

a man who once suggested that the Central Park Five should be summarily executed for a crime for which they were later exonerated, and could shoot someone in broad daylight with impunity.

Despite these specious arguments, it is likely that these process arguments are only made because the substance of the president's allegations are utterly indefensible.

The American people and their elected representatives cannot be distracted; they are paying close attention to the substantial wrongdoing emanating from this White House.

They know what the President, which is why a clear majority support impeachment and removal of this President.

As the House of Representatives continues its impeachment inquiry, H. Res. 660 is an especially timely piece of legislation, which squarely addresses the concerns of the President's most fervent supporters.

Specifically, this legislation reaffirms that the six investigating committees—including the House Judiciary Committee, of which I am a senior member and which has exclusive jurisdiction to draft Articles of Impeachment—announced by Speaker NANCY PELOSI have been engaged in an impeachment inquiry and directs them to continue their vital work.

That we have been engaged in an ongoing impeachment inquiry was ratified by the Article III branch when Judge Beryl Howell, the Chief Judge for the United States District court for the District of Columbia, recently held that the House is conducting an impeachment inquiry, which does not require a formal floor vote.

Second, H. Res. 660 authorizes the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) to make public transcripts of recent depositions with appropriate redactions made for classified or other sensitive information.

This legislation, too, establishes procedures for all investigating committees to transmit their evidence to the Committee on the Judiciary for use in their proceedings.

The resolution is also prospective, as it relates to these hearings moving from secure intelligence facilities to public view. H. Res. 660 also serves to enable effective public hearings as it permits staff counsels to question witnesses for up to 45 minutes.

This is consistent with precedent established in 1998 of having staff counsel conduct initial questioning, followed by Member questions, by Republicans used to question Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr in 1998.

The resolution also continues the precedent of giving the minority the same rights to question witnesses that was afforded the majority. This has been true at every step of the inquiry.

Additionally, H. Res. 660 also permits the President opportunities to participate in this inquiry, in a manner consistent with past participation by Presidents.

The resolution establishes opportunities for the President or his counsel to participate in impeachment proceedings held by the Committee on the Judiciary, including to present his case and respond to evidence.

The President can submit written requests for additional testimony or other evidence.

The President can attend hearings, including those held in executive session, raise an objection to testimony given and cross-examine witnesses.

But, if the President unlawfully refuses to cooperate with Congressional requests, the

Chair shall have the discretion to impose sanctions to enforce appropriate remedies, including by denying specific requests by the President or his counsel.

H. Res. 660 explicates the procedure that applies after testimony is adduced in the HPSCI.

H. Res. 660 directs the Committee on the Judiciary to review the evidence and, if necessary, to report Articles of Impeachment to the House.

Following the precedent of every modern impeachment inquiry, the Committee on the Judiciary will decide whether Articles shall be reported to the House.

H. Res. 660 is important legislation that specifies the parameters and the terms this body will follow as it undergoes its solemn and constitutional task.

It affords equal time to the Chairman and Ranking Member to question witnesses and it treats the President and his counsel fairly.

And, importantly, it lays out for the American people the manner in which this inquiry will proceed to the House Judiciary Committee—the committee of jurisdiction for impeachment—and where I will bring to bear my decades of experience on Capitol Hill, including the lessons learned in the impeachment of 1998.

Unlike that occasion, the allegations at the heart of this matter are serious, and damning of the president's conduct and fitness to serve and his ability to safeguard our national security.

These allegations represent a violation of his oath, a betrayal of our national interests, a repudiation of Americans' cherished Democratic Values, and a violation of federal campaign finance laws.

When the President stated that Article II permits him to do whatever he wants, he was invoking a fear of Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence.

As the author of one of our nation's enduring documents, Jefferson was well-versed with what troubles would merit the erosion of public trust in its leaders.

After all, the Declaration of Independence was a list of grievances of a lawless King, who felt impunity.

But, almost 50 years after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson wrote to another of our nation's founders: Nathaniel Macon.

In 1821, Jefferson wrote: "Our government is now taking so steady a course, as to shew by what road it will pass to destruction, to wit, by consolidation first; and then corruption, it's necessary consequence."

It is clear that the consolidation that Jefferson feared—and the corruption which he said would be its necessary consequence—has now been realized in the actions of this President.

We will not permit this to continue and we will put a stop to it.

The President will be held to account.

H. Res. 660 is the first step towards that accountability.

Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the House Judiciary Committee and one of only 5 members and one of three Democrats to serve on that House Judiciary Committee during the impeachment of 1998, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 660, a resolution directing committees to continue their ongoing investigations as part of the existing House of Rep-

resentatives inquiry into whether sufficient grounds exist for the House of Representatives to exercise the constitutional power, solely vested in the House of Representatives, to impeach Donald John Trump, the current President of the United States of America.

USMCA

(Mr. COMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reiterate my support for the United States-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement, a commonsense deal that supports farmers and workers.

However, USMCA sits unratified even as President Trump, Mexico, and Canada signed the agreement over a year ago. Each day that the USMCA is not ratified, we are losing out on valuable jobs and opportunities. Speaker PELOSI must get serious about bringing this legislation to a vote in Congress.

My Republican colleagues and I are ready to vote on the deal, but House Democrats setting their sights on the baseless impeachment of the President choose to neglect important opportunities like this.

I just voted against an impeachment resolution against the President when I should be voting on issues like USMCA.

I implore Speaker PELOSI to bring USMCA for a vote so we can finally deliver for American farmers and manufacturers. Let's get back to what we promised the American people we would do.

I hope that my colleagues across the aisle can agree that expanding access to markets, remaining competitive, and growing our economy is what is best for Americans instead of engaging in political shams that do nothing to move this country forward.

SAN PEDRO PACKAGES FOR PATRIOTS

(Ms. BARRAGÁN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, currently military families who send all-important care packages to their loved ones overseas have to pay some postage. These families are already paying a lot just by enduring the absence of their loved one. That is why I am reintroducing the Military Care Package Program Act which would waive these postal fees for family-sent care packages.

In this spirit, I would like to take a moment to recognize an organization in my district called San Pedro's Packages for Patriots. Packages for Patriots have been sending care packages, letters, and comfort items to our Armed Forces members overseas since 2008.

These packages symbolize love and hope. For some soldiers, it truly means the world. This amazing organization was started by San Pedro residents

Mike Walker and his wife, Shirley Vojkovich. Together, along with their group of dedicated volunteers, Packages for Patriots has shipped over 16,000 care packages with over 200,000 pounds of supplies to American service-members deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I am sure every Member of this body would like to join me in applauding their efforts in support of our service-members overseas.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS BRYAN JENKINS

(Mr. YOHO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, Michel de Montaigne once said: "Valor is stability, not of legs and arms, but of courage and the soul."

This quote describes Sergeant First Class Bryan Jenkins of Gainesville, Florida, who tragically lost his life during a military exercise last week in Georgia.

Throughout his 18-year military career, he has distinguished himself as a true patriot. Sergeant First Class Jenkins has a long list of accomplishments. He went on two tours in Iraq and also earned 14 different military awards.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Shana; his three children, Branson, Bryanna, and Delilah, as well as the families of the other two colleagues, Corporal Thomas Walker and Private First Class Antonio Garcia who were also killed during this exercise.

The impact that Sergeant First Class Jenkins had on those around him will not soon be forgotten. We thank him for all the sacrifices he made for this great Nation. He truly was a man of honor.

INTRODUCING THE THREE SEAS RESOLUTION

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce a resolution supporting the Three Seas Initiative to bolster energy infrastructure security in Central and Eastern Europe. I am pleased to co-lead this bipartisan effort with the ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment, ADAM KINZINGER.

Energy security is national security. For years, Russia has sought to undermine liberty and security in Europe by forcing Central and East European nations into reliance on Russia for their energy needs. They do this through projects including the Nord Stream 2 and TurkStream, Russian gas pipelines.

Thankfully, 12 of our closest allies in Central and Eastern Europe have banded together to increase their energy

autonomy through collective financing of energy infrastructure projects: the Three Seas Initiative.

This resolution makes clear U.S.'s strong support for the initiative and encourages member nations to take action on joint financing of future projects. Additionally, it encourages the member nations to consider financing of clean energy projects as the world addresses our dire climate change crises.

In the face of increased Russian aggression, the U.S. must play a leading role in energy security in Europe, and I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

CONGRATULATING OWEN ALLEN

(Mr. WRIGHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WRIGHT. Madam Speaker, 15 years ago a future gridiron star named Owen Allen was born. He was born with a gift, and that gift was superior athletic ability.

At 15 he is already a standout running back for the Southlake Carroll varsity football team. In last week's game alone, he rushed more than 200 yards and scored four touchdowns.

Madam Speaker, Texans love competition, we love champions, and we love winners. We find the best of all these things in high school football. If you want to know why Texans are crazy about those Friday night lights, look no further than Owen Allen. His performance on the field excites and inspires.

Running back Allen was just named the Dallas-Fort Worth High School Offensive Player of the Week. But athleticism is only one of young Mr. Allen's qualities. He is also a young man of great character, integrity, and decency.

As a Member of Congress, I congratulate Mr. Allen and wish him many years of success as an athlete and as a human being. I have prayed God's blessings on him and his family.

ACCIDENTAL SHOOTINGS

(Mr. LEVIN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, every single day, eight kids are killed or injured by unintentional shootings with guns found in the home. Last week a 9-year-old child accidentally shot their 4-year-old sibling in the face at their home in Tennessee. Earlier this year a 4-year-old boy in Oakland barely survived after accidentally shooting himself in the head with a gun he found under the pillow.

These accidental shootings are preventable. That is why I am introducing the Prevent Family Fire Act of 2019, a bipartisan bill to reduce gun violence by providing a modest tax credit to incentivize the sale of things like gun

safes. If we expand safe storage, we can reduce accidental shootings by 73 percent.

It is not just accidental shootings. Over 75 percent of school shootings involve kids and teens having access to unsecured guns at home, and more than 80 percent of guns used by youth in suicide attempts were kept in the home of a victim, a relative, or a friend.

There is much more we need to do to address gunfire, but this commonsense bill is a step we can take to save lives.

VOTERS ARE ANGRY AT MEDIA

(Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Madam Speaker, a Rasmussen poll conducted on October 2 of 2019 found that a sky-high 69 percent of independent voters were "angry" at the media, and over 60 percent of all voters share that anger.

These voters are not upset at the media because they are balanced and fair, they are upset because the media is biased and telling them what to think—or not telling them at all.

The results of this astounding poll didn't appear in the Nation's largest newspapers or the most watched TV news programs and was hardly mentioned on social media.

The media's credibility is already at a record low. The road back to credibility for the media is to give the American people the truth and let them make up their own minds.

AMERICA'S GROWING AGING POPULATION

(Mr. TRONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to praise the House for unanimously passing the Dignity in Aging Act. This act includes two bipartisan bills that I led to respond to challenges facing a growing aging American population: social isolation and younger onset Alzheimer's.

As I heard from seniors and their families in my district at my seniors workshop, we need to do more to support caregivers, improve economic opportunities for older individuals, and ensure Americans can age with dignity, security, and quality of life. This act does that.

This week Democrats and Republicans worked together in Washington to pass the Dignity in Aging Act. That is a win for Congress, a win for seniors, and a win for the American people.