

The level of expediency in this process is a true testament to how Reverend Graham was revered not only in North Carolina, but also across the world. Recently, President Trump has expressed his support for a statue of Reverend Graham to be commissioned, and he even suggested that Reverend Graham would be memorialized in a new statuary park known as the "National Garden of American Heroes."

Reverend Graham came from humble beginnings in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he was raised on a dairy farm in the early 1920s.

During his lifetime, he counseled foreign dignitaries, numerous Presidents, members of the Royal family, and many other significant public figures.

However, his work was not solely consigned to the upper echelons of government or politics. His life's work was dedicated to the millions of people around the world who sought Jesus Christ as their one true Lord and savior.

He once described being a Christian as, "more than just an instantaneous conversion. It is a daily process whereby you grow to be more and more like Christ."

In 2018, Reverend Graham passed away at the age of 99, and to say that he left an indelible mark on society would be an understatement. For years, I have advocated for Reverend Graham to have a place within the hallowed Halls of the Capitol, and I am so pleased that the millions of people who visit the Capitol every year will soon be able to view his statue.

IN HONOR OF SARAH M. STEVENSON

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to speak in honor of the first Black woman to serve on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board.

One of the cofounders and conveners of the Tuesday Morning Breakfast Forum, not only a queen of the Queen City, but one of the crown jewels, Miss Sarah Stevenson.

Sarah Belle Mingo was born in Heath Springs, South Carolina, in 1925, the first of 14 children.

Her life quickly led her to Charlotte where, like many African-American women of her time, she worked as a housekeeper and did domestic work so that she and her family could achieve a brighter future.

In Charlotte, she successfully integrated the school district's parent-teacher associations, and as an activist and mother of four, helped lay the foundation for one of the most integrated school districts in the Nation.

You could have found her across the street from us on October 12, 1970, when she attended oral arguments at the Supreme Court for the *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education* case.

In 1980, she won election to the board of education, which she served for 8 years.

Equity in education was always at the forefront of what she did, because even though the courts declared separate but equal was unequal, too many schools in Charlotte were still both separate and unequal.

What she did made a difference. In 1984, halfway through Miss Sarah's tenure on the school board, President Ronald Reagan made a campaign stop in Charlotte at the height of his popularity. President Reagan had a line in his stump speech that won thunderous applause in cities across the country, and in Charlotte, he repeated it, saying that school busing was a failed social experiment that nobody wants.

The crowd went silent. There was, at best, scattered applause. That is because in Charlotte, activists like Sarah Stevenson worked hard so that Black and White parents could come together in support of Charlotte's "finest achievement"—school integration.

She lost reelection to the school board in 1988 because she continued to value equity and integration even as the political winds changed. Her values were more important to her than winning votes. And that is an example that we can all learn from.

While on the school board, she cofounded the Tuesday Morning Breakfast Forum, a group she continues to convene to this day. The Forum can best be described as the pulse of the community in Charlotte. The Forum has met on most Tuesdays for the past 40 years and is a required stop for candidates for public office in Charlotte and those running statewide.

For these and many other achievements, it goes without saying that Sarah Stevenson has earned numerous awards and commendations over the course of her life. I was honored to be with her in 2007 as the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Partnership opened the 130-unit Stevenson Apartments in her honor.

But perhaps the greatest honor she continues to bestow on us, the entire Charlotte community, is her wisdom. Not only her wisdom, but the wisdom of the Forum and its 40 years of guest speakers and attendees.

As is said in a Fourfold Franciscan blessing that often starts the Forum:

May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war so that we may reach our hands to them to comfort them and turn their path pain into joy.

May God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

I thank Miss Sarah, for working for justice, freedom, and peace, and for

blessing so many people with enough foolishness to believe that we can make the impossible possible.

CONSERVATISM DURING COVID

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

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to set the record straight.

The American people are wondering what Congress is doing to help folks who are still struggling from the effects of COVID-19 on their health and on all of our economy. They see no movement in negotiations, and I have had folks back home ask me, What are you all doing up there? Well, sadly, the answer is, Not much, really.

Some in this Chamber claim that it is us, the Republicans, who have no solutions on COVID. Nothing could be further from the truth. Let me just speak for myself. I have introduced more than a dozen bills with my colleagues. Some of these bills are bipartisan, and they apply time-tested conservative principles to help people impacted and hurt by COVID-19.

These are bills that expand healthcare access. They support workers. They incentivize telework. They assure safe public housing. They simplify PPP loans. Mr. Speaker, they stop stimulus payments to dead people, of all things. They explore temperature checks at airports. They establish flexible funding for States and localities; a bill that holds China accountable, and helps incentivize a safe reopening of our country, and much, much more. Each and every one of these bills has been denied a vote in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I understand the politics of being less than 50 days away from an election. And I get the political calculation that has been made. The Speaker started this year—right there—by ripping up the President's State of the Union. And she seems intent on ending it by smearing Republicans as enemies of the State and blocking any meaningful bills to help hardworking Americans.

But the American people deserve to know that my Republican colleagues and I, we stand ready to govern and ready to pass commonsense conservative policies that will help them make it through this pandemic.

WILDFIRES RAVAGE WEST COAST

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the wildfires currently ravaging the West Coast of the United States.

More than 85 major fires, spanning from Washington State to Southern California are burning, as I speak. Thirty-five people have died, only ashes remain in hundreds of communities, tens of thousands have fled their

homes and many individuals are still missing. Some survivors compare the site of the flames to the gates of hell.

This year alone, California has seen over 2,600 more fires and a nearly 2,000 percent increase in the acres burned compared to this time last year. That is according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal-Fire.

The frequency and intensity are no accident. We used to refer to early fall as “wildfire season” but the threat of these fires is now present throughout the year.

In San Diego and in other areas of Southern California, dry and arid conditions, paired with high temperatures, can make for a deadly combination. The Valley fire in eastern San Diego County, which is now 87 percent contained, burned almost 18,000 acres of land and prompted the closure of the Cleveland National Forest.

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That fire started 10 days ago, but smoke and haze across the county are barely now beginning to clear. The air quality continues to pose a risk for sensitive groups. This fire is only the latest in a long history of destructive fires in San Diego County.

I call on my fellow Members of Congress to accept and recognize this truth: Our actions don't exist in a vacuum. The consequences of our actions lead to rising temperatures and more extreme natural events, including hurricanes, droughts, and flooding.

It is not a matter of belief. Yearly patterns show us how these changes aren't natural. They are man-made. They are climate change.

We owe it to every single firefighter and first responder to act on this issue now. Every day, they risk their lives in the blistering heat, not knowing if they will make it back home. We are beyond grateful for their bravery and their unwavering dedication to public safety.

These conditions leading to the devastation on the West Coast are preventable, but the only way forward is through bipartisan partnerships to address the key drivers of climate change. Saving lives, infrastructure, and our lands from the effects of severe weather require concrete and swift action on the climate crisis now.

RECOGNIZING ALICE JOHNSON ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the birthday of an extraordinary constituent and American hero.

She is a World War II veteran, a U.S. Army Corps nurse, a Purple Heart recipient, a proud American patriot, an activity community member, and a birthday card enthusiast.

She is the remarkable Alice Johnson of Rancho Bernardo, California. I commend her service to our country, love of adventure, dedication to the well-being of others, and fun-loving spirit as she reaches this momentous milestone of 100 years.

Alice Johnson was born on September 12, 1920, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She completed her nursing education in 1941.

After Pearl Harbor, she enlisted in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. Her unit arrived in Okinawa, Japan, on Easter Sunday in 1945, where she helped establish a field hospital ahead of the U.S. invasion of Japan.

A few months later, eight Japanese Kamikaze planes descended upon the island, and U.S. troops attempted to shoot them down. Alice was injured in the crossfire and evacuated to Hawaii for surgery. She was awarded a Purple Heart after her service overseas.

Later in life, Alice served as a flight attendant for United Airlines, back when flight attendants were required to be nurses.

Always interested in nursing and travel, she accepted a nursing position at a hospital in Aruba. There, she met and married John Johnson, and together, they had four children.

Alice moved back to the U.S. and continued her nursing career at a private cancer practice, at a burn hospital, and as a public health nurse for vision and hearing tests in schools.

After her retirement, Alice settled in Rancho Bernardo, California, near her family, and remains active, attending Hope United Methodist Church, square dancing with friends, and playing mah-jong at the Poway Senior Center.

Her daughter, Elaine, and son-in-law, Bill, reached out to me to share her life stories worthy of celebration as she becomes a centenarian.

I am overjoyed to wish Alice Johnson the very happiest 100th birthday. On behalf of the constituents of California's 52nd District, we honor her selfless service in World War II, her dedicated career as a nurse, and the joy she continuously brings to all who know her.

I wish a happy 100th birthday to Alice. She is a treasure to us all.

HONORING DOLORES GRESHAM FOR HER REMARKABLE SERVICE TO WEST TENNESSEE

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

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor a terrific Tennessee leader, State Senator Dolores Gresham, who will be retiring from public service this year.

My friend, Senator Dolores Gresham, has been a strong leader in west Tennessee for many years, and I have great respect for her strong career of service and her tireless leadership in education. Dolores Gresham has been highly influential in the political, social, and civic life in west Tennessee.

Before she entered public service as an elected official, Senator Gresham proudly served our country as a member of the United States Marine Corps and retired at the rank of lieutenant colonel.

A champion for education in Tennessee, Dolores Gresham presided over and led the Tennessee State Education Committee during a time of great improvement in academic achievement in the history of the Volunteer State.

Senator Gresham has proved to everyone that citizens can make a difference by being involved in community service and by leading by example.

Roberta and I wish her and her husband, Will, the best in their retirement. We appreciate her friendship, and we greatly appreciate her public service to the Volunteer State.

HONORING ANDY HOLT FOR HIS STRONG SERVICE TO WEST TENNESSEE

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend and Tennessee State Representative Andy Holt. Andy is retiring this year from the Tennessee State legislature.

Representative Andy Holt has been a leader and an outspoken voice in the Tennessee State House since his first term began in 2011.

Representative Holt's work on the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, his involvement with the Tennessee Farm Bureau—and I can't forget his famous Hogfest—were all critical in bringing national attention to west Tennessee's agricultural community.

Andy has served as a member of the Finance, Ways and Means Subcommittee, which is a vital committee that helps craft the Tennessee State budget.

Andy Holt has also been a strong voice in the Tennessee State Capitol and has never shied away from speaking and living out his values.

He was part of numerous monumental pieces of legislation, such as the enhanced concealed carry permit and the heartbeat bill, and helped successfully repeal a portion of the Tennessee professional privilege tax.

No matter the politics of an issue, Andy Holt always stood up for what he believed in and always put his west Tennessee family values first.

I am honored to call Andy Holt a friend of mine. He truly understands and cares about the needs of Tennesseans, and he will be sorely missed in the Tennessee State legislature.

Roberta and I wish Andy, his wife, Ellie, and his entire family well as he leaves the stage of public service. I thank Andy for his faithful service to west Tennessee, to Tennessee State government, and to the State of Tennessee.

HONORING MRS. SUZETTE MINK'S PUBLIC SERVICE TO WEST TENNESSEE

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Suzette Mink, from Millington, Tennessee, for her strong service to Shelby County government as she is set to retire in a few weeks.

Suzette's service to Memphis and Shelby County started in 1985 when she began working for the Shelby County Trustee's Office. From there, she