

For nearly three decades, a Supreme Court Justice who hammered out brave decisions and dissents that shone a light toward the future of dignity and justice for all, for which we all long, and on these High Holy Days we reaffirm faithfully is a possible and, indeed, necessary future.

A teacher-Justice, who crafted these decisions in a manner not only meant to make law in the moment, but to teach future Justices, lawyers, and the general public how law and power function in the real world.

In the end, the Justice-turned-icon, Notorious RBG, the most unlikely rock star, whose seeming diminutive frailty was the falsest thing about her, hiding a will of steel, that galloping mind, and a glint in her eye that told every girl: I am with you; and indeed: You are me; we are one.

Why must we breathe in the full measure of this person before we turn to the tragedy of her death at this incredible low point in the history of our Nation? Why can't we just turn with anxiety and determination to the next fight, the fight over RBG's replacement? Because in pausing to appreciate Ruth Bader Ginsburg fully, we see the importance of brilliant strategy and steely determination and good humor.

Reflecting on her astounding accomplishments, we realize that justice can win in the end. Amidst our tears, we realize we have no choice but to listen to her, and to John Lewis, and others we have lost in a moment of turmoil when we need them most, to study their ways, pick up their tools, and march on towards justice.

You want a Rosh Hashanah that tests your faith? Try losing RBG to start things off. You want to make 5781 a year of hope and joy? Try taking immense pride in the outsize accomplishments of this tiny Jew and vowing to make her proud of us. Only then, after we immerse ourselves in prayer, reflection, and intention-setting, will we be fully ready to meet the coming moment.

IMF IN THE PANDEMIC

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness about an ongoing issue that is happening at the International Monetary Fund as it combats COVID-19.

As the lead Republican on the Subcommittee for National Security, International Development, and Monetary Policy for the House Financial Services Committee, I invite your attention to a bad policy proposal.

During this time of crisis, the IMF provides financial assistance and debt service relief to its 189 member countries. As a part of the COVID relief, some IMF members, particularly China, have been lobbying for billions in extra relief through a new allocation of Special Drawing Rights, or SDRs.

SDRs are an international reserve asset used to provide liquidity and supplement countries' official reserves. And unlike a typical IMF loan, Mr. Speaker, SDRs do not require repayment. Now, this idea has gained traction among certain congressional Democrats, notably Senator DURBIN and Representatives WATERS and GARCIA, who have proposed allocating no fewer than two trillion SDRs—equivalent to \$2.8 trillion—to the IMF's member countries.

What the Democrats might not fully understand is that if the IMF were to allocate this additional two trillion SDRs, the allocation would be made in line with IMF shareholding weights, not financial need.

This means that the bulk of SDRs would not go to the poorest countries with hundreds of billions of dollars instead going to the richest nations in the world.

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Even worse, Mr. Speaker, \$170 billion would go to China, \$20 billion to Iran, \$75 billion to Russia, \$17 billion to Assad's Syria, and \$20 billion to the failed state in Venezuela.

These billions would represent no-strings-attached liquidity for the world's most brutal dictatorships. However, there is an alternate way to ensure the IMF is able to provide assistance to countries that truly need it.

The IMF has two trust funds that can lend or provide grants to the poorest and most vulnerable countries during emergencies, as we have with the pandemic. This is the proposal of House Republicans and of the Trump administration.

Preventing blanket SDR allocations demonstrates that the United States is a leader to help the poorest nations in the midst of this pandemic, but also a leader in accountability in our multilateral institutions. A financial windfall for terrorists and authoritarians is the wrong approach.

HISTORIC BREAKTHROUGH FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I was honored to attend the signing of the historic Abraham Accords at the White House, which represents a historic breakthrough for peace in the Middle East. Bahrain and the UAE are the first Arab countries to normalize relations with Israel in two decades.

I applaud President Trump, Prime Minister Netanyahu, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, and King Hamad Al Khalifa for coming together to achieve this critical milestone and step forward.

This achievement proves the success of President Trump's undeniable support for the State of Israel and dedication to U.S. leadership in the region.

I look forward to continuing to work with the administration and our allies around the world to build upon these agreements, develop deeper diplomatic ties, and strengthen our relationships.

RECOGNIZING CANDACE FRANKS

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Candace Franks, who is retiring as the commissioner of the Arkansas State Bank Commission after 13 years in that top position and more than 40 years with the Arkansas State Bank Department. I am proud to have known and worked alongside Candace for over a quarter century.

Candace Franks has been a trailblazer in many regards. Candace is the first woman to serve as the Arkansas bank commissioner in its 107-year history, the first professional bank regulator to serve in the position, and the longest serving commissioner as well.

During Candace's many years of service, she has been a good steward for Arkansas' funds. In 1980, when she began her career, the institutions under the Arkansas State Bank Department held \$7 billion in assets. Today, they hold more than \$123 billion.

In addition to her work as Arkansas bank commissioner, she serves as the chairman of the Conference of State Bank Supervisors, a member of the State Board of Finance, and a member of the Board of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System.

I thank Candace for her devotion.

HONORING LIFE OF FORMER NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an American patriot, a great and good man, and a hero of mine, Brent Scowcroft, who passed away recently.

From humble roots, Brent rose to become an Air Force general, the National Security Advisor to two Presidents, and a statesman whose counsel was sought by policymakers of all political stripes.

After his passing, Brent's family and friends held a ceremony to celebrate his life. They described Brent as an exceptional public servant who left an indelible stamp on U.S. foreign policy and on the National Security Council as an institution.

Brent's contributions as National Security Advisor may be his primary legacy, but what I find most striking about the tributes to Brent are not what they say about him as a professional, but what they say about him as a person.

As Stephen Hadley put it: "There are few people in Washington who were as respected and revered as Brent Scowcroft. It was not just because of what he did. . . . It was because of who he was. A true gentleman . . . much loved by all who had the privilege of working with him."

Bob Gates noted that Brent was "tough as nails on matters he cared about," but also "the most decent, kindest, and humble person I have ever known."

These words resonate with me because I was one of the many people who had the honor to call Brent a role model and a friend. Brent served as a mentor to multiple generations of men and women who valued his wisdom and sought to emulate his example.

I met Brent between my sophomore and junior year of college when I interned at The Scowcroft Group, a firm Brent founded after leaving government.

I was assigned to write a piece on the prospect of Russia selling missiles to Cyprus. I remember gingerly asking Brent for guidance in the way a young nobody approaches a distinguished somebody, expecting to be brushed off. He couldn't have been kinder, patiently walking me through the intricacies of the issue, telling me stories about his experience negotiating with the Soviets, and making me feel at ease.

It was these small acts of grace, repeated so many times, for so many people, when nobody else was watching, that made Brent so special.

Our first meeting was the start of a lifelong friendship that I cherished. Brent took more joy in the success of others than in his own success, and he genuinely cared about me, my family, and my career.

I know how happy he was when his former intern became the first Vietnamese-American woman ever elected to Congress. It made me proud to make him proud.

In fact, it was Brent Scowcroft who is partially responsible for my decision to enter public service. As luck would have it, Brent gave the commencement speech at my college graduation. His message was about the importance of a strong but humble American leadership around the world. It was also about the value of public service, especially government service.

Brent's words stirred something in me. I was a refugee from Vietnam whose family's life had been saved by the U.S. Navy. Brent's speech made me realize that public service might be the best way for me to chisel away at the debt of gratitude I owed this country.

I recalled that speech after 9/11, when I left my private-sector job, went to grad school, and on to work at the Department of Defense. I also recalled that speech a decade later when I made what some might call a foolhardy decision to run for Congress.

After Brent's passing, I tracked down that speech. It wasn't easy because Brent often wrote things by himself and then tended to throw them away, which was consistent with his unpretentious character.

Reading it again made me emotional, and it made me miss Brent. It still inspires me all these years later. In the speech, Brent asked me and my young classmates, our futures before us, to reflect on what we would like our epitaph to say after we drew our last breath.

Then he offered this gentle advice: "I would hope that many of you would consider turning to public service.

There is something enormously fulfilling about being engaged in something bigger than you yourself. It imparts a satisfying sense of purpose which, in my experience, is not attained in any other way. And there is a desperate need in this country for good people to man our government structures. I know it is getting more and more difficult to be a public servant. We have driven many of our best people away. But I ask you to consider public service, not because it is easy, but because it is hard, rewarding, and oh-so-necessary. How well the wonderful things this great Nation stands for will be preserved and projected will depend on the quality of people whose hands are on the helm of state."

This Nation was blessed to have Brent's steady hands on the helm of state.

Ginny Mulberger, one of Brent's closest friends and colleagues, said the word that best described Brent was "devotion." He was devoted to his country, his family, and his friends.

His legacy will be carried forward by men and women he taught, mentored, and inspired to pursue public service. What better epitaph could there be?

Rest in peace, General.

PROMISE OF OPERATION WARP SPEED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Operation Warp Speed moves us closer to a cure for COVID-19. Thanks to President Trump, the administration, and the private sector, a viable vaccine is now within reach.

Operation Warp Speed has proceeded at an unprecedented pace, and it reflects a profound level of urgency. It is a direct reflection of President Trump's commitment to protecting the American people.

Taxpayers at the Federal level have committed over \$10 billion to support the development of a vaccine, and the private sector has stepped up to meet this challenge head-on.

Keep in mind that many vaccines and their subsequent clinical trials can take many years to complete. Without a doubt, we are closer to eradicating COVID-19 thanks to Operation Warp Speed.

PROGROWTH POLICIES BENEFIT AMERICANS

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in a recent report released by the U.S. Census, it was revealed that the median household income in the United States rose by 6.8 percent in 2019. I want to repeat that. The median household income in the United States rose by 6.8 percent in 2019.

This was the highest annual increase on record, and it is all thanks to the commonsense, progrowth policies that are being led by President Trump and congressional Republicans.

Not surprisingly, household incomes also grew 50 percent faster last year

than the entire 8 years of the Obama administration.

The good news doesn't stop there. New small business applications increased twice as much in President Trump's first 2 years in office versus President Obama's last 2.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite evident that progrowth policies are the difference between inflating government bureaucracy and empowering American families. It is just that simple.

Mr. Speaker, on September 23, there was an article in The Washington Times titled "Trump creates jobs. Biden destroys them. It's not complicated," and I include in the RECORD the article.

TRUMP CREATES JOBS. BIDEN DESTROYS THEM. IT'S NOT COMPLICATED.

Trump's record proves that he knows how to create a strong economy.

Donald Trump has proven that he knows what it takes to create jobs on a massive scale and ensure that prosperity is shared by all Americans. Democrat presidential nominee Joe Biden doesn't even know how many letters are in the word "jobs."

President Trump's record proves that he knows how to create a strong and growing economy that generates enormous opportunity for all Americans to succeed. Prior to the artificial contraction caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the national unemployment rate had been consistently hovering at a 50-year low, and joblessness had reached the lowest level ever recorded for both black and Hispanic workers.

The president's pro-growth economic policies played a major role in creating the strongest economy in history, which was a particularly impressive feat after eight years of stagnation under the Obama-Biden administration. The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, for example, cut taxes for every income bracket, particularly benefitting middle-income Americans. The tax bill also created Opportunity Zones, driving tens of billions of dollars in new investment to historically underdeveloped communities in every state, providing jobs, housing, and infrastructure necessary to revive those communities.

Mr. Trump's emphasis on targeted deregulation has also made it easier and more efficient to create jobs and start new business ventures in this country. In 2012, halfway through the Obama-Biden era, federal regulations were placing a massive burden on the small businesses that account for almost half of all jobs in this country, costing an average of \$11,724 each year in regulatory compliance costs for each new employee they hired. The Trump administration slashed tens of billions of dollars worth of harmful, job-killing regulations, saving American households over \$3,000 per year on average. Mr. Biden, however, is vowing to undo these effective policies and replace them with even more crippling taxes and regulations than before, particularly on middle-income Americans. His proposals to eliminate entire industries such as fracking and increase the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour would be a blow to small- and medium-sized businesses that are only just getting back on their feet after months of pandemic-related lockdowns.

We don't have to take him at his word, though. Mr. Biden, a career politician who has spent nearly half a century in Washington, has a long history of supporting job-killing policies such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which cost Americans over a million jobs. Mr. Biden also supported normalizing trade relations