

November, Republicans will be the ones to fix it.

NO ONE IS ABOVE OR BENEATH THE LAW

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. And still I rise, Mr. Speaker, and still I rise.

Mr. Speaker, a monumental motif of American jurisprudence is the basic premise that no one is above the law. It doesn't matter your station in life, it doesn't matter whether you are the President of the United States, and it doesn't matter how much money you have. No one is above the law.

I would also remind us, Mr. Speaker, that there is a compelling corollary to this premise, and it is that no one is beneath the law. No one is above the law, yes, but no one is beneath the law. It doesn't matter how poor you are. It doesn't matter what kind of job you have. It doesn't matter whether you are a janitor or you are a sanitation worker. It doesn't matter. You are not beneath the law in this country. Even if you are an asylee coming here from another country, you are not beneath the law.

□ 1015

I'm so proud, Mr. Speaker, to announce to my colleagues that the D.C. Council will vote on a migrant bill today. It seems that on Tuesday there will be an emergency bill to establish an Office of Migrant Services for the thousands who are being brought here by Governors of Texas and Florida.

These persons in Washington, D.C., they are doing the righteous thing. They are trying to help lawful asylees as they traverse to their destiny. The Governors of Florida and Texas, they would have derailed the Underground Railroad. They would have been the persons who were out looking for those who were seeking freedom.

I am proud of the Mayor of Washington, D.C. I don't know how efficacious the program will be, but I do know that they are making an effort. For this effort, I not only commend them, I will do whatever I can to help them. It is time for us to realize that no one is beneath the law. Asylees are not beneath the law. They are law-abiding persons. The mere fact that they have submitted themselves and seek to have this opportunity to live in this country means that they have broken no law.

I have a question for the Governors of Texas and Florida. Here is my question: You are spending millions to bring people out of their way and to some extent put them in harm's way. I have a question for you: How much will you spend to help them get to their hearings? How much will you spend to help them continue their journey?

Yours is not a righteous cause. Yours is a cause to do what you can to prevent lawful, law-abiding asylees from

having their day in court. History will not be kind to you. You ought to be ashamed of what you do.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

WE MUST NEVER BE ENEMIES

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, as the tensions of the Civil War reached a boiling point, President Lincoln vainly reached out to Democrats with these words: "We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies."

The contrast with Mr. Biden's September 1 speech in Philadelphia is jarring. In it, and many remarks since, Mr. Biden clearly addresses the 74 million Americans who voted for Donald Trump as enemies who "threaten the very foundation of our Republic." He condemned us as "extremists" who "do not respect the Constitution," and who "do not believe in the rule of law" and who "refuse to accept the results of a free election." In other forums, he has called us "semi-fascists."

Mr. President, we revere our Constitution and the structure of individual liberty that it was designed to protect. We do not understand how a government established under that Constitution could use the FBI to pressure social media platforms to censor and suppress free speech or to intimidate parents concerned about their school boards with threat tags or to instruct its field offices to regard anyone who displays our founding American flag as a political extremist.

Mr. President, we revere the rule of law and our Nation's promise of equal justice under law. We do not understand how our immigration laws can simply be ignored as millions of foreign nationals illegally enter our country. We do not understand how a dispute over records justifies an armed raid on a former President who is also a political rival.

We do not understand how public health officials can order our schools and businesses closed or suspend our fundamental rights to worship and assemble with no vote of the people's Representatives. We do not understand how obvious influence peddling by the son of a President can be ignored for years.

Mr. President, of course we accept the results of a free election, but we do not understand how the safeguards to protect the integrity of our elections can be torn down to benefit one party. Replacing in-person election day voting with mail-in ballots, ballot harvesting, month-long voting, accepting ballots after election day, printing ballots on home computers—all of these changes undermine public confidence in the process that is essential to democracy.

We wonder how you can call MAGA candidates a fundamental threat to our

Republic while your party spends millions of dollars to nominate them when you believe it may help you in November.

Mr. President, we can condemn all forms of violence and especially political violence in the strongest possible terms. The riot at the Capitol on January 6 was a disgrace and an abomination that you are right to condemn, and we join you in doing so.

But we don't understand how you can at the same time turn a blind eye to prosecuting the political violence that burned our cities the year before or how you can refuse to enforce the laws that protect our Supreme Court Justices from intimidation at their own homes.

Mr. President, we, too, fear for our democracy. We fear armed bureaucracies that seem increasingly disconnected from the results of our elections. We remember that the IRS singled out ordinary Americans because of their political views, yet no one was held accountable, and now we are adding 87,000 new agents to that bureaucracy.

We fear arbitrary changes in our election laws calculated to skew results. We fear an executive branch that is increasingly taking over the legislative powers of Congress and judicial powers of the courts. We fear the powers of government wielded by officials who view half of our people as dangers, threats, and extremists—your words, Mr. President.

Lincoln spoke of the mystic chords of memory tracing back to the founding of our Nation that must hold us together as Americans. As friends and not enemies. Yet we see these chords increasingly strained by an alien ideology that seems hostile to the flag, the principles, and the heritage of our Nation.

We have only one President, Mr. President, and that is you. I didn't vote for you, and I won't vote for you again, but you are still my President. And the 74 million Americans who voted for Donald Trump are still your fellow citizens.

As the person most responsible for the policies we now live with and the future that is unfolding before us, I ask you to engage us as a friend and not an enemy. We must not be enemies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are again reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY THE FAIRVIEW FIRE

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the communities affected by the Fairview Fire and thank the first responders who heroically battled the flames.

The Fairview fire started on September 5, and within a matter of hours

residents of Hemet were forced to evacuate their homes.

Since then, the fire has burned over 28,300 acres, caused two deaths, and destroyed at least 36 homes or commercial structures—proving to be one of the largest and most destructive fires our local communities have ever seen.

To the families who have lost a loved one, our neighbors who have had to leave behind their homes, and the students who had to miss school, know that my heart is with you, and I stand ready to support you in any way that I can.

In the last 15 days we have faced much devastation. We have experienced uncertainty, grief, and fear. We have seen the havoc wildfires can wreak on our families, environment, and livelihoods. We have also been moved by the resiliency of our communities.

Through it all, I have been touched by the kindness and strength exhibited by every neighbor, firefighter, law enforcement officer, and volunteer who has pitched in to help keep us safe.

To our first responders from: Hemet Fire Department; CAL FIRE Riverside; CAL FIRE Incident Management Team 6; Riverside County Sheriff's Department; Cahuilla Fire; U.S. Forest Service; Bureau of Land Management; Idyllwild Fire Department; and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, thank you for your immense heroism.

It is because of each and every one of you—the men and women fighting the fire who have put your lives on the line—that the Fairview fire is now almost completely contained. There were 856 responders and 22 crews from these departments who stepped up without hesitation.

For their responsiveness and work to keep local families informed throughout the Fairview fire, I especially want to acknowledge the Fairview Fire Unified Command: Hemet Fire Department Chief Eddie Sell; CAL FIRE Chief Josh Jansen; Riverside County Sheriff's Department Lieutenant John Shulda; and the U.S. Forest Service Chief Jim Snow.

I also want to thank: CAL FIRE Incident Commander Deputy Chief Jeff Veik; CAL FIRE Incident Command Team 6 Staff Chief Andy Turner and Deputy Chief Dave Scheurich; Riverside County Fire Department Chief Dan Olson; Idyllwild Fire Department Chief Mark LaMont, and Cahuilla Fire Chief Randy Sandoval.

At the fire's highest point, nearly 38,000 individuals were under threat and forced to evacuate. I am incredibly grateful to them for their leadership, as well as every volunteer who pitched in at evacuation sites from Hemet to Temecula.

To everyone with the Riverside County Emergency Management Department, Riverside Department of Animal Services, and the American Red Cross who has contributed to evacuation and prevention efforts, thank you for all that you have done.

Your actions have helped families know when it was time to evacuate and helped our most at risk find shelter. In this disaster, there have been countless heroes, many who will go unnamed—the neighbor who texted their friend to make sure they saw the evacuation alert, the mother who pitched in that extra \$10 to a local evacuation center, and the many non-profits, volunteers, and local leaders who did whatever they could to help without seeking honor or recognition. The list goes on and on.

As a community, we can never forget the heroes who stepped up throughout the fire—big or small. As a Nation, I encourage each of us to follow the example set by the people of Hemet to come together in a time of crisis and to always lend a helping hand to a neighbor in need.

RECOGNIZING BRAD ASHFORD

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work and accomplishments of my friend and former Congressman, Brad Ashford, who passed away April 19, 2022. Brad began his career in politics by faithfully serving in the Nebraska State legislature for 16 years, focusing on ways to solve problems in education, labor, and urban affairs.

After being elected to represent the Second Congressional District of Nebraska, Brad worked hard to advance multiple bills in support of veterans. He was a co-sponsor of the Border Jobs for Veterans Act of 2015, which helped veterans find sustainable employment and apply their skills to work for Customs and Border Patrol. He also co-sponsored the Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act of 2015, which allowed veterans with a service-related disability to take an increased amount of time to seek treatment and heal as needed.

Brad will most be remembered when people drive by the nearly 2-year-old Ambulatory Care Clinic at Omaha's VA Hospital. This facility, funded through a public-private partnership, was largely the result of Brad's efforts to craft and pass the CHIP In for Vets Act of 2016.

This innovative legislation was a first of its kind that enables the use of Federal funds to be matched with privately raised donations. Brad and I became friends after 2016 and we worked together to see the project come to fruition. This past September, I was humbled to carry on his legacy by passing the reauthorization of this important legislation.

It was Brad's mission to ensure all constituents of the Nebraska community felt well-represented. Throughout his tenure in Congress, Brad consistently sought to reach across the aisle and advocate for bipartisan legislation, highlighting that Representatives are

not only capable of working together, but must do so to advance our Nation, and we do this regardless of ideology or political party.

He was a problem-solver and a man of action. Even after his time in Congress, he continued to advocate and educate the public on justice-engaged youth, including our last project together finding pathways to careers that could reintegrate them as productive members of our community and reduce recidivism.

I salute and thank Brad for his leadership, mentorship, and friendship. We went from being political adversaries to great friends. It is my hope that we all carry on Brad's legacy of civility, compassion, and cooperation. I personally will miss the optimistic and hopeful conversations with my friend that we frequently enjoyed.

My heart goes out to his wife, Ann, his children; John, Ellie, and Tom; his granddaughter, Rosie; and his many loved ones. We are eternally grateful for all that Brad has done for our Nation.

□ 1030

HONORING NEBRASKA SENATOR TOM BREWER

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Native American Heritage Month, I rise to recognize the dedication and accomplishments of Senator Tom Brewer, a veteran with 37 years of service, including six tours to Afghanistan, two Purple Hearts, and a Bronze Star.

His experiences show resilience and true patriotism as he holds the title of the first senator of Native American descent to serve in Nebraska's unicameral. He was first elected in 2016 and represents the 13 counties of District 43 in the western Nebraska Sandhills.

Senator Tom Brewer is a member of the Oglala Lakota Sioux and grew up on the Pine Ridge Reservation before he enlisted in the Nebraska Army National Guard. He attended college at Doane University in Crete on an ROTC scholarship and continued to serve us internationally as he fought on behalf of our freedoms in Afghanistan.

Although gravely wounded in his final tour, Senator Brewer did not let this injury prevent him from fighting for his country through public service. After serving nearly four decades, Senator Brewer retired from the Army and was then elected to the Nebraska unicameral.

His inclusion represents how far we have come as a State, as well as the ways that we as people can come together in the future to uphold the proposition that all men are created equal.

Since his time in office, he has worked on legislation that improves veterans' affairs and agriculture policy to help all Nebraskans.

Senator Brewer continues to advocate for farmers and ranchers, servicemen and women, and fights to protect our constitutional rights. He has just returned from 2 months in Ukraine doing humanitarian relief in the Kharkiv region.