our entire country more just and safer for Black Americans and every American.

PASS BIPARTISAN LAW ENFORCEMENT REFORM

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

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I have spoken out against racism from this floor before, but under the present regrettable circumstances, I feel compelled to do so again.

All of us are created in the image of God and are of equal and inestimable moral worth—all of us. There are no exceptions. Both St. Peter and St. Paul spoke out against prejudice. Our Declaration of Independence states plainly that we are all created equal. Our laws require equality of treatment and opportunity.

It is a fact that we betrayed this ideal when our country was founded when we tolerated slavery, an immoral human practice, which in this country was carried out by Whites against Blacks. It took nearly 90 years after our founding to erase this blot when we passed the 13th Amendment. It also took a civil war, which cost 600,000 lives.

Even then, we didn't grant Black people true equality. For the next 100 years, they endured Jim Crow laws in the South, de facto segregation in the rest of the country, violence, and inequality in everything from schools to jobs.

They had to win equality for themselves by bravely marching, protesting, and using every peaceful method they could find in the civil rights movement. They gradually won key court cases. And, finally, this House and the Senate passed the 1964 Civil Rights Act and, in 1965, the Voting Rights Act.

But laws don't change hearts, and we are still walking the path toward ridding this Nation of the scourge of racism. As I have watched COVID work its will in my district, I have been distraught to see the disproportionate effect on the health and lives of the one-third of my constituents who are Black—on Black workers and business owners who suddenly, and through no fault of their own, lost their jobs and their businesses, and on Black children who lost months of their education, which they badly need.

The chief of police in Mobile, the urban center of my district, is Lawrence Battiste, a 27-year veteran of law enforcement and, yes, a Black man. We had a Sunday afternoon of protests a few weeks ago, and I watched as he and the officers under his direction carried out their duties with professionalism and character.

''Character.'' I use that word because it is so important right now and because I have long admired Dr. King's statement that we shouldn't be judged by the color of our skin but by the content of our character.

I am proud of Chief Battiste and his officers, but they aren't the only professionals performing their duties under extraordinarily difficult circumstances and with character. There are many, many law enforcement officers around this country who are truly public servants, and they deserve our respect and our support.

We, in this House, can disagree on the appropriate policies to pursue to achieve justice and right the wrong of continuing inequality. But there is no disagreement that racism is wrong, is morally repugnant. There is also no disagreement that doing nothing in the face of continuing racism isn't acceptable.

We, in this House, need to work together, not in parallel partisan efforts. This House came together to pass the CARES Act earlier this year. Surely, we can come together to pass meaningful and bipartisan law enforcement reform legislation that will actually go to the President and become law.

I wish we would address more funding for community health centers so poor people, and especially people of color, would have better access to primary care, which would help equalize health outcomes. I also wish we would take up education choice legislation, like Education Freedom Scholarships so that minority children have the same opportunities for a quality education as their peers from families with the means to pay for better schools.

We are capable of so much more in this country, but only if we remember the one stated purpose of our Constitution is to create a more perfect union. That is not a one-and-done thing; it is a generation-after-generation thing.

It is time to unite in this body and do the hard work of this generation. Let's do it for the Lawrence Battistes out there. Let's do it for our children and grandchildren. And let's do it because that will reveal the content of our national character, which is far more important than the color of our skin.

CALLING FOR DEPARTMENT TO ADDRESS RACISM

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, and I rise because I love my country.

I rise because the winds of change are blowing across America. The winds of change are blowing through this House of Representatives. There will be changes in this House, and these changes are taking place because we are not respecting the will of the people. The people are speaking to us, and we must listen. The winds of change are blowing.

We have an opportunity to do more than talk about invidious discrimination. We have an opportunity to do more than talk about racism. We have an opportunity to do something that can change the course of history.

H. Res. 992 addresses the change that we need.

To my dear brother who just spoke, I would have you sign on to H. Res. 992. It would provide a department of reconciliation. Yes, the Emancipation Proclamation was not a declaration of reconciliation. It is time for us to reconcile.

We have survived slavery, but we didn't reconcile. We have survived Jim Crow's laws and Bull Connor's dogs, but we didn't reconcile. It is time to reconcile.

All the commissions are fine, and I support them, but a department that reports directly to the President of the United States of America is in order. We need a secretary of reconciliation, someone who wakes up every morning with his mission of reconciling by way of developing a strategy and implementing a strategy to eliminate racial segregation as it exists in many places still, but racism, more specifically, and invidious discrimination.

Every day, invidious discrimination and racism will be addressed. This is the means by which we can also get updates on progress.

We can institutionalize a methodology by which we can realize true racial reform in this country, racial equity, as it were. This department would have as its mission to eliminate discrimination against all the protected classes. The secretary of reconciliation will report to Congress twice a year and explain the progress that is being made, or lack thereof.

This department would be funded with a minimum of 10 percent, or the equivalent of 10 percent of what the Defense Department's budget is, a minimum of 10 percent of the equivalent of the Defense Department's budget. We know that the Defense Department's budget will be funded; that means that the department of reconciliation will be funded.

Those who do not recognize the winds of change, those who believe that we can go back to bigotry as usual, you are mistaken. This resolution is a means by which we can send a message to all Americans that we understand that the time has come for change. Now is the time to bring about the change by way of a department of reconciliation.

I close with this. We don't have to listen, but I guarantee you we will feel the effects of not listening. The winds of change are blowing through this House of Representatives.

□ 0915

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF FREDERICK DEL BUONO

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

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a true American, Frederick Del Buono, who