

As a marine and as a Member of Congress, I swore to protect the Constitution of the United States, and I will not stand by as Donald Trump erodes the rule of law and our democracy. It is time for Congress to launch an impeachment investigation against President Trump.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

□ 1015

RECOGNIZING OFFICER PIERRE KING

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 recognize a true American hero, Pierre King, who is a police officer with the York Police Department in York, South Carolina.

I say this because, on May 11, 2019, Jamie Brock and his wife, Kimberly, were having dinner at Longhorn Steakhouse, celebrating their oldest son's graduation from the University of South Carolina. While eating their food, Jamie began choking and unable to breathe due to experiencing an allergic reaction to the food.

Kimberly, his wife, began screaming for help, and Officer King, who was off duty at the time, rushed to help the choking man, whom he did not know, and was able to use lifesaving techniques that he had been trained to administer and was successful in dislodging the food from Jamie's throat.

Due to the actions of Officer King, a life was saved, and in the words of Brock family: "God put you there that day, and you saved my husband and you saved our kids' father."

In the words of Officer King: "All I knew is that I was not going to let this man die, and he would do the same thing for me."

Officer King is a true American hero who epitomizes the slogan "to live is to serve" and is an example for all of us to follow.

When I think of Officer King, I think of the words of Winston Churchill, who, when Great Britain was about to be under siege by Germany, said:

There will be a time when doing your best is not good enough. We must do what is required.

Mr. Speaker, Officer King did what was required.

THE CONTINUING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the continuing humanitarian crisis that is taking place at our border between the United States and Mexico.

Despite Congress' recent effort to provide relief to thousands of people in detention centers, children continue to be separated from their families, and people continue suffer from a lack of basic living standards that they need.

This is not the American way.

What is more, this administration has just announced new ICE raids in major American cities that will solve nothing.

We need to do more. Congress needs to act and seek long-term solutions to addressing the problems forcing people to flee their homes and seek asylum, women and children literally moving 2,000 miles, and they are not coming to Disneyland.

Congress needs to act. We should be focusing on attacking the problem at its source by increasing support to Central American countries like El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, where the majority of these migrants are coming from.

We should not be cutting foreign aid to these countries. That just exacerbates the problem. I asked Secretary Pompeo in a hearing of the Committee on Foreign Affairs almost 2 months ago: Why does not the President call a meeting with the President of Mexico and bring together the Organization of American States to come up with a comprehensive long-term solution to this problem?

I have spoken with the Ambassador from Mexico to the United States. She has expressed to me the problem that they are facing at their southern border with Guatemala. That is what we should be doing, cooperating and working with the Mexican Government and our other neighbors to the south.

We must also work to secure a basic standard of living for the detention facilities to provide for immediate relief. That is why I am cosponsoring H.R. 3239, Humanitarian Standards for Individuals in CBP Custody, to provide house screening and emergency care, to improve water and sanitation and hygiene standards, and to improve nutrition and shelter standards.

These are things that we are doing in the Middle East with the refugee relief programs for the Syrian refugees. Why would we not do this at our own border, and increase the coordination and surge capacity for the agencies to address what the needs are of these migrants?

We really do have a humanitarian crisis at our border, to be sure. I think we all recognize and understand that.

But, finally, we need to work together. We need to work together in a bipartisan fashion. That is how Congress should operate to achieve lasting, comprehensive immigration reform.

When I first came to Congress, I supported comprehensive immigration reform with the Bush administration and then with the Obama administration.

In 2013, we had a bipartisan package that was very close to passage. As a matter of fact, I think it would have passed the House had the Speaker at

the time brought it to the floor. Unfortunately, we lost that opportunity.

I urge my colleagues to join me in their commitment to working to resolve this humanitarian crisis that we are facing at the border. That is the American way. That is what we should be doing as Members of Congress.

PRAYERS FOR JACI HERMSTAD

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate being recognized to address you here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. I would first like to point out and to show here, to America, Jaci Hermstad.

Jaci Hermstad is from Spencer, Iowa. Her identical twin sister, in 2011, passed away from an aggressive form of ALS, which we often know of as Lou Gehrig's disease.

The DNA from her sister is part of a treatment for Jaci, who was diagnosed on Valentine's Day of this year with the same disease. And because of the work and the cooperation of the FDA, some wonderful scientists, and a lot of work done by my staff—and I want to stand here and thank Speaker PELOSI for her cooperation—we were able to convince the FDA to grant a waiver so Jaci could receive this treatment.

She is in Columbia University, now, receiving treatments. Her third treatment is this morning, just about as I speak, and it will be a triple dose. And if this works—and she is in my prayers every day—we have opened a path to one day put an end to that deadly and debilitating disease of ALS.

And by the way, she is a spunky gal with a sassy sense of humor, and if you knew her like I know her, you would love her.

This is Jaci. She is definitely in my prayers this day and every day.

CENSUS QUESTIONS

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about the topic that will be raised by the President this afternoon in the Rose Garden, as I understand, and it is the topic of whether the question of "Are you a citizen of the United States of America?" should and could be on the Census.

I have introduced a bill, H.R. 1320. This has been introduced last time and this year, and H.R. 1320 is a bill that has asked these questions. It says:

What is person number one's legal status?

Are you a citizen or a national of the United States?

Are you a lawfully admitted permanent resident?

Are you none of those things, or do you have an other lawful status?

And then it follows up and says: If you have other lawful status, what is that status? Are you here on a green card? Are you here on a student visa? Are you here on a work permit of some kind?

So, we need a full inventory of the population of the United States. That

was the purpose of the Census, not only for redistricting, but so that we could see how America is growing, in what ways America is growing.

And, by the way, we are establishing immigration policy here in the United States Congress by an enumerated power in our Constitution, I might add, and we are doing that with people on that side of the aisle saying: We don't want to know any more than how many homo sapiens we can count within the shores of the United States of America. But they want to know a lot of other minutia if it helps them politically.

So I brought this legislation forward, and we know that there was a case before the United States Supreme Court. The Supreme Court looked at that case.

I looked back at the short form Census in 2010 when Barack Obama was President. And here is what it asked. It wants to know: What is your name? What is your phone number?

I mean, how detailed do you have to get?

We are only asking are you a citizen or are you not a citizen is what the Commerce Department has decided to ask. I think there should be more details.

But the Obama Census short form said:

What is your name?

What is your phone number?

What is your birthday?

What sex are you?

I point out they didn't ask your gender. They ask sex because that is actually definitive.

And what is your ethnicity? What is your race?

Do you have an unmarried partner?

And if you have children, they ask this question:

Are they biological or adopted sons or daughters?

So they want to know, are they boys or girls and were they born into the family or were they adopted into the family. By what means are they part of your dependents?

But you can't ask a question: Are you a citizen of the United States?

All of these questions and many more, and we can't ask the question: Are you a citizen of the United States?

The Supreme Court found that the executive branch was granted the authority by the United States Congress—and that is the Commerce Secretary himself—to form the questions on the Census. This is a constitutional authority that was specifically granted to the executive branch of government by the United States Congress. But the Court says: You have the authority to ask the question, but we think you have the wrong reason to ask the question. So now we are remanded back to the lower court to come up with a better reason.

Here is my reason: We want to know how many citizens are in America. That is all you need to ask. It is simple as it can be.

And they are well within the law; they are well within the Constitution. It is just that the Obama-appointed judges don't seem to be reading the Constitution and the law, and they seem to have political motives.

REPEALING THE 40 PERCENT EXCISE TAX

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the working men and women in our country who have well-deserved, hard-earned quality healthcare benefits to urge House leadership to bring to the floor H.R. 748, the Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act. This bill would finally fully repeal the 40 percent excise tax on certain employer-sponsored healthcare plans. For too long, the tax has been a looming threat.

Make no mistake, this tax falls on everyday working families, including laborers, operating engineers, carpenters, pipefitters, painters, plumbers, ironworkers, transportation workers, firefighters, police, and many others, many who have fought for and won healthcare benefits in collective bargaining agreements.

Among its many unintended effects, this excise tax has helped encourage the recent large increases in insurance plan deductibles, which especially hurt those with chronic illnesses.

This repeal bill has been proposed for years. It is well past time to give it a vote on the House floor.

The 40 percent excise tax on high-quality healthcare plans was enacted in the 2010 Affordable Care Act. The ACA has had many good effects, but it also had many flaws as enacted. We need to make the ACA work better for more Americans. And one provision that needs to be fixed is this tax.

The tax was supposed to begin in 2018, but has been repeatedly delayed, reflecting the awareness of its negative impact. Right now, it is scheduled to take effect in 2022. It is time to just end it.

Regardless of the intent behind the original ACA provisions, the truth is that health insurance premiums have continued to grow faster than inflation, putting even plans with modern benefits at risk of getting taxed.

As Families USA recently pointed out, without a permanent solution, as many as one out of every four workers with job-based health plan coverage could be affected by this tax by 2025. That is just 6 short years from now.

Furthermore, responsible employers plan ahead and are already gearing up to plan their budgets for health insurance in the next few years. This is especially concerning in the case of workers who have successfully used their right to organize to reach collective bargaining agreements with their employers.

Good union jobs provide workers with a better opportunity to negotiate

benefits that fairly reflect the important contributions they make to the American economy. Union jobs and union contracts mean workers are fairly compensated in the private sector without relying on taxpayers and the Federal Government.

But collective bargaining agreements often span years, and the looming threat of the excise tax puts these hard-fought contracts at risk. Temporary delays in the excise tax only create more fear and uncertainty for families as they wonder whether their benefits will be severely cut back due to heavy government taxes.

Delays also crimp employer budgets, as businesses are forced to account for the risk of getting hit with hefty charges. By undermining long-term collective bargaining agreements, these delays also undermine the bedrock of the American economy: fairly negotiated private contracts that all parties know they can rely on.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have shown us that they don't want repeal of the ACA and they don't want important protections to be ripped out from under them. They want the ACA fixed. So let's show them we are listening.

So, let's show them we are listening. Let's show them that workers with good, job-based health coverage will not have to fear it eroding simply due to government taxes. Let's bring the Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act to the floor.

□ 1030

HONORING WILLIAM HENRY WARD AND RICHARD LEON WATSON

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroism of two Louisianians who served valiantly during World War II: William Henry Ward and Richard Leon Watson.

William, who recently celebrated his 95th birthday, grew up in New Orleans and shipped off to Europe in 1943 to join a heavy bombardment squadron that participated in Operation Market Garden and the Battle of the Bulge.

During the Battle of the Bulge, his B-24 Liberator got shot down, took heavy fire, and he was forced into an emergency landing near Brussels. He hitchhiked back to England and, as soon as possible, rejoined the fight.

On January 10, 1945, he completed his 35th mission over Germany and finally telegraphed his mother, Maude Ward, saying, "Duties completed. Returning home soon."

Sadly, Richard Watson came home to Morehouse Parish in a more tragic way. He died defending our country while aboard the USS *Oklahoma*, which sank from a torpedo strike when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. He was one of 429 crewmen killed in that attack.