

this because I believe in the great ideals that this country stands for, liberty and justice for all, the notion that we should have government of the people, by the people, for the people.

I do it because, Mr. Speaker, there is a belief in this country that no one is above the law, and that includes the President of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, our democracy is at risk. Mr. Speaker, this offense has occurred before our very eyes. It is per-
spicuous. It is easy to understand.

Mr. Speaker, we are talking about a President who fired the FBI Director who was investigating the President for his connections to Russian involvement in the President's election.

Mr. Speaker, this is not about the President firing the FBI Director because he was investigating someone else. It is because the FBI Director was investigating the President himself. And after firing the Director, he went on to let us know that he considered the investigation when he fired him. And then he tweeted language that would be intimidation or a warning, an admonition, very strong, to say the very least.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot allow this to go unchecked. The President is not above the law. It is time for the American people to weigh in.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are a part of this democracy. This is a participatory democracy. The American people don't participate on election day only. The American people participate daily, and this is your day to act. This is your day. I am speaking to the American people. It is time for you to act. It is time for you to let us know where you stand.

I have seen a poll that indicates that a majority of those who are being polled are for impeachment. And I have seen another poll that says a plurality of those. Whether it is a majority or a plurality, let us let the American people weigh in. The American people should speak up, speak out, stand up so that we will get a sense of what the American people want.

This is not something to be taken lightly, and I do not. I think this is one of the highest callings that a Member of Congress has to address. I believe that this is where your patriotism is shown, where you demonstrate to the American people where you really stand. So I take this stand. It is a position of conscience for me. I have not talked to another person in Congress about this. Each Member of Congress has to make his or her own decision, so this is not about my encouraging other people to do things, other than the American people.

This is about my position. This is what I believe. This is where I stand. I will not be moved. The President must be impeached.

For those who do not know, impeachment does not mean that the President will be found guilty. It simply means that the House of Representatives will

bring charges against the President. It is similar to an indictment but not quite the same thing.

Once a President is impeached, then the Senate can have a trial to determine the guilt or innocence of the President; whether he is guilty or not guilty, to be more specific. But the House of Representatives has a duty that it can take up, and that is of impeachment.

I stand for impeachment of the President. How can you weigh in? Well, you can contact my good friends over at Free Speech For People. At that organization, they have a petition. The petition would allow you to weigh in and become a part of the nearly 1 million people who have already said the President ought to be impeached. You can weigh in at impeachdonalddumpnow.org. And believe me, if a plurality of the people are saying it now, and that is the poll that I really put my emphasis on, the one that says a plurality believes that the President should be impeached, more than 40 percent, I think that can grow. I assure you, once you weigh in, American people, there will be a difference in the attitudes about this.

I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity because but for this opportunity, you might not hear my voice. I am a voice in the wilderness, but I assure you that history will vindicate me. I assure you that righteousness will prevail. I assure you that no lie can live forever, and truth crushed to Earth will rise again.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President, such as accusations that he committed an impeachable offense.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in recognition of National Police Week and in honor of National Peace Officers Memorial Day, which was this past Monday. National Police Week was established by President Kennedy in 1962, as a day for Americans to remember police officers who lost their lives in the line of duty over the previous year.

This year's Peace Officers Memorial Day was especially somber in my district in western North Carolina as it was the first time since Shelby police officer Tim Brackeen was killed.

Officer Brackeen was a dedicated law enforcement officer who began his career with the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office and later joined the Shelby Police Department where, in 2012, he was honored as the officer of the year.

Last September, Officer Brackeen was working with his canine partner Ciko when he was killed in the line of duty, leaving behind his young wife and his 4-year-old daughter.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Officer Brackeen and all of the officers throughout our country who serve us so diligently every day who lost their lives serving our communities. It is really important for us as Americans to thank those who put themselves in harm's way so we may live peaceful lives for our own benefit and for the benefit of our communities.

Our men and women in blue put their lives on the line each and every day to keep us safe. When shots are fired, they run toward the sound of the gun while others are running away. I thank them for their dedicated service, and I pray each day for their continued safety.

HOLDING WHITE HOUSE ACCOUNTABLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives is a separate and coequal branch of government. We don't work for Donald Trump; we work for the people of this great Nation. The events of the last few months have been deeply troubling. I am trying to figure out when will my colleagues on the other side of the aisle decide that it is time to do your jobs and hold the White House accountable for its actions. When will you do your job?

Seventeen different intelligence agencies concluded that Russia interfered with our election for the purpose of helping to elect Donald Trump, but that was not enough. High-level Trump allies such as Carter Page, his foreign policy adviser; Michael Flynn, his first National Security Advisor; Jeff Sessions, his Attorney General; Paul Manafort, his campaign chairman; Michael Cohen, his personal attorney; Roger Stone, his longtime political confidant; Jared Kushner, his senior adviser and son-in-law—top Trump allies were having communications with the Russians at the same time that they were hacking into our election. But apparently, that was not enough.

□ 1015

Michael Flynn, the first National Security Advisor, was demonstrated to have had an illegal conversation with the Russian Ambassador in December of 2016. He then lied about it to the Vice President, who then delivered misleading information to the American people. But guess what. For my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, that was not enough.

The Attorney General testified under oath before Congress, and he said he had no communications with the Russians during the campaign. It was subsequently proven that he communicated with them twice at the Republican National Convention and then a few months later in his office. He either lied under oath, committed perjury, or delivered misleading information to Congress, which would be a misdemeanor. Either way, he likely committed a crime. Silence from the other side. Apparently that was not enough.

Donald Trump refuses to release his tax returns, unlike every other President since Gerald Ford, Republicans and Democrats.

What is the President hiding?

We can't figure it out. And apparently for the other side, that is not enough.

The Deputy Attorney General, Sally Yates, was fired by the President shortly after she went to the White House and revealed her suspicion that Michael Flynn may be a Russian asset. But apparently that was not enough.

The President fired Preet Bharara, the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, shortly after it was publically revealed that his office was investigating one of Trump's Cabinet Secretaries and close allies at FOX News. But for my Republican colleagues on the other side of the aisle, that was not enough.

The former FBI Director revealed that the Trump campaign was under criminal investigation for possible collusion with the Russians. But for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, even that was not enough.

Then the President fires the FBI Director who is leading the investigation into his campaign after it appears he urged the FBI Director to drop the case against his buddy Michael Flynn. But even for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, that is not enough.

Mr. Speaker, there is a cloud of corruption hanging over 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. We are in the midst of a constitutional crisis. It is time for the Speaker to get his head out of the sand. It is time for House Republicans to do the right thing. Support our demand for a special prosecutor. Support our legislation for an independent commission. It is time for House Republicans to put their country ahead of their party.

SAUK RAPIDS' CITIZEN OF THE YEAR, JODI SPEICHER

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sauk Rapids' Citizen of the Year, Jodi Speicher.

The Sauk Rapids Chamber of Commerce started this award in 1986 to recognize individuals who have influenced the community for the better.

Jodi, a resident of Sauk Rapids over the past 15 years, is known for her many contributions to this wonderful community. Whether she is striving for economic prosperity by working with the Sauk Rapids Chamber of Commerce, fighting to end disease through her work with the Alzheimer's Association and the Walk to End Alzheimer's, helping to put on St. Cloud's Expo for Seniors, or advocating for our children by serving on the Community Education board for the Sauk Rapids-Rice School District, Jodi is always putting her community first.

It takes a very special person to dedicate so much of their time to helping

and supporting others. I am proud to recognize that kind of accomplishment here today.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Jodi for all she does for our community. She is truly deserving of this award. Keep up the great work.

TEACHING LIFE LESSONS THROUGH ART

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an educator in my district who was recently named Minnesota's Middle Level Art Teacher of the Year by the Art Educators of Minnesota.

Pam Schwandt began her teaching career 31 years ago at Lincoln Elementary School for the Arts in Anoka, Minnesota, where she was a favorite teacher of one of my staffers. After 13 years in Anoka, Pam moved to Roosevelt Middle School, where she has been for the past 18 years.

While Pam recognizes that not all of her students will become artists, she believes many life lessons can be taught through art. Pam has been helping students learn how to find joy, in addition to nurturing their creative thinking and problem-solving skills through art.

Mr. Speaker, I speak for all Minnesotans when I say: Thank you, Pam.

The best teachers are the ones who go above and beyond just teaching a subject. The best teachers are the ones like Pam, who teach lessons and skills that our students will carry with them for the rest of their lives. Pam's award is well deserved.

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the strength and resolve of Forest Lake Patrol Officer Troy Meyer for not only overcoming adversity over the past 3 years, but for his amazing perseverance.

Troy has escaped death not just once, not twice, but three times by overcoming a severe brain infection, a lung infection, and a double lung transplant a year later. He also had surgery to repair a hole in his heart just 6 months after that.

Despite his challenges, Troy always moved ahead, determined to live life to the fullest and to help as many people as possible. He has done that by returning to his job on the police force only 13 months after his third surgery.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Meyer is an example of the resiliency of the human spirit. We are so thankful that he has made a full and miraculous recovery. Forest Lake, the police department, and the State of Minnesota are fortunate to have an individual like Troy Meyer in our community.

SERVING TO SERVE OTHERS

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend several police officers in my district for receiving the U.S. Department of Defense's Patriot Award.

Police Chief Todd Schwieger and Police Reserve Captain Richard Johnson both received the distinguished Employer Support of the Guard and Re-

serve's Patriot Award for their efforts helping an Active-Duty soldier work in their department while continuing his service to our country through the Army Reserve.

Created in 1972, the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve was created to help employers understand the obligations of their Active-Duty employees and how to meet any challenges that may arise for those employees.

St. Francis Reserve Officer and Army Reserve Staff Sergeant Richard Sieber, whom they had been helping, nominated Chief Schwieger and Captain Johnson for this award. Serving in our Nation's Armed Forces is one of the most noble ways one can assist our Nation, and it is imperative that we help the brave individuals who choose to serve our country in any way that we can.

Mr. Speaker, I thank both Todd Schwieger and Richard Johnson for their dedication to our servicemembers, as well as their own service to our community through their work in the St. Francis Police Department. Their work hasn't gone unnoticed.

WE CANNOT "LET THIS GO"

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, this is a very troubling time in American history. Our national security is endangered, the very future of our democracy is at stake, and without the continued engagement of millions of people across this country, this troubling time could become much worse.

There is an old adage: "Loose lips sink ships." But it is also true that when it comes to the abuse of Presidential power, sealed lips can sink a democracy.

We have gone through a period where it would appear that some of our Republican colleagues are in a witness protection program because they have been unable to come forward with any words to comment on the continued abuse of power that we see played out each day, with one being more incredible than the one before.

All United States intelligence services agree that the Russians interfered in our last election. Russia deserves sanctions, not secrets, not rewards. A President of the United States invited Putin's gang right into the Oval Office. We don't know what they left behind to listen to the rest of the conversations, although they may not need to learn them surreptitiously since President Trump, in such a cavalier way, proceeded to share secrets with them.

At long last we wonder, what will awaken these Republicans from their partisan stupor? We need them to speak out as well.

Last night we learned that Trump asked FBI Director James Comey, before firing him, to drop the investigation into National Security Advisor