROSS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Rabbi Isaac Furman.

Rabbi Isaac Furman was a pillar of the southern New Jersey Jewish community. Rabbi Furman was the Rabbi of Congregation Beth El in Voorhees, New Jersey and helped found the Beth El Academy in 1961, now known as the Kellman-Brown Academy.

An immigrant to this country, Rabbi Furman's family left Poland in 1939 after the German occupation. His family initially fled east to Siberia before making their way south and then west at the conclusion of the war. It was at the displaced persons camps of Poland that Rabbi Furman met the love of his life, Molly.

Southern New Jersey was truly fortunate that Rabbi Isaac and Molly Furman chose our community to settle down. A graduate of Yeshiva University, Rabbi Furman found his true calling as a teacher. Throughout his nearly 60 years as a rabbi in southern New Jersey Rabbi Furman taught tens of thousands of Jewish children. His former students remember him as kind, funny and generous of spirit.

Rabbi Furman and Molly raised their daughters, Esther and Phyllis in the community, and took great pride as they began families of their own. Molly Furman was an accomplished teacher who was a fixture of the community and I'm told that their love for one another lived on after her passing in 2016. Through Esther and Phyllis, the Furmans were blessed with six grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I am told that his family was truly much larger than his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Rabbi Furman was beloved by generations of students, his congregation and his community. Though Rabbi Furman passed away earlier this month I know his memory will be a blessing for many years to come.

CONGRATULATING CHARLES AND
SHERRY DOBIS ON THEIR 50TH
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2020

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Charles and Sherry Dobis on their 50th wedding anniversary. July 25th marks five decades of devoted matrimony for these two esteemed citizens of Irving, Texas.

Originally from Gary, Indiana, "Chuck" and Sherry married in their hometown, and have since accompanied each other on a journey of personal and professional accomplishments.

In 1971, Chuck graduated from the School of Pharmacy at Purdue University where he was a member of Pi Kappa Psi. For the past 49 years, he has been licensed to practice pharmacy in Indiana, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. Throughout his distinguished career, he has assumed a variety of leadership