

Congress until we get this right. Your Nation has forgotten you and neglected you for too long, and that ends this year.

God bless our troops.

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

HONORING GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY'S CORRECTIVE ACTION TO THE INSTITUTION OF SLAVERY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise. I rise as a proud descendant of the enslaved people, who constructed the foundation upon which the greatness of America resides. They are the foundational mothers and fathers of this country.

Today, I rise, Madam Speaker, because I was accorded the preeminent privilege of speaking at the Georgetown University Law Center and I was accorded this opportunity to talk about the conscious agenda.

In so doing, we, my staff and I, did some research on Georgetown University and we discovered some things that I will share with you today.

First, I do want to thank the persons who made it possible for me to have this opportunity to speak today at Georgetown. I would like to thank Juan Thomas, the chair of the ABA Section of the Civil Rights and Social Justice Entity. This is an entity that is associated with the American Bar Association, and they were hosting this event today.

I would like to thank Dean Treanor. He is the executive vice president of Georgetown University Law Center.

I would like to thank Professor of Law Edelman. He is a person who has, quite frankly, helped to set a course of conduct that has made a difference in the lives of many people at the institution.

Today, Madam Speaker, I, having had this opportunity to visit Georgetown, would like to commend the university for what it has done and I would like to do so for things that persons ordinarily might not assume one would stand before the Congress, the country, if you will, and give such a commendation.

I am honored to do this because I think Georgetown University is the supreme, superb example of what an institution should do that has had some association with the institution of slavery.

I think that Georgetown University is a university that has set an example for the country, indeed for the United States of America itself, in terms of how we should respond to questions related to our association with the institution of slavery.

Today, I want to honor Georgetown University, founded in 1789 by John

Carroll, who was later appointed Archbishop of Baltimore in 1808. I honor this institution today because it took affirmative action to correct its association with the institution of slavery.

In 1838, 272 enslaved persons worth about \$3.3 million in today's dollars were sold in part to help pay off the school's debt. Obviously, this was not something that I would in any way celebrate. It is something that I find horrific.

The question then becomes: How has Georgetown University responded since this occurrence? Well, in September 2015, Georgetown University formed a working group on slavery, memory, and reconciliation to explore this history that it has associated with slavery.

In 2016, Georgetown created a department of African-American studies and set plans to establish an institute for the study of racial justice.

□ 1245

These two things alone are significant. The notion that a working group would be established for reconciliation, to explore it, to explore the memory, and to understand what slavery was all about as it relates to this institution, this working group has done an outstanding job.

I also have to acknowledge the fact that the African-American studies program was something that would give young people the opportunity to better understand more than what happened at Georgetown. It gives them an opportunity to understand what happened to Africans in the Americas.

Too often, this type of history is overlooked, and today, there are many who would erase this history. Significant work at the Georgetown Slavery Archive has been done.

In 2017, Georgetown offered an apology. It was not an apology without something more, not just a: "We are sorry it happened, and please have a nice day." It was an apology, and they held a liturgy of remembrance, contrition, and hope. It was a sincere apology.

It was an apology that would lead to other things. The apology wasn't the end. It was the genesis of more things that would be done.

In 2017, Georgetown dedicated two campus buildings to members of the descendant community—the "descendant community" would be descendants of slavery—dedicated two campus buildings to members of the descendant community.

It didn't stop there. Georgetown went on, in 2018, at the request of descendant leaders, Georgetown, the Jesuits, and descendants began truth and reconciliation work with the Kellogg Foundation.

This is the kind of work that has to be done so that we can get to the truth about what happened, so that we can have the transparency necessary to understand the history associated with slavery.

It is not pleasant, but it has to be done. It has to be done because if we don't do it, we allow ourselves to be vulnerable to these things being repeated.

Let's study this history. In 2019, Georgetown established a reconciliation fund that awards \$400,000 annually for community-based projects within descendant communities—\$400,000 annually.

Georgetown did not simply give an apology with nothing more than "we are sorry." Georgetown has taken upon itself to atone for what occurred and has done so by having a truth and reconciliation committee, worked with the Kellogg Foundation, and went on to establish a reconciliation fund that awards \$400,000 annually for community-based projects within descendant communities.

I think that Georgetown merits a special thank-you, and I, as a Member of Congress, intend to have a flag flown over the Capitol of the United States of America to be presented to Georgetown University for the way they have demonstrated that we can deal with the issue of slavery—demonstrated how to do this.

They have been an exemplar of how to do it and how to do it with a degree of credibility such that someone would come to the Congress of the United States of America, stand here, and pay tribute to what they have done to commemorate the lives of those who helped create the great America that we live in today.

They were the foundational mothers and fathers of this country. They were the persons who labored. They planted the grains, harvested the crops. They constructed roads and bridges.

The Capitol itself has benefited from their labor. This very facility that we are in has benefited from their labor. The Washington Monument benefited from their labor. The White House benefited from their labor. Their labor has made a difference.

I would have the country, the United States itself, follow the example of Georgetown University—follow the example. Let's have the truth and justice commission. We need it. The truth has to be told.

Let's have the study for reparations. There ought to be some compensation for centuries of unpaid labor, labor without recompense, labor without compensation. There ought to be some atonement by the Government of the United States of America.

Georgetown University is the exemplar. We should follow this example, and we should move expeditiously to correct, to the extent that it can be corrected, the injustice that was imposed upon human beings of African ancestry.

I believe that we who have the opportunity to stand in the well of the House of Representatives, who can vote on questions of war and peace, who can vote to fund various projects around this country, ought to establish a department of reconciliation. We ought

to establish a department of reconciliation such that we will have a systemic and systematic methodology by which this problem, this egregious concern, can be addressed.

It cannot be addressed in the term of any one President. It will take years, perhaps decades, to address the invidious discrimination that we have suffered in this country, but it can be done. We but have to have the will to do it.

A department of reconciliation with a secretary of reconciliation, a department of reconciliation with a secretary and under secretaries and a budget that is indexed to the Department of Defense, such that it will always be funded because we will always fund the Department of Defense.

If we do this, we can give this country and the world a sense of our wanting to atone for this 240 years of slavery that this country suffered, that people suffered, that people suffered and, in so doing, laid the foundation for America's greatness. They are the foundational mothers and fathers of this country.

To Georgetown University, I thank you for what you have done, and I pray that this country will follow your example—follow the example. Let's have the necessary commissions so that we can get to the truth.

Let's study the issue so that we can understand what recompense should consist of, and then let's make sure that this is all done by and through a department of reconciliation.

I will close with this. Reconciliation cannot be limited to African Americans. Some things bear repeating: Reconciliation cannot be limited to African Americans. There are others who have suffered invidious discrimination, and they, too, have to have reasonable redress for the suffering.

We have to address the Trail of Tears, how people were uprooted from their homes, forced to migrate across the country. Many died along the way. There has to be some recompense for the Trail of Tears.

We have to consider what happened to others who were a part of this country when the persons from Europe arrived, how they were treated.

All of this can be dealt with through a department of reconciliation.

The persons who came here and constructed the railroads, the persons who were placed in these camps so as to, in theory, protect the country from persons during a time of war. These camps should never have been imposed upon people.

We have to, at some point, give redress. This is what a department of reconciliation can do.

This is a great country, but the greatness of America has not been achieved until America provides a means for us to have reasonable redress for the invidious discrimination that was imposed upon people who meant us no harm, did us no harm, suffered. In their suffering, America became the

great country it is because they laid the foundation for America's greatness. They are the foundational mothers and fathers of this country.

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

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, as we wrap up this week in Congress, I would like to address some issues that I feel have not been discussed as much as they should be in the Chamber this week, and I look forward to the issues being highlighted when we return from our break 10 days from now.

First of all, I would like to discuss the very concerning memos coming out of the Richmond office of the FBI. The FBI has kind of embarrassed us over the last year, in that there are areas in which I would consider more political in nature, but the FBI, perhaps like their counterparts in China or Russia, seem to go after people for what they think more than what they do.

We found out in the last month that they have decided to equate traditional Catholics with groups that ought to be monitored so that they don't do anything too untoward.

In their memo, they implied that perhaps traditional Catholics, without evidence that I know, may be opposed to affirmative action, like the majority of Americans. They may not be all on board with the LGBTQ agenda. They may not be thrilled with President Biden's immigration policy. Horror of horrors, they might like to attend a service with Latin Mass.

□ 1300

I am not Catholic personally, but I have friends who I think would consider themselves conservative Catholics. The idea that they would consider conservative Catholics in line with being an enemy of the state is incredibly scary. I know traditional Catholics will not do very well in communist China today, and that is perhaps not surprising. That is one of the reasons why we worry about what goes on in China. It is very scary that this administration would be targeting conservative Catholics for additional monitoring, and it is something that we should be very mindful of and something we should insist on.

They have said that they are revoking the memo, which is nice. But when you just say that we are getting rid of the memo because it doesn't meet our exacting standards, it implies that you are getting rid of the memo because it is true and you feel bad that your true feelings about conservative Catholics have now been made public.

I have not seen any press release from the FBI, and I hope to see it, in which people are removed from the

FBI, saying we don't want you there anymore. If you view your job as not one in which we are going to track down people who are counterfeiting or tracking down people who are selling fentanyl in the State but instead are going to spend your resources monitoring conservative Catholics, that is of great concern.

Like I said, I personally am not Catholic, but I will tell you, after seeing that memo from the FBI, if I was a member from an Assembly of God church, a Wisconsin Lutheran Synod church, most Baptist churches, evangelical churches, or Orthodox Jewish, I would be scared of where our country is going.

I insist that the FBI open up their files and tell us exactly who drafted these repugnant memos and whose idea it was out of Washington, out of Richmond, who knows, that the FBI should be involved in targeting conservative Catholics.

I hope the rest of the people in this body, including my leadership team, talks about it every day until we get back or until we get a better explanation from the FBI of exactly what was going on and who, in particular, were the employees of the FBI who thought it was a good idea to monitor conservative Catholics, of which apparently one piece of evidence is attending Latin mass.

Now, I think we should also have a look at a story that began about 2 years ago. We can kind of follow it along and see the degree to which President Biden's administration is following the demands made of them about 2 years ago.

About 2 years ago, when the Senate was 50/50, with a Democrat Vice President, U.S. Senators TAMMY DUCKWORTH and MAZIE HIRONO said that they were tired of confirming any White men appointed by President Biden. That is kind of a scary thing. Actually, they said it would be okay to confirm White men if they were gay.

After 2 years were up, a legal journal did a study and found out that 2 years into the Biden administration, only 5 out of 97 judges were White men. We were able to determine that 1 of the 5 is gay. We don't know about the others.

I think that is a little bit scary. I think if you are going to take the legal community collectively—remembering that you don't really appoint people to the Federal judiciary when they are 26 years old—so when we look at the community of people age 35 and up and say, we are going to try to find the best judges we can, I would think more than 5 out of 97 judges would be White men who are not gay. But that is what we have. Actually probably less than 5. It is 4 or 3 or whatever.

I think it is something for the media to pick up on and ask some more questions here.

Does the Biden administration really feel that only 5 of 97 judicial openings would be best filled with a White man?