

1880. In fact, the Keller family first settled in Tuscumbia around the time of its founding in 1820. Her grandfather was very involved in the railroad development. His son was Captain Arthur Henley Keller, a colorful confederate soldier, lawyer, and newspaper editor who wrote the history from which I quoted earlier. Capt. Keller was Helen's father.

When she was only 19 months old, she suffered acute congestion of the stomach and brain which left her deaf and blind. It was right behind the main house at Ivy Green at the water pump that Helen Keller, under the tutelage of her teacher Anne Sullivan, first learned that every object had a name. The word "w-a-t-e-r" was the first one she understood, but "teacher" became the most important word in her life.

Tuscumbia native Helen Keller contributed so much in her lifetime as an educator, author, and advocate for the disabled. She furthered the cause of improving education and general conditions for the handicapped and disabled around the world. During World War II, she visited the sick and wounded in military hospitals. Today, Ivy Green is host to an annual weekend festival celebrating the life and accomplishments of the "First Lady of Courage." Thousands of people from all across the world pay visits to see where Helen Keller lived as a child and where she learned to overcome obstacles to become an inspiring heroine. Each summer, thousands also attend live performances of the play "The Miracle Worker." This most famous daughter of Tuscumbia is a symbol of hope to those around the world who have ever doubted their ability to persevere and achieve. She passed away in 1968.

An integral part of the story of Tuscumbia is the founding of the Tennessee Valley Authority, one of the great achievements of the New Deal. Congress created TVA in 1933 and gave it the overall goal of conserving the resources of the valley region. Congress also directed TVA to speed the region's economic development and, in case of war, to use the Tennessee Valley's resources for national defense. It provided many much-needed jobs during the dark years of the Great Depression and contributed to our military success during World War II.

Congress established TVA after many years of debate on how to use the Federal Government's two nitrate plants and Wilson Dam at Muscle Shoals. During the ensuing 62 years, TVA has built dams to control floods, create electrical power, and deepen rivers for shipping. It has planted new forests and preserved existing ones, led the development of new fertilizers, and is now involved in solving the nation's environmental problems. The lakes created by damming the Tennessee River and its branches add to the beauty of our region. Besides providing electrical power, water recreation, and navigable waterways, TVA has been a major contributor in the economic

growth and development of this area and all of north Alabama.

Attracted by TVA electrical power, Reynolds Metals Co. was located at Listerhill, AL, and for more than 50 years, many Tuscumbians have been provided jobs there. During a somewhat similar period, the Robbins plants located in Tuscumbia have impacted the economy of the city and region.

During a very crucial period in the development of the Tennessee Valley, the northern part of Alabama was represented in Congress by a Tuscumbian, the Hon. Edward B. Almon. He was elected in 1914 and was very much involved in the congressional authorizations for Wilson Dam and the two government nitrate plants. He played an important role in passing the National Defense Act of 1916, which was highly instrumental in the development of this area. He was the Congressman when the TVA was created. He died a short time after the TVA act was signed into law, and was succeeded by another Tuscumbian, Archibald Hill Carmichael. He served during the most formative years of the Roosevelt era.

Earlier, I mentioned Brig. Gen. James Deshler, for whom Deshler Female Institute was named and whose name our high school bears. I should also mention that his father, Maj. David Deshler, played an important role in the development of Tuscumbia, particularly with regard to the railroads.

The name of Gen. John Daniel Rafter is also indelibly etched into the railroad history of Tuscumbia. He served as a director and officer of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. While he was its president, it was merged with the East Tennessee, Virginia, and Georgia Railroad to become the Southern Railway System.

Tremendous contributions to the State's educational system came from 2 Tuscumbians, Dr. George Washington Trenholm and his son, Dr. Harper Council Trenholm. And no history of Tuscumbia would be complete without mentioning Heinie Manush, a professional baseball player who was the first Alabamian to be enshrined in the Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, NY. He compiled a life-time batting average of .330.

I hope the celebrations and events over the last 3 weeks have brought Tuscumbians a better understanding of the city and area's history. As the 175th birthday of our beloved Tuscumbia comes to a close, and as we start speeding toward her 200th anniversary in the year 2020, I hope that each resident will take a moment to reflect upon how blessed they are to be from there.

I think back upon my life and career there and cannot imagine them having been anywhere else. It is a progressive little city that has changed a great deal over the years, but it is also one that has always retained its small-town charm and the many qualities that make it such a unique place to

live. Since her birthday 175 years ago, Tuscumbia has aged gracefully and improved with time. As I said back in March when I announced my retirement from the Senate, I will enjoy the remainder of my days in my hometown after I retire, for Tuscumbia is a wonderful little town to be from and the best little town in America to go home to. I wish Tuscumbia a happy birthday and look forward to enjoying many more with her well into the next century.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator SARBANES, I ask unanimous consent that Richard Ben-Veniste, Lance Cole, Neal Kravitz, Timothy Mitchell, Glenn Ivey, James Portnoy, Steven Fromewick, David Luna, Jeffrey Winter, and Amy Windt be granted floor privileges during consideration of Senate Resolution 199.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BINGAMAN addressed the Chair. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to proceed as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SHUTDOWN II: THE RIGHT NOT TO PASS MONEY BILLS

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, we are now in the second Government shutdown of the year. This is the second one we have had in a month.

There have been many Government shutdowns in the past. In fact, I have been here in the Senate during some of those. But the shutdowns of this year seem very different than previous ones.

Prior to this Congress, the shutdowns of Government were short, and they were generally regretted by the congressional leaders. And, even when the Congress and the President continued to be at odds, those involved were eager to pass continuing resolutions to restart the Government and maintain basic services.

In this Congress we have a very different situation. In this Congress, the shutdowns are longer, and the Republican leadership in Congress sees the shutdown and the maintenance of the shutdown as an essential part of their strategy to gain leverage on the President in their negotiations with him about major policy issues.

Monday morning, when I was reading the Wall Street Journal, I saw a statement in the front page article. The statement was from Speaker GINGRICH. In reading that, I gained an insight into how we arrived at this year's shutdowns, and why these shutdowns are so different from those of the past.

The paper describes the strategy that Speaker GINGRICH devised to get his way in disagreements with the President. I will quote very briefly from that article.