

January 5, 2020

Congressman Cline,

We present to you a gift: the gift of courage. Enclosed you will find Profiles in Courage, by John F. Kennedy, chronicling difficult decisions by eight Senators who showed far more courage than you, with far more at stake than the threat of a nasty tweet or an election primary inspired by a lame-duck president.

Your constituents in the northern 6th Congressional district hope you will read and learn from these examples because...

...you have betrayed your country and proved yourself unworthy to hold a public trust...

“No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any state, who, having previously taken an oath as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any state legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any state, to support the Constitution of the United States, **shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same**, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof...”

-- Section 3 of the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

...you deserve — and have received — public shame for your actions, and your shame reflects poorly on us, your constituents...

“The 126 Republican Members that signed onto this lawsuit **brought dishonor to the House.**”

-- Speaker Nancy Pelosi

[Statement on Supreme Court](#)

[Rejecting GOP Election Sabotage Lawsuit](#)

“Republican lawmakers...know Joe Biden won fair and square and want voters to trust the democratic process, but **they're too cowed by the Cult of Trump to say "enough"**...But for as long as [Trump is] the president, his words have great consequence. And **Republicans and conservative commentators who enable it with silence or outright support have failed their country.**”

— Anthony L. Fisher, columnist

[Republicans know Trump's attempt to overturn the election is dangerous, but they are too cowardly to fight it](#)

Business Insider, Dec. 2, 2020

“Placating one man’s ego as he undermines our nation’s commitment to what has set us apart for centuries — free and fair elections that honor the will of the people — is dangerous and a dereliction of your duty. He lost the election. You know it. He knows it. . . . **May you feel more responsible to the American people than you feel afraid of one man and his Twitter account.**”

— Rep. Abigail Spanberger, D-VA

“[*These GOP members of Congress from Virginia, Maryland back Texas suit to overturn election.*](#)”

Washington Post, Dec. 11, 2020

“There is also the list of **more than 100 House Republicans who, contrary to their oaths of office, cheered the lawsuit demanding the voters’ will be overthrown and their cult leader installed in office**...In 2022 or 2024 or beyond, voters need only ask one question: Is the candidate on one of these ‘seditious’ lists? If so, vote for the other one. Seeking to overthrow an election to install a habitual liar is not the sort of dastardly act that comes with a statute of limitations. Supporting Trump is a political stain that cannot be wiped away for a party or an individual politician. Ever.”

—Jennifer Rubin, Columnist

[*Republicans record their names on a list of shame*](#)

Washington Post, Dec. 11, 2020

“I never imagined that the aftermath of the election would pose a greater danger to American democracy than the four previous years. But here we are. Not just because of President Trump — his authoritarian impulses are a given — but because of **the craven response of his fellow Republicans.**”

Jennifer Rubin, Columnist

— [*These Republicans may not be capable of shame, but you should know who they are*](#)

Washington Post, Dec. 11, 2020

“We just have to acknowledge: This is embarrassing us. **It’s an affront to our democratic process**, and it’s diminishing the presidency. It’s bad for our party, bad for the country and it weakens our position in the world.”

-- Maryland Governor Larry Hogan-R

Interview with [*Jake Tapper*](#)

Huffington Post, 12/14/2020

“The degree to which **the Republican Party embraced an attempted coup** is both chilling and unsurprising given the GOP’s descent into authoritarianism. **It should prompt some soul-searching** by Republicans who did not join the coup. Is this a party I should be associated with? Is this a party that can be trusted with power? If the answer to either question is no, they should form a new party whose only requirement is loyalty to the Constitution. Sadly, most of their fellow Republicans would be barred under that standard.”

-- Jennifer Rubin, Columnist
[How do we hold the traitors to democracy accountable?](#)
Washington Post, Dec. 14, 2020

...your 6th District constituents require that in the future you will endeavor to conduct yourself with the integrity and dignity that your position demands.

"In the course of about 50 years dealing with the US Congress, I had occasion to write many letters to Members of Congress. In all cases, I addressed them to 'The Honorable.' I would like to thank you for relieving me of that responsibility, for **I can now see that many Members of Congress suffer from a profound lack of honor. You are one of them.** When the history is written of the 2020 election and its aftermath, there will be a list under the heading 'patriots' and many Republican names will be listed there. There will be another list that will contain the names of those who gleefully undermined democracy by kowtowing to the unruly mob. Your name will be listed there under the heading, 'Cowards.'"

— Tom Howarth, Warren County VA

"I look forward to a rational explanation for the reason Congressman Cline chose to deny his Constitutional duties and lie to his constituents and became party to a fund-raising scam perpetrated by Donald Trump regarding lies about the recent election. **Giving credence to a disproven falsehood that damages our national identity and harms democracy by seeking to deny the votes of upwards of 20 million Americans should disqualify Cline from holding office.** Is Cline afraid to state the truth to the people he represents? He either believes the conspiracy theories or thinks his voters are too stupid to discern the truth."

— Steve Foreman, Warren County VA

"In late 2019, you joined a group of fellow extremists to breach a secure hearing room in Congress. Just a few weeks ago, you backed a frivolous lawsuit in hopes of subverting democracy and overturning a free and fair election. **You degrade the 6th District by using our seat in Congress as a platform for cheap political stunts.** Your lousy judgment and lack of respect for the law make you unfit to serve. Resign and make way for someone who actually cares about the people of this district."

— Christine Riedel, Warren County VA

"Congressman Cline, how can you choose to perpetrate a totally bogus claim about our election when federal election officials said in a joint statement that it was the "most secure in American history"? Are you a coward? Are you a Trump sycophant? Are you deluded? Are you just trying to hang onto your job? Are you ignorant of the Constitution? **Grow a backbone, and step up to defend our democracy.**"

— Jody Mussoff, Warren County VA

"I thought I had lost the capacity to be shocked by your partisanship, but your shameful support of an attempt to disenfranchise the citizens of four US states in an election that Republican election security chief Chris Krebs pronounced "the most secure in American history" is a disgusting and treasonous new low, even for you. **In attempting to overturn a lawful election, you have betrayed our nation's**

founding principles and you have shamed our democracy before the world. May your time in Congress be short, and may your name be forgotten, consigned to the trash heap of history along with the other 126 cowards you call colleagues. Read the enclosed book, if you will, and endeavor to learn from the examples therein, if you are able.”

— *Laura Henderson, Warren County VA*

“Your recent seditious behavior is appalling. Please read the enclosed book and improve yourself. After all, most Virginians know better than to back a carpetbagging con man from NYC.”

— *Pat Payne, Warren County VA*

“Dear Rep. Cline, Warren County needs you to lead us during this tumultuous time, not undermine the very democracy that underpins our country. President Trump's assault on our election system has inflicted irreparable harm and set a precedent that even presidents can attempt to skirt our Constitution's prescribed processes while receiving the backing of other elected officials of their party. **We are teetering on tyranny. Please, do better, or we will vote you out.**”

-- *Laura Cascada, Warren County VA*

“Our Governor was on a hit list! That is sedition (among other things) and demands legal action for conspirators. Seating the House Republicans who signed on for a coup attempt is like hiring pedophiles to baby sit. They can no longer be trusted to protect and defend our Constitution and should never again be hired in any capacity by our government at any level. Our military must know that we have their back. Cline apparently doesn't. If the VA State Bar wants to claim high standards of its membership, then **disbar the abdicators who abandoned the US, their constituency, their oaths,** and followed Trump down this dark path. **Further, they should be indicted for conspiracy for treason, sabotage and sedition.** Failure to do so will guarantee a repeat performance with, perhaps, a less favorable outcome as our patriotic spirit continues to be eroded from within.”

— *Cheryl Wulf, Warren County VA*

“By joining this seditious effort [to overturn a free and fair election for president], Ben Cline has stated his loyalty to Donald Trump, not to his oath of office or our democracy. **Ben Cline is now party to this sedition and is not worthy of the office he holds.** Ben Cline's actions demand he resign from office. His actions are those of a traitor. **Shame on Ben Cline!**”

— *Joseph Schad, Col. USAF/Ret., Strasburg VA*

Letter to the Editor — [*Northern Virginia Daily*](#) Dec. 11, 2020

“[Congressman Ben Cline] should resign because he has shamed Virginia by signing on to the Texas AG's embarrassing petition. **His actions amount to sedition.**”

— *Nick Crettier, Shenandoah County VA*

“Ben, you swore to protect and defend the Constitution and the 327 million Americans whose freedoms it enshrines. Instead, **you joined in with a lawless, malevolent, racist con-man in an unprecedented act of sedition.**”

— *Linda Allen, Shenandoah County VA*

“...in joining the effort to perpetuate this lie to the American people, [Ben Cline] violates his central duty to act in good faith and uphold the Constitution. He has placed fealty to Donald Trump and his own political fortune above his central duties to his constituents. **He has betrayed the trust of voters in our district.**”

— Kirk Luder, Buena Vista VA
Letter to the Editor, Lexington [News Gazette](#), Dec. 16, 2020

“Ben Cline is well aware of the law. He has however, chosen to ignore the facts and his solemn oath to ‘support and defend the Constitution of the United States...’ He has replaced that solemn oath with one to Donald Trump, simply because Trump demands it. **This is an indelible stain on Mr. Cline.**”

— Dr. Mark Pierce, Maurertown VA
Letter to the Editor, [Northern Virginia Daily](#), Dec. 20, 2020

“Congressman Ben Cline has again demonstrated his ignorance of law and democratic process by supporting an expensive, time-consuming lawsuit that the Supreme Court immediately ruled had no standing. The only goal of Cline and fellow Republicans is to confuse ignorant voters and undermine the incoming Biden administration. Cline's actions would be a travesty under any circumstances, but at this moment, when all leadership should be focused on getting us through the health and financial catastrophe that is COVID, it is truly an abomination and **he should resign. Cline values only partisanship and not preserving democracy.**”

—Katherine Morrison, Woodstock VA
Letter to the Editor [Northern Virginia Daily](#), Dec. 22, 2020

“In attacking the results of an election well-conducted as the Constitution requires, Rep. Cline violated his oath of office. Instead of protecting and defending the Constitution of the United States, as he solemnly vowed to do, **Cline has voluntarily joined in what should be regarded as a seditious act.**”

-- April Moore, Bayse VA
Letter to the Editor, [Northern Virginia Daily](#), Dec. 30, 2020

“Rather than show an ounce of courage to oppose the GOP’s voter suppression activities, and lawsuit and propaganda war to undermine valid votes cast by the people and certified by duly authorized officers of all of the states, you have allied yourself with the GOP’s morphing into the party of autocracy, thus becoming domestic enemies of the provisions and spirit of our Constitution, the rule of law, and functioning of our democracy.

“My father served in WWII, in the US Army, as an early deployer to the Southwest Pacific to defend America and her allies against Japanese fascist imperialism. It is very likely that you have ancestors who fought in WWII, perhaps in the European Theater against Hitler’s Nazi fascism and its goal of establishing the Third Reich. I served in the Naval Reserve, 1966-1991, to help carry out our strategy to isolate the totalitarian Soviet Union’s attempts to defeat western democracies.

“Your joining the Trump administration’s attempts to weaken NATO and failure to oppose Trump’s fawning friendship with Russian dictator Vladimir Putin, have desecrated the memories of our WWII soldiers, sailors and airmen; and are an insult to my military service.

“I hope *Profiles in Courage* will bring your courage to life so that you will defend the Constitution and abandon the GOP’s efforts to undermine it.”

--Dennis Atwood, Maurertown VA

This letter and Profiles in Courage was delivered to Rep. Cline’s Harrisonburg office on Jan. 5. For more information, contact Christine Riedel, Communications Chair @info@warrencodems.org.