

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2024 CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG/BUNDESRAT EXCHANGE

HON. MIKE JOHNSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, since 1983, the U.S. Congress (House and Senate) and the German Bundestag and Bundesrat have conducted an annual exchange program for staff members from both countries. The program gives professional staff the opportunity to observe and learn about each other's political institutions and engage in discussion regarding mutual interest.

A staff delegation from the U.S. Congress will be selected to visit Germany from Friday, June 28–Sunday, July 7, 2024. During this exchange, the delegation will attend meetings with Bundestag/Bundesrat party staff members, and representatives of numerous political, business, academic and media agencies.

A comparable delegation of German staff members will visit the United States from Saturday, September 14–Sunday, September 22, 2024. They will attend similar meetings in Washington organized by the members of the U.S. delegation.

The Congress-Bundestag/Bundesrat Exchange is highly regarded in Germany and the United States and is one of several exchange programs sponsored by public and private institutions in the United States and Germany to foster better understanding of the politics and policies of both countries. This exchange is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The U.S. delegation shall consist of experienced and accomplished Hill staff who can contribute to the success of the exchange on both sides of the Atlantic. The Bundestag reciprocates by sending senior staff professionals to the United States.

Applicants should have a demonstrable interest in events in Europe. Applicants need not be working in the field of foreign affairs, although such a background can be helpful. The composite U.S. delegation should exhibit a range of expertise in issues of mutual concern to the United States and Germany such as, but not limited to, trade, security, the environment, economic development, health care, and other social policy issues. This year's delegation should be familiar with transatlantic relations within the context of recent world events.

Please note that there is a significant time commitment aspect for those selected for the program. In addition, U.S. participants are expected to plan and implement the meetings and programs for the Bundestag/Bundesrat staff members when they visit the United States.

Members of the House and Senate who would like a member of their staff to apply for participation in this year's program should direct them to submit a resume and cover letter

in which they state their qualifications, the contributions they can make to a successful program and some assurances of their ability to participate during the time stated.

Applications should be sent to the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, HC-4, the Capitol, by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 8, 2024. Please submit the application and any questions to interparliamentary.affairs@mail.house.gov.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2024: HONORING ELSIE MCPHERSON-BROWN

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the groundbreaking service of a Livingston County woman who never even planned to live in the area, much less to make history there. Fortunately, life had its own plans for Elsie McPherson-Brown, and the community is so much better for it.

Livingston County sits at the crossroads of several major highways, and when Elsie McPherson-Brown, was driving one of them to visit friends, she took a wrong turn and ended up in the northern community of Hartland. Elsie liked what she saw on that unexpected outing, and after further investigation, including meeting with the superintendent and school principals, she convinced her husband to relocate to Hartland from Detroit with their two elementary school-aged boys.

It's worth noting that Livingston County was, and remains to this day, an overwhelmingly white community, but Elsie and her family were undeterred. From the beginning of their time in Hartland, Elsie dove into community service, volunteering in her kids' classrooms, organizing fundraisers, chairing Teacher Appreciation Day events, and serving on the PTO. In 2003, Elsie took her service to a new and historic level, when she successfully ran for the Board of Education of Hartland Consolidated Schools, becoming the first African-American woman and only the second African-American in modern history to be elected to public office in Livingston County.

Her story is not without its challenges, particularly when it comes to race relations. She often shares how a grocery store manager insisted her personal check was fraudulent because he refused to believe that a Black woman lived in Livingston County as the address stated. Or the local police officers who questioned her younger son and refused to believe he was simply heading home for the same reason. But Elsie chose to rise above, and set her focus and her intentions on the things she loved about the community and the commonalities she shared with her friends and neighbors.

Supported by the voters, Elsie served ten years on the school board and fulfilled her goal of having a voice in shaping the edu-

cation of the next generation. She was known for her calm demeanor, her colorful outfits, and the many hats she wore about town, perhaps representative of the different hats she wore in life: wife, mother, advocate, and trailblazer. While she has stepped down from public office, today she continues her life of quiet service to the community in her work with the Livingston County Sheriffs Office.

Elsie McPherson-Brown may have stumbled upon Hartland accidentally, but it's no accident that she changed the course of Hartland's history. Her story deserves to be told, uplifted, and forever preserved.

IMPEACHING ALEJANDRO NICHOLAS MAYORKAS, SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY, FOR HIGH CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, this extreme MAGA Republican stunt to impeach Secretary Mayorkas is baseless. The Democratic staff of the Committee on Homeland Security thoroughly documented the many failures of fact and law in the articles of impeachment contained in H. Res. 863. I include in the Record the key findings and introduction of the Democratic staff report. The full report can be found online at <https://democratshomeland.house.gov/download/homelanddemimpeachmentreportfinal>.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
MINORITY STAFF REPORT,
January 29, 2024.

KEY FINDINGS

Republicans are abusing Congress' impeachment power. Impeachment is an extraordinary remedy under the United States Constitution. It is not a tool for policy or political differences, and constitutional scholars and even some Republicans agree. The Framers never intended for the legislative branch to wield its impeachment power to extort policy changes from the executive branch, and they certainly did not intend for the impeachment power to be used to placate extreme factions of Congress.

The Republicans' impeachment scheme is a sham. Republicans' baseless investigation into Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas is a politically motivated sham to appease extreme MAGA Members and partisan special interest groups. This impeachment has never been about Secretary Mayorkas' record, as the effort began not long after he was confirmed. In their rush to reach a predetermined outcome, House Republicans have failed to provide the most basic due process considerations to Secretary Mayorkas.

Secretary Mayorkas is upholding the law and honoring the public trust. Secretary Mayorkas has not violated the law, let alone committed "high Crimes and Misdeemeanors"—the Constitutional standard for

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

impeachment. Secretary Mayorkas is carrying out President Biden's policies in good faith within resource constraints. He is following the law and has been responsive to Congress and the American people.

Republicans are sabotaging Secretary Mayorkas' efforts to secure the border. The Biden administration—including Secretary Mayorkas—is working to solve the challenges at our border in an orderly, humane, and lawful way. Secretary Mayorkas has implemented new initiatives to stop dangerous drugs from entering our communities; cracked down on smugglers and cartels; and increased personnel, technology, and infrastructure at our borders. Unfortunately, Republicans are intentionally sabotaging these efforts by voting against necessary funding because they prefer a political wedge issue to policy solutions.

Republicans are perpetuating challenges at the border to help re-elect Donald Trump. Republicans are using Secretary Mayorkas as a scapegoat for the longstanding challenges at our southern border. They are playing the political blame-game to deflect attention from their failure to take meaningful action on border security and immigration legislation and provide necessary border security funding. Republicans should stop this sham effort and instead work with Democrats to enact border and immigration legislation and provide the Department of Homeland Security the funding it needs to carry out its mission.

I. INTRODUCTION

Since its formation in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Committee on Homeland Security (the Committee) has distinguished itself through dedication to serious legislative and oversight work under the leadership of chairmen from both parties. The frantic, partisan rush to consider House Resolution 863, Impeaching Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security, for high crimes and misdemeanors, represents a betrayal of that hard-earned legacy.

Sadly, in the 118th Congress, the willingness of Republicans to waste their credibility on political stunts comes as no surprise. MAGA Republicans have wasted their opportunity to make progress on immigration and border security policy. The challenges at our borders are real—but Republicans have failed even to engage in a conversation about bipartisan legislation to address them. They have failed to provide necessary funding requested by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). They have failed to provide resources for officers and agents at the border, failed to fund the immigration judges necessary to handle the influx of asylum claims, and failed to condemn the cruel and deceptive acts of State and local Republicans who look to score cheap political points by treating migrants as less than human.

To distract from this abject failure and appease the most extreme elements of the Republican Conference, Republican leadership launched a baseless impeachment investigation into Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas. This impeachment is without precedent, without basis in the law, and a total waste of time. Among its many fatal flaws, this wholly partisan impeachment effort:

Fails to articulate any charge that might constitute "Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors."

Fails to provide evidence to support the charges, such as they are.

Fails to name the proper target for impeachment in a policy dispute with the executive branch, if indeed a policy dispute is ever grounds for impeachment.

Fails to provide due process to Secretary Mayorkas.

Fails to address any of the real challenges at our Nation's borders.

Perhaps this shoddy effort is what Democrats should have expected months ago, when Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia insisted to her leadership that "[s]omebody needs to be impeached," without specifying any particular target or reason for the impeachment.

REPUBLICAN ABUSE OF POWER

Instead of working to find commonsense, bipartisan solutions to address immigration reform and border security—which are necessarily and inextricably intertwined—Republicans have, from the very earliest days of Secretary Mayorkas' time in office, turned to character assassination. Although their inability and unwillingness to enact new policy is to blame, Republicans are angry that the Biden administration has implemented its own border security and immigration policies to enforce the law commensurate with the resources provided by Congress. Secretary Mayorkas is carrying out those policies, as is his duty.

This report documents the failed basis for this sham impeachment effort and provides the facts behind the Biden administration's efforts to address the challenges at the southern border in an orderly and humane way, consistent with the law.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RAMON SALINAS, JR.

HON. TONY GONZALES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the admirable life of Ramon Salinas, Jr., who unexpectedly passed away on February 1st of this year.

Mr. Salinas dedicated his life to public service. In total, he served over twenty years in law enforcement—both as a Customs Officer for the Department of Treasury and as a Customs and Border Protection Officer under the Department of Homeland Security. Over the span of his distinguished career, Ramon set himself apart with his outstanding work ethic and will forever serve as a role model for those who follow in his footsteps.

Mr. Salinas was also a beloved member of his community, and his dedication to serving others went far beyond his time in law enforcement. For many years, he was a devoted soccer coach and role model for the youth of Eagle Pass, Texas.

Those who know Ramon Salinas, Jr. can speak to his patriotism, compassion, and devotion to faith. Though he will be dearly missed, Mr. Salinas' legacy will live on for years to come.

He is survived by his wife Francelia, his daughter Evelyn, his son Ramon III, his granddaughter Elena Joy, his siblings, and many nieces and nephews.

My condolences and prayers are with the Salinas family during this difficult time.

CONGRATULATIONS PRIME MINISTER VIKTOR ORBAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as co-founder and co-chair of the Euro-

pean Union Caucus I am grateful for the European Union last week voting to provide an additional \$54 billion in aid to Ukraine. The EU has now provided more aid than any other ally and countries like Bulgaria and Poland have contributed more per capita GDP than even the United States.

I appreciate Prime Minister Viktor Orban of Hungary supporting the funding. This fulfills my lifelong affection for the courageous people of Hungary. As a child I was inspired by Hungarian Freedom Fighters valiantly standing in front of the Soviet Tanks in Budapest. Hungary should always be cherished as the first Soviet satellite to stand up to totalitarian Moscow which was cited by Senator Barry Goldwater in his historic book *Why Not Victory?* for liberation of Central and Eastern Europe. The Goldwater Campaign featured actor Ronald Reagan in his historic speech "A Tune For Choosing" leading to his presidency with Pope John Paul, II, and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher achieving Victory.

Viktor Orban is valiantly acting in the tradition of Hungarian Freedom Fighters who defied the Communist Hammer and Sickle symbol of mass-murdering totalitarianism. War criminal Putin has shamefully oppressed the talented people of Russia and has shamefully called for the resurrection of the evil Soviet Empire. I was shocked in June this year, to see the Communist Hammer and Sickle is still cruelly in place over the Russian Embassy in Berlin, Germany. It was so disgusting to see adulation of a symbol that in September 1939 was allied with the Nazi Swastika to conduct mass murder of 70,000 Polish patriots in the partition of Poland.

European Council President Charles Michel is correct "This locks in steadfast, long term, predictable funding for Ukraine." It was encouraging the correlation with Prime Minister Orban with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and French President Emmanuel Macron.

In America there is bi-partisan majority support for Ukraine understanding war criminal Putin will not stop with his invasion of Ukraine with direct threats on NATO Members Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland. President Donald Trump tried to deter the murderous invasion of Ukraine by providing Javelin missiles to President Volodymyr Zelensky to stop Putin tanks, courageously placing American troops for the first time in Poland and stopping the Nord Stream Two Pipeline financing of war criminal Putin oppressing Russian citizens as Putin contrived Western European dependency on his oil. House Armed Services Committee Chairman MIKE ROGERS, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman MICHAEL MCCAUL, and Intelligence Committee Chairman MIKE TURNER are stalwarts for victory in Ukraine. They are backed up with Democrat Ranking Members ADAM SMITH, GREG MEEKS, and JIM HIMES.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2024: HONORING MIKE GARLAND

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a basketball coaching legend who