

*William M. McCulloch
of Ohio*



for the Nation

"We would not have a Civil Rights Act of 1964 or the Voting Rights Act of 1965 if it were not for William McCulloch, and God knows what would have happened to this country if those bills had not become law..... What I want to emphasize is that there was no one, no one at all, as important in the enactment of those two pieces of vital legislation, the most important legislation of the 20th Century, than Bill McCulloch."

*Nicholas deB. Katzenbach
former U. S. Attorney General
November, 2009*

"After viewing the flag-draped coffin of William M. McCulloch last week.....I thought of the Grecian helmet on display in the Truman Library....., a helmet worn by a warrior who died with Leonidas and his 300 Spartans defending Western civilization at Thermopylae. Bravery is important on the battlefield, but through the centuries it has also been necessary for courageous people to protect freedom in government institutions as well..... It was during the long sessions in committee and on the floor of the House that, like the Spartans of old, Congressman McCulloch's courage and moral commitment became most evident."

*Clarence Mitchell
former Director, NAACP
March, 1980*

"I know that you, more than anyone, were responsible for the civil rights legislation of the 1960's, and particularly for the Civil Rights Act of 1964..... You were a conservative Midwestern Republican from a farm district, who by seniority found yourself in a position where the civil rights problem was thrust upon you. Your integrity under such pressures is what makes our political system worth fighting for and dying for."

*Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis
June, 1971*

"To the growing number of Americans who declare that they are losing faith in our system, my rebuttal is the civil rights stand of Congressman William McCulloch..... You took a place in the civil rights vanguard because you were convinced it was the right thing to do, and because you had the courage to stand up for your convictions -irrespective of political punishment or reward. Your reward was simply the reward of doing the right thing. We would have far less cynicism about American politics if we had more politicians like Bill McCulloch."

*Father Theodore M. Hesburgh
Commissioner, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
September, 1972*

"We are a nation of many people and many views. In such a nation, the prime purpose of a legislator, from wherever he may come, is to accommodate the interests, desires, wants, and needs of all our citizens. To alienate some in order to satisfy others is not only a disservice to those we alienate, but a violation of the principles of our Republic. Lawmaking is the reconciliation of divergent views. In a democratic society like ours, the purpose of representative government is to soften tension—reduce strife—while enabling groups and individuals to more nearly obtain the kind of life they wish to live.

The function of Congress is not to convert the will of the majority of the people into law, rather its function is to hammer out on the anvil of public debate a compromise between polar positions acceptable to a majority. In a democracy, the people themselves vote "yes" or "no" on the issues and there is less opportunity for compromise. When a referendum is taken, no amendments are allowed; there is quite clearly a losing side. In a republic, representatives vote for the people. There is discussion and debate. There are amendments. There is opportunity for compromise. It is less clear that there is a losing side."

*William M. McCulloch
October, 1971*

www.williammcculloch.org
