

AMERICANS MARCHED TO DEFEND OUR FOUNDING PROMISE OF EQUALITY FOR ALL

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

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.

In the weeks since Mr. Floyd's murder, over 25 million Americans have marched to defend our founding promise of equality for all.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all those who marched. Their demands for equality have made today possible. I am proud to be a citizen of a country where so many of my fellow citizens are forcing that arc of history to bend a little faster towards justice.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank them all for reminding us of how far we still have to go.

No justice, no peace; because a country founded on the rule of law cannot guarantee peace if that law does not apply equally to all.

Black lives matter; because we still live in a country where the health, wealth, and social disparities between the races make equality anything but a self-evident truth.

Say their names; because the victims, they are not just Black bodies. They were human beings with families and dreams, talents, and flaws.

In a truly colorblind world, the only thing that all these victims would have in common, really in common, is that they shouldn't be dead.

We are not going to end systemic racism today, but we do have the opportunity to correct just a few of our sins, the opportunity to end chokeholds, the opportunity to end no-knock warrants, to make lynching a Federal crime—can you believe we haven't done that yet?—the opportunity to hold police departments to the same standards of equality and fair play that all other employers do.

Mr. Speaker, I implore my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, please, please, please vote "yes" on this bill, not because it means our work is done, not because it means that we are going to end systemic racism, not because what needs to be done is synonymous with a bill that can pass this body in the Senate and get the President's signature.

Vote "yes" on this bill so that you can tell your children that George and Breonna and Tamir—Tamir Rice, who would have turned 18 today—and Trayvon, and Amadou, and Ahmaud, and Emmett, and so many others, vote "yes" so that you can tell your children that they did not die in vain.

RICHARD BARBER: MAN OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a

really fine man, Richard Barber from Jackson, Tennessee.

Richard runs the Aspell Recovery Center in Jackson, and he was recently honored as the Jackson Exchange Club's Man of the Year, a title very much deserved.

I first met Richard through a really good friend of mine, Dr. Ron Kirkland. Ron is a board member of Aspell and wanted me to see the great work that Aspell does in Jackson and the west Tennessee community, treating, mentoring, and loving those who need it the most. Most of the staff members working at Aspell have also traveled the path to recovery.

Richard Barber has been a strong leader in the community, and he has a true commitment to helping those in need.

I have seen firsthand how hard Richard has worked to make changes in the drug and rehabilitation field for those suffering from addiction.

Richard has literally changed lives through Aspell, where he was instrumental in the development of two new expansions: A Mother's Love in Humboldt and the Savannah/Hardin County intensive outpatient care unit.

There is no doubt that without Aspell, so many folks in west Tennessee wouldn't get the care and the wherewithal that they need to survive. Without Richard Barber, there would be no Aspell as we know it today.

Congratulations, Richard. Through your hard work and your incredible humility, you are the right pick for the Exchange Club's Man of the Year. There is no doubt that west Tennessee and the city of Jackson are better because of you.

RECOGNIZING THE BLACK DOCTORS CONSORTIUM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you the inspiring story of a Philadelphia doctor who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in this extraordinary time to combat the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Black and Brown communities in my district and across the country.

As evidence mounted that Black Americans were suffering both from greater exposure to COVID-19 and from less access to testing, Dr. Ala Stanford, a board certified surgeon, was done waiting. She took the community into her own hands, as so many Black women have done when our institutions have failed them, and she recruited a group of Black healthcare workers to form the Black Doctors Consortium.

Staffed by Black doctors, med students, and nurses on their days off, the Black Doctors Consortium has spent the past few months using their own resources to test thousands of patients in church parking lots, union halls, and

rec centers, going into our communities to deliver testing services where they are most needed.

The group recently received a \$1 million grant to expand and plans to start testing 250 to 350 people a day.

Looking ahead, the Black Doctors Consortium plans to use their successful community-based approach to distribute COVID vaccines once they become available.

Dr. Stanford represents the very best of who we are and the leadership we so desperately need in times of crisis.

I thank Dr. Stanford and her entire group for their courage and commitment to addressing inequality with direct action.

WAKE UP, AMERICA

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, what in the world is happening in our God blessed country? A lengthy pandemic decimating our economy and taking over 121,000 precious American lives, followed by the horrific murder of Mr. George Floyd by a bad cop, leading to nationwide protests and demonstrations of people wanting to be heard.

Sadly, all of this has been overshadowed by the violence, looting, destruction, and lawless mayhem in America's major cities.

We have even seen weak and feckless Democrat government leaders acquiesce to anti-American warlords setting up their own countries at the expense of residents and shopkeepers.

This is taking place under the influence of shadowy, anti-American organizations and individuals. We know who they are, so I will not distinguish them by saying their names.

America is awake and willing to address major concerns.

Despite the hundreds of heroic police officers who have been injured, paralyzed, or killed just doing their jobs for us, violent punks continue hijacking the sad event that began all this foment we grieve over. Their goal is to literally tear down and destroy our history and freedoms.

America is under attack. We must wake up before it is too late. These evil forces of destruction are showing us that we can't stop them. Or can we?

John Witherspoon, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, said this: "A republic once equally poised, must either preserve its virtue or lose its liberty."

I don't know his position on slavery at that time, though even as a minister and President of Princeton, I am sure he had his flaws. Yet this message rings true as we view in live time our Nation's loss of virtue and liberty.

The key purpose of government is to reward the doer of good and punish the doer of evil.

Today, the forces of division and anarchy are rejecting this purpose, calling for the defunding and/or ending of police.

While Republicans are offering workable and commonsense justice reform, the Democrat leadership digs in saying “no” to any negotiation. Yet they continue to support or remain silent about the senseless destruction of our cities and history.

Chances are if you were to list the greatest Americans, you may think of George Washington, Teddy Roosevelt, and Ulysses Grant, men who have made tremendous positive impacts on our country, and in doing so, the entire history of humanity. Yet this week, enlightened leftists have gone after statues of these men, attempting to rewrite history and tarnish America’s overwhelmingly positive legacy for humanity.

As with other humans, these men are not perfect, but none of these monuments were erected to honor their shortcomings or faults; they were erected to honor their extraordinary contributions to society.

These men are responsible for some of the most important distinctives: freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the ending of slavery, victory over the Confederacy, and conservation of America’s greatest natural treasures.

Ironically, the rights these vandals and anarchists enjoy, like the right to assemble, would not be possible if not for the very men they ignorantly tear down.

Even the Lincoln Memorial was vandalized recently, the Great Emancipator, who was the first President nominated and elected by the party formed in my district in 1854 Under the Oaks in Jackson, Michigan, the Emancipation/Republican Party.

Make no mistake: this is an attack on America itself, not an attempt to make reforms or anything else the defenders of these cowardly acts may claim.

Few in the Democratic Party have spoken out against these acts, which leads me to wonder, at what point did pride in America become a partisan issue?

□ 0945

Is it because these anarchist acts are taking place in Democrat-run cities?

Is it because these are the same people that they have directed all of their so-called antipoverty, social welfare, Big-Government-will-take-care-of-you programs toward?

Or is it because Democrat leadership fears crossing the big-moneyed, sinister individuals and organizations masterminding radical societal change?

What exactly is the endgame of these attempts to erase and rewrite history? Could it be the destruction of the American idea or America itself?

I call for my colleagues, Democrat and Republican, and America-loving patriots to stand with me as proud Americans in our fight against anarchy and ignorance. May we be people who, with courage and humility, echo the words of our Framers in pledging “our

lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor” to defending and perfecting America.

ELEVATING VOICES OF BLACK LEADERS

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, the recent killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Rayshard Brooks by police officers have highlighted the anguish and injustices that Black communities have experienced for generations; have shook our Nation to its core; and made evident, starkly, the racial injustice in our Nation.

As we watch the unrest, as we hear the pain, it is imperative we ask ourselves: What are we doing about it?

It is more important than ever that we have the difficult but necessary conversations to address racially targeted excessive use of force and racial profiling by police who do not follow their own professional code of conduct. There must be dialogue. There must be a humble willingness to listen, reflect, and come together to make change.

In the last few weeks, that is exactly what we have done in my district, in California’s 36th. Over the past few weeks, I held listening sessions and roundtables to elevate the voices and experiences of leaders in the Black community. They shared their stories, perspectives, and recommendations for change.

I also convened an important dialogue between African-American leaders and our local police chiefs. Our local police chiefs have come to the table with open ears and a willingness to be part of that change that we seek.

These conversations were impactful and productive. We outlined next steps, steps like banning choke holds, expanding the use of body cameras, increasing transparency and accountability, increasing community engagement, and annual mental health wellness checks for police officers.

I am encouraged by the progress, and I look forward to the hard work that will lead to real change in our community, change that will move our community and Nation from internalizing despair to externalizing hope and action for change.

SUPPORTING ACA ENHANCEMENT

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, as an emergency physician, I have seen the faces of failed healthcare policies. I have looked into the eyes of the suffering when they couldn’t afford care. I have cried with families who have lost a loved one, knowing it could have been prevented with routine care if only they had health insurance.

Even now, I have gone into hard-to-reach and high-risk communities and personally conducted COVID-19 testing, watching the health inequities and disparities play out in real time, seeing disproportionately higher rates of transmission and deaths in low-income,

uninsured, Latino, farmworker, and the homeless communities.

As a physician and humanitarian, I find it unconscionable, repulsive, that during a global pandemic, while millions are infected by COVID-19 and millions more are unemployed and struggling economically, that the Trump administration is actively working to repeal the Affordable Care Act through the Supreme Court.

Repealing the ACA would be a disaster, leading to millions of families facing financial hardships and many, many more deaths from COVID-19.

Repealing the ACA would eliminate protections for people with preexisting conditions, the very same conditions that render a person more likely to die from COVID-19.

Repealing the ACA would take away health insurance from millions of Americans who, for the first time, have health insurance because of the Medicaid expansion.

It is precisely during this time that we must work to expand healthcare access and make it affordable, which is what H.R. 1425, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act, would do.

It is precisely now that we need to lower healthcare premiums for middle-class families, encourage States to expand Medicaid, strengthen protections for preexisting conditions, and lower the cost of prescription drugs.

I support this bill for the people, and I will continue fighting for the people to make healthcare more accessible and affordable for the people.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o’clock and 49 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARSON of Indiana) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Lord of us all, thank You for giving us another day.

With the House back at the Capitol, we ask Your protection on them and all who work for and with them in their important work. The ravages of the coronavirus are spreading still in various sections of our Nation, sections from which Members have returned to gather here.

Bless and inspire those who labor to bring treatments and cures to those suffering from and threatened by COVID-19.