

often, as Americans, take that for granted. Opportunities exist in this country that simply aren't available in much of the world. And my life is an example of the extraordinary possibilities in the United States of America.

I ask you, where else can a kid, born in poverty, beginning life in a subsidized housing project, become a national legislator? Yet, here I stand as a Member of Congress.

In how many countries can the oldest of seven children with parents that are an hourly auto worker and an office worker for the Salvation Army, become the first in their extended family to graduate from college, build a career, become the CEO of a major workforce development company and, after retiring, be elected to Congress?

America is a truly unique and special place that we must love and respect with all our heart and soul.

My mother raised me to believe that those with talents and resources were expected by God to make a difference in the world. I tried to do that in my career throughout my life.

My mission for 35 years was to assist people in identifying and securing career opportunities. My professional career allowed me to support my family, while assisting adults of all ages and backgrounds to develop the skills to support their families and build careers.

I assisted individuals ranging from laid-off steel workers and auto workers, to long-term public assistant recipients, develop the skills they needed to build a career and support their families.

I worked with individuals requiring literacy education, English as a second language, and adults that had worked their same job their entire lives, and suddenly found their jobs and industries had evaporated, and their lives turned upside down.

I worked, in some way or another, with tens of thousands of people searching for assistance in securing a job and a career path. I believed then, and I continue to believe, that most Americans find value and opportunity in working. Sometimes they just need a hand and assistance to overcome adversity.

I brought that passion and commitment to Washington. My mission was to make a difference in the world. I literally approached being a Member of Congress like my career, full tilt, leaving no stone unturned to have a meaningful impact and to make a difference.

It is an honor to stand on this floor, debate issues, and represent the people of Michigan's 10th District. I am proud to be among the 12,500 or so that have had the privilege to serve in Congress.

But I have also begun to ask myself about making a difference in my family. My children of all ages, the youngest just 9, have accepted their dad traveling the country, working a demanding schedule, frequently interrupted by text messages, emails, and phone calls. My spouse, Sherry, has been so sup-

portive and more patient than probably warranted.

A career in Washington was never my objective. My mission has always been to simply address significant challenges this Nation faces: Trade, healthcare, immigration, and infrastructure, to name just a few.

However, it appears to me that rhetoric overwhelms policy, and politics consumes much of the oxygen in this city.

The time has come to make a difference for my family, to focus my time and energy upon them, their needs, their goals.

George Washington is quoted as saying: "I would rather be on my farm than emperor of the world."

As a result, I have decided I will not seek to represent Michigan's 10th Congressional District next term. After serving out the remainder of the 116th Congress, I will return to my family and to our small farm.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF LARRY N. OLINGER

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry N. Olinger, Vice Chairman of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, a dedicated, inspiring leader who passed away July 15, 2019, at the age of 80.

Vice Chairman Olinger grew up in Palm Springs and, later, in Orange County, where he spent many years breeding and racing horses.

From a young age, Vice Chairman Olinger was drawn to enacting positive change in his community through public service.

Vice Chairman Olinger was first elected to Tribal Council in 1961, where he began his 60-year career. He went on to serve in every position on Tribal Council, including secretary, treasurer, chairman, and eventually vice chairman in 2012.

As the first chairman of the Agua Caliente Development Authority, Olinger championed gaming as a Tribal business enterprise, stimulating economic growth and strengthening Tribal sovereignty.

His leadership also spanned from the Native American Rights Fund to the State of California and the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy, where he advocated for the protection of our communities' natural and cultural resources.

Our communities have lost a great man and generational leader in Vice Chairman Olinger's passing. His passion, class, and concern for the well-being of others, including his Tribe and our surrounding communities, was admirable.

I have always admired Chairman Olinger's strong character and lifelong commitment to learning; and I will deeply miss his caring nature and dry sense of humor.

Vice Chairman Olinger often called his "proudest achievement" his marriage to his wife, Susan.

Susan, my heart goes out to you and the entire Olinger family.

I also send my heartfelt condolences to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

We will miss Vice Chairman Olinger deeply; but we can honor his legacy by loving our neighbors, caring for the Earth, and protecting and respecting the rich culture and sovereignty of Tribal communities.

□ 1030

HONORING JESUS RIVERA OSUNA

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jesus Rivera Osuna, a soft-spoken, true family man, who passed away on June 28, 2019, at the age of 74.

Mr. Osuna is the father of my childhood best friend, Oscar Osuna. I spent so much time at the Osuna home that they became my second family, and Mr. Osuna always made me feel welcome and part of the family.

I remember his patience, humility, and loving and calming nature. He was also a kind, stable, and secure male role model in our rough-and-tumble impoverished community.

Mr. Osuna was a hardworking man and ran his own business for 50 years, toiling in the hot desert Sun to repair air-conditioning units in the Coachella Valley community.

He was also a great guitar player. I would listen in amazement to Mr. Osuna play classical guitar alone in his room after a long day at work. He was always so humble. He would stop playing if he noticed anybody nearby, so I would quietly listen from Oscar's room in awe of his talent.

Mr. Osuna married his high school sweetheart, Mary Lou, at 24 years old, and together they raised four children, my second family brothers and sisters—Elvia, Sergio, Oscar, and Lila—three nephews, and supported Mr. Osuna's mother. Mr. and Mrs. Osuna's family has grown to include four grandchildren.

Even in his final days, Mr. Osuna refused to be a burden to his family as he battled the illness that ultimately took his life.

To the Osuna family, I love you, and your dad's story is engraved in my heart and now recorded in our Nation's history.

HONORING SERGEANT MIKE STEPHEN

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our Nation's fallen first responders, Sergeant Mike Stephen, who was killed in the line of duty on July 18.

Sergeant Stephen was a true public servant, having served Arkansas and our Nation as a law enforcement officer, firefighter, and soldier.

Sergeant Stephen began his career as a first responder when he was just 16 years old, following in his father's footsteps by joining the Calico Rock Fire Department.

As a soldier, Mike Stephen rose to the rank of sergeant first class. As a firefighter, Mike Stephen led the Pineville Volunteer Fire Department while he served as a sheriff's deputy. He instilled his values and dedication to public service and his family, all of whom served as volunteer firefighters. Whenever a call came to the Stephen home, the entire family responded.

As a career law enforcement officer, Sergeant Stephen served in the Mountain View Police Department, Arkansas Department of Corrections, and, ultimately, the Stone County Sheriff's Office. Beloved by his colleagues, Sergeant Stephen viewed public service as more than a job. He was always on call 24/7, ready to assist his community in any way. He advocated for first responders by testifying before the Arkansas General Assembly.

On Thursday, July 18, Sergeant Stephen responded to his final call. Early that morning, Sergeant Stephen responded to a domestic welfare call in Leslie, Arkansas. As Stephen performed his duties, shots were fired, and Stephen was struck fatally, as was the suspected shooter.

As Arkansas mourns the loss of Sergeant Mike Stephen, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending my condolences to the Stephen family and honoring the life of a true public servant who gave his life protecting the community he loved.

OUR COUNTRY'S ATTENTION IS FOCUSED ON THE MUELLER REPORT

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, today much of our country's attention is focused on the hearing happening across the street from where we stand. For weeks, pundits have been speculating: What else would the special counsel reveal? Where is that smoking gun or the viral moment?

These questions are understandable, but they also obscure a powerful tool already at this body's disposal as we consider whether or not to hold the President accountable: what we already know. And for that, we turn to the special counsel's report.

Volume I details a "sweeping and systematic" attack by the Russian Government on our democracy, an attack that our President still refuses to acknowledge. Volume II describes 11 different occasions—11—where the actions of the President may have obstructed justice.

The legal framework is pretty straightforward. In criminal cases, an individual must meet the so-called elements of an offense, essentially, a

checklist of actions, which, if each is proven, means that a crime was committed. What follows in the special counsel's report is an exhaustive detailing of facts uncovered and a thorough analysis as to whether the elements of obstruction of justice were met in those 11 instances.

The special counsel instructs, on page 9 of Volume II, that "three basic elements are common to the most relevant obstruction statutes: one, an obstructive act; two, a nexus between the obstructive act and an official proceeding; and three, a corrupt intent."

In a few of the occasions investigated, the special counsel indicates that the evidence is not sufficient to reach that standard. In several others, however, his analysis is crystal clear.

On page 84, the report begins to detail how the President directed White House Counsel Don McGahn to remove the special counsel. "Mueller has to go."

"Call me back when you do it."

The special counsel then applies the law:

One, an obstructive act: page 88, "Substantial evidence supports a conclusion that the President . . . directed McGahn to call Rosenstein to have the special counsel removed."

Two, a nexus: page 89, "Substantial evidence indicates that . . . the President knew his conduct was under investigation by a Federal prosecutor." In fact, the President had tweeted about it.

Three, corrupt intent: page 89, "Substantial evidence indicates that the President's attempts to remove the special counsel were linked . . . most immediately to reports that the President was being investigated for potential obstruction of justice."

Substantial evidence to show that all three elements of the offense are met; substantial evidence that the President obstructed justice; substantial evidence that the President of the United States committed a crime.

There are countless other troubling facts which the special counsel indicates may meet the obstruction threshold.

Page 91, just days after pressuring McGahn, President Trump directs his former campaign manager Corey Lewandowski to deliver a message to Attorney General Jeff Sessions to limit the scope of the Mueller investigation to future election interference alone.

Page 92, the President follows up with Lewandowski with the same request a month later.

Page 96, the President writes Chief of Staff Reince Priebus, "Did you get it?"—referring to Sessions' resignation. "Are you working on it?"—which leads Mr. Mueller to conclude, on page 97, that "taken together, the President's directives indicate that Sessions was being instructed to tell the special counsel to end the existing investigation into his campaign." And, the same page, that "substantial evidence indicates that the President's efforts to

have Sessions limit the scope of the special counsel's investigation . . . was intended to prevent further investigative scrutiny of the President's and his campaign's conduct."

These are the findings of the report, the facts as they were uncovered and applied to the relevant statutes of our criminal law. This is the information already in our hands today.

Summed up by Mr. Mueller's devastating conclusion: "Our investigation found multiple acts by the President that were capable of exerting undue influence over law enforcement investigations, including the Russian interference and obstruction investigations."

The special counsel has done his job. We must do ours.

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

HONORING BOYD W. SORENSON

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Boyd W. Sorenson of Waite Park for receiving France's highest distinction, the Legion of Honor, for his service during World War II.

As a fighter pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps, he flew 89 missions in the European theater during World War II, assisting in the liberation of France.

Mr. Sorenson's service didn't end after World War II. In fact, Boyd went on to fly 72 missions during the Korean war.

Mr. Boyd is no stranger to recognition for his bravery. He has already been awarded the European African Middle Eastern Medal with three bronze stars, the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters, and the Canadian Operational Service Medal with maple leaf cluster.

Boyd is a hero, and his actions helped further the cause of freedom we enjoy today. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Sorenson for his service and congratulate him on another well-deserved award.

CONGRATULATING VIOLET HALVERSON

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Violet Halverson of Sartell, Minnesota. At 94 years old, Violet has just earned herself the silver medal in shuffleboard at the National Senior Games. The National Senior Games were created to promote healthy lifestyles for aging adults through education, fitness, and sport.

Violet began playing shuffleboard in the 1980s. Over the years since, she has participated in recreational leagues and competitions. When she heard about the National Senior Games, she knew she had to compete. Violet won gold her first year, and this year she takes home a silver.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Violet and can't wait to see how she performs next year.