

corrupt the intel and these other folks had become.

If you want a real fact witness, it ought to be Brennan and Clapper. Of course, we saw how comfortable they have been lying under oath when testifying before Congress. It would be nice if they were held accountable.

It would be nice if Koskinen had been held accountable, if Loretta Lynch had been held accountable, because right now, after all these abuses during the Obama years, people got very arrogant about their abuses of their positions, and nobody has been made to pay. That needs to happen.

But we don't need to have people who are comfortable lying under oath come down to testify at a big circus in the Senate Chamber. They should adopt exactly what they did under the Clinton rules.

If they have witnesses, depose them, use the testimony from the depositions. Senators from both parties can submit questions to be asked, but they ought to follow exactly the rules exactly the way they did during the Clinton impeachment. They shouldn't be taking new witnesses.

Like Andy McCarthy says, the Senate should not be asked to do the job that the House should have done but did not. He is exactly right about that.

I would encourage, Mr. Speaker, and I hope, the Senate will hold to those rules. They were rules that were demanded and agreed to under the Clinton impeachment during the Clinton administration. They seemed to have been fair rules back then. They ought to enforce them exactly the same way: no live witnesses in the Chamber. That is not the place to have an investigation.

There is no high crime; there is no misdemeanor. None of those were charged.

We heard about bribery. We heard about Russia, Russia, Russia. We know that the real crimes regarding Russia were committed by Christopher Steele; potentially the DNC; and the Clinton campaign, which paid Fusion GPS, which paid Christopher Steele, who worked possibly with—he said, yeah, it is possible that maybe they worked for Putin, the people he got his information from. Maybe they were involved with Ukraine. We are not sure.

Obviously, the Hillary Clinton campaign and the DNC paid foreign individuals to interfere in our election.

It amazes me that even some smart reporters have said all this Ukraine stuff has been disproven. No, it hasn't. They act as if Russia and Ukraine activity—that you couldn't have misconduct in Russia and also have misconduct in Ukraine. Absolutely you could. In fact, we know that countries around the world, including China, have been trying to affect our elections.

For those who have been students of Russia and their current highest leader, Putin, Putin didn't care so much who got elected in that election. We

have heard testimony that they provided things to help Hillary Clinton as well. That doesn't come out in the media a whole lot because it is not consistent with what the alt-left media would have you believe.

But they did things to help Hillary Clinton, and they did things to help Donald Trump. They were not as much interested in who got elected as they were about dividing America, and they have been extremely successful with that.

America is divided. It is terribly divided. People get mad at each other in this Chamber and in committees. It is so frustrating. I hope it doesn't get as bad in the Senate as it has here.

But Putin succeeded. And they didn't have to spend hardly any money, not much money, to divide America.

They have tried for so long, yet here, with some unknowing allies, they have been able to divide America like hadn't happened in the last 150 years. It is tragic.

I am hopeful that Senators will understand that the accounts they have seen in the media are rarely factual, that they are going to have to do a little bit of digging, that they are not going to be able to take summaries at face value, and that they need to do some real digging, do some real homework to find out exactly what the facts are. They will be amazed.

I am hoping that people who will be deposed will include Alexandra Chalupa, Eric Ciaramella, Abigail Grace, and Sean Misko. I have said that for months.

Some report stories and say: "Oh, Gohmert named the whistleblower." No, I didn't. I named four fact witnesses. Apparently, all these media folks must know who the whistleblower is to say that I named him.

I have never named a whistleblower. We were told earlier on apparently it was a male, but I haven't named the whistleblower ever. I have named people I think are fact witnesses and that I think would be very good to have in depositions in the Senate. I hope they will be called.

I don't think they need Vindman again. They certainly don't need law professors who are so inconsistent and just have a law professor act like he is really reluctant to talk about impeachment, have people talk about how serious and how reluctant they are, when, actually, like in the case of the Harvard professor, he has been talking about it since right after the election. He has been trying to come up with ways to impeach President Trump. These were not honest witnesses.

Then you have people like Turley, Professors Turley and Dershowitz, who were actually trying to be fair and who have been extremely consistent. I have had profound disagreements with both of those professors on some issues, but I have always found them to be honest.

Some people are shocked that I have liberal friends who are Democrats. When people are honest, you under-

stand where they are coming from. When they haven't lied to you, you can work together. That can happen, and it does happen here.

I hope that this impeachment stuff ends so that we can get back to helping the President help America, as he has been doing for 3 years. He has done an extraordinary job. Until the impeachment is over, apparently, that is not going to happen.

For those who believe in the power of prayer, we need to be asking God for mercy. I would implore people who believe in the power of prayer in the United States: Do not pray for justice because we don't want God's justice to come down on America or we are over.

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We need mercy. We need grace. We need direction, and we need to come back to the place where we recognize there is an absolute right or wrong. It comes from a universal source, as C. S. Lewis talked about, where he came from being an atheist to becoming, ultimately, a Christian.

But the realization started that he could never know that there was a fair and unfair, a right and wrong, a just or unjust, unless there was some ubiquitous universal standard of right and wrong. Otherwise, he would be like a man born blind. If you have never seen the light, how can you know that there is light and dark? You have never seen it. You have never experienced it.

So there has to be something placed in our hearts that gives us an idea of right and wrong, truth and untruth. And just because, as he said, some people come closer to hitting it right, doesn't mean there is no absolute right and wrong, just or unjust.

We need to get back to the point where truth matters, justice matters. And when we have officials, as we still do—we still have some in our Justice Department, in our intelligence department or agencies, in the FBI—and we do need a new FBI Director, he is part of the problem—but until we get back to having people in the Justice Department, in intel, who are honest, honorable, just, upright people, then we will continue our slide toward the dustbin of history.

No Nation lasts forever. The United States won't. But my prayer is that we will come together and do the things that will allow this country to succeed as a Republic with people having freedom for at least 50 more years. Is that too much to ask?

I know people are worried about climate change. We won't make another dozen years where we are right now unless we have some massive reform within our government. We need to come together to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 15 U.S.C.

1024(a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Joint Economic Committee:

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, to rank after Mr. BEYER of Virginia.

**DISINFORMATION IS THE BIG MAMA OF ALL WEAPONS TARGETING OUR NATION**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, our Nation has gone through quite a tumultuous first 15 days of 2020. We marched right up to the brink of war after President Donald Trump authorized the assassination of Iranian General Soleimani. And even though the Iranians did launch a measured attack, it is like the argument that the husband believed he won with his wife. It ain't over yet.

Long before the current crisis with Iran, our peerless intelligence agencies began warning us of robust cyberattacks from Russia, China, North Korea, and, of course, Iran. These nations are all hell-bent on doing damage to us and using bots, an online method of passing disinformation to unsuspecting Americans, with the ultimate goal of turning unsuspecting Americans against each other.

If we do that, we are repeating or allowing the repetition of what the Russians did in 2016, which is to again meddle in our upcoming quadrennial election.

Now, for me, it is difficult to blame our enemies for seeking to exploit the weaknesses in our society, because it is so crystal clear to me that we are doing to ourselves what our enemies have been unable to do in the last 150 years.

Our current extreme political partisanship and reliance on social media—which is, by the way, littered with disinformation—but with that, we have allowed a well to be dug into the soul of American democracy. Our Nation is wounded and it is a wound that our enemies will seek to further infect.

Sadly, I must give some frightening news to our Nation. This, I guess, is a matter of national security information. Russia has designed and advanced the most menacing, yet non-nuclear weapons on Earth. Every American should know that the blast from this bomb can do greater damage to our Nation than the combined marching armies of Hitler, Mussolini, and Tojo.

Mr. Speaker, I say to my fellow Americans: We are now threatened by the big mama of all weapons. It is called disinformation and the delivery system is called Facebook and other forms of social media.

In many ways, Congress has been complicit in this tribalistic way in

which we conduct business in our Nation. We have opened wide the door to a brazen alien incursion into our elections. Some Members of this august body are actually pushing disinformation into the delivery system.

In days gone by, kings and lords built their fortresses around deep wells to provide cool and clear water for those who lived inside the garrison. Strategically, these wells were inside the walls of forts so that at a time of an attack from the enemy, the water supply could never be blocked so that the life-saving water, in a time of war, would be controlled by those inside the fort. Therefore, the inhabitants would not be at the mercy of invaders.

Here is the point: If our great Republic could be led by our leaders into the babbling, cool waters of internal one-ness and toleration, we will not be victims of the kind of vicious misinformation that has been flowing across this Nation now for a number of years. We would not be vulnerable to the whims of those who wish to do us harm.

Mr. Speaker, I close with an ominous note: Most of the great empires throughout the history of the world fell into decline not because of some new military juggernaut, but because of internal fighting and the failure to appreciate the amazing ethnic and racial mosaic that is uniquely ours as Americans.

Will that happen to us? Let me just say that we can only be saved by the well water of civility and decency inside our Nation. We control what is inside our Nation. What we need most is inside our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we please accept and remember and meditate on this: Under the right conditions, even the most inspirational democracy in the history of the world can wane.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM “BILL” GRAVES WOFFORD, JR.**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES) for 30 minutes.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William “Bill” Graves Wofford, Jr., of Rockwall, Texas, who passed away on October 29, 2019, at the age of 95.

Bill was born on May 1, 1924, in Fort Worth, Texas to William Graves Wofford, Sr., and Margaret Melinda Wofford.

As a very young man, Bill left his family to fight in World War II and to defend our country. He proudly served in both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy. At the close of the war, at the age of 21, Bill returned to the States to pursue an education from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Following graduation, Bill returned home to Texas where he embarked on

his 27-year career alongside business partner, Bob Timberlake, to form Timberlake & Wofford, a manufacturing representative firm that served the north Texas area and experienced great success.

Bill is remembered for his great sense of humor and his gentle personality. His love of sailing and the outdoors led him to help found the Rush Creek Yacht Club.

Bill was not only a leader in his community, but a friend to all: a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Wofford family. We also lift up the family and friends of Bill Wofford in our prayers.

I have requested that the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor his life, legacy, and his service to our country.

As I close today, I ask all Americans to continue praying for our country during these difficult times, for the brave men and women who serve in our military who protect us, and for our first responders who protect us here at home.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF DEPUTY SHERIFF MATTHEW RYAN JONES**

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Matthew Ryan Jones of Waco, Texas.

Deputy Sheriff Jones was killed on October 11, 2019 in the line of duty as he assisted a motorist on the side of an area highway.

Matt was born on February 7, 1989, in Waco, Texas, to Ronnie and Debbie Coleman Jones. He graduated from Connally High School and the Texas State Technical College in Waco before joining the Falls County Sheriff's Office in August of 2015.

Matt bravely served his community for 4 years, most recently being named the department's canine deputy. Fellow first responders have sung the praises of their fallen brother stating that: Matt “never backed down from a challenge and understood the nature of policing in a small community.”

Matt was not only a proud public servant, he was a friend to all, a loving husband, and an avid outdoorsman. Matt enjoyed spending time in nature, hunting, fishing, and riding his ATV.

Mr. Speaker, Matt's life was defined by his service to his community. He will be forever remembered by his community as a husband, a son, a brother, and a selfless public servant.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Jones family. We also lift up the family and friends of Matthew in our prayers.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor his life, legacy, and his service to our central Texas community.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue to pray for our country, for our military men and women who protect us overseas, and for our first responders who keep us safe here at home.