

bedrock belief in a revolutionary assumption: that all men are created equal and have the inalienable right to life, liberty, and property; are entitled to live free of arbitrary rule; and most important, are endowed with the right to govern themselves.

Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence that “all Experience has sh[o]wn that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by taking” immediate action against their oppressors.

But, Jefferson continued, “when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty” to take immediate action to repel the danger.

The Framers had first-hand experience with the types of abuses and usurpations committed by political leaders who ruled them but were not accountable to them and detailed many of those wrongs in the Declaration of Independence.

The Framers understood and declared that democratic governors derived their powers from the knowing and voluntary consent of the governed as expressed in free, fair, and unfettered elections unmarred by the influence or sabotage of any entity not a member of the political community.

If elections are influenced by foreign actors, then voters are reduced from citizens to subjects, and government for and by the people is a sham.

The most important feature of a democracy is that it is the voters who alone can confer the legitimate consent and authorization necessary to govern upon the governors who are then duty-bound to represent the voters' interests, and only their interests.

The fundamental democratic compact between the governed and the governors is that the latter's authority and continuance in office comes exclusively from the governed and allegiance is owed exclusively to the governed.

This agreement can only be reached through free and fair elections, a breach of which threatens the vitality and viability of the social contract upon which democratic self-rule depends.

Based on their personal experiences, the Framers understood the importance of a president's allegiance being always and only to the nation.

That is why they included the Emoluments Clause in the Constitution as Article I, section 9, clause 8, which bans Presidents from accepting titles of nobility and strictly prohibits the acceptance of any emolument of any kind from any king, prince, or foreign state.

President Lincoln called the United States the “last best hope of man on earth” and stated at Gettysburg the importance of finishing the work we are in to ensure that “government of the people, for the people, by the people does not perish from the earth.”

The serious allegation before us is that the President extorted or bribed the head of a foreign nation to conspire with him to sabotage an American election by manufacturing false charges against his political rival so that he could retain his office and continue to abuse his power.

This is undoubtedly the most serious transgression that could be committed by a president who, as Lincoln said, has taken an oath “registered in Heaven” to preserve, protect,

and defend the Constitution of the United States.

If American elections are not free, fair, and uninfluenced by foreign actors, then the democracy is extinguished, and the people do not rule.

Instead, citizens are reduced to subjects, ruled by an authority dependent not on the consent of the governed, but on the assistance and beneficence of unaccountable foreign actors.

Such a state of affairs inevitably would lead to actions taken by the ruler that are not in the interests of the nation, like dishonoring treaty agreements, abandoning allies, impugning the independent judiciary and the free press, disregarding fundamental rights and liberties of the people, abrogating civic norms and virtues, pursuing acts of personal enrichment, and currying favor with foreign despots and authoritarians.

Although President Lincoln said in his First Inaugural Address that “while the people retain their virtue and vigilance no Administration by any extreme of wickedness or folly can very seriously injure the Government in the short space of four years,” the Framers anticipated that the day may come when the actions of a Chief Magistrate would constitute a clear and present danger to the security and survival of the republic.

To protect the republic, the Framers equipped the representatives chosen directly by the people with the necessary means of protecting their liberty by wisely including in the Constitution of the United States, Article I, section 2, clause 5, which vests the sole power of impeachment in the House of Representatives.

As a Member of Congress who has taken an oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, these are the principles to which I am in fidelity and against which I will evaluate the actions of the President of the United States.

IN HONOR OF IRENE O'CONNELL,
DEPARTING MEMBER OF THE
SAN BRUNO CITY COUNCIL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, Irene O'Connell is leaving the San Bruno City Council after a remarkable 24 years of service to the community. Her departure marks the end of an era but the beginning of a new path in the life of this amazing woman and civic leader. During all these years I have deeply appreciated Irene's friendship and enjoyed working with her to promote San Bruno's bright future.

In 1995, Irene O'Connell was elected to the San Bruno City Council, serving her community with enthusiasm, vigor and effectiveness. She helped initiate a Youth Committee and helped create an after-school program at Allen Elementary that has since expanded to five other schools. She identified \$600,000 in flood control district funds that became available to help residents of the Belle Air community. She initiated the creation of the City's Culture and Arts Commission with funding through a surcharge on building permits. The Commission

has installed a number of pieces of public art including the Centennial Mosaic at the San Bruno Caltrain station and the mural painting at Centennial Park in San Bruno's downtown. A park on Florida Avenue is authorized in large measure because Irene's love of civic beauty is matched with a love of open space in San Bruno's urban environment.

For 22+ years, 200 volunteers have joined Councilwoman O'Connell annually to sweep up, recycle, plant flowers and trees, paint garbage bins, and to otherwise beautify the city. As a representative on transportation and water agencies, she's helped the city to obtain transportation grants and ensured that the water supply remained reliable and affordable. If your heart stops in San Bruno, a paramedic on a fire truck is present in large part because Irene O'Connell insisted that the service be standard on fire trucks throughout the county. She evaluated and advocated for ambitious plans for full rehabilitation and replacement of the City's utility systems over a 20-year period and the necessary funding to complete the improvements.

During some of the most difficult years in the history of her hometown, Irene O'Connell and her colleagues first consoled and then fought for the citizens of San Bruno after a natural gas pipeline exploded and killed 8 residents and destroyed 38 homes. She and her colleagues were warriors for justice holding PG&E accountable for its gross negligence.

No mention of Irene's love of her community would be complete without mention of her founding of the San Bruno Library Foundation. Irene's commitment to the library is heartfelt and enduring.

Irene is a first-generation Italian American and as such reflects the industriousness and civic involvement characteristic of those whose parents struggle to come to this country. She was born in San Bruno and has lived there ever since.

She and her family were continually involved in community service and other activities. They volunteered for the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and when that wasn't exhausting enough, Irene and her father collected paperback books for the veterans hospital. Also as volunteers, the family managed the San Bruno Girl Scout House, sewing curtains, painting and helping it to operate. During her time on the City Council, she helped develop and manage a Rebuilding Together project to refurbish the house to enhance community programs held there.

When St. Bruno's needed baptismal robes for less fortunate parishioners, Irene and her mother sewed them. This family exuded community pride with every undertaking.

As she grew into adulthood, Irene realized that her first love was teaching. She obtained a B.A. in Liberal Studies and a Master's in Elementary Education with a Lifelong Teaching Credential. She taught sixth grade at St. Veronica's in South San Francisco and then left to raise her three children. However, she didn't leave community service. As a board member of Art-Rise, a local non-profit, she promoted local artists by finding space for them to display their works. The Boy Scouts and 4-H benefitted greatly because Irene was ever-present.

Irene is the proud mother of son Joe and daughters Katie and Jennifer. Her husband, Bill, keeps her young, her mother Marina Kaiser keeps her hopping, and her community keeps her strong.

Madam Speaker, for decades Irene's presence in San Bruno has been as exciting to watch as a home run at a Little League game at San Bruno City Park. Now, San Bruno's Mighty Casey is laying down her bat. It's time to give her an enormous cheer for her contributions to the team. San Bruno will long cherish the swing-for-the-fence public service of Irene O'Connell.

HONORING JOSEPH HOGENKAMP'S
CAREER IN PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of the City Treasurer of the City of Tonawanda, Joseph Hogenkamp, who is retiring from public service as City Treasurer later this month.

Joe has many accomplishments as City Treasurer, including a commitment to modernizing his office. As I mentioned, first elected in 1987 and serving through mid-December of 2019, Joe has seen a lot of changes, both in government administration as well as in municipal finance. Working with several mayors and dozens of former aldermen and city council members, Joe's reputation was one of steady reliability and dedicated leadership to the taxpayers he served.

First elected in November of 1987, Joe has served the taxpayers and residents of Tonawanda for more than 30 years. A native of the city, Joe is a 1981 graduate of Tonawanda High School, after which he earned an accounting degree at Miami University of Ohio.

In addition to his elected duties, Joe has served as a board member and officer for PERMA, an organization that provides workers compensation insurance coverage for municipal governments across New York State. Here at home, Joe serves on the Finance Committee for St. Francis of Assisi Church and on the Erie County Land Bank. He also serves as Treasurer of the Familial Cancer Foundation of Western New York.

Above all else, Joe is a proud husband and father. Joe married his beloved wife Nikki in 1990 and they are the proud parents of daughters Eugenia and Costantina.

Madam Speaker, please join me and all members of the House in congratulating the Honorable Joseph Hogenkamp upon the occasion of his retirement from elective public office and join me in extending to Joe and his entire family our best wishes for health and happiness in the years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA RETURNING CITI-
ZENS COORDINATION ACT OF 2019

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Returning Citizens Coordination Act of 2019. This bill would allow the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP)

and the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA) to share information with the District of Columbia government to help ensure the District has services ready, in coordination with BOP and CSOSA, for returning citizens.

D.C. inmates face significant hurdles in preparing to return to society because most are spread across the country in BOP facilities hundreds or even thousands of miles from the District, their families and their loved ones. Because they are frequently housed so far away from the District, coordinating returning citizens' reentry into society is difficult. This bill would make the coordination efforts between the BOP, CSOSA and District agencies less burdensome and more efficient.

Under this bill, District agencies would be better able to determine what physical and mental health and other needs returning citizens may have before they are even released from prison. Because D.C. Code felons are the only local inmates housed by the BOP, this bill is especially important for District residents.

Currently, BOP is allowed to share information regarding returning citizens with CSOSA, since it is also a federal agency, but not with D.C. agencies. This bill would allow BOP and CSOSA to treat agencies of the D.C. government as they do other federal agencies for the purposes of—but only for the purposes of—federal privacy laws, such as the Privacy Act, so that the District agencies that assist individuals during their return can more easily obtain the necessary information to provide appropriate services.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF UNT TAMS
STUDENT ENTRIES IN THE CON-
GRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Vishok Jonnalagadda, Kate Liang, Ernest Lu, Mayur Pabba, Shubh Sharma, Tarush Verma and Connie Xu, participants in the first 26th District of Texas Congressional App Challenge and all students attending the University of North Texas as Texas Academy of Math and Science (TAMS) students. The Congressional App Challenge encourages students to learn how to code through an annual competition hosted by Members of Congress.

Structured as a competition, the Congressional App Challenge is a great way for Congress to engage students in computer programming and technology-related careers and encourage them to develop the skills that are becoming increasingly important for jobs contributing to our growing economy. By participating in the App Challenge, the students have the opportunity to create their own apps for mobile, tablet or computer device and compete with other students, receiving feedback from leading experts in the field. I thank each of the students competing in this year's endeavor as well as the judges who contributed their time and expertise to the process.

The Congressional App judging panel assembled was comprised of Dr. Jennifer Moore,

Associate Professor and School Librarian Certification Faculty Lead at Texas Woman's University School of Library & Information Sciences; Dr. Stephani Ludi, Professor, Undergraduate Coordinator and Co-Director of Research in the Software Engineering Lab at the University of North Texas' (UNT) Department of Science & Engineering; and Mr. Mark Payne, Executive Director, Denco Area 911. After reviewing each of the Apps submitted, the board scored the entries, resulting in a tabulated outcome recognizing "Mindful Minutes" by Ms. Connie Xu and Kate Liang as the winner. "Mindful Minutes" is an app designed to combat the societal challenge of forgetfulness by allowing users to count anything, including hours worked or hours exercised, or even creating custom counters for any repetitive activity or subject they choose. Their app will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol and shown on the U.S. House of Representatives web site. The students will also be invited to the House of Representatives' Code Demo Day reception in Washington, D.C.

I am proud to participate in the Congressional App contest as a way of encouraging the development of the math and science education our country requires to remain competitive. Ms. Xu and Ms. Liang have displayed their creativity and skill through their submission, providing an example of the bright future they, and our country, have ahead. I am honored to represent these two bright young women and wish them and all the representative UNT TAMS program students involved, much continued success in their education and careers.

IN MEMORY OF MEL OLSSON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to observe and mourn the passing one of Southeastern Connecticut's most accomplished and revered citizens, Mr. Melvin E. Olsson. Mel, as he was known to all, grew up in that region's historic city, New London, attended public school there, and upon graduation, immediately enlisted in the Connecticut National Guard where he served from 1959 until 1967. He also became part of the workforce at our nation's premiere submarine shipyard Electric Boat, where he was hired as a pipefitter embarking on a 47-year career, building and designing the world's most capable submarines. After his start as a metal tradesman, he migrated to the design workforce, which was responsible for the flawless conception, execution, and production of the Los Angeles, Seawolf, Ohio, and Virginia class submarines that have made America's "silent service" such an effective deterrent in keeping the peace for the last 75 years.

Mel was a strong advocate for Electric Boat's unionized workers, and over time he emerged as the president of the Marine Draftsman's/UAW Local 571 which represents all the drafting professionals and designers. For thirteen years Mel held that position and successfully negotiated contracts in tandem with his brothers and sisters in the Metal Trades Council to ensure their skilled work was adequately compensated with good salaries and benefits. In the early 2000s, Mel was