

and his scalp was worth 40 pounds. The bounty for a female Indian of any age and for males under the age of 12 was 25 pounds, while their scalps were worth 20 pounds. In 1863, the reward in Minnesota was \$200 "for every redskin sent to purgatory."

Mr. Speaker, I submit that today, Chief Kirk Francis of the Penobscot Indian Nation declared that the word "redskins" is "not just a racial slur or a derogatory term," but a painful "reminder of one of the most gruesome acts of ethnic cleansing ever committed against" his people. The hunting and killing of Native American Indians, as stated by Chief Francis, was "a most despicable and disgraceful act of genocide." This photo depicts what genocide looks like, Mr. Speaker, and I want to share this photo with my colleagues.

So, while scalping is a matter of historical debate, Mr. Snyder's response to this disgraceful act is indicative of the racist history behind the Washington franchise's name. Its founder, George Preston Marshall, is identified by historians as the driving force behind the color barrier that existed for 12 years in the National Football League, a sad commentary or chapter from 1934 to 1945, when African Americans were banned from the National Football League by a so-called "gentleman's agreement." For years, Mr. Marshall marketed the Washington, D.C., franchise to appeal to the segregated South. The band played "Dixie," the Confederate flag flew, and after the NFL's color line was crossed in 1946, the Washington, D.C., franchise was the last team to field an African American player—and not until 1962.

I might add, Mr. Speaker, that the Washington team did not welcome African American players with open arms. Oh, no. Then-Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall and Attorney General Robert Kennedy presented the Washington franchise with an ultimatum: unless Marshall signed an African American player, the government would revoke his franchise's 30-year lease on the use of the D.C. stadium.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot simply continue these hateful traditions that mock, belittle, disparage, and disgrace those of a different race because of the color of their skin. The National Basketball Association recently reacted swiftly to Mr. Don Sterling's racist remarks. Why is the National Football League so hesitant? Why is Mr. Snyder so slow to do the right thing when some 6 million of his own people's skins were used for lampshades by the Nazi Germans during World War II? Shame on Mr. Snyder for perpetuating this racism and bigotry. He should know better and do better.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day.

In these days after Memorial Day, we thank You again for the ultimate sacrifices of so many of our citizen-ancestors. Bless their families with Your consolation. Bless as well the men and women who serve our Nation this day in our Armed Forces. May they and their families be assured of our deep gratitude for their service.

O God, You have blessed every person with the full measure of Your grace and given us the bounty of Your spirit. Lead us this day in the ways of peace. We pray for peace in our hearts, that we will be freed from selfishness or envy, that we will replace any enmity with goodwill, and hatred with charity, so we might lead lives of generosity and kindness.

May there be peace in our world among all nations. May each nation sense its shared destiny in a new spirit of hope and trust, one with another.

Help us to be men and women without excuse, and may all that we do this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TAKANO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### THE UNFOLDING SCANDAL AT THE VA

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as the unfolding scandal at the VA demonstrates, the administration has a

standard playbook for dealing with an unfolding PR disaster:

The first step is to say the President learned about the situation on the news and is madder than anyone else about it;

Step two is to declare an investigation underway;

Step three is to implore us all to wait patiently for the always slow investigation to be completed;

Step four is to declare the scandal old news.

The underlying theme is that we must allow the bureaucratic machinery to sort out the problems, and we must not interfere with the process.

Mr. Speaker, Samuel Johnson once said that patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel, but in our political culture today, process is the last refuge of those who seek to avoid true accountability.

#### IN SUPPORT OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, RETIRED GENERAL ERIC K. SHINSEKI

(Mr. FALCOMA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALCOMA. Mr. Speaker, as a Vietnam veteran, I rise today to offer my strong support for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, General Eric Shinseki.

Since taking over the VA, General Shinseki has made veterans a top priority, enrolling over 2 million new veterans from our wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and reducing veteran homelessness by about 24 percent.

With new reports of coverups at VA facilities, the Secretary has also called for an independent review and nationwide audit, giving his word that he will do all he can to fix a system that was broken long before he took over.

So let us stand together to do right by our veterans. General Shinseki is right for America's veterans. He is a tried and proven leader, the highest ranked Asian Pacific American in the history of the United States, who told our Nation the truth about Iraq when no one would listen. He will now tell us the truth about the VA. And once the independent review and audit is completed, he will hold accountable any and all who have done our veterans wrong.

I say this to Secretary Shinseki: Do not resign. We are with you. Go for broke. And let's clean up this mess that had been there way before you took over.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO ZACHARY VALSECCHI

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, a firm education prepares America's children for lifelong success.