

this floor, you would think that we are not all from a different universe; we are from different galaxies.

□ 1045

One side paints America as all gloom and doom and how horrible it is. The other side talks about opportunity, talks about job growth, talks about economic growth, and talks about how America is winning again.

I would ask my fellow Americans to remember this is the people's floor. It does not belong to Republicans, and it does not belong to Democrats. It belongs to the American people. We are winning again as a country, as both Republicans, Democrats, and independents. We are winning, and we will continue to win.

As I said earlier, nothing about this has been accidental, nothing about this has been casual, and none of this has happened by chance. It is pro-growth policy that continues to make sure that America wins again for every single American.

PEACEFUL PROTEST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, once again, I am proud to rise and stand in the well of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the flag, I sing the national anthem, and I believe in what the flag stands for: liberty and justice for all. But, Mr. Speaker, I find now that the flag is being used as a tool to suppress what it stands for: liberty and justice for all.

Mr. Speaker, peaceful protest is how I arrived in the Congress of the United States of America. If not but for peaceful protest, I probably, most likely, and believe in the sincerest corners of my heart that I would not be in the Congress of the United States of America.

Peaceful protest has brought about positive change in this country, but peaceful protest is now under assault from the highest office in the land: the Office of the President.

Peaceful protest is under attack, and I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to defend peaceful protest. I rise especially to defend it as it relates to the flag because the flag stands for liberty and justice for all. Peaceful protest is about liberty and justice for all.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to share a very shocking piece of information, perhaps not shocking to some, but it should shock our consciences. This piece of information was compiled by The Guardian and reported by Vox.

The information is as follows: racial minorities make up 37.4 percent of the general population—some things bear repeating: 34.7 percent of the general population—and 62.7 percent of the unarmed people killed by police; 37.4 percent of the population, 62.7 percent of the people who are unarmed and killed by the police.

Why wouldn't we protest this? Why wouldn't somebody decide that this is unacceptable and I will peacefully protest it? Why wouldn't someone take a knee at a football game to protest this?

Why would the President of the United States find reason to link that peaceful protest to disrespect for the flag when the flag stands for liberty and justice for all? That has to include these people who have been killed by the police.

By the way, it doesn't matter how great the economy is; their lives will not be brought back. It doesn't matter how many jobs people have; those lives will never return. So being comfortable and being able to say "I have a great job" won't bring back people who have lost their lives.

Mr. Speaker, this is a sad commentary when the President of the United States brings peaceful protest into dispute as it relates to the flag.

I believe that we have a duty and an obligation to protest wrong when we see it. It is as old as the Pilgrims landing at Plymouth Rock, it is as old as the Boston Tea Party, and it is as old as the farmers coming to Washington, D.C., in their tractors to protest.

Peaceful protest is at the foundation of this Nation. And for us to allow the President to assault and attack peaceful protest by and through the flag, which stands for liberty and justice for all, is an insult to the country.

So here is what I propose to do by way of standing against what the President seems to stand for. He has brought Mr. Kaepernick into disrepute; that is what the President would do. I plan to salute him. I will have a flag flown over the Capitol of the United States of America to salute him for his courage, for his willingness to suffer the slings and arrows that have been thrown at him by the highest office in the land to protect liberty and justice for all, which is what the flag stands for.

SOUTH CAROLINA FREE MEDICAL CLINICS

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

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell this body about a tremendous success story with healthcare in my district: the story of our free medical clinics and their membership in and longtime association with the South Carolina Free Clinic Association.

Founded in 2001 under the umbrella of the South Carolina Hospital Association, the South Carolina Free Clinic Association is an independent, nonprofit membership organization that provides training, research, resource development, and advocacy to member free clinics.

Additionally, the South Carolina Free Clinic Association was incorporated as an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in January of 2008.

The South Carolina Free Clinic Association represents and supports our State's network of 40 free clinics in 25 counties across South Carolina. The member free clinics provide comprehensive care to economically disadvantaged individuals all across our great State, including those individuals who are both uninsured and/or underinsured.

The South Carolina Free Clinic Association is the only statewide organization that supports and advocates for South Carolina's free clinic network and for the various and truly diverse populations they serve.

South Carolina Free Clinic Association is improving the quality and access of healthcare to South Carolina's medically underserved individuals and communities. The South Carolina Free Clinic Association does this by assisting their members to be valued and engaged partners in their communities' systems of care.

Through financial support from foundations, fundraisers, and individual donations and through the efficient use of donated supplies and volunteer provider services, South Carolina's free clinics were responsible for the following activities and achievements in 2017: \$108,839,801 total value of services provided; 363,369 prescriptions which were filled; 40,062 patients were treated; 4,442 volunteers; and 40 member clinics in 65 sites across South Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, free clinics are truly vital, safety net healthcare organizations that utilize a volunteer and staff model to provide a range of healthcare services, which may include medical, dental, pharmacy, vision, and/or behavioral health services to economically disadvantaged individuals.

Such clinics are 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations or operate as a program component or affiliate of a 501(c)(3) organization. Entities that otherwise meet the above definition but charge a nominal or sliding fee to patients may still be considered free clinics provided essential services are delivered regardless of the patient's ability to pay.

Free clinics limit eligibility for their services to individuals who are uninsured, underinsured, and/or have limited access or no access to primary, specialty, or prescription healthcare.

Every free clinic is unique. Each clinic has its own qualification guidelines. But they all serve low-income and no-income patients without health insurance who do not qualify for government assistance.

In addition to general medical and prescription services, free clinics may offer such services as oral health, specialty services and referrals, lab testing, diagnostic procedures, and health education and prevention, as well as prescription medications.

Free clinics are independent, community-based, nonprofit organizations that rely on grants and donations from their communities for support. Clinics have a varied base of community support, which includes but is not limited

to individuals, businesses, churches, foundations, and government.

I would like to recognize and applaud the efforts of the South Carolina Free Clinic Association and its executive director, Virginia Ann Mullikin, for their support of more than 40,000 South Carolina families.

SENATOR MCCAIN IS OWED AN APOLOGY

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I am only able to raise my right arm to maybe 50 percent, sometimes not that much, but that is due to shoulder separations from playing football. JOHN MCCAIN cannot raise his arms because he was tortured in Vietnam.

I believe that it is just about sinful for Mr. MCCAIN, in his days of very serious illness, to have anyone in this country, particularly anyone in a position of significance, say things about him that cannot in any way bless him or encourage him but, in fact, denounce him through baseless attacks.

Mr. Speaker, when I was elected, I promised my four children that I would never come to the well of this House and attack a human being or call them names. Unfortunately, things have changed in this country to the point now where that is a part of our daily way of doing the business of the greatest Nation God has ever allowed to exist.

There is something wrong, Mr. Speaker, when the elected leaders of our country refuse to apologize. There is not a single parent watching the goings-on in this Chamber who would tell their children: No matter what you do, no matter how awful you hurt another human being, you had better not apologize.

We are setting examples for children and unborn children by what we do in this Chamber. How in the world can a person sleep at night who can hurt another individual and not apologize?

I guess there are some things I will never apologize for. I will never apologize for never coming to the floor to attack a colleague. I will never apologize for respecting a person with whom I may disagree. I will never apologize for displaying disrespect for a member of the other party though their policies are separate and distinct from mine.

I will never apologize for trying to get my point across without stabbing someone with it. I will never apologize for being sensitive to the pain and hurts of others. I will never apologize for being an apologist when I wrong someone.

Silence is consent. And when I see this going on around this Chamber and I see it going on in other places in our government, I know that there are millions of people who believe that that is okay, that if it is done by someone in my party, it is okay.

I have said to my family, I have said to our church, and I have said to my

colleagues here: If the leaders of the Democratic Party, NANCY PELOSI or STENY HOYER, stand up and attack someone, particularly someone who is ill, I would come to the floor and condemn them.

Right and wrong is not based on party; it is based on right and wrong.

□ 1100

We are becoming a mean-spirited nation. No one watching this will tell their children: I want you to watch what is going on in Washington and use what you see as an example of how to live.

Mr. Speaker, Washington is dark right now. The people around this country who believe in light should let it shine.

HONORING ATF AGENT SCOTT RAGSDALE

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

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and celebrate the life of ATF Senior Special Agent Scott Ragsdale from Fate, Texas, who tragically passed away on May 24, 2018, at just 41 years of age during an ATF training exercise.

Agent Ragsdale is survived by his wife, Erin, and his two children, Aidan and Riley; his mother and father, Patti and Roy Ragsdale; his sister, Kelly Novikoff, her husband, Lee, and their two children; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins who loved him dearly and will miss him.

Those who knew Agent Ragsdale best say that he will most be remembered for his incredible sense of humor and, of course, for his 17 years of dedicated service to his fellow man.

He will be greatly missed in our northeast Texas community for his brave and selfless service as a member of our law enforcement.

On behalf of the three-quarters of a million Texans whom I represent across the Fourth Congressional District of Texas, I offer my most sincere condolences to his family and loved ones.

I wish you Godspeed, Special Agent Scott Ragsdale.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Pastor Eddie Bevill, Parkridge Church, Coral Springs, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we come to You now in humility, acknowledging Your omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence. Please hear our prayer for this great Nation. The men and women in this room have been given, by some estimates, an impossible task, but nothing is impossible with You. I pray for their health, their families, their staffs, and their wisdom. Please give them Your grace and direction in all areas, so that they may be able to lead for the good of all people. Your word in Micah 6:8 is a great reminder:

"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

May this scripture be the marching orders for those who serve in this important position. May their decisions promote unity and harmony in the U.S. and the world.

In the name of Jesus Christ, I pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. PINGREE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING PASTOR EDDIE BEVILL

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to welcome my constituent, Pastor Eddie Bevill, to offer the opening prayer today.