

Clusters, a World War II Victory Medal, a Vietnam Service Medal and a Purple Heart.

Prior to 1966, his war service to our Nation included World War II and Korea, with 201 combat missions. In January of that year, Colonel Underwood was deployed to Vietnam from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in eastern North Carolina. While there, he bravely and nobly performed 22 combat missions.

Unfortunately, on March 18th, 1966, Colonel Underwood's F-105 Thunderchief was shot down. He was then listed MIA for 12 long years and was ultimately declared dead. The Underwood family was forced to suffer not only with a tremendous and almost unbearable loss, but also with a great deal of uncertainty. It was not until recently that Colonel Underwood's remains were recovered in North Vietnam.

Yesterday, 32 years to the date of his death, I had the honor and privilege to have the humbling experience of attending Colonel Underwood's funeral at Arlington National Cemetery. Mr. Speaker, I cannot express in words what this experience meant to me. So many, far too many, young Americans have been seriously wounded and have even given their lives for this country. So many families have suffered.

I would like to take this opportunity tonight to recognize and honor Colonel Underwood and his family and all those who have sacrificed and have either lost their own lives or lost a loved one in service to this Nation.

□ 1845

Ms. Gloria Underwood is a role model to us all. She is a remarkably strong person who, despite suffering through an almost unbelievable ordeal for 32 years now, managed to rise above many difficulties and to raise a fine family. I thank her from the bottom of my heart for including me in yesterday's very special service.

I would like also to remind the Underwoods and all families who have faced similar tragedies that, as sorrowful and difficult as the loss of a loved one in service must be, it is not in vain; it is for America and for all her future generations. Brave soldiers like Colonel Underwood are the Nation's strength.

The words are best expressed in the following lines written by Ralph Waldo Emerson in his poem, "A Nation's Strength," and I quote,

Not gold but only men can make a people great and strong; men who for truth and honor's sake stand fast and suffer long. Brave men who work while others sleep, who dare while others fly, they build a nation's pillars deep and lift them to the sky.

Mr. Speaker, an American hero has returned home to his family and a grateful nation to take his place among the many war heroes that are buried at Arlington National Cemetery. He rose and fought and died for the many freedoms that we too many times take for granted.

I salute Colonel Paul Underwood, a true American hero, and his family and all those who have fought and died and suffered loss in the name of freedom. The men like Colonel Underwood have truly given this Nation its strength. Let us never forget their sacrifices, Mr. Speaker. And God bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. DELAURO addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MORELLA addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. RIGGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ISTOOK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MICA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DIALOGUE ON RACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I called a special order tonight with a bipartisan delegation, Members of Congress that traveled from Washington to Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma during March 6 through the 8th. Along with Members of the Congress that included AMO HOUGHTON, EARL HILLIARD, SHERROD BROWN, TOM BARRETT, KAREN

THURMAN, FRED UPTON, DIANA DEGETTE, ELIOT ENGEL, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, we also had the head of the National Democratic Committee, Roy Roman, and Jim Nicholson, the Republican National Committee chair.

This trip was to be part of a dialogue on race, which was sponsored by Faith and Politics Institute under the leadership of Doug Tanner. These Members decided to travel to Birmingham to the site of the 16th Street Baptist Church and visit the church where four little girls were killed by a bomb on September 15, 1963, and from there to visit the Civil Rights Museum and to see some of the historic sites that changed America.

From there we traveled to the City of Montgomery, where we had an opportunity to visit the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church that Martin Luther King, Jr., was called to pastor in 1954 and where he led the successful Montgomery bus boycott.

We had an opportunity while we were in Montgomery to visit former Governor George Wallace and to talk with him, to shake his hand, to tour the capitol in the City of Montgomery, to visit the Civil Rights Memorial there and travel from Montgomery on early Sunday morning to the City of Selma, where we attended service at the Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church. And later we had lunch that was sponsored by the mayor of Selma, Mayor Smitherman.

In 1965, 33 years ago, in the City of Selma only 2.1 percent of blacks of voting age were registered to vote. In one county between Selma and Montgomery, Loundes County, that we traveled through on our way to Selma, in 1965 that county was more than 80 percent African-American. There was not a single registered African-American voter. But today in Selma in Loundes County in the State of Alabama we have witnessed unbelievable changes. It is a different State. It is a different place.

What I would like to do now, Mr. Speaker, is to yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), my colleague and the co-chair of the Faith and Politics Institute and one of the real leaders of this whole Dialogue on Race.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I am, obviously, honored and really moved to be here, as I was when we went on that extraordinary weekend. I think we all sort of feel that we walk in the shadow of JOHN LEWIS. We can reconstruct history. We can read about it. But to be part of history with a man like JOHN LEWIS, who was there and who suffered all the humiliations and the physical beatings and the agonies of those times was really something.

I mean, I do not think I will ever get over it. As I mentioned to Mr. LEWIS, it was almost like my trip to the Holy Land. It was a religious experience. This was a group that did not have any legislative program. We did not want

to start any new government project. But we wanted to deal honestly with ourselves. And I think Mr. LEWIS will agree that we did that. I know that he has always tried to deal honestly with us, and I hope we were able to do this with him and some of his associates down there.

It was extraordinary to see the people who were associated there. There was a wonderful lady. I call her lady now. But in those days, 30 years ago, she was a young girl; and when the conditions got very sad, she would break into song and pull everybody's spirits up. She did it with us.

Really, it was a pilgrimage that we went through in going to those three extraordinary cities, going to the Civil Rights Museum, seeing that extraordinary civil rights piece of sculpture which Maya Lyn did, similar to the Vietnam Memorial.

I think the thing that meant almost as much to me was just being with this man here and listening to him. Let me give my colleagues just a couple of statements.

JOHN said in our meeting at the airport when we were about to return, he said,

You know, there are two things that sort of come to mind here. First, every so often there is an issue, it is an important issue, it is usually a social issue. And if you feel strongly about it and there is an element of evil to it, you have got to stand in the way of it, you have got to stand in the way of it. And those of us who look at it and walk around it and walk on about our daily lives, it is really a cop-out.

And that is, of course, what happened. It was extraordinary to see the people who stood in the way of the civil rights issue.

The other thing that I think that the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) was talking about, and some of us were saying, how could you have been so patient? People were literally mauling them and beating them up. All the people we had talked to had been through the same experience. How could you show such restraint?

The gentleman from Georgia said, you know, we thought about that. I think it was every Tuesday night, we used to have these sessions of training prior to the march. We were taught to consider the people out there who were full of so much venom and hate not as our enemies, we did not have time to hate people, but as victims of a culture that they did not have any part of; they could not control themselves.

So with that, those two themes, the idea of standing in the way of something, standing up, doing something about it permanently, and that also doing it in this marvelous sense that Dr. Martin Luther King epitomized so well, it did something to us. It was far beyond just the race issue.

I think the interesting thing, if I can talk just a second more autobiographically, that we took these dialogues on race and the discussion which the Faith and Politics Institute put into

effect and took them back into our districts. There were meetings all over the country.

We started talking race, but we ended up talking about ourselves and our children and our families and our communities. But we were being honest about it. It was an extraordinary transformation. I give that credit to this distinguished man standing over here, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS). We are the better for it.

In ending, I would just like to say, although most of us were not there with you at that time, I hope we can follow worthily where you have led the way.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) for those words. I think this is only a beginning toward us building that beloved community and moving toward laying down the burden of race. That is why the dialogue must continue.

I yield to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN).

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) for yielding. I very much appreciate the opportunity to say a few words tonight. Especially, even more, I appreciated the opportunity to be part of a remarkable weekend in Montgomery and Birmingham and Selma.

I was there with my mother, who grew up in a small town in Georgia, and with my daughter Emily, who is 16. To watch the interaction between the two of them was remarkable in this kind of situation.

Margaret Mead once said many, many years ago that grandparents tend to impart wisdom to their grandchildren; that knowledge in this society is passed from grandparent to grandchildren.

So for my 16-year-old daughter Emily to listen to my mother talk about drinking fountains in the South that said white and said colored, the white drinking fountain was much nicer and newer than the drinking fountain reserved for African-Americans, and to spend these 3 days with the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) in Selma and Montgomery and Birmingham, to see what happened to him in these periods in 1965 and really in the many years in the 1960s when he was so much a part of the civil rights movement, so much a leader in the civil rights movement.

But what comes through more than anything that my mother and my daughter and all of us that were part of this pilgrimage to Alabama, what we all saw was the ability, the capacity for forgiveness. People that were literally trying to kill JOHN LEWIS, people that were beating, beating with sticks, or were giving political orders or whatever to hurt people like JOHN LEWIS. And to end this movement, that the gentleman from Georgia and others in the civil rights movement, people like the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. HILLIARD), were able to have a capacity to forgive in a situation like that.

It is a remarkable thing that, as the gentleman from Georgia forgave and as

others in the civil rights movement forgave people that wanted to wrong them, it really did begin to change the hearts of those people who would either hit them with sticks or tromp them with horse's hooves or giving political orders to attack or to assault, those people's hearts were changed as the gentleman from Georgia and others forgave.

That is really maybe the most remarkable part about the week and the most remarkable part about the civil rights movement is the mayor of Selma, Alabama, who is a very impressive gentleman, who is now 68 years old, 34 years ago, he was elected mayor. Several weeks later, he met the gentleman from Georgia. He at that time called JOHN LEWIS a rabble-rouser and a troublemaker. Today, this past weekend, at lunch, he called JOHN LEWIS one of the most, if not the most, courageous person he had ever met.

This man had a wonderful capacity to change and open his heart up as people like the gentleman from Georgia had the same capacity to forgive and saw bringing together the races.

The best part about all of that is that we, for the first time in many people's lives that were in this trip, we heard African-Americans talk honestly about what it is like to be black, and then blacks were able to listen to white people talk about what it is like and to really communicate with each other, something that we clearly do not do enough of in this country.

So it was a remarkable time in the 1960s and throughout the civil rights movement and the last 200 years, but a particularly remarkable time as things began to more rapidly change. I think all of us, African-Americans and whites, on this trip were all changed for the better.

□ 1900

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), who was also part of our trip to Selma.

Mr. UPTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I just want to say I was very pleased to have joined this bipartisan effort, certainly not only as a Republican but more as an American, to actually have walked in the footsteps and to see some of those struggles. For me growing up in Michigan, never having really been to the South, never certainly been to Alabama until this weekend, two weeks ago, it was an amazing, extraordinary adventure for me. As I think about my district, diverse in so many needs and issues, whether rural and urban, industrialwise, in agriculture and diverse too in ethnicity, this was a very important trip for me, not only to understand some of the divisions that existed not only in the North but to see the real footsteps that the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) led in the South.

As the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) indicated before,

though there were many of us that were sad that we were not with him back in the 1960s, for me I had an excuse as I might have been 7 years old, we want to finish this trail with the gentleman from Georgia. As we traveled this way and spent substantial time not only on the bus talking about the trials and tribulations that he went through, but I know that for sure the dozen of us that were there are indeed much closer as Americans and as Members of this House in respecting those convictions that all of us have for each other and our views and our districts that each of us represents. As the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) indicated, it was a religious experience. One cannot describe it, certainly in the hour that we have here tonight, but in discussions certainly the Faith in Politics Institute began several months ago, as we see these unfold in the future. We love him. We love all that he did for America and for this House in terms of his leadership then and now. We certainly look forward to walking this path with him, with all Americans, as we try and end hatred and racism and things that sadly exist in far too many homes across this country.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

Mr. ENGEL. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding to me. I was very privileged to also be part of the delegation which went with the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) to Alabama, to Birmingham, Montgomery and to Selma. It was as my colleagues have mentioned, a very, very moving experience. It was especially moving for me, Mr. Speaker.

I represent a district, a very diverse district in New York which is about a third African-American, a third Hispanic and a third white. We know better than most people that people have to live together and people have to work together. I think there is nothing that better personifies that than the civil rights struggle.

To my right is a picture of us in Montgomery, Alabama joining hands, locking hands and singing We Shall Overcome at the Southern Poverty Law Center. It was one of the very moving moments of the trip. Believe me, there were many, many moving moments at the trip, the feeling of working together and being together and joining in the struggle for civil rights together. Although people like the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), whom I refer to as a real American hero and the gentleman is a real American hero and it is an honor to be his colleague and to be in the House with him, the fact of the matter is we have come a long way in the United States in terms of race relations. But obviously we still have a long, long way to go. We can learn from the past. The past can help us learn and prepare for the future. To be down in Alabama at the 16th Street Baptist Church with those 4 little girls who were killed, one

of those girls was my age when she was blown to bits. I remember it very, very vividly, hearing about it on the news. To be in the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, where Dr. Martin Luther King was the minister, was really a feeling to behold. To go to Selma and to actually go over that bridge and to understand where history was made, on the highway past the spot where Viola Liuzzo was gunned down and to see all these other places that we read about, that we heard about, I was a little too young at the time to be able to make the trip down but I was old enough to understand what was happening.

I remember the first time I ever went to the South in 1967 with two friends and saw the signs, the segregated signs, and could not believe that this was a part of America. I think what one of our colleagues said, which is the genius of JOHN LEWIS, is how can someone go through what he went through and emerge not only as a person who is not bitter but as a person who understands the necessity of trying to bring people together and who continues to do that more than any other person that I know. It was just an honor for me and also a tribute, I think, to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) and also just to be a part of it, to understand what this means to the United States, the greatest country in the world, we are honored and we are privileged to serve in the United States Congress representing the greatest country in the world, but we learn again from our past.

We know in the United States so many diverse people, coming together, living together, we are all Americans, we have different backgrounds. That is the genius and the greatness of our country, trying to bring people together, trying to accentuate the similarities in people rather than trying to accentuate our differences. That is what I try to do in my district in New York. I know the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) has been doing it for his entire life. I just want to say to my colleague from Georgia that it was an honor and a privilege being with him that weekend in Alabama. It is an honor and privilege serving with him. We need to all move forward and to continue to bring people in this great country together. The people who did this 33 years ago and 35 years ago and before that in the civil rights movement are truly the people who made this country better for all of us.

Again, we still have a long way to go and we have to keep being resolute in saying that in this country we need to continue to have dialogue. I commend President Clinton for his dialogue on race. We need to learn from the past and we need to move forward for the future. I was honored and privileged to be part of the delegation. I look forward to a continuing dialogue in making race relations in our great country better and better and better.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. BARRETT).

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I think all of us felt the same way, all of us who were on this weekend. It was probably one of the most, if not the most, amazing weekend I have spent in my 5½ years in Congress. We all fashion ourselves as busy people, sometimes we are too busy to take the time to talk to each other, to get to know each other but, more importantly, we do not take the time to reflect and find out from our backgrounds what we can do to bring us together.

For me this was just a weekend I will never forget my entire life. Going down to Alabama for the first time in my life, traveling with the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. HILLIARD) through his district, he was a wonderful host, and with the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS). Someone remarked the weekend was a lot like taking a history course taught by the professor who created the history, because JOHN LEWIS was such an integral part of this. For me to go home and tell my family and my friends what an amazing weekend it was really is going to have an impact.

For me there were several things that really jumped out. Probably the part that I will remember the most is when we went to visit former Governor George Wallace. The number of us, I think, northern Democrats when we went into the room, he is not a person that in my neck of the woods was a person that I grew up respecting in all honesty. But when I saw JOHN LEWIS and EARL HILLIARD go up and greet him, I thought, well, if they have room in their heart for forgiveness, I should have room in my heart for forgiveness as well. But it was not something that came easy. For me to see the remarkable degree of calmness that was displayed and has been displayed by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), again I went home and remarked to my wife, "This is an amazing guy. He shows no anger, he shows no bitterness." I do not know that there are many people in this world who could have done what he did and not showed any anger or bitterness. Someone else said to me, he was 21 years old or 22 years old when he did this. Would you have had the courage to do that when you were 21 or 22? I said, "I don't know that I would have the courage to do it now." Because he was putting his life on the line and all the people who were involved in this struggle were putting their lives on the line. As we have sat around, and we have for several evenings talking about our backgrounds, I and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and some of the younger Members here, I felt a little, I did not want to say unworthy but I did not have the same shared experience because people who were 10 or 15 years older than I had gone through lot of

this. So as we went around the room and people said what they were doing at this period, I was in the third, fourth or fifth grade, I was probably playing softball or something like that. I did not have a shared experience. I did not know whether I had anything I could add to this conversation. But as I left that weekend, what I probably came away with more than anything is that this is not a struggle that is over, this is not even a struggle that has been resolved in a way that people can say, "Well, let's move on to something else." It is a struggle for human beings to get to know each other and to try to shed our differences and try to find out what we have in common. For that I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), I thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. HILLIARD), I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. THURMAN), the other people who were on this trip because I think it helps us all grow. I think what this institution needs is to talk to each other and try to come together.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Let me just add before the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. HILLIARD) speaks, just to thank him again for being such a great host. We were in his district the entire time in Birmingham, in Montgomery, in Selma. We want to thank the gentleman.

Mr. HILLIARD. I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) very much. Let me thank all my colleagues. It was indeed a privilege and a pleasure for us to entertain you and to walk back into history with you. The civil rights movement presented a difficult thing for our Nation at a very difficult time, but it was Americans like the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) that made the difference. To walk back into history with him and with a few of the other people who participated in the civil rights movement at that time and to walk back with colleagues of mine who had not participated but who had a chance to see firsthand some of the things that took place, the films we saw, the movies, the videos, being able to once again cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge, being able to walk through the Civil Rights Museum in Birmingham, Alabama, and to visit the Civil Rights Institute was indeed something that does not happen often. We were pleased to have all of you walk what we call the Civil Rights Trail in Alabama. We did not get a chance to walk all of it. We did not get a chance to even walk the majority of it. But the most important thing, we were there and because you came, the press came, and we had a chance for America to look back at its past, to recall some of the terrible events that took place, and hopefully to enlighten some of the young people who were not born 33 years ago, who did not know of our Na-

tion's past, so that they would have a chance to learn about it and hopefully to have such an appreciation until they would dedicate themselves to freedom for everyone, so that it would never happen again in America.

The treatment that you receive and others in trying to cross the Selma-Montgomery Trail, in trying to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge and in walking from Selma to Montgomery was inhumane and it was not the type of treatment that Americans are used to. It is a thing of the past. It is something that we should never forget, but it was the past. When we reflect back, when we look at what took place, it gives us an opportunity to see what happened and to keep it before the public so that never again will it be a part of our history, not to any minority, not for any reason, so that we could really enhance the democracy that we have.

□ 1915

So having the opportunity to have so many congressional types in our Alabama on such an occasion was indeed a good experience, not only because of the presence of my colleagues, but because of the fact that we had a chance to visit George Wallace; we had a chance to dialogue with the head of the two major parties in this country, and they had a chance to participate.

So it was really enjoyable and educational, having all of my colleagues there. We appreciate you. We invite you back. We want you to come, and we want to go to the next level the next time. We will be talking about that in the coming months. Hopefully, we will do it from this podium.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, one of the lighter moments of the trip, perhaps, was we met the fellow, I believe Deacon McNair, in the church, and we will put his picture up in a moment. He is, I believe, 89 years old, he told us, sort of soft-spoken, a slightly built man, who told us as he ran through sort of the history on the wall, this was the church in Montgomery where, the Dexter Avenue Church where Dr. King was called. And he told us the story that in 1954, I believe, when Dr. King would have been 24 years old, 1953, I guess he would have been 24 years old, and he had already accepted his first church, his first calling at a church in Chattanooga, and this gentleman in Montgomery decided that he was going to do something about that. So he drove his car over to Atlanta and met with Dr. King's parents and Dr. King and convinced him not to go to Chattanooga, but instead to go to Montgomery. So he changed history when he did that.

I see the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. HILLIARD) laughing, because I imagine he was an old friend of his. But it was a wonderful story, and Dr. King only had one church in his life that he was the pastor of, the church in Birmingham on Dexter Avenue, and this man was the gentleman responsible for getting him there.

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman, by the way, I believe, had been a member of that church for some 93 years; he was that old. He takes credit for bringing Dr. King there, and indeed, he deserves the credit. But he also deserves the credit for changing the history of this country, and for that I am thankful.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I think this particular deacon, as head of the deacon board, he made a great contribution, and I think when historians pick up their pens and write about this period, they would have to say that this one man had the insight, the vision, to go to Atlanta, as the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) suggested, and convince Dr. King not to go to Chattanooga, Tennessee, but to come to Montgomery, Alabama. That is something I think from time to time in human history, call it what you may, it may be the spirit of history, that tends to track one down, and so Martin Luther King, Jr., was there at the right time in the right city to change not just Alabama, the South, but the Nation.

I think because of what happened in Montgomery, in Birmingham, in Selma, we have witnessed what I like to call a nonviolent revolution. We live in a different country, a better country, and we are a better people. I think we saw that. We saw the changes in Selma. We saw it in Birmingham when a middle-aged man walked up to me and said, I want to apologize for what happened here a few years ago. I am sorry. And I think that is very much in keeping with the philosophy and the discipline of nonviolence which was very much a part of the movement.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I want to yield to the gentleman from Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Mr. BARRETT) in a moment because he tells the story so well, but we tend to lose sight, I think, people that are Northerners and especially people that are white, people who have not paid as much attention to the civil right movement, and we lose sight of the fact that this was made up of a lot of very young people that are leaders in this room. JOHN LEWIS, when he led the freedom riots, was 21 years old, when he knew he was going to get beat up on the bus when the bus arrived in Montgomery. Martin Luther King was 24 years old when he took his church, and during the bus boycott he was 26 years old, and what all of that meant and how he won the Nobel Prize at 35 and was killed at 39. He was such a young man during all of this. My friend from Milwaukee has a story about a man that was very, very young and showed more courage than perhaps most of us have in our lives combined.

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it starts as we were riding the bus from Montgomery to Selma, during the hour-and-a-half bus ride, or whatever the time period was, we were shown one of the PBS series, Eye on the Prize, and in the segment that

dealt with Selma, it was a segment where there were probably 15 or 16 young people who had sort of broken loose from a curfew and were walking to the courthouse, and they were walking to the courthouse to make their case for being able to register to vote, and they were stopped by, I think it was the sheriff, the sheriff from the area.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, one of the deputy sheriffs.

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, one of his deputies, and it was almost a humbling experience watching this little exchange between this young man, who was a very small man, and he looked very, very young. And as I was watching it, I was, first of all, struck by how he could remain so calm as this deputy sheriff threw racial slur, racial slur at him over and over again, and he just did not lose his cool. He stood there and took it and asked the questions about do you believe in justice, do you believe in prayer, can we pray together, and over and over again this deputy sheriff was saying terrible things to him, things that would have made me just lose it.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, he told him to go to his own church and pray; do not pray for me.

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, he said, I do not think your prayers even get above your head. That is one of the things that the deputy sheriff said. I was struck by how calm this young man was, and as I was watching this, I was thinking, I wonder whatever happened to this guy? How can this guy be so calm? I wonder what happened to him the rest of his life?

So we got off the bus and went in the church, and we were greeted by some of the people that had been involved, and lo and behold, one of the people was this guy, and he got up and told the story from his perspective. And my question was, what was going through your mind at the time? And I said, what was going through your stomach at the time? The thought that you could do this with this guy who just obviously hated him so much, and he was able, again with an incredibly peaceful disposition; the exchange ended when he said, well, is my quarter not worth as much as your quarter? And the deputy sheriff said, I do not want anything to do with your quarter, and get out. Just to talk to this young man who is no longer a young man, he is now in his forties and is still involved in trying to get people voting.

Probably one of the saddest parts of this experience for me was coming home the next day and going to visit a high school in my district, and bringing up this visit that I had, and asking the kids if they knew what the Selma-Montgomery march was all about. And they sort of had an inkling that it was something to do with civil rights, but they did not know much beyond that.

I do not think we should live in the past, but I do not think we should forget the past either. I think it is impor-

tant for the young people in this country to know the price people paid for the right to vote only 30, 35 years ago in this country.

So it was great trip. We were also joined by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) who was there, and maybe the gentlewoman wants to add her thoughts on the weekend.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much. This obviously is a moving time for all of us. My thoughts were that I actually went to Selma for several reasons; certainly to pay great tribute to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), and to say to America, as he has said every single year, that we will never forget. And as we make that statement, which in some sense some people feel that that is a harsh statement, I do not, but some do, that as we never forget, we will continue to try to draw more people into the circle of friendship and humanity to understand how it is so very important to bring about racial harmony; not words that are redundant without substance, but that racial harmony in this country is so very important.

The courageous effort that was made, first let me emphasize the small band of soldiers who marched initially across the Edmond Pettis Bridge when the gentleman was actually brutalized and turned back. That was not the so-called successful march, but it was the march that gathered the attention of America.

For us ever to forget those individuals who in the course of coming to Selma lost their lives, the housewife from Detroit named Viola who came and lost her life and several others came and tried to be part of this. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) wound up in a hospital in the North because of the experience that he had to encounter. But yet, as they marched across that bridge, they did not fail to remember that it was what they did that day that might trigger and turn the course of history.

So my experiences coming across the bridge and hearing the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) recount of the question that Josiah Williams asked as to whether he could swim, I looked into that river, my brother, and it was a muddy river, albeit a big river, and I can imagine the choices, how many times we have the fork in the road, if we might look at the New Testament, what might have Jesus thought as he offered himself on the cross in the crucifix, what choices could he have made to turn back, and he did not.

Frankly, I think that this was another singular moment in our history, to be able to gather at Brown Chapel and sing with those individuals who were remembering to see Brown Chapel honored as an historic place of worship, but also of leadership; to hear them commit to the modern-day challenge that we must still fight for those who do not have. I would say as Martin

King came, as you called him those 3 weeks later, these words are very much of meaning to me. He indicated that it was Selma that became a shining moment in the conscience of man. A confrontation of good and evil compressed in the tiny community of Selma generated the massive power to turn the whole Nation to a new course. I do not know if people realize the fact that Mayor Smitherman seems to join you every year, and again he offered his deepest apologies and camaraderie and emotional seeking of forgiveness. I appreciated that and was warmed by that.

I would just simply say to my colleagues, I was very honored to be able to be with you, and I hope that we will engage in some very vigorous discussions and debates about race. I hope that as we talk this evening and bring about a sense of healing, that we realize that healing has to come from acknowledgment and truth.

Just recently we saw in the polls that race and discrimination is still one of the most divisive aspects of our society. And if we learn nothing from the experience of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) and all who were so heroic that day, that sometimes you have to make the unpopular choices where there are a few that will follow you, but in the ultimate end, the good will prevail.

So I hope as the Voter Rights Act was eventually signed by President Johnson that allowed me to be where I am today, 6,000 or so African Americans who are now elected officials, but more importantly, the doors of opportunity opened, President Johnson saying that their cause must be our cause, too, because it is not just Negroes, but really, it is all of us who must overcome the crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice, and we shall overcome.

So I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I look forward to engaging in more discussion, but I hope that we will be able to rise to accept the unpopular choices to call racism and discrimination where we find it, and to try to work to cure it with our brothers and sisters on the other side of the aisle, and most of all, prevail as JOHN LEWIS prevailed in victory for a harmonious Nation.

□ 1930

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. I think the question as we stand here is where do we go from here.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Quite simply, yes.

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. All of us represent districts where we have people who want to heal and get together, but I think the challenge we have is, how do we open up peoples' hearts? How do we get them to understand each other?

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. HILLIARD).

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I think the challenge is definitely before us,

how do we bring America together? I think this is the very beginning.

I don't know whether Members had a chance to really discuss the delegation, the diversity of it; but, if you recall, it was bipartisan. We had Members of both parties, the Democrat as well as the Republican party. At the same time, we had the heads of those two parties there; and the congressional delegation was a mixture not only of black and white Members of Congress, but male and female.

I thought this was a very beginning. It was a positive move. I think the people we talked to gave us some insight of some of the changes that they had made in their lives. I speak about Mr. Smitherman, Governor Wallace. We also got to change some minds and hearts in America.

I think it is up to us as leaders, elected officials, to create that type of environment. We need to start somewhere. I cannot think of anyplace better to start than here in the United States Congress.

As the gentleman knows, from this podium some of us have said some things against the opposite party, against opposite Members of this Chamber, that perhaps should not have been said; and oftentimes in heated debates we lose our cool, as they say, and things do not come out as we expect for them to or intended for them to. I think we need to begin here. I think this is the very beginning.

I think we ought to come forth with these types of colloquies every night, every week, or every month. I think we ought to do something to keep the problems that underlie the real problems in America, the issues that underlie the real problems in America, before the public.

If we do not create a dialogue on a continuing basis, those things that harm us more, that hurt us more, will be pushed aside, and they will not be discussed. If you never discuss problems, you never admit that there is a problem; you never solve it. So I think that we need to continue this dialogue. I think this is the very beginning.

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, let me ask the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. SHERROD BROWN), how do we get people to trust each other? What should we be doing?

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN).

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we saw people at their best and worst. We saw illustrations of that on that trip.

I see the pictures that were on national television of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHN LEWIS) and Josea Williams standing two by two as they walked across the bridge, standing there with hundreds of people behind them, neatly lined up, off the street, on the sidewalk so they were not disturbing anybody; and the guard came at them and the police came at them with night sticks and just started beating them up, with horses.

The capacity to absorb that violence is really what changed the hearts and minds of America. Perhaps if they had not been nonviolent, if there had been guns or any kind of weapons or any fighting back, the American public would not have seen the purity, if you will, of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHN LEWIS) and others, of their motives and beliefs and cause. I think that really changed people's hearts.

The Voting Rights Act passed 3 months later overwhelmingly, because of what my friend did; and as the gentlewoman from Houston, Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) said, it was LBJ's speech, "We shall overcome." He would not have been moved to say that if it had not been for the very strong, nonviolent, but strong actions, not weak. Nonviolence is the strongest reaction, because of the strength it takes to love, forgive, and to stand there and take it, if you will.

I think that is part of the answer to the question, I say to the gentleman from Wisconsin, to see both the worst and most brutal in people come out, and then to see the best come out in people's reactions and the best come out in the strength and discipline and love.

It is also I think that we as a people need to listen to each other. It is so rare, as I saw the President's race retreat or town meeting in Akron, which I attended, not far from where I live. What came out there was that white people listened to African Americans talk about themselves, and African Americans listened to white people talk about themselves.

That is something in this society, that as integrated as we are on the surface, we are not very integrated in talking about our personal lives. Whites work with blacks and blacks may be on a softball team with whites, or they may hang around the drinking fountain together, or may even travel with them occasionally, but we do not have the kind of heart to heart discussions: what is my life like, Earl, what is your life like, and talk to each other that way. So much of it is just simple understanding that we really fail to do, I think.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. If the gentleman will continue to yield, Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman really carved it out for us. Race and the differences with race have been so personal that sometimes we have not reached below the skin, which is sometimes painful.

I want to thank Faith in Politics, the institute that certainly brought us together. I want to thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. HILLIARD) for hosting us.

I would like to challenge us to engage in these very personal discussions, because they may translate into constructive legislation. We are not saying that legislation cures all, but to be able to discuss these things and hear both sides.

I think the gentleman's point is well-taken about we were sort of talking at

each other, as some people have perceived in some of these meetings that have been going on. Let us try to talk to each other, and let us find out where we can find common ground.

I leave the gentleman simply with an encouragement. I hope, and I see my colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. KAREN THURMAN). I hope we will look at this thing called the apology. When you say it, everybody sort of perks up with their views one way or the other.

But let me say that I think an apology for slavery is certainly one that would bring about a vigorous debate, and I hope we would debate it not in anger but that we would get below the skin and really find out what makes people tick, what hurts and helps them, and how we can bring about a true healing, and after healing then comes reconciliation.

I look forward to working with my colleagues, and I am just delighted to be able to be here with them.

Mr. Speaker, as I take my place here in the well of the floor with my colleagues to speak about my participation in the recent march in Selma, Alabama, I am reminded of the solidarity and strength of Congressman JOHN LEWIS and the people who took those courageous steps 33 years ago.

I found the experience of this recent March to be a moving experience. There were those who were there in 1965, and there were those who could not be there in 1965.

I was touched by the faces of the people that I saw there on the bridge. In these faces I saw hope, determination, and pride. And then I thought of the faces of those marching in 1965.

I imagined what led these marchers to gather together in Selma, Alabama in March of 1965. The constant denial of civil rights, the attacking of innocent women and children, the injustices that were routinely handed down by a corrupt and racist judiciary—I say this because one year earlier on July 9, 1964, state circuit judge James Hare issued a ruling which had the effect of enjoining any group of more than three (3) people from meeting in Dallas county—and the constant intimidation of not just private citizens, but state and local officials.

I imagined what these marchers saw as they stood on the Edmund Pettus bridge. They saw the intimidating forces of the law—state troopers and sheriff officers—standing, waiting to savagely beat them after they crossed the bridge.

I imagined the hurt and humiliation that these proud, non violent marchers must have felt—marching towards freedom, only to be savagely attacked by dogs and police; to be showered with tear gas; to be beaten with clubs as though they themselves were enslaved.

I imagined the utter rage that must have gone through the minds of the people who saw their sisters and mothers, fathers, and brothers, beaten as though they were mere property—to be treated simply as the property owner saw fit.

I imagined the shock of the country as Americans watched on TV what African Americans had seen time and time again.

As I stood with the marchers in Selma, Alabama this past weekend, I thought of the

power of the moment—that this march actually occurred only 33 years ago and that here we are, re-creating and reflecting on history.

It was Martin Luther King, Jr. who stated that,

Selma, Alabama . . . became a shining moment in the conscious of man . . . confrontation of good and evil compressed in the tiny community of Selma generated the massive power to turn the whole nation to a new course.

The recent march in Selma was, for me, as if we were telling those who marched in 1965 and the whole wide world that the civil rights movement is still moving. It is moving in the hearts and minds of those of us who carry the torch and flame of justice and liberty in America. It is moving in those of us who were not old enough to march in 1965. It is moving in those of us who greatly benefitted from the courageousness of those who were beaten by the racist police as they tried to cross the Edmund Pettus bridge in 1965. It is moving in the souls of those who support our efforts to hold on to the civil rights that we fought for, and regain the civil rights that are slowly being taken away by renegade courts in America.

The march in Selma thrust this country forward into a new era of voting rights for all Americans. In his televised statement introducing the voting rights bill, it was President Johnson who when speaking of the marchers in Selma stated,

Their cause must be our cause too. Because it is not just Negroes, but really it's all of us who must overcome the crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice. And we shall overcome.

As I stand here tonight, I know that we must begin to prepare for the confrontation that the voting rights acts will engender once again. It will not be easy. For there are those that seek to deny us the simple right to vote. There are those who seek to turn back the clock on civil rights for all Americans.

The marchers in Selma were on the front line. They were fighting not just for themselves, but for all of America; not just black America, but all America.

As we make history here even today, we stand on the front line in the U.S. Congress for civil rights, not just for African Americans, but for all Americans.

As I stood with the marchers in Selma, I thought of the bridges that we have crossed in Houston, Texas, such as proposition "A"—an effort which was designed to eliminate the city's affirmative action contracting program. We crossed that bridge by beating proposition "A" and by letting the entire United States know that civil rights and affirmative action is not only good for the 4th largest city in the U.S., but for the rest of the country.

The march in Selma represents not just the crossing of a bridge, but the crossing over of America from an age of slavery to freedom. It represents the bridge from heartbreak to hope, from poverty to prosperity.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. KAREN THURMAN).

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I apologize for being a little late to enter into this dialogue, because it was probably one of the most important weekends that I spent in my lifetime. I, too, want to thank Faith in Politics for what they did.

I particularly also want to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHN

LEWIS) for reliving a time in his life that had to be one of difficulty but one that also shaped who he is and what he brings to this Congress today. So, JOHN, I appreciate that.

I also give thanks to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. EARL HILLIARD), as somebody who still lives there, represents that area, and still has to live with the consequences, sometimes, for the time spent. We appreciate the participation that you gave us and the bringing of people together.

Mr. HILLIARD. I thank the gentlewoman.

Mrs. THURMAN. When the gentleman talked about starting here in Congress, I think it is not only starting here in Congress as we try to mend ourselves, between Democrats and Republicans. We have done Hershey, and we tried to bring some, whatever, some composure around here to keep us from fighting so much and doing those kinds of things. It is also the teaching of our own children, the healing within our own hearts, with our own children, starting there from a very young age.

I want to tell the Members a story that happened to me right after, and any time we can talk about this, but not just with my own children. Right after I came back from that weekend, there was a group of students from the University of Florida who came here on an alternative spring break weekend. I do not know how many Members had students from their communities and from their universities that came to different parts of the country to participate in this, where they actually came here.

This group came to work in homeless shelters. They did a battered women's thing, where they painted, took care of kids, and they did those things as an alternative to spring break, instead of going to Daytona Beach 50 miles away, where they could have fun.

They were shocked, first of all, by what they saw in D.C. They had exposed themselves to some degree within their own community but never expected to see what was happening in Washington, D.C.

I relayed my weekend to them, and I said to them, can you imagine in your lifetime walking on the same bridge with the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHN LEWIS) with students your age? I think the thing that struck me the most of this weekend, and I say this to the youth of our country, go out there and see, participate, look at what history is all about.

Because the most striking thing to me, JOHN, was the young woman, I believe she was 14 years old, who was willing to give her life, her life, knowing full well that she was going to walk into one of the most adverse situations of her short 14-year period of time. But she was willing to take a stand at that early age to make a difference in what she would see in history. I have to tell the Members, that struck me like nothing has ever struck me.

I suggested to them that they are young. They have the opportunity to

see this. They are a part of this healing process. They are reaching out right now. They need to go back to their university campuses, and they need to talk about what they saw. They need to start the healing, even within their own university campuses, with what they are seeing.

They said it just kind of tore down all of the things that they had thought about what a homeless person was. So the same thing hits.

The second thing that struck me when we were at the museum, and they talked about the city that had grown from iron. When you walked in there, the first pictures you saw were black and white together talking about work conditions, wage conditions, issues that united them because it was something that they could all understand and believe in.

And only until somebody decided to make it an issue and said, you cannot play cards, you cannot look into their eyes, you cannot do this, you cannot do that, the hatred was never there. The hatred did not start until somebody forced it.

So I think the idea is that if we undo that force of hatred and start to reteach, that we all started off in the same room. We all started off together for the same reasons; but, because of a few individuals, we got to a point where we had to fight, or people had to fight for something that they believed in.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for those words and for taking the time to participate in this. She added so much.

I think what we all are saying tonight is that we must continue the dialogue, continue to talk to each other, continue to move to create the beloved community, an interracial democracy; continue to do what we can to lay down the burden of race.

It is ongoing. We do not necessarily have a blueprint, a road map. We are going down this road for the first time. I think if we can do it in the Congress, we can do it in the larger society. We are the leaders. We should go out and help get our districts and our States to talk about race, and do not be afraid to bring the dirt and the filth from under the American rug, out of the cracks and corners so we can see it, so we can deal with it.

I know the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. JAY DICKEY) was unable to go on the trip, but he had attended several of these meetings. I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. DICKEY).

Mr. DICKEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I want to tell the Speaker that the two things that kept me from coming to Alabama on this trip I will forget soon. If I had come, I would have remembered being with you all forever, and I am sorry about that. It is just something that I could not go against my word. But I know what I missed.

What has drawn me to the dialogue with you all and the discussions with you all is the fact that I grew up in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and during this time was a graduate of law school, practicing law in my hometown; and we thought we were a long way away, but we were not.

But as things have occurred and I am now in public office, it is good for me to sit around in the rooms, in the room as I have done with you, and just go over exactly how we got where we are individually in relationship to race and discrimination and the hatred that we have all seen, particularly in the South.

I do not think you all know what it is like in the North, because in the South, as a white person and as a person from the establishment, I was kept from this controversy quite a bit, only to later go back and live so many regrets. I think you all are helping me in that regard in that you are listening to what we are saying.

One thing that I have, one touch that I had during that time, was a friendship with a man named Wiley Branton.

□ 1915

He practiced law in Pine Bluff. My dad and he were friends. And he kind of brought me along in this. I think he is one of the true heroes of the Little Rock crisis. He does not get mentioned very much and I am so glad to mention it now for our country to hear. He was the glue that held it together until Judge Thurgood Marshall came into Little Rock. He then went to work on the voter registration. I can remember when he was head of the voter registration in the South and he kept saying, yes, we are getting people to register but I am not so sure we are getting them to vote. Then when he was up here in the Justice Department, he was constantly giving his life. Then the Dean of the Howard School of Law, Howard University School of Law. He was telling me some of these things and I was listening but I was not really a part of it. But I do know that he was.

He is now gone. He has passed. But I want his family to know and the people of America to know that his legacy lives on. I want to help in this project, too, for his sake as well as others.

In closing, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. BARRETT) was saying, where do we go from here? If he is getting a load up, I want to be on, I want to be in the load. I want to be on our way to bringing people together in love in God's name. Thank you.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Let me just thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. DICKEY) for those words. I think tonight we are deeply grateful, in a sense we are more than lucky but really blessed that we have an organization like Faith in Politics Institute that brought us together. It is my hope that as a group that we will stay together and from time to time we will engage in other discussions and dialogue. This is only, as I said, but the beginning.

This is just one step on a very long journey before we create the beloved community and open society.

I want to thank all of my colleagues for participating in this dialogue tonight.

JUDGE MASSIAH-JACKSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), the majority leader, for his kindness. Obviously I realize that we are at the time of his special order, but I do want to comment, as a member of the House Committee on the Judiciary, on the concern I had for the withdrawing of the nomination of Judge Massiah-Jackson. Let me first salute Judge Massiah-Jackson for her leadership as the common pleas court judge in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and for the vigorous and dignified approach that she took to continuing her confirmation.

She was a nominee of the President of the United States, William Jefferson Clinton, and in fact had passed confirmation hearings and was moving to the floor. I do believe that we have a crisis process that is now broken. Our judges are not being appointed and are not completing the confirmation process. The Supreme Court has commented on the appalling backlog of Federal judges and the backlog of cases.

I call this an abomination on the justice system of this country and ask my colleagues who have political differences with the nominees to recognize the separation of powers, the right of the government and the President to appoint and certainly advise and consent.

But let me tell you what I believe the action should be in light of this harmonious debate we have just had. I am calling for the leadership of the NAACP, the National Urban League, the American Civil Liberties Union, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and all who may be considering this great crisis, the National Council of Negro Women, the Coalition of 100 Black Women, the Coalition of 100 Black Men, certainly the Black Women Political Caucus to come together to address this crisis. We do have a crisis. The system is broken. Judges are being rejected and refused. Judge Massiah-Jackson was the last victim of this process.

We cannot have the conservative rule destroy the appointment of Federal judges who deserve to be appointed, who are fair and impartial, a system that should not be tainted by politics. My heart is simply broken for the loss of this woman, the trampling on her constitutional rights as well as her dignity, the disrespect that was shown

her, her losing this process and not going forward for a vote.

I can only say that we have a crisis. All who will hear my voice, I simply ask for you to respond. If we stand together, we can fight against this abomination and restore the dignity to the process and allow us to go forward in the way that we should.

Judge Massiah-Jackson, I thank you for being a true American. You have my support and appreciation. I will commit to you that we will subject no one else to the tragedy of being so defeated, lonely, without the support of so many that were needed.

I thank the gentleman for allowing me this time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, ladies and gentlemen, is a shameful day in the history of our federal judicial appointment process. When the Framers of the Constitution decided that the United States Senate should confirm all Presidential appointees for the federal bench, surely, they could not have imagined that this process would be used for the kind of unmitigated character assassination that Judge Frederica A. Massiah-Jackson has had to endure for the last few months.

The sad fact of this case is that in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the cradle of our most fundamental liberties, a place known far and wide as the city of brotherly love, an insufferable crime against justice has been committed. Judge Frederica A. Massiah-Jackson has withdrawn her name today from consideration for the Federal District Court bench in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Since her approval by the Senate Judiciary Committee last October, Judge Massiah-Jackson, a Common Pleas Court magistrate in Philadelphia since 1984, has been the subject of vicious attacks about her record on crime. To me, the most terrible tragedy of this situation is that Judge Massiah-Jackson's critics have been able to use a series of smoke and mirrors tactics in regards to her record to undermine both her qualifications and her credibility. Obviously, these critics have been extremely effective at their task, because they have given Judge Massiah-Jackson the impression that her nomination by the Senate was a lost cause.

My friends, this is a real-life travesty if you take the time to look at the facts. According to today's Philadelphia Inquirer, the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association, who was among the chief critics of Judge Massiah-Jackson's nomination, used approximately 1% of the judge's actual sitting cases as an evidentiary basis of her unfitness for the federal bench.

The President, in a statement today, described these allegations as "baseless attacks that mischaracterized (the judge's) record without affording (her) an opportunity to respond". Senator ARLEN SPECTER of Pennsylvania similarly noted that Judge Massiah-Jackson was treated unfairly by both her opponents and the Senate Judiciary Committee. Judge Massiah-Jackson, without foreknowledge, was asked by the Senate Judiciary Committee about cases she decided over a decade ago. As Senator SPECTER said in response to this modus operandi by the Committee, "the quintessential point of due process is notice".