

and to not close our doors to those seeking asylum. We are a good country at heart. We should not separate children from parents. We are better than that.

**CONGRATULATING KAY ARTHUR ON RECEIVING THE LYDIA IMPACT AWARD**

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, few people have the gift to bring people together, but Kay Arthur is one of these special individuals. Her passion for people and deeply rooted faith is illuminated through her television, radio, and online programs in which she uses God's Word to reach over 75 million households in over 30 countries.

Kay is a four-time ECPA Christian Book Award-winning author and the cofounder of Precept Ministries International, and she will soon be recognized once again as the recipient of the Scenic City Women's Network Lydia Impact Award.

An institution in the Chattanooga community, the vision of the Scenic City Women's Network is to encourage, equip, and energize Christian women. As part of this vision, the Lydia Award is a special honor for a woman who emulates the attributes of Lydia in the Bible: a devout woman, a seeking woman, a hospitable woman, and one who is fervent in spirit and serves the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, that woman is Kay Arthur.

I would like to share a story that illustrates her servant heart:

Being a high-profile Bible teacher and author has never kept Kay from striving to meet the needs of whoever crosses her path. From waiters to cab drivers, Kay Arthur seeks to truly meet people where they are, but never leave them without a pathway to hope.

One chilly afternoon, Kay and her son David were driving back to the office after a lunch appointment. Kay noticed a lady in a wheelchair on the side of the road. David was instructed to promptly pull over. Kay sprang out of the car and approached the woman. After a quick conversation, Kay took off her full-length winter coat, wrapped it around this lady and shared that Jesus loves her, and the coat is a sign of His gracious love to her.

Kay never meets a stranger, no matter if in Chattanooga or a country across the world. She loves people, and she loves her Lord Jesus. She consistently seeks to demonstrate her love with kind words and actions. She truly has the servant heart of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Mr. Speaker, as you have just heard, Kay, like Lydia, has committed her life to her faith and exemplifies what it is to be a woman of God.

I would like to congratulate Kay Arthur on receiving the prestigious Lydia

Impact Award and thank her for her blessing our Nation with her Christian heart and service.

**SOCIALISM**

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to talk about a word that is everywhere, a word that is the response to every idea that we come up with, and that word is "socialism."

It is a scary word. It is a magical word. It is the word that comes up every time Democrats propose a plan to better educate America's children—socialism; to make the elderly more secure in their retirement—socialism; to make healthcare available to people in this country who still can't see a doctor—socialism.

It is a magical word because, if you say "socialism," then it allows you to hide the fact that you actually don't have a counterplan, that when the Democrats say here are a bunch of plans to make healthcare better and you don't have a plan, you just say "socialism," and that could end the conversation.

It is a magical word because it allows you to distract from the fact that, if you actually do the things to better educate America's children or to make America's retirees more secure in their retirement or to make healthcare more available, that costs a little money. The problem with that is that, for my Republican colleagues, that money needs to go into tax cuts for the wealthiest people in this country and for corporations. That is a problem.

By the way, it is not a new thing. This has been going on for 100 years. I have a quote here from President Reagan. He is talking about Medicare here:

And behind it will come other Federal programs that will invade every area of freedom as we know it in this country until, one day, we will awake to find that we have socialism.

Ronald Reagan promised us that Medicare, probably one of the most successful programs this country has ever put forward, would lead to socialism. It goes back before that.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who did so much to make for the decency that is endemic in this country after the Depression, the Securities and Exchange Commission so that our capitalist economy would be a fair economy, the progressive income tax so we could actually fund our military and fund education—all socialism. He was a traitor to his class. He was a socialist. This goes way back.

So having quoted Ronald Reagan, let me quote another great leader, Inigo Montoya, in "The Princess Bride." He says: "You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means."

So what does socialism mean? What is socialism?

Here is the dictionary definition. It is a system in which there is no private property or a system in which the government owns the means of production.

What is that? Is Medicare socialist? At Mount Sinai or Sloan Kettering, are those hospitals or doctors working for the government? Of course not.

Was Dodd-Frank socialist? No. Dodd-Frank put in place regulations that have allowed JPMorgan Chase, Citibank, Wells Fargo, and all those banks to be more profitable than ever before. That is not socialism.

What is particularly interesting is socialism is just a lot of government in your economy. I took time to look at States where government is actually a big part of the economy. You can look this up, Mr. Speaker.

There is an article called, "The Top Five Most Socialist States." West Virginia, Alaska, Wyoming, Mississippi, and Arkansas are the five States with the largest percentage of government spending as part of their economy—deep, deep red States. The top five socialist States, Republican.

Now, what about those socialist States that my Republican friends call socialist? Here are a couple of them: California, New York, Massachusetts—that is Taxachusetts.

California: My friend, DEVIN NUNES, the Representative from California, because they are trying to take plastic out of the Pacific Ocean, called California socialist.

These are the economic powerhouses of the Nation. They have GDPs that look like small countries. They have innovators; they start companies. And the reason for that is because innovators and business people want to start businesses in communities where there are good schools, access to healthcare, and people have the wages to actually buy their products.

So, Mr. Speaker, don't be fooled by that magical word, "socialism." Socialism is what is used to address every effort that we make to make for a more fair and just society. That is not socialism.

These things—increased wages, better healthcare, and better access to education—are not socialism. They are in the finest tradition of making sure that opportunity is available to every American and that the American Dream will not die.

**CONSTITUTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE**

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

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise questions of grave constitutional significance.

Last week, the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee requested the IRS turn over years' worth of President Trump's personal and business tax returns. These are returns that cover business decisions and dealings long before the President came to office.

Similarly, the chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform has indicated that his committee will examine allegations regarding how the President valued real estate, among other business decisions, long before the President was elected. He has also indicated he may call members of the President's family to testify about these and other Trump Organization dealings.

These actions are not only blatantly partisan, but they raise serious constitutional concerns.

Our system is one of limited powers and of checks and balances. The Congress is not a law enforcement agency. It is not a court of law. It is a legislative body.

Beside me are the words of Chief Justice Earl Warren, someone whom I would say most on the other side hold in high esteem:

"There is no general authority to expose the private affairs of individuals without justification in terms of the functions of the Congress. . . . Investigations conducted solely for the personal aggrandizement of the investigators or to 'punish' those investigated are indefensible."

As the Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed, investigations conducted by this House "must be related to and be in furtherance of a legitimate task of the Congress."

The Court has particularly warned that investigations of the private affairs of individuals are off limits without a clear connection to this body's constitutional functions. Rightly so. We are a nation of laws and of liberty.

The President's political opponents tried and failed to make his tax returns and his business dealings an issue in the 2016 Presidential election. The American people settled that issue at the ballot box.

□ 1045

It is absolutely clear that the majority does not seek the President's tax returns, information about his business, or to haul his family before Congress in an effort to pass new laws or for some other legislative purpose.

These investigations are thinly veiled attempts to use the powers of this Chamber to provide ammunition for the 2020 election.

Mr. Speaker, each of us swears a duty to uphold the Constitution. Each of us has a responsibility to ensure that our actions conform within its boundaries and its principles. I urge the majority to remember that obligation and reconsider this course.

The investigatory power of this institution is absolutely critical to our function as a coequal and independent branch of government.

Excesses by the body led to an intervention by the Supreme Court in an over 40-year period when the right of Congress to compel testimony was called into question.

Again, in the 1950s, the court was forced to intervene to stop the excesses

of the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Let's be clear. These so-called investigations set a dangerous precedent. The majority wants to use Congress to investigate the past personal and business dealings of an elected official and his family. This is yet another attempt to coerce and intimidate people with whom they disagree.

This isn't legitimate. This is a witch hunt, and it threatens to undermine legislative investigations in the future.

So, again, I ask the majority to think very hard about their constitutional obligations and what these partisan attacks against the President will mean for the future of this House. It is your right to oppose the President at the ballot box, not to use the powers of this body to score political points.

There is no legitimate purpose for this Congress to investigate the President or his family before he was elected to office.

#### RECOGNIZING VICTORIA MEJIAS

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Victoria Mejias, a leader from my district in Omaha, Nebraska, who has overcome the physical impairments of multiple sclerosis, or MS, to help those in desperate need, those who need to find new homes, new jobs, and new schools in the wake of Hurricanes Maria, Sandy, and Katrina and the tornados that rampaged Pilger, Nebraska, and Joplin, Missouri.

Victoria has been involved in missionary work for many years and has always had an active interest in serving others in need. She found her second calling by assisting disaster relief efforts and facilitating the relocation of those most affected.

In 2017, Victoria found her work hitting closer to home than ever before. Victoria, who is the daughter of a Puerto Rican family, assisted in the relief efforts for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands when they were devastated by the powerful category 4 hurricane which claimed an estimated 3,057 human lives and caused \$91 billion worth of damage.

She worked fervently alongside U.S. veteran Joel Ortiz to initiate a relief project that would help relocate affected families to Omaha and the surrounding areas. With her efforts, displaced families would have a place to call their home away from home.

The result was the birth of an organization which Victoria is proud to call her own, Heartland United for Puerto Rico. This organization has assisted approximately 50 families in relocating to areas throughout Nebraska and Iowa and continues to make influential impacts in the lives of these individuals who lost nearly everything.

Unfortunately, much of Victoria's efforts have been slowed as she continues her fight against the horrible impacts

of MS. MS can be treated through disease-modifying therapies which work to reduce the frequency and severity of relapses, but they do not cure MS. In fact, there is no known cure.

Multiple sclerosis attacks the immune system's healthy cells and affects the ability of the central nervous system to control the activities of the body.

In 2006, Victoria encountered her first difficulty with this disease when she lost her balance and fell to the ground, having no feeling of support from her legs beneath her. She was formally diagnosed with MS in 2016.

The diagnosis, although challenging, gave her a sense of relief, as she finally knew her experience was real and valid.

She continues to suffer from many effects of the disease, such as broken legs and color blindness, and is no longer physically able to have the same influence she once had, but Victoria has the motivation to be a transformative leader within her community and does not let this stop her.

When you meet Victoria, she will tell you that being self-aware of your challenges is a strength, not a weakness.

What Victoria has accomplished in the lives of others is an achievement difficult for many who do not suffer from any physical limitations. Therefore, we should all draw inspiration from her example, her determination, and her achievements, all while struggling with the debilitating effects of MS.

May we all strive to be leaders in our communities, as Victoria has and will continue to be.

Victoria, we salute you and pray for your strength. We pray for your healing from this burdensome disease. Thank you for being such a great example and inspiration to all of us.

#### 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 10 o'clock and 50 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

Reverend Dr. Darryl D. Roberts, 19th Street Baptist Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

O God, our redeemer, we give You the highest praise.

Saturate our hearts in Your love so that our will may be lost in Your perfect plan for creation.

We thank You for the Members of the people's House, who believe, in the