

"He is not a victim here. He was totally wrong that he had the right to have those documents. Those documents are among the most sensitive secrets the country has."

Asa Hutchinson, former Bush administration official, former Governor of Arkansas, said: "Donald Trump's actions—from his willful disregard for the Constitution to his disrespect for the rule of law—should not define our Nation or the Republican Party."

MITT ROMNEY, the junior Senator from the State of Utah said: "Mr. Trump brought these charges upon himself by not only taking classified documents, but by refusing to simply return them when given numerous opportunities to do so."

"These allegations are serious and if proven, would be consistent with his other actions offensive to the national interest, such as withholding defensive weapons from Ukraine for political reasons and failing to defend the Capitol from violent attack and insurrection."

Mr. Speaker, we are a nation of laws. No one is above the law in the United States of America. No one is entitled to keep top secret national security documents. The documents in this case are among the most secret we have in this country—nuclear secrets. We need to know just how much the careless and cavalier storage of these documents has compromised our Nation's national security.

I came to Congress to get things done for the people in my district, and I have been glad to build relationships with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. We should work in a bipartisan way whenever we can, but if we are going to truly heal as a country, we need to hold people accountable.

As a lawyer, I know allowing this process to play out in a court of law and ensuring a fair and impartial trial is critically important. However, this is already a sad and somber moment in our Nation's history. Democracy should never be taken for granted. We must be vigilant and proactive to protect it.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, history will remember those who defend this lawless behavior, and it will not be kind.

MARGARET CAVANAUGH HAS BEEN A GODSEND

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the dedication to service and what it means to be a true public servant by recognizing my constituent services director and service academy coordinator, Margaret Cavanaugh.

For nearly three decades, Margaret has served thousands of Minnesota's citizens, having worked for three different Members of Congress from the great State of Minnesota.

It is devoted staff like Margaret who work behind the scenes solving dif-

ficult issues for individuals back home, that so many people receive the help they need from their Federal Government.

Public servants like Margaret are seldom recognized for their persistent efforts yet are crucial to the deployment of many Federal programs such as VA and disability benefits, Medicare, Medicaid, passport issues, and all too often, the IRS and refunds.

Dedicated caseworkers like Margaret are often a godsend to so many constituents who are often overwhelmed or far too often ignored by our massive bureaucracies right here in Washington.

Margaret is up there with the best of them, mentoring other caseworkers in the State and region with advice, contacts, and problem-solving techniques.

I thank Margaret for all she does for the people of the great State of Minnesota. With people like her, our constituents get the best assistance, and they deserve it. Once again, I thank Margaret.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Reconcile us to You O God. We stand before You in our imperfection, keenly aware of our shortcomings, asking You to bridge the gap between our realities and our intentions, our best efforts and Your desires. In Your perfect mercy recreate us that as individuals, as a body, and as a Nation, we would find restoration in Your righteous plan.

Even as You have reconciled each of us to Yourself, call us to be reconciled one to another. Acknowledging Your divine regard for us, may we regard no one from a human point of view, but see in each person the reflection of Your redeeming love for all of Your creation.

Entrust us this day with this message of reconciliation. May we prove worthy of Your trust in our response. So may the past have no claim on us, the things of old not hold us back. May we find renewed purpose, assured of Your blessing on the work You set before us.

In Your merciful name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

REIMPOSE SANCTIONS ON IRAN

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Iranian regime continues to enrich weapons-grade uranium, oppress its people, and export missiles and terrorism.

Yesterday, the regime threatened that the West could not stop it from a nuclear arms program, fulfilling the chant of death to Israel, death to America. Iranian drones murder innocent Ukrainians every day.

In a Wall Street Journal column last week, John Bolton, former National Security Advisor, wrote, incredibly: "During Mr. Biden's term. . . his administration still seeks to resuscitate the Iran deal."

President Donald Trump was correct in pulling the U.S. out of the Iran deal as Iran shamefully continues ICBM development to kill Americans.

I am grateful to have joined a bipartisan group of 35 House colleagues in sending a letter to leaders of the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, encouraging them to reimpose sanctions on Iran.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America with open Biden borders.

Our sympathy for the family of beloved civic leader Lottie Gregg.

RECOGNIZING TERESA SHYMANSKY

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Teresa Shymansky of Solon, Iowa, for her incredible work with her nonprofit foundation, Something Beautiful.

Teresa operates a floral design and art studio in her home in Johnson

County with a mission to restore hope and dignity to women and children who have fallen victim to trafficking and sexual abuse.

With the proceeds raised, Teresa funds scholarships for victims of abuse and supports global initiatives such as Operation Underground Railroad. Operation Underground Railroad works to save children around the globe from sexual exploitation.

Teresa offers a space for healing and creativity for those who desperately need it, using the wonders of Iowa's landscape as a space for renewal and rebirth.

Mother Teresa once said: "Be kind and merciful. Let no one ever come to you without coming away better and happier."

Through her work, Teresa not only believes this statement to be true, but she also practices its teachings daily.

I commend Teresa on all her dedication and hard work in helping vulnerable members of our community while donating her time and resources to help turn traumatic experiences into something beautiful.

CELEBRATING STEPHANE CONCEPCION AS GUAM'S 2023 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

(Mr. MOYLAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate a remarkable educator, Guam's 2023 Teacher of the Year, Ms. Stephane Concepcion.

She has been educating young minds for more than a decade and currently teaches fourth grade at Talofoto Elementary School.

Ms. Concepcion's commitment to her students and dedication to her craft have earned her the recognition and admiration of her colleagues and community.

Her passion for teaching is evident in her students' success, and she is a shining example of what an excellent teacher should be.

Congratulations to Ms. Concepcion for being named Teacher of the Year. Thank you for making a positive impact on our island's youth and education system. We look forward to more of your great work in the years to come.

PUSH BACK AGAINST GOVERNMENT CONTROL

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the so-called Green New Deal has reared its ugly head again, thanks to the Biden administration and its allies in Congress.

Their newest attempt to prop up this failed radical agenda involves the banning of gas cooking appliances that millions of American families rely on every day.

Make no mistake: This harebrained scheme is about more government control; more control over the lives of Americans; more control over what we do and, ultimately, how we think. What is the next domino to fall?

Mr. Speaker, if this were to happen, American families would be crushed by high electricity bills and costly appliances in the name of climate activism.

House Republicans have introduced the Save Our Gas Stoves Act and the Gas Stove Protection and Freedom Act to combat this madness. We must push back against more government control in our lives.

STOP THE WEAPONIZATION OF GOVERNMENT

(Ms. GREENE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I announce that I am writing an appropriations rider to defund Jack Smith, Special Counsel, his office, and the investigation.

This is a weaponized government attempt to take down the top political enemy and leading Presidential candidate of the United States, Donald J. Trump. We cannot allow the government to be weaponized for political purposes.

I would also ask all of my colleagues to join me in this effort. We have to use the power of appropriations to stop the weaponization of government, especially in light that we know that there are others who are guilty of true crimes. Never forget that former Secretary of State and Senator Hillary Clinton had classified documents on Anthony Weiner's laptop, who was convicted of sexting a minor inappropriate pictures.

This is not how classified documents should be handled. There should have been an investigation done into that.

Don't forget Joe Biden's documents that are sitting in his garage next to his Corvette where the door opens and closes.

Mr. Speaker, America sees this for exactly what it is, and we will not allow it to stand.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY) at 4 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF EVAN GERSHKOVICH, A UNITED STATES CITIZEN AND JOURNALIST, WHO WAS WRONGFULLY DETAINED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN MARCH 2023

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 377) calling for the immediate release of Evan Gershkovich, a United States citizen and journalist, who was wrongfully detained by the Government of the Russian Federation in March 2023, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 377

Whereas United States citizen Evan Gershkovich is a reporter for the Wall Street Journal;

Whereas Evan Gershkovich is an accredited reporter, with a history of working in Russia for the Moscow Times, Agence France-Presse, and the Wall Street Journal;

Whereas Evan Gershkovich is known to his family, friends, and colleagues as someone who is adventurous, curious, and who has an abiding love for Russia and its people;

Whereas Evan Gershkovich, a trailblazing and intrepid journalist, actively reported on stories across Russia, including the vast wildfires across Siberia, the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russian economy, and the Government of the Russian Federation's unlawful invasion of Ukraine;

Whereas, on March 29, 2023, Evan Gershkovich was arrested in Yekaterinburg while reporting on behalf of the Wall Street Journal;

Whereas, on April 7, 2023, the Government of the Russian Federation charged Evan Gershkovich with espionage;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has failed to publicly provide evidence of Evan Gershkovich's criminal action to credibly render a charge of espionage;

Whereas the last time an American journalist was detained on allegations of espionage in Russia was in 1986 during the era of the Soviet Union;

Whereas, on April 10, 2023, Secretary of State Antony Blinken designated Evan Gershkovich wrongfully detained by the Government of the Russian Federation; and

Whereas, on April 17, 2023, the United States was joined by 46 United Nations Member States in a joint statement expressing deep concern over the detention of Evan Gershkovich by the Government of the Russian Federation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately release Evan Gershkovich, who has been wrongfully detained since March 2023;

(2) urges all United States executive branch officials, including President Joseph