

Mr. GARAMENDI. Wall Street was taken care of, but not Main Street. That's what happened.

This is not just the result of just a free market system operating. This is a result of specific government policy over the last 50 years that has resulted in a skewing of the wealth of America, a skewing of that wealth from the great majority of Americans, as many as 90 percent, to the very tippy top of the income class.

And so over the next, I don't know, 3, 4 weeks, maybe 2 months, I want to take this issue up of: What happened to the American Dream? What happened to it?

When you see these kinds of statistics that children live in poverty and it takes four or five, five to six generations before a child that is in poverty today, their successor generations will be able to rise to the top of the middle class, almost 150 years, five, six generations before a person in poverty can climb the economic ladder, that's incredible, and that speaks to something terribly wrong here in America.

When education, when half of the children from the wealthier families graduate from college and only 9 percent of the children from the low-income classes are able to graduate from college, these are problems that exist.

If you want to take one more shot at a closing statement, then I'm going to end by quoting Bill Clinton.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I have one point to make. Why are we talking about inequality and poor folks and upward mobility? The reason is we only have 313 million people in the United States. We're competing against 1.3 or 1.4 billion in China, and 1.3 or 1.4 billion in India. We have to have everybody on that football field playing for us economically, wearing the jersey that says "U.S.A." on it, so we can compete economically. So we need to get innovative and we need to make these kinds of investments if we're going to get everybody on the field, graduated from high school, on a track to go into manufacturing or some of these other trades so we can really have a renaissance in the United States economy.

I thank the gentleman.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I thank you, Mr. RYAN, for that analogy. I really like that one.

I'm going to end with this by President Bill Clinton:

If you work hard and you play by the rules, you'll have the freedom and opportunity to pursue your own dreams and leave your kids a country where they can chase theirs.

That's our goal. We're going to talk about these things, about the American Dream, what happened to it and what we need to restore it, and how we can make things in America and how we can rebuild the American economy.

I yield back the balance of my time.

TRIBUTE TO FALLEN FIRST RESPONDERS OF WEST, TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). Under the Speaker's

announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES) for 30 minutes.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, the city of West, Texas, is a small, tight-knit community located a few miles north of Waco, Texas, with a population of just under 3,000. West is commonly known for its Czech bakeries, Czech gift shops and antique stores, and it has been recognized as the "Czech Heritage Capital of Texas."

On April 17, the city of West was subject to a catastrophic explosion that was felt hundreds of miles away. The tragic explosion injured hundreds, caused tens of millions of dollars in damage, and took 15 lives.

On the evening of the explosion, first responders from West and surrounding communities responded to a fire at the West Fertilizer Company. These brave men worked to try and tame the flames and evacuate a nearby apartment complex and nursing home when the explosion erupted and rocked this small community.

When the smoke cleared and the rescue mission was complete, we learned we had lost 12 first responders. These brave men died while doing the job that they were trained and prepared to do in order to keep our community safe. Today, we honor and remember these fallen first responders who put themselves in harm's way for the good of their family, their friends, their neighbors, and their community.

Mr. Speaker, today we remember Morris Wayne Bridges, Jr., of West, Texas. He was born February 28, 1972, in Dallas, Texas, to Morris and Sharon Bridges. He attended schools in Dallas and later became a pipefitter for Action Fire Pro in Waxahachie, Texas. He had been a volunteer for the West Fire Department for the past 3 years.

Morris loved to ride motorcycles. He also loved to go fishing and enjoyed camping and the outdoors.

He was preceded in death by his parents. He leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Carmen Bridges; three children, Brent Bridges, Brittany Bridges, and Jaemeson Bridges, all of West; and two sisters, Lula Mill of Bristol and Melinda Hager of Olean, Missouri; and many friends and extended family.

Mr. Speaker, today we remember Perry Wayne Calvin of Frost, Texas. He was born January 18, 1976, in Dallas, Texas, to Phil and Cindy Calvin. He graduated from Frost High School and attended the Fire Academy and Emergency Medical Technician school at Hill College. Perry was a self-employed farmer and loved the outdoors. He was a member of the Navarro Mills Volunteer Fire Department and the Mertens Volunteer Fire Department.

Perry enjoyed horseback riding, rodeos, fishing, and especially spending time with his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents. He leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Rebecca Ann Calvin; two sons, Paul Wyatt Calvin and Preston Calvin,

all of Frost; a brother, Wes Calvin and his wife, Emily, of Frost; two sisters, Penny Dixon of Bryan-College Station and Page Calvin, who is currently serving in the United States Air Force; his grandmother, Edna Calvin of Hutchins; and several nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

Mr. Speaker, today we remember Jerry Dane Chapman of Hillsboro. He was born April 7, 1987, in Pampa, Texas, to Martin Dane and Rhonda Chapman. He grew up in Pampa and moved to Hillsboro in 2003. Jerry had various jobs early in his career and ultimately discovered his passion, which began when he became a member of the Abbott Volunteer Firefighters. He then proceeded to work towards becoming an emergency medical technician.

He loved all things Batman, Star Wars, Tolkien, and was an avid video gamer. As an avid electronics enthusiast, he always wanted to be on the cutting edge of technology. He was a generous person; he would give what he had to anyone in need.

□ 2030

Jerry was known for his passion for helping others, both those he knew and those he did not. His willingness and giving spirit were fit for the career he chose to pursue as a firefighter and an EMT.

He was preceded in death by an uncle, Rodney McCulloch, who was also a volunteer firefighter. He leaves to cherish his memory, his parents, Dane and Rhonda Chapman of Hillsboro; maternal grandfather, Bryan McCulloch, and his wife, Joy, of Plainview; maternal grandmother, Charlotte McCulloch, of Lubbock; paternal grandparents, Gerald and Janet Chapman of Amarillo; great grandmother, Gladys Ragle, of Lubbock; one sister, Shay Pohlmann, and her husband, Justin, of Nacogdoches; niece, Chloe Rose Pohlmann, of Nacogdoches; and many friends and extended family.

Mr. Speaker, tonight we remember Cody Frank Drago of West. He was born October 15, 1962, in Billings, Montana, to Christopher Clyde and Mildred Drago. Cody graduated from Montana State University with a degree in agriculture.

He had been employed with the West Chemical and Fertilizer plant for many years. As a member of the West Volunteer Fire Department, Cody was very involved with the annual volunteer fire department barbecue cook-off fundraiser and organized tractor pulls in West.

Cody enjoyed hunting, fishing, cooking, watching NASCAR, and being with family and friends. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church of the Assumption in West and the Knights of Columbus Council 2305. He served as the president of the Cottonwood Water Supply.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Tom Drago. He leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife, Patty Drago, of West; sisters, Shirley McDonald, and husband,

Matt, of Billings, Montana, and Loretta Fisher and husband, Richard of Fort Worth; brother-in-law, Gary Berger, of West; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law Carolyn and Ron Sumner of Houston, David and Janet Mynar, of Midlothian, Michael and Natalie Mynar of Weatherford, Susan and James Miller, of West, and Cindy and Tony Kubacak, of West; and numerous nieces, nephews, and other extended family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, today we remember Captain Kenneth "Luckey" Harris, Jr., of West. He was born November 21, 1960, in Killeen, Texas, to Kenneth Luckey Harris, Sr. and Scottie Harris. He graduated from Crawford High School and went on to attend McLennan Community College until he was accepted into the Dallas Fire Academy.

He graduated from the Dallas Fire Academy in 1982 and served as a firefighter with the Dallas Fire Department for over 31 years, attaining the rank of captain. He also owned Harris Home Inspections and Construction with his family.

Luckey loved offshore fishing with his sons and spending time on his boat, the Boots Up he called it. He also enjoyed hunting, traveling, and spending time with friends. He was a member of the High Point Church in Waco and the Dallas Firefighters Associated Local 58.

He leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife of 28 years, Holly Harris, of West; three sons, Jud Harris, of Grapevine, Jarrod Harris and Heath Harris, both of Midland; mother, Scottie Isham, and husband, Emory, of West; father, Ken Harris, and wife, Annita, of Crawford; sisters, Anne Harris, of Quinlan, Carmen Burkhart and husband, Brian, of Hutto; three nieces, Abby Hunt and husband, Jeff, Bethany Grubb and fiancée, Jay Baker, and Andrea Burkhart; nephew, Perry Burkhart; great-nephew, Hayden Hunt; and many friends and extended family.

Mr. Speaker, today we remember Jimmy Ray Matus of West. He was born November 9, 1960, in Waco to Raymond Rudolf and Lillian Francis Matus. He attended St. Mary's School, was a graduate of West High School, and also attended McLennan Community College.

Jimmy started working at his family business, Westex Welding & Fire Apparatus, at a very young age. He continued to work there for the next 40 years and spent the last 20 years managing all aspects of the business.

Jimmy was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church of the Assumption, the SPJST Lodge 54, Sokol West, where he served as past president, the State Fireman's Association, and was an honorary member of the Masonic Lodge in West. Jimmy also served on the West ISD School Board and played the role of Santa Claus for many organizations, including Sokol in the City of West.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Gail Matus. He leaves to

cherish his memory his parents, Raymond and Lillian Matus, of West; son, Dustin Matus and fiancée, Becca Wright, of West; daughter, Jennifer Kalina and fiancée, Brian Walker, of Lorena; two stepdaughters, Heather Roberson and Derek Barnes, both of Bosqueville, and Karry Dornak and husband, Jeff, of Spring; two sisters, Kathy Matus and Cindy Matus, both of West; brother, Thomas Matus, and wife, Ruth Ann, of Chalk Bluff; five great grandchildren; and numerous extended family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, today we remember Joseph F. Pustejovsky, Jr. of West. He was born August 3, 1983, in Waco to Joseph Frank "Joe" Pustejovsky, Sr. and Carolyn Pustejovsky. He attended St. Mary's School, graduated from West High School, and also attended McLennan Community College.

Since 2009, he had served as the city secretary for West. He had also worked for the Sears and Roebuck Company, and as a personal property appraiser for McLennan County Appraisal District.

Joey liked to hunt, play golf and work in his yard and was an avid Texas A&M fan. He loved spending time with his children and his family. He also enjoyed being actively involved with his community, his church, and the fire department family.

He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church of the Assumption in West, where he started the youth ministry and was a director of the Catholic Brothers and Sisters United Youth Ministry for 2 years. He also served as a gift bearer and CCE teacher.

He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus Council Number 2305, and the Monsignor George 4th Degree Assembly 2391, also the West ACTS Men's Community, West ACTS Core, where he served as treasurer, the County Line Aggie Club, the West Fire Department, where he served as treasurer, and the National Rifle Association.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Jeremy Pustejovsky, and grandparents, Frankie Kapavik, Sr., and Anton and Helen Pustejovsky. He leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife of a year, Kelly Pustejovsky, of West; children, Parker, Beau, Kayla and Ashley, all of West; parents, Joe and Carolyn Pustejovsky, of West; grandmother, Teresa Compton and husband, Marcus, of Crawford; brother, Bradley Pustejovsky and wife, Dolores, of West; in-laws, Joe and Brenda Sebesta, of Waco, brother-in-law, David Sebesta, of Fort Worth; and numerous aunts, uncles, other relatives and friends.

Mr. Speaker, today we remember Captain Cyrus Adam Reed of Houston. He was born February 11, 1984, in Houston to Mark Andrew and Lucy Reed. He was a member of the Abbott Volunteer Fire Department, the Bynum Volunteer Fire Department, the West Ambulance Department, a former member of the Elm Mott Volunteer Fire Department. He was affiliated with the Com-

munity Volunteer Fire Department in Alief, and he was also an Eagle Scout in Troop 1110.

Cyrus lived his life with an infectious smile, a giant heart, and a dedication to honor which he would not compromise.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Charles P. Reed and E. Miles II and Shirley Ann Brown; uncle, Edwin Miles Brown II; and uncle, Robert Zulko. He leaves to cherish his memory his grandmother, Martha J. Reed of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania; parents, Mark and Lucy Reed of Houston; sister, Sarah Reed and fiancée, David Hobbs, of Houston; niece, Edith Cheyenne of Houston; brother, Bryce Reed and wife, Brittany; and their daughter, Finley, of West; three aunts, three uncles, 11 cousins, and many friends.

Mr. Speaker, today we remember Kevin William Sanders. He was born October 13, 1979, outside of Chicago to Duane and Sandra Sanders. He grew up in Palos Hills, Illinois, and graduated from Marist High School. He graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a bachelor's degree in animal science and from Parkland College with a veterinary technician certification.

Kevin truly believed in the strength and goodness of people. His passion in life was helping and caring for others. He held several registered veterinary technician positions in Champaign, Illinois; Fort Wayne, Indiana; Plainfield, Illinois; Waco, Texas; and Hewitt, Texas.

Kevin always did as he thought was right and strove to be the best that he could be.

□ 2040

He taught at Fox College in Tinley Park, Illinois, and McLennan Community College in Waco, Texas, inspiring greatness in his students at each location. Kevin lived for the service of others through his participation in the Plainfield Emergency Management Agency in Illinois and the Bruceville-Eddy Volunteer Fire Department in Texas.

Kevin loved caring for animals, working on cars, restoring his 1970 Dodge Charger, listening to music and attending concerts, watching the Chicago Bears and the Fighting Illini, playing paintball and spending time with his family.

He was preceded in death by his father, Duane Sanders. He leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Sarah Sanders; son, Reeve Sanders; mother, Sandra Sanders; maternal grandmother, Eleanore Frey; sister, Jeannette, and her husband, Tim White; brother, Scott, and his wife, Allison Sanders; and many friends and extended family.

Mr. Speaker, today we remember Captain Douglas "Doug" James Snokhous of West. He was born January 1, 1963 in Hillsboro to Jimmy Rudolph and Louise Marie Snokhous. He attended St. Mary's School, was part of the West Boy Scouts and spent most of

his childhood with his dad and uncles at the West Volunteer Fire Department. He played baseball and football for the West Trojans and graduated from West High School. After high school, he began his career at Central Texas Iron Works.

Doug loved spending time with family, especially his 7-month old grandson, Hogan James. He enjoyed hunting, golfing, fishing, talking with friends and cooking barbecue. Doug's passion was volunteering with the West Volunteer Fire Department, alongside his brother, Robert.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and his brother, Bob, died in the same accident that took Doug's life. He leaves to cherish his memory his wife of 13 years, Donna Snokhous of West; two daughters, Lauren and Laken Snokhous, both of West; grandson, Hogan James; stepsons, Steven Beseda and his wife, Maggie, of Eva Beach, Hawaii; and Paul Beseda and his wife, Amy, of West; stepdaughter DeAnna Reaves and her husband, Brandon, of Azle; three step-grandchildren; sister, Karen Hoelscher and her husband, Keith, of West; brother, Barry Snokhous and his wife, Sayoko, of Okinawa, Japan; sister-in-law, Alison Snokhous of West; along with nieces and nephews; a great-niece and great-nephew; numerous other relatives, and many friends.

Mr. Speaker, today we remember Captain Robert "Bob" Louis Snokhous of West. He was born June 4, 1964, in Hillsboro to Jimmy Rudolph and Louise Marie Snokhous. He graduated from West High School and received an Associate Degree from Texas State Technical College in Waco. He was a project manager for Central Texas Iron Works in Waco and was on their emergency response team.

Bob was a volunteer for the West Fire Department, where he held a passion for putting out fires. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church of the Assumption and the Knights of Columbus West Council No. 2305. He loved hunting and outdoor barbecues.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and his brother, Doug, died in the same accident that took Bob's life. He leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife of 13 years, Alison Snokhous; son Robert "Bubba" Snokhous, Jr., of Cape Coral, Florida; daughters Margee Snokhous of Cape Coral, Florida, and McKenzie Ryan of West; brother Barry Snokhous and wife, Sayoko, of Okinawa, Japan; sister, Karen Hoelscher and her husband, Keith, of Ross, Texas; two grandchildren, Kandence and Kameron Snokhous of Cape Coral; several nieces and nephews; a great-niece and great-nephew; and numerous other relatives and many friends.

Mr. Speaker, today we remember William Ray "Buck" Uptmor, Jr., of Abbott. He was born April 11, 1968, in Waco, to Billy Ray Uptmor, Sr. and Beverly Ann Uptmor. He graduated from West High School, and went on to

study air conditioning for 2 years at Hill Junior College. He also attended Texas State Technical Institute, where he studied auto body work. For over 25 years, he owned and operated Uptmor Welding and Construction. He built fences, barns and arenas, including designing and constructing the Hubbard Arena and Auction facility.

Buck grew up loving the outdoors. He loved to camp, hunt, fish, ride horses and work cattle. He was an animal lover, and he was always picking up strays. He also loved watching his children's sporting events, coaching Little League, and supporting his daughter in barrel racing. He trained and jockeyed racehorses and was the drummer for the Billy Uptmor and the Makers band. Buck loved rodeo and rode saddle broncs, bareback broncs, and bulls. He also liked to grill, and he thought he was a great chef. He was also a member of St. Martin Catholic Church in Tours, the West Longhorn Club, where he served as director, Catholic Life, and SPJST Lodge 6 in Cottonwood.

He leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife of 13 years, Arcy Uptmor of Abbott; sons, Hunter and Trevor Uptmor, both of Abbott; daughter, Dusty Uptmor of Abbott; parents, Billy and Beverly Uptmor of Tours; grandmother, Agnes Middleton of Tours; brother, Brian Uptmor and his wife, Kris, of Tours; sister, Bethany Raines and her husband, Matt, of Tours; mother-in-law, Julia Silva of Pharr; and several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Mr. Speaker, these 12 men paid the ultimate sacrifice while providing for the safety and security of the community of West. They all died doing what they loved to do, which was serving and protecting others. They will forever be remembered as heroes. Their selfless service is a model for the rest of us to follow.

These men each exemplified the words of Jesus in John 15:13:

Greater Love has no man than this: that he lay down his life for his friends.

I am in awe of the outpouring of support for the West community from surrounding communities and indeed from people across this Nation and around the world. We are hopeful this great town will quickly and fully recover from this tragic event. All of the help that has been given and continues to come will certainly speed the recovery process. Tragedies such as this explosion remind us of how fragile life really is.

I ask that everyone please remember to pray often for our country during these difficult times. Please pray for our military men and women who protect our country from threats abroad and for our first responders who protect us from threats here at home.

Mr. Speaker, before I close this evening, I would like to recognize the West Veterans Honor Guard.

Throughout the decade of the 1990s, due in part to the reduction of the country's Active Duty military forces

and coupled with the increasing number of World War II-era veterans reaching the ends of their lives, the Department of Defense was typically unable to provide graveside military honors to deceased veterans. In 1990, West VFW Post 4819 and its commander, Frank Podsednik, answered the call and selected fellow member Harry Lee Hykel to form and lead the West Veterans Honor Guard, whose mission has become "Honoring Those Who Served."

The original group consisted of Squad Leader Captain Harry Lee Hykel, bugler Bob Fuller, Jim Garrett, Chaplain C.J. Hlavaty, Ernest Holecck, Claude King, Robert Kreid, Boyd Mangrum, Riflemen Frank Podsednik, Robert Podsednik, Alwood Scheler, and Color Bearers Gene Schutzta and Ernest Zahirniak.

The VFW Honor Guard was later joined by American Legion members to become the West Veterans Honor Guard. Additions and transitions to the squad include Color Bearer Ross "BO" Bohannon, Rob Buchanan, Chaplain Marvin Cepak, Michael Driscoll, Jerry Kadlubar, John Kostecka, Joe Laubert, William Karlik, Ronnie Matus, William Pavelka, Dan Pokluda, Riflemen Buddy Shields, Steve Soukup, Robert Sanislav, Chris Waters, Russell Willsey and Robert Zahirniak.

In addition to rendering military honors at veterans' funerals, the honor guard participates in numerous civic functions and ceremonies throughout Central Texas, including leading and marching in Westfest Labor Day parade, providing a color honor guard, providing display of service flags and displaying the POW/MIA flag.

Since its inception in 1990, the West Veterans Honor Guard has provided the longstanding military tradition of funeral honors, ceremonial elements of flag folding and presentation, playing "Taps," providing rifle details, and providing color guards at over 430 funerals.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I honor the West Veterans Honor Guard for all that they have done for our great community.

Mr. Speaker, on June 8, America lost Army Lieutenant Colonel Todd Clark in the war on terror.

Lieutenant Colonel Todd Clark was a native of New York, and his father, Jack, was an Army Colonel. Todd was in the Junior ROTC while in high school, and upon graduation, attended Texas A&M University where he would join Company B-2 in the Corps of Cadets.

□ 2050

At the time of his tragic death, he was a brigade level advisor to the 10th Mountain Division. He would serve on five separate deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During his 17 years of service to our country, Lieutenant Colonel Clark earned many awards and decorations. He earned three Bronze Star Medals, the Purple Heart, two Meritorious

Service Medals, the Army Commendation with Combat Distinguishing Device "V," four Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Kosova Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals with Bronze Service Star, four Iraq Campaign Medals with Bronze Service Star, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, three Overseas Service Ribbons, the NATO Medal Kosova and the NATO Medal Combat Action Badge, and the Basic Parachuters Badge.

At the conclusion of his current tour in Afghanistan, Lieutenant Colonel Clark's next assignment was going to bring him back to Texas as he was poised to become the executive officer or the second-in-command of the Reserve Officers Training Core at his alma mater, Texas A&M University.

In the coming days, Lieutenant Colonel Todd Clark will be laid to rest at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in West. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Lieutenant Colonel Todd Clark. He will be forever remembered as an outstanding soldier, husband, and father. We thank him and his family for their service and sacrifice for our country. His sacrifice also reflects the words of Jesus in John 15:13: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

God bless our military men and women, and God bless America.

DEFENDING LIBERTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. I stand here today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives, and I come to talk about matters of import to this country and what should be important to each and every one of us.

I often look, as I'm sitting on the floor getting ready to cast votes, down here at the front. You see "tolerance" and "justice." And you see the word "liberty"—you may not be able to see it at home, but there they are carved into the wood here.

Liberty is extremely important to this country, and liberty is a fragile creature which can easily be extinguished if we, as citizens of the United States—and particularly those of us who are Members of Congress—do not take the opportunity to defend liberty, even when it sometimes may seem to be unpopular.

Now we have, of recent, heard in the press reports that certain agencies of the United States Government have

been accessing all kinds of information—phone records, et cetera. I think this is wrong. I think that the approach that has been taken is an overreach under the PATRIOT Act—although I believe that, when written, there were gray areas of the PATRIOT Act which could have been anticipated that there would be an overreach by the government. But some have interpreted that it's okay that you gather information even if it's just in the megadata on millions and millions of American citizens. I do not take that position. I believe that it is wrong, and I believe it cuts to the core of liberty in this country.

Let me explain.

To understand why we do things that we do, we have to look at the history of this country and, many times, of other countries, particularly Great Britain. When we look at our right not to have the government intrude into our homes, into our thoughts, into our very beings, it goes back to before the American Revolution. I would point to the 1760s as being instrumental.

As a student of history at Emory and Henry College, I learned under Professor Raiser there that there was a fellow named John Wilkes. Now, John Wilkes was a rake of a man, and many times his actions I would not have approved of. But whether by design or just by circumstance, John Wilkes weighs heavy in both America's history and in the history of Great Britain.

John Wilkes was from London. He stood for Parliament, was a member of Parliament. He began a secret printing on things that he didn't think that George III was doing correctly in the 1760s. One of those he printed in what was called the paper, the North Britain.

In North Britain 35, John Wilkes actually inferred that George III may have acted dishonestly in reaching a treaty with the French. Needless to say, George III was incensed that this happened, and he issued, through his ministers, what was known as a general warrant—that meaning that they could go, even though they didn't have a specific person, they didn't have a specific place, they could go into parts of London and search house to house, seizing papers, property, whatever they thought might lead to the conclusion of who was printing the North Britain and responsible in particular for North Britain No. 45.

Needless to say, after rounding up roughly 50 people and going into a number of houses, they did arrest Mr. John Wilkes, along with a number of other people, and it was ultimately determined that Mr. Wilkes was in fact responsible for the writing that the King found so inappropriate.

It's also interesting to note that, as a part of this, in his legal defense, John Wilkes raised the issue of whether or not general warrants were in fact legal. The courts would later rule that they were not. The courts would later rule that they were not.

Now, it's interesting—and I'll pull out a wonderful treatise on British history, just hits the highlights, the History of the English-Speaking Peoples by Winston Churchill. Winston Churchill, in talking about—and he acknowledges the faults of Mr. Wilkes, but he also points out the court's reasoning on this matter.

The question of general warrants became a big issue. The radical-minded Londoners welcomed the rebuff of the government. It goes on to talk about what Wilkes did, but it also goes on to tell us what the courts ruled.

Let me see if I can find it here, if you will bear with me for just a minute. I appreciate your patience as I look for the exact quote. Here is Churchill talking about what the justices said:

The officials pleaded—that would be the government officials of George, III—that they were immune from a suit by Wilkes because they were acting under government orders. Churchill says this large and sinister defense—the defense would be that they could use the general warrants—this large and sinister defense was rejected by the chief justice in words which remain a classic statement on the rule of law, quoting now the Chief Justice Lord Camden:

With respect to the argument of state necessity or a distinction which has been aimed at between state offenses and others, the common law does not understand that kind of reasoning, nor do our books take notice of any such distinction.

Wilkes was heralded as a hero of liberty. And there's a great controversy in history as to whether he was a true patriot, a true lover of liberty, or one who merely happened to fall into the circumstances at the time. I prefer to think he was a hero of liberty.

Notwithstanding the fact that he ultimately prevailed in England, he was also seen across the pond in what would later be the United States, in the Colony—particularly in Massachusetts, but in other Colonies—as a hero of liberty. He was in communication with Sam Adams and the Sons of Liberty.

At the same time, almost identical to this, there was a thing called Writs of Assistance. Now, those were writs that were used in naval terms dealing with trade. They said that whatever the King's people needed to do for assistance, they could have, very much like a general warrant, and some would argue that they were the same.

□ 2100

In Massachusetts, about this same time, there was a James Otis, Jr.—this was pointed out, I must let you know, earlier today to me by Congressman NADLER. Mr. Otis argued the same things that were being argued in the Wilkes case in Great Britain. Sam Adams was present for those arguments, so he was communicating with John Wilkes and he was listening to the arguments against general warrants or writs of assistance made by Mr. Otis.