

OPINION

THE CHRONICLE

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Our Mission

The Chronicle is dedicated to serving the residents of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County by giving voice to the voiceless, speaking truth to power, standing for integrity and encouraging open communication and lively debate throughout the community.

N.C. senators couldn't keep native Lynch from destiny

The United States has made history again, but without the votes of North Carolina's two senators. Senators Thom Tillis and Richard Burr voted against the confirmation of North Carolina native Loretta Lynch. She became the first African-American woman attorney general of the United States when the Senate voted 56-43 to confirm her on Thursday, April 23 and when she was sworn in on Monday, April 27.

North Carolina's senators have their reasons for being on the wrong side of history. Tillis said in a statement: "While I have immense personal and professional respect for Ms. Lynch, I ultimately voted against her because of her support for the President's unconstitutional executive amnesty plan and her unwillingness to make a firm commitment to reverse the partisan politicization that presently exists at the Department of Justice."

In March, he and Burr cited the Justice Department's lawsuit, filed under former Attorney General Eric Holder, challenging a 2013 election overhaul passed by the General Assembly while Tillis was state House speaker.

Reasons for voting against Loretta Lynch are not sound. Neither senator said she was not qualified.

While her home state senators rejected her, other Republicans joined all Democrats in the Senate to confirm Loretta Lynch.

Ten Republicans voted for Lynch: Mitch McConnell (Kentucky), Orrin Hatch (Utah), Lindsey Graham (South Carolina), Jeff Flake (Arizona), Thad Cochran (Mississippi), Susan Collins (Maine), Mark Kirk (Illinois), Kelly Ayotte (New Hampshire), Ron Johnson (Wisconsin), Rob Portman (Ohio).

If Mitch McConnell could put aside differences with President Obama to vote for Loretta Lynch, why couldn't North Carolina's senators?

Now the question is, will our senators work with the new attorney general or harbor an antagonistic posture against her as they did Holder, the first African-American male to gain that post? They had problems with him, too.



Burr



Tillis

Congratulations, Erin, on award

To look at Erin Mizelle, a photojournalism intern with *The Chronicle*, one would wonder what photography studio she works for. She carries herself as the professional she is. Erin, who is a Photographic Technology/Photojournalism major from Trinity, was recognized Thursday, April 23, by Randolph Community College (RCC). She earned a Curriculum Award in her major area.

Erin is a non-traditional community college student. She has a four-year degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in journalism, with a minor in advertising. She decided she wanted to change careers and enrolled into RCC's program, which is considered the third best in the country.

Erin recently was featured on a Fox8 TV report on people who go back to school to pursue second careers. She is a serious photographer.

We applaud Erin on her award and look forward to her continued great work at *The Chronicle*.



Mizelle

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lynch will make her home state proud

To the Editor:

I am pleased that the U.S. Senate has finally confirmed [Greensboro native] Loretta Lynch as the U.S. Attorney General. She will be the first African-American woman to hold this post.

It is regrettable that Senator Burr and Senator Tillis were part of the process that held up the confirmation of their fellow North Carolinian for so long.

Mrs. Lynch is extremely qualified to carry out the important and crucial duties of Attorney General and will no doubt make our state and nation proud.

Patsy Keever, Chairwoman
North Carolina Democratic Party
Raleigh, N.C.

Day to shout, day to frown

To the Editor:

Today [April 23], after more than 165 days since she was nominated, the Senate brought U.S. Attorney Loretta Lynch's confirmation as the next U.S. Attorney General to the floor for a vote.



Barber

In a 56-43 vote, the Senate confirmed Lynch to be the next U.S. Attorney General and first ever African-American woman to serve in this role.

This is a day for shouting and

celebration for America, with the confirmation of U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch, and a day of shame and condemnation in North Carolina for Senators Richard Burr and Thom Tillis, who chose to vote against her confirmation.

America moves forward and they continue to move backward.

On behalf of the N.C. NAACP and our Forward Together Moral Movement, I congratulate the 10 Republicans and all 46 Democrats and Independents who voted to confirm Loretta Lynch as U.S. Attorney General.

Bringing shame to themselves and their offices, Senators Richard Burr and Thom Tillis from North



Lynch

Carolina chose to disrespect the first African-American woman candidate for this high office by voting against her. Rather than proudly introducing her and her family, who have given so much to the cause of Justice and Love in North Carolina and the nation, Senators Burr and Tillis chose to vote against her because she was going to carry out her duties to be the top law enforcement official for all.

The obstructionist strategy against Ms. Lynch — it took 166 days to bring her nomination to a vote — is shameful. The country will be well-served by our highly qualified new Attorney General.

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II
President of the N.C. NAACP
Durham, N.C.

Loretta Lynch has proven track record

To the Editor:

After nearly half a year in delays, the Senate finally marked an important moment in our history by confirming Loretta Lynch as Attorney General.

Lynch has a proven track record as a prosecutor and civil servant, dedicated to the fight for a more just democracy. Raised in the South's dawn of integration, the daughter of a librarian and a Baptist minister, her service to our country is also informed by her personal narrative and moral conviction. The Senate made the right choice in confirming a candidate with the utmost of qualifications and a firm commitment to addressing the civil rights issues of our day. We congratulate Lynch on her well-earned appointment.

Co-Director Penda D. Hair
Advancement Project
Washington, D.C.

U. S. lucky to have Lynch as new AG

To the Editor:

The United States is lucky to have Loretta Lynch confirmed as our Attorney General. From modern-day voter suppression, to a devastating school-to-prison pipeline and escalating police militarization, the United States is confronted with issues that demand urgent attention from our Justice Department's executive. We trust that Lynch will remain unrelenting in confronting injustices imposed on communities of color, and we look forward to seeing all that she will achieve as our Attorney General. We applaud her on this historic day.

Co-Director Judith Browne
Dianis
Advancement Project
Washington, D.C.

The Advancement Project is a multi-racial civil rights organization.

The Salvation Army: Support rezoning

To the Editor:

I am writing to you because of my concern for a very important ministry in this community. This is the ministry The Salvation Army collaboratively shares with other homeless shelter providers who care for the homeless in a way that does not duplicate, but covers every person who finds themselves without a roof over their head.

Currently, The Salvation Army's Center of Hope for homeless families is on Trade Street. On any given day 50 percent of the residents are children.



They share the building with the Army's re-entry program for federal offenders. Although carefully regulated,

this is not the best model of service to either group.

The Army rents office space on Cleveland Avenue from HAWS [Housing Authority of Winston-Salem], and a building behind the Command is now for sale at 939 Cleveland Avenue.

It is affordable for the Army and is already configured with rooms that have bathrooms, two playgrounds for children and a commercial kitchen.

This property alone has been found to be affordable even with the addition of a needed sprinkler system & showers.

This location is near the Department of Social Services and Mental Health Services, and it is central to our transportation system, which is essential to our guests.

It could be ready in short order for the families at the Center of Hope. They would have their own well-supervised shelter at last.

We want to be at this site for only a season. Our hope is to have this safe and well-regulated home while we are looking for space and engage in a campaign to raise money to build a shelter and Emergency Assistance Office in a Command Center. It is what we can afford now and be willing to sell later.

This is our goal for the short term. This is a PRECIOUS window of time for our ministry and therefore community.

We do our best work when we work together. Please help us continue to serve well by supporting the rezoning of the property in the Cleveland Avenue area for family shelter use.

Lucy Paynter
Salvation Army Board Chair