

In that first speech, I mentioned my oath to support and defend the Constitution. But little did I know that 2 short years later, I would witness an attempt by our own President and his allies to subvert the Constitution and summon a mob to disrupt the counting of electoral votes of a free and fair election.

On that day, January 6, 2021, lives were lost, these hallowed Halls were desecrated, and the strength of our democracy was tested. I have been humbled to participate in uncovering facts about that dark day in our Nation's history. I thank Chairman THOMPSON, Vice-Chair CHENEY, my colleagues, and the staff of the January 6 Committee for standing on the side of democracy.

I am proud of the work we have done over the last two Congresses to support our veterans and their families. My Gold Star families tax relief legislation eased the burden on children of those killed in combat or deceased from service-connected disabilities. I thank President Biden for making veterans' toxic exposure a priority. We passed the largest increase in access to veterans' benefits in our lifetime through the PACT Act, which included my COVENANT Act to provide healthcare to burn pit veterans.

The threats we face as a nation continue to grow as we witness Russia's unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine, Iran's persistent pursuit of a nuclear weapon, and the rise of China threatening our maritime and national security. As we have heard in testimony, China is likely to attempt to take Taiwan by force in the next 5 years. This is our most pressing national security concern.

The action or inaction that we take in standing up to China in this moment will determine whose values will rule the remainder of the 21st century—the United States' and our allies' or the Chinese Communist Party.

That is why as I depart I urge my colleagues to take this threat seriously and to fulfill the constitutional task of Article I, Section 8, to provide and maintain a Navy. If we fail to remain the predominant maritime power in the Pacific, frankly, nothing else that we do here in this Congress will matter if we don't get this right.

God bless you.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS ON CAMPUS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, freedom of speech and thought on college campuses is essential to one of the most

important missions of the university: the search for truth.

While censorship can come from the right or left, many colleges and universities are now zealously devoted to advancing leftwing ideas and are willing to disregard evidence and logic to do it.

Universities should be a marketplace of ideas, not temples to a single political dogma. When students or faculty speak out against established norms, they are canceled, fired, or otherwise stigmatized by peers and university administrators.

This is not what our Founding Fathers intended for our country or for our universities. Thomas Jefferson, who founded the University of Virginia, once wrote: "I have sworn upon the altar of God, eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man."

Universities used to promote this sentiment, but things have changed—and not for the better. Universities should be centers of education, not indoctrination. Yet university leaders either brazenly push their own agenda or walk on eggshells in fear of their own student body.

Research and development suffer when debate and discussion are openly rejected on college campuses. Quashing intellectual curiosity hinders every field of study.

The freedom to speak and think freely comes from God. Students should not have to sign away their First Amendment rights after enrolling in college, especially if those institutions accept taxpayer funds. It is time for colleges and universities to be held accountable when they refuse to protect the free speech of students and faculty.

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Members of the Education and Workforce Committee have submitted multiple bills to promote and protect the freedom of speech on college campuses.

In the next Congress, we look forward to examining closely these bills and other ways to preserve the First Amendment on campuses.

#### INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS

Ms. FOXX. This administration won't be happy until it controls how, when, and where you work. It is hard to know if it is sheer arrogance that drives this administration to think it knows better than you or if Biden is so beholden to Big Labor that he refuses to see what is best for the rest of America.

Regardless, this administration's attack on independent contractors is wrong, and Republicans aren't standing for it.

Many workers, especially women, have come to rely on the flexibility the independent contracting model provides. A regular 9-to-5 schedule does not work for every American.

Forcing all workers into a one-size-fits-all model, while a dream for union bosses, is a mistake. This debate is about freedom. Workers deserve the freedom to choose how they work.

I am pushing back against Democrats' assault on entrepreneurial opportunity and their attempts to control the lives of Americans from birth until death.

Because I have seen firsthand that when the Federal Government steps aside and allows job creators and industry leaders to innovate, the workforce and U.S. economy will thrive.

We have had enough of this Washington-knows-best mentality.

Remember when President Obama told Americans, "You didn't build that." He ridiculously claimed that businesses need the government's help to be successful.

As if this wasn't bad enough, now the Biden administration is telling America's entrepreneurs, "You can't build that." This is unacceptable. We must do everything we can to stop this proposed rule, and I encourage everyone to get involved.

Get on the phone, call your Representative and Senator, and submit a comment. We must put pressure on the Biden administration to withdraw this proposed rule.

Enough is enough. The livelihoods of real people are at risk. Americans should be able to build a future they want for themselves. It is time for Washington to get out of the way.

#### RECOGNIZING REPRESENTATIVES G. K. BUTTERFIELD AND DAVID PRICE

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two outstanding North Carolinians and my colleagues retiring from the U.S. House of Representatives, the Honorable G. K. BUTTERFIELD for 18 years of service and the Honorable DAVID PRICE for 34 years. These gentlemen have given a total of 52 years of service to our State and Nation for which we are indeed grateful.

True statesmen, Representatives BUTTERFIELD and PRICE have been invaluable Members of Congress and they have served with incredible distinction. They are well-respected, admired, loved by colleagues here in Congress, and revered by citizens back home. They each have made their life's work all about service.

Having known each of them for a very long time, I have appreciated the opportunity to learn from them and to work with each of them in North Carolina and here in Congress. Service has been their legacy as it is the rent we pay for living on this Earth.

Together, these incredible Members have kept their rent fully paid up throughout their careers and in North Carolina and in this Congress.

Both scholars and men of enormous intellect, PRICE and BUTTERFIELD have been leaders in their communities, and they have used their expertise on and off Capitol Hill to interrupt injustice and ignorance.

Our resident historian, G. K. BUTTERFIELD, who served on the Energy and Commerce Committee, worked as a civil rights lawyer, a trial judge, a superior court judge, and served in the North Carolina Supreme Court.

Retired teacher and distinguished professor, DAVID PRICE, led numerous congressional missions abroad during his three decades on the Hill, and he has been influential in his committee work on the Appropriations Committee.

Both have been personal mentors and friends to me, and impactful advisers who I will truly miss.

I thank Congressman PRICE and Congressman BUTTERFIELD for their friendship and for their service. I wish them and their families Godspeed as they retire and take on the next chapter in their lives.

God bless you. Please know that our Nation is much better off, and you have certainly made it much better than you found it. God bless you.

#### HONORING MAYOR JACKIE CRABTREE ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of a pillar of the Third District of Arkansas, lifelong Arkansan, and exemplary public servant, Mayor Jackie Crabtree of Pea Ridge.

As a former mayor myself, I have high standards for those in this position. I can say with certainty, Jackie has been a very distinguished leader. Few can remember a time in Pea Ridge when Jackie wasn't the mayor.

To love, to serve, and to promote Pea Ridge have been the pillars of his service. There is no growth project or improvement of consequence that has happened in the last quarter century that doesn't have the fingerprints of Jackie Crabtree all of over them.

From new sidewalks, parks, sewer infrastructure, to city buildings, walking trails, water lines, his vision has transformed the city.

He also led many firsts. He was the first full-time mayor, he brought in the first full-time fire and paramedic departments. He even started the Christmas tree lighting and decorations in downtown, to name a few. Those examples only scratch the surface of Jackie's accomplishments.

To me, there is no greater illustration of his success than the thousands of new residents who have flocked to Pea Ridge. It is a vibrant destination, one where people want to live, work, and raise their families.

I congratulate Jackie on a terrific career and life of service to his community. His hard work has been instrumental in building a better future.

While I know his high school sweetheart and wife, Freida, son, Eric, and granddaughters will enjoy the extra

time he will have for them, know that his leadership will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome my friend to the former mayor's club. Congratulations, Jackie.

#### HONORING SHERIFF TIM HELDER ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a trusted protector of the people of Arkansas, and a man I am blessed to know as a friend, Washington County Sheriff Tim Helder.

For nearly four decades, he has nobly worn the badge. His heart for service is core to his character; it could even be argued it is in his blood. That point is only further reiterated by the fact that both his father and grandfather also wore the uniform, and I know they would be proud.

It is poignant that his law enforcement career is beginning and ending at the Washington County Sheriff's Office. After starting as a dispatcher, he attended the police academy, went on to work for the Fayetteville Police Department where he climbed the ranks.

After 21 years in Fayetteville, he returned to the sheriff's office and holds the honor of being the longest serving sheriff in its history.

On a personal note, I will miss the sheriff breakfasts that he would host for the community as a time to catch up and build trust. I hope that tradition will be carried on.

When reflecting on his career, I could list his many accomplishments or accolades or the names of the men and women he has helped lead, but I want to read the creed on his challenge coin, it sums it up:

I pledge before God and my community to faithfully perform my duties with integrity, professionalism, respect and fairness. I will bring a good attitude to work and take responsibility for all of my actions. I will have the courage to do the right thing for the right reasons without exception.

More than just words. That is how Sheriff Helder has lived his life. The Third District is safer and stronger because of his service.

Mr. Speaker, I thank him for his principled integrity, and I wish him a blessed retirement.

#### REQUESTING OPEN AND STRUCTURED DEBATE ON JUST WAR PRINCIPLES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I introduced H. Res. 1009 in March of this year. This resolution states that it is the sense of the House that the House should debate five of the six commonly accepted principles of the Just War theory to declaring war or authorizing military force.

The other Just War principle is that wars should be authorized by the Nation's legitimate body, which in this case is the House of Representatives.

The reasoning behind H. Res. 1009 is as follows:

One, the U.S. House of Representatives shares the constitutional responsibility to declare war and authorize military force with the United States Senate (Article I, Section 8, Clause 11), but the House has traditionally been the body responsible to declare war or authorize military force.

Two, war and military action will always cause injuries, death, destruction, loss of property, famine, displacements, and other hardships. Because of these privations, military authorizations should only be undertaken with sufficient justification.

Three, weapons of mass destruction are possessed by a substantial and growing number of nations. These weapons may be capable of exterminating humanity.

Four, any conflict has the potential to expand beyond the original intent of the belligerent nations.

Five, the Just War theory of what constitutes the moral justification for a nation to engage in war has been developed over the past two millennia.

Six, some of the Just War principles are incorporated into the United Nations charter, but this has not prevented the many wars that have taken place since the United Nations was established. No nation in recent history has incorporated the principles of Just War theory into its own governing laws or traditions.

Seven, in the United States, an open and transparent debate of the Just War principles would give lawmakers in the United States House of Representatives a structured framework to examine if a call to conflict would be morally justified and may prevent our Nation from entering conflicts that may be harmful to our Nation's interests.

Eight, it is possible that debating the Just War principles in the U.S. House of Representatives before authorizing military force would have kept the United States out of military conflicts in the past that have been harmful to our Nation's interests.

Nine, H. Res. 1009 does not require the U.S. House of Representatives to debate the Just War principles, but essentially recommends that it does so.

Ten, H. Res. 1009 does not limit executive authority, but it does help to ensure that the executive does not overreach.

Eleven, after discussions and inputs from Just War scholars, some improvements to H. Res. 1009 have been noted.

My intention with H. Res. 1009 is to introduce the idea of having an open and structured debate in the House of Representatives on the most serious and grave responsibility of our government, that of declaring war.

In our Nation's history, declarations of war have been done at the request of the President. Having an open and structured debate will lessen the opportunity for misuse of our Nation's military but should not impede our Nation's ability to react to defend our country.