

has earned the respect and admiration of fellow teachers, administrators, students, their families and our community.

Coach Maxey as a basketball coach had an 80% overall winning record that included: State Championship in 1994; Runner-Up Championship in 1998; Final 4 Competitions; Elite 8 appearances as well as seven Area Championships participating in tournaments all over the United States.

Coach Maxey's special talents, strong leadership and expertise led to his mentoring and coaching many outstanding athletes in the Selma City Schools including many All-State players as well as an All-Tournament player.

Notably, we are celebrating Coach Maxey's accomplishments and retirement from high school sports; but, his illustrious career and dedicated service to the youth of our community will continue in his current role as Assistant Coach at Wallace Community College Selma. His career shows the heart of Coach Willie E. Maxey, Jr. and the positive influential role he has played to develop athletic abilities in young people.

Coach Maxey continues to demonstrate an exemplary commitment to community service through his long-time membership in the New Shiloh Baptist Church in Sardis, Alabama where he is Chairman of the Trustee Board. Also, he serves on the International Paper Advisory Board, is a member of the Board of Directors for Kittie Kastle Daycare and has been involved in numerous civic and community endeavors in Sardis and Selma, Alabama.

On a personal note, I have known Coach Maxey all my life. A close family friend, I understand that I was the first newborn baby he ever held. He served as assistant coach under my father Coach Andrew A. Sewell and graciously succeeding him as head basketball coach at Selma High School when my father had a stroke in 1990. My father was proud to mentor and work with Coach Maxey and he was so elated over his successful coaching career. It was with tremendous pride that Selma High gymnasium was dedicated and renamed the "Sewell-Maxey Gymnasium" in honor of the outstanding legacy of both coaches. The retirement of Coach Maxey is truly the end of a golden era in Selma High basketball. I know that his legacy lives on in the hearts of all the young men he coached.

On behalf of the 7th Congressional District, the State of Alabama and this nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the accomplishments and retirement of Coach Willie E. Maxey, Jr. We pay tribute to his distinguished career and contributions for the betterment of youth in our society and extend deep appreciation for his distinguished service.

RECOGNIZING PESACH OSINA

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 2, 2013

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pesach Osina. Mr. Osina learned from a young age the importance of working on behalf of the community. Born in Brooklyn to parents who were well known for their kindness and charity, Pesach moved to Far Rockaway in 1999.

Pesach immediately got involved in Far Rockaway community life—as an active board member of the Jewish Community Council (JCCRP) and a founding member of the Rockaway Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). He started a holiday toy collection and distribution organization that provides toys to hundreds of needy families. In addition, Pesach used his love for politics to advance the needs of the community by actively advocating with local elected officials.

After helping elect Phil Goldfeder to the New York State Assembly in September of 2011, Pesach joined Goldfeder's government staff as Community Liaison and put his experience and skills to work for the community at the government level. Pesach has carved out a name for great work, responsiveness and community service.

Pesach's passion for helping others has been most evident during the last few months—prior to and in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Pesach worked with government officials and community leaders doing to prepare the community, as much as possible, for the impending storm. As the storm was raging, he worked throughout the night with local organizations to communicate with and to meet the needs of stranded families. In the days and nights following the storm, Pesach travelled throughout the community visiting relief sites and working with community leaders to ensure that all of the community needs were met.

Pesach has provided a beacon of hope and an exemplary standard of community service to the entire district. On behalf of New York State's 5th District, I commend Mr. Pesach Osina and thank him for all his contributions to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT BLOMQUIST

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 2, 2013

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor Robert G. Blomquist who has proudly given 14 years of public service to the residents of Olmsted Falls in the great State of Ohio. Mayor Blomquist graduated from Olmsted Falls High School in 1973 and served in the United States Navy from 1976–1981. Mayor Blomquist is a graduate of Baldwin Wallace College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Finance. He also is a graduate of Culinary Institute of America. As a public servant, Mr. Blomquist served on Olmsted Falls's City Council for six years before being elected as Mayor of the city in 1999. Under his leadership, Olmsted Falls has made incredible progress. Under Mayor Blomquist's direction, the city initiated construction of a railroad underpass on State Route 252, installed quiet zones on seven railroad crossings on both CSX and Norfolk Southern railroads and construction of a new fire station serving the people and businesses of the community. Mayor Blomquist has also served as a board member to the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency and Cuyahoga County Planning Commission as well as on the Olmsted Economic Development Committee.

I would like to acknowledge Mayor Blomquist's achievements throughout his long

career of public service and thank him for his outstanding contributions to the people of Olmsted Falls and the 16th District of Ohio.

“REMEMBERING PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY” INSPIRATION TO MILLIONS, AMERICAN HERO, ENDURING SYMBOL OF THE GREATEST GENERATION, AND THE 35TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 2, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, in the life of this nation there have been a few events of such consequence and moment that they have a transformative impact on the people of the country. For my parents' generation the death of President Franklin Roosevelt was such an occasion.

The explosion of the Shuttle Challenger in 1986 left a traumatic and indelible impression on my children's generation. The morning of September 11, 2001 is a day no living American will forget.

For my generation, however, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963 is the moment that lives with us forever. For on that day, my generation lost its leader, its hero, its champion. And its innocence.

None of us can forget where we were and how we felt when we learned the terrible news. I was a young schoolgirl when my teacher, wiping away tears, announced to the class that President Kennedy had been shot in Dallas, Texas and was dead. I was stunned and shocked and sad and heartbroken. I cried all the way home. When I got there I went to my room and prayed.

A half century later, I still remember that day as if it were yesterday. And every year on this day for the last 50 years, I always pause to remember the man who inspired me to devote my life to public service and who, along with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, taught me by their example that the greatest calling in life is the call to serve others.

And I still say a prayer for President Kennedy each November 22 but they have not been prayers of lamentation for many years. They are prayers of thanks to the Lord for his infinite wisdom and grace in blessing our country with a captain as perfectly suited to lead our ship of state during the epochal time that was the 1960s as was Abraham Lincoln to the 1860s.

The year 1963 is one of the most momentous in the life of our nation. It was in August, 50 years ago, that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. challenged and inspired a nation by sharing his dream about its future at the largest peaceful demonstration in American history.

The year 1963 also marked the centennial of the Gettysburg Address, which redefined and reenobled the meaning of the American experience and is the only other American speech that can stand with Dr. King's and not suffer in the comparison.

At Gettysburg, President Lincoln delivered the words that consoled and helped to heal and reunite a divided nation. He reminded us

that just 87 years before, in 1776, America had given birth to something new in the world, self-government, and he made us understand that in the life of nations, ours was still a young country with an unfinished democracy and an uncertain future.

He then paid tribute “to those who died so the nation might live” and challenged the living to dedicate themselves to the “great task” remaining before them, which was not just to ensure the survival of the union, but for us to honor those who “gave the last full measure of devotion” by giving the nation a “new birth of freedom.”

One hundred years later, in August 1963, Dr. King reminded us that the great work of democracy which had been so nobly advanced a century before remained unfinished but expressed the confidence that his and future generations of Americans, would like their forbears, rededicate themselves to the proposition that all people are created equal and resolve to continue the task of perfecting our democracy until “justice rolls down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream.”

And in those heady days there was little doubt we would become the country foretold by Dr. King because America in that year and at that time was powerful and prosperous and confident and optimistic.

And no one better symbolized the nation’s vitality and sense of purpose and unlimited possibility than the man it had elected to lead them, President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

John Kennedy personified the pioneering, trailblazing, independent, courageous, and can-do spirit for which America is justly celebrated around the world. He was the youngest person and the first Catholic elected President and the first person born in the 20th century to hold the office.

A junior officer who served heroically during World War II, the greatest conflict in world history, John Kennedy was the leading member of what has been called the “Greatest Generation” and the first of the seven of its members elevated to the presidency, the most of any generation ever.

A naval officer, congressman, senator, and author of the Pulitzer Prize winning “Profiles in Courage,” John Kennedy was both a man of action and a man of ideas. He was pragmatic and compassionate; tough-minded and tender-hearted, determined but not dogmatic. He was, in short and in sum, a man with great charisma and great character.

Most of all, John Kennedy was a man who never stopped thinking about tomorrow or working to realize the full promise of America. And he understood that we all had a place in that future and a role to play in bringing it about. That is why he proclaimed in his stirring inaugural address: “Ask not, my fellow Americans, what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.”

John Kennedy believed there was nothing America could not achieve once it set its mind to it. In September 1961, President Kennedy came to my home city of Houston, Texas and committed America to send a man to the moon and to bring him safely home before the end of the decade. Asked why we should go to the moon, President Kennedy said:

We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard.

To anyone who might doubt America’s ability to make good on this commitment, Presi-

dent Kennedy said, “this country of the United States was not built by those who waited and rested and wished to look behind them. This country was conquered by those who moved forward—and so will space.”

President Kennedy knew first-hand the horrors of war so he worked for peace. What kind of peace? He told us in the commencement address he delivered at American University in April of the momentous year of 1963:

Not a Pax Americana enforced on the world by American weapons of war. Not the peace of the grave or the security of the slave. I am talking about genuine peace, the kind of peace that makes life on earth worth living, and the kind that enables men and nations to grow, and to hope, and build a better life for their children—not merely peace for Americans but peace for all men and women, not merely peace in our time but peace in all time.

President Kennedy led our nation safely through two of the most perilous events of the Cold War, the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 and the erection of the Berlin Wall in 1961. Thanks to his cool resolve, calm restraint, steely determination, and clear thinking, nuclear war was averted and America’s freedom, and that of our allies, was secured. Like Lincoln, President Kennedy knew the value and cost of freedom and the sacrifices required to win and keep it:

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty.

President Kennedy was the first president to see first-hand the Berlin Wall when he traveled behind the Iron Curtain to that divided city in 1963 and gave hope to the besieged people of West Berlin by pledging America’s unwavering support and aid in its struggle to remain free:

You live in a defended island of freedom, but your life is part of the main. So let me ask you, as I close, to lift your eyes beyond the dangers of today, to the hopes of tomorrow, beyond the freedom merely of this city of Berlin, or your country of Germany, to the advance of freedom everywhere, beyond the wall to the day of peace with justice, beyond yourselves and ourselves to all mankind.

Freedom is indivisible, and when one man is enslaved, all are not free. When all are free, then we can look forward to that day when this city will be joined as one and this country and this great Continent of Europe in a peaceful and hopeful globe. . . . All free men, wherever they may live, are citizens of Berlin, and, therefore, as a free man, I take pride in the words “Ich bin ein Berliner!”

Above all, John Kennedy was a man of consistent and tremendous moral courage. To him, freedom was indivisible, the birthright of every person on earth. John Kennedy, like Abraham and Martin, understood that “when one man is enslaved, all are not free.”

And nothing better illuminates this great quality of this remarkable leader than the speech he delivered to the nation the evening of June 11, 1963, committing the federal government to the cause of civil rights, in full support of the Civil Rights Movement and to the eradication of racial segregation and discrimination.

In that landmark address, President Kennedy informed the nation that he had ordered troops to enforce a federal court decree directing that two highly qualified African American

students be enrolled at the University of Alabama notwithstanding Governor Wallace’s vow to block their admission by standing in the schoolhouse door.

President Kennedy saw clearly and connected the events and circumstances facing Abraham Lincoln in 1863 to the challenges confronting Dr. King in 1963, stating:

It ought to be possible for every American to enjoy the privileges of being American without regard to his race or his color. But this is not the case.

We are confronted primarily with a moral issue. It is as old as the Scriptures and is as clear as the American Constitution.

The heart of the question is whether all Americans are to be afforded equal rights and equal opportunities, whether we are going to treat our fellow Americans as we want to be treated.

One hundred years of delay have passed since President Lincoln freed the slaves, yet their heirs, their grandsons, are not fully free. They are not yet freed from the bonds of injustice. They are not yet freed from social and economic oppression. And this Nation, for all its hopes and all its boasts, will not be fully free until all its citizens are free.

We preach freedom around the world, and we mean it, and we cherish our freedom here at home, but are we to say to the world, and much more importantly, to each other that this is the land of the free except for the Negroes; that we have no second-class citizens except Negroes; that we have no class or caste system, no ghettos, no master race except with respect to Negroes?

Now the time has come for this Nation to fulfill its promise.

The following week, President Kennedy sent to Congress legislation making good on this promise. Although he did not live to see its enactment, that legislation—brilliantly shepherded to passage by President Lyndon Johnson—transformed America. Along with the passage of the Voting Rights Act the following year, America made more progress in backing up its boasts and fulfilling its hopes than any time since the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation and ratification of the Civil War Amendments. It is no exaggeration to say that these actions constituted another “new birth of freedom” foretold and predicted by Abraham Lincoln and Dr. King.

Abraham Lincoln and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. are two of the towering figures in American history. And so is John Fitzgerald Kennedy. Taken together, the lives of these three giants teach us at least three important lessons when it comes to the question of race: Words have power. Actions matter. Moral courage is indispensable.

Many persons have one of these qualities but much rarer are those who possess two, let alone all three in the abundance and to the degree possessed by Abraham, Martin, and John. Is it any wonder then that we still revere them after all these years and still miss them so much?

The 1968 folk classic, “Abraham, Martin, and John,” by Dion and the Belmonts still sums up the feelings of countless millions, here in America and around the world:

Has anybody here seen my old friends?
Can you tell me where they’ve gone?
They freed a lot of people,
but, it seems the good they die young.
You know, I just looked around and they were gone.

Abraham, Martin, and John.

They may be gone but they will never be forgotten. Their works—the glow from their fire—truly lit the world.

So on this day I am remembering President Kennedy. His flame glows eternally in Arlington Cemetery and in the hearts of untold millions the world over, including that little school-girl he inspired long ago and who is now the Member of Congress from the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas.

God bless President John Kennedy. I ask that a moment of silence be observed in memory of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States.

RECOGNIZING VIRGIL HALL
HODGES

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 2, 2013

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the generosity and vision of Mr. Virgil Hall Hodges. Mr. Hodges is a proud alum-

nus, member of the Board of Trustees, and founding father of the Richard Allen Classic Group. The Richard Allen Classic Group is an 11-year-old advocacy group of men of consciousness and influence who are committed to upholding the social and intellectual mission of our traditional institutions and perpetuating their mission to the masses. Richard Allen Classic Group members remain staunch supporters of education and the quest to close the technological divide that exists in our communities

Mr. Hodges professional career began as a college professor and football coach. He was then recruited to become a government agency administrator, first as Administrator with New York City's Youth Board, then as head of an anti-poverty agency, the Coney Island Family Center. From there he went into state government as a Facility Director at Mt. Morris and later Arthur Kill Rehabilitation Centers of the NYS Drug Abuse Commission. Lastly, to the NY State Department of Labor and retired

from the NYS Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission and Institute for Nonviolence.

Mr. Hodges adopted Morris Brown College, a 132-year-old prestigious institution founded by the A.M.E. Church that has produced thousands of professionals and masters of the trades and has dedicated countless hours to the service of others.

Mr. Virgil Hall Hodges is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award as Deputy Labor Commissioner by the NYS Legislature; the Distinguished Service Morris Brown College President and Faculty Award; and the NYS Employees Brotherhood Award; and the NYS NAACP Public Service Award.

I commend Mr. Virgil Hall Hodges for his extraordinary service. His vision as an educator and policymaker has inspired both students and colleagues alike. On behalf of the more than 718,000 residents of Fifth Congressional District, I thank you for your outstanding contribution to our communities and nation.