

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

#### REMEMBERING GEORGE FLOYD

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

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of the Special Order hour.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my privilege to address you.

In the play "Julius Caesar," Mark Antony proclaims: "What cause withholds you then to mourn for him?"

I rise tonight because this is our question today. By what measure and according to what standard might we allow this week to slip between our fingers and not remember what happened on a street in Minneapolis on May 25? What in all creation would justify our forgetting a collective unconsciousness?

We are summoned into this Chamber tonight because George Floyd should be alive today. He should be enjoying the matriculation of his daughter from one grade to the next. He should be living out his days under the protections afforded to every American citizen, such as the presumption of innocence, equal protection under the law, and all the Eighth Amendment rights against cruel and unusual punishment.

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Tragically, none of what ought to be is true in the case of Mr. George Floyd. George Floyd is not alive, George Floyd was not protected, and George Floyd was not a victim of just bigotry and neglect. He was killed by the very institution employed to ensure his safety.

This is what happens when people don't see you as being someone and something worthy of protection. This is what happens when you are viewed as a threat and Blackness is seen as a problem and not as a gift to the world. Indeed, what happened to Mr. George Floyd over a \$20 alleged bill—they said there was a \$20 bill that was counterfeited—that had the assistance of five officers dressed in uniform, in broad daylight, to suffocate him. No one would ever know what happened to the alleged \$20 fraudulent bill.

What happened to George Floyd is a predictable outcome when the country you live in would rather build prisons

than reimagine schools, would rather blame poverty on the poor but never question the gluttony of the rich, and would rather ignore the persistent evil of racism as if the record of our inability to honor each other's humanity had not already resulted in tragedy and death.

The beaches of American history are cluttered with the bleached bones of the innocent, needlessly slaughtered on the battlefield of this Nation's preoccupation with subjugation and hatred. I remind Members that Mr. George Floyd died in the new millennium. This isn't some type of tragedy I am talking about from a century ago. This was the new millennium, and George Floyd deserves to be alive today.

What happened to Mr. George Floyd is the rhyme that makes history, it makes whatever we fail to be honest about: racism, militarism, and, indeed, a destructive system.

We have gathered here today to answer Mark Antony's question. There is no cause, and there are no foreseeable circumstances that would compel us to forget what happened to Mr. George Floyd.

George Floyd was murdered by a police officer who refused to see the humanity of the helpless, who refused to see the humanity of a handcuffed man, who refused to see a man gasping for his last breath with a knee wedged on his back while suffocating him and imperiled. I say to Members: Anyone born of a woman should have been able to identify with the pleading of George Floyd not to lose his life.

Mr. Floyd asked for his mother as he gasped his last breath. One does not need a graduate degree in ethics, morality, or philosophy to have been moved by the elegy of George Floyd. Not only does this event say something about the totalitarian impulses of policing in America, but it also says something about the kind of Nation we have allowed ourselves to become.

We have also allowed certain political influences to compel us to see each other as enemies and not merely as adversaries. We have allowed resentment to determine how we respond to one another and not what is required of us if we are to survive.

This week also presents us with a golden opportunity that we cannot ignore. The painful anniversary of the murder of George Floyd presents us with a chance to not only recommit ourselves to the eradication of racism and police-sponsored violence in America, but it also reminds us that there is a piece of legislation pending in the Senate that needs to be passed right away.

The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act deserves to be taken under consideration by every United States Senator immediately because not reforming how Black people are policed in this country will render the murder of George Floyd a tragedy, but nothing more. I say to my colleagues today:

Why settle for a tragedy when we can pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and we can make a new beginning. We have it within our power to make sure that what happened on May 25, 2020, just 4 years ago, never happens again.

We have it within our reach to lift America from the fatigue of despair to the buoyancy of hope. Every Member of the United States Senate has a moral obligation to reconsider and, indeed, pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and not hide behind the politics of our respective parties.

The question before us is a simple one: Do my colleagues want our beloved and great country to be a place that is safe and fit for our children to forge a future without fear and the prospect of indiscriminate hate and violence?

If the answer is yes, then let us work toward getting together to ensure that we will never again be driven into this Chamber to remember the death of innocence.

If the answer is yes, then let us choose a more excellent way.

If the answer is yes, then let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we will reap what we have sown if we faint not.

Mr. Speaker, it is so important that, today, we remember those from Central Park, the innocent young men who were tortured into a false confession. They received no mercy 35 years ago. They received no recognition by a former President 35 years later. Those young men had their lives turned upside down when they were accused of a hateful, vengeful attack and rape—indeed, it was done by a person who had been convicted of such. Yet, this man asked for these men to be given the death penalty, and these were teenagers who had been found innocent.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, my wonderful colleague from Illinois, who continues to speak truth to power, especially around police violence.

Mr. Speaker, George Floyd's life mattered. We all know and keep chanting, Black lives matter, but we have to show it in action.

Today, I am thinking of George Floyd's daughter, Gianna, who will grow up without him. I can still hear George Floyd crying out for his mama, yelling: "I can't breathe," more than 20 times while he was murdered by police, pleading for his life for 9 minutes and 29 seconds. His murder and the countless others in the hands of police sparked outrage, mobilization, and movements for change.

I saw with my own eyes, right here on this House floor, watching Republicans and Democrats come together and passing the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act while it went to the Senate to die.

His murder and the countless others in the hands of police require us all to

understand the truth about what is going on in our neighborhoods and our communities. We demand that this body take immediate action to dismantle systemic racism in our country and systems designed to oppress Black and Brown lives in every corner of our country. It is not enough, Mr. Speaker, to honor George Floyd's life with words. We must honor his life with action.

The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act has still not been signed into law 4 years later. Last year was the deadliest year of police violence on record. That should shock us all.

Just this month, Mr. Speaker, Roger Fortson, a Black senior airman, was shot six times by police and killed at his home in Florida. This is his family. Just watching his mother kneel down at his open casket, that should be enough for us to act.

How many more mothers have to experience the loss of their child?

When will Congress finally act?

We must ensure true accountability, justice, and reparations for the generations of harm that policing in our Nation has inflicted on our Black neighbors.

This is the justice they deserve: George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Roger Fortson, and so many others who have lost their lives to police violence. That is the least they deserve. This is justice for our communities, and they deserve to be fully seen, heard, and protected.

I will continue, along with my good colleague from Illinois, to continue to push for the passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.

I know, in Detroit, where I grew up, the most beautiful, Blackest city in the country, for all those who continue to demand justice in our communities, know this: The President of the United States didn't wake up one day and say the Civil Rights Act was a good thing. People marched, did sit-ins, and did boycotts until they moved this institution and the White House. We will continue to march. We will continue to demand that Black lives matter in our country.

Again, with my good colleague, we will continue to demand that the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act pass this Chamber, through the Senate, and to the President's desk.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my good colleague from Illinois for yielding to me.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable Congresswoman from the great State of Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) for her outspokenness.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard from my distinguished colleagues today about policing in our communities and about the loss of innocence, all issues of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, our constituents, Congress, and all Americans tonight.

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this week marks a somber anniversary in our Nation's history. Four years ago, our Nation

watched in outrage, as yet another Black man was brutally killed by a police officer who betrayed his oath of service to his community.

George Floyd's murder sparked an ongoing national conversation that shone a bright light on the racism that exists in every corner of our society. As a Nation, we have a moral imperative to root out these injustices and build a better society.

In memory of George Floyd, I urge my colleagues to pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which will deliver meaningful reform for our communities, hold rogue officers accountable, and save lives. Congress' inaction is unacceptable when we all recognize there is a problem and there are concrete steps we can be taking to save lives. I urge the passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and thank Rep. SHEILA JACKSON LEE and the Congressional Black Caucus for their leadership to make our communities safer.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Committee on the Judiciary, and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, I want to thank my colleagues for hosting this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order to discuss the families of police violence, their experiences, and the CBC's commitment to enhancing public safety in this nation.

The horrifying killing of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, by a Minneapolis police officer shocked and awakened the moral consciousness of the nation.

The world witnessed the brutal and traumatizing nine minutes where George Floyd begged for his life—uttering his last words “I can't breathe”—as an officer, ignoring the pleas of George and all those witnessing his death, refused to lift his knee off the neck of George suffocating him and ending his life.

“I can't breathe” continues to echo around the world alongside our cries for justice, change, and protection from and under the law.

We are horrified by the continued massacre of Black bodies in this country for merely existing.

Our homes, our cars, and our neighborhoods continue to be invaded with violence at the hands of racist ideologies that breed fear into our institutions and threaten our lives.

There have been countless murders of Black Americans by the state.

Just last week, Roger Fortson, a 23-year-old Black U.S. airman was shot and killed in his own home by a Florida deputy.

This vicious cycle must end.

There are countless young Black men and women who have had their lives tragically cut short by law enforcement officers who took their lives in their hands.

This year also marks one year since Tyre Nichols was brutally beaten by five Memphis police officers to the point of being unrecognizable.

The nation was shocked but not surprised by his murder, comparing it to the police beating of Rodney King in Los Angeles 32 years prior.

And of course, this isn't a new phenomenon of racist abuses of power.

Indeed, the history goes back much further, past Amadou Diallo in New York City, past the Central Park Five, past Emmitt Till, past the racist abuse of law enforcement power during the struggle for civil rights and equal treatment.

But we also must remember that are countless lives and stories that did not make headlines. Stories of victims who never received justice and family members who never received closure.

Just this year alone, police have killed 93 Black people in the U.S.—93 in less than 5 months.

These are not isolated killings, as they are occurring all across the United States, in 28 states documented this year by Mapping Police Violence.

According to a recent ABC poll, 39 percent of Americans are confident that the police in this country are adequately trained to avoid the use of excessive force.

For the first time in the nine-year history of this question, just under half of white Americans say they are confident about police avoiding excessive force or racial bias. About two-thirds of Hispanic Americans lack confidence in police on both excessive force and racial bias.

Americans are 41 percent confident in police treating Black and white people equally.

Despite an uptick in legislation and police reform since June 2020, there has been a steady increase in police killings.

In 2020, 1,152 people were killed at the hands of the police, in a year where much of the population was stuck at home during a pandemic. In 2021, police killed 1,145 people.

In 2022, murders by the U.S. police force reached a record high. At least 1,176 people were killed, an average of 3 murders per day, making 2022 one of the deadliest years on record.

The murders are never ending.

Bianca Austin, Breonna Taylor's aunt said that “there was a movement and uproar across the globe, and we're still having more killings? What are we doing wrong? It's so disheartening”.

It is so true. It seems like the United States is sliding backwards. We had a grandiose movement, where people from all over came together to say this is wrong, yet it does not seem like we have progressed.

How can we make America better for Black men and women? For American Natives? For the LGBT community? For immigrants? For each other?

We are all deserving of better, but we must work together to do better.

The death of Tyre Nichols and Roger Fortson has created serious urgency for the re-introduction of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. The legislation was the product of intense bipartisan negotiations with civil rights advocates, law enforcement stakeholders and the Department of Justice.

The legislation is truly an omnibus product and reflects contributions from across the Congressional Black Caucus, including bills like the PRIDE Act; the PEACE Act; the End Racial Profiling Act; and the Eric Garner Excessive Use of Force Prevention Act.

The House has twice passed the George Floyd Act, with the support of 219 Democrats in 117th Congress. It is critical that we introduce the legislation with overwhelming support this Congress. Last Congress, the bill gained 199 cosponsors.

Last Congress the Senate failed to introduce the George Floyd Act, largely because Senate Republicans failed to engage in good faith negotiations. The current high watermark for Senate cosponsorship is 37 Democrats in

the 116th Congress. It is important that Senate Democrats timely introduce the George Floyd bill with significant cosponsorship and not repeat efforts that stymied action on the legislation.

Two years after the murder of George Floyd, in May 2022, the Biden administration released a police reform executive order. Key reforms in President Joe Biden's executive order include:

Improving data collection. All federal law enforcement agencies will contribute to a National Law Enforcement Accountability Database regarding instances of police misconduct as well as submit information to the FBI related to use-of-force incidents. The U.S. attorney general will review the status of and compliance with federal reporting requirements. This also includes the issuance of guidance to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies on best practices for contributing their data to federal systems.

Revising use-of-force standards. All federal law enforcement agencies will revise their use-of-force policies to ensure they meet or exceed the standards included in the recently revised policy for the Department of Justice. The Department of Justice's policy provides that use of force is permitted only when "no reasonably effective, safe, and feasible alternative appears to exist." All federal law enforcement use-of-force policies will also include de-escalation provisions as well as an affirmative duty to intervene to stop excessive use of force and render medical aid.

Limiting the use of no-knock entries. Building upon the U.S. Department of Justice's September 2021 policy, all federal law enforcement agencies will be prohibited from the use of no-knock entries unless an agent has reasonable grounds to believe that knocking and announcing the agent's presence would create an imminent threat of physical violence to the officer and/or another person.

Limiting the militarization of law enforcement. Federal agencies are restricted from transferring and selling additional types of military equipment to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, expanding the Obama-era restriction on this practice.

Credentialed of police agencies. The attorney general will develop and implement a process by which state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies will seek accreditation by an independent entity.

Leveraging federal grants. Federal discretionary grants will be awarded to state, local, and tribal governments to encourage compliance with the executive order. This will include an assessment of what discretionary grants will be limited to the law enforcement agencies that achieve accreditation.

Improving crisis response to include alternatives. Guidance will be issued and resources identified to support state, local, tribal, and territorial officials as they implement a range of alternative first-responder models to meet the needs of people experiencing a behavioral or mental health crises or persons who have disabilities. This includes civilian community responder models being developed in jurisdictions across the country that do not include police officers.

The executive order also contains important provisions that improve investigations into deaths in police custody; strengthen the effectiveness of pattern-of-practice investigations; ban choke holds and carotid restraints except

in certain circumstances where use of deadly force is authorized; enhance recruitment, training, and retention practices; ensure the use of body-worn cameras by federal law enforcement officers; and advance key criminal justice reform and reentry measures.

Advocated have also urged that Congress do its part by passing comprehensive police reform legislation that creates meaningful accountability and restores trust between police and the communities they serve by eliminating qualified immunity and strengthening civil rights protections.

Legislative reforms will follow the pattern of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act: amending 18 U.S.C. Section 242, which defines the circumstance when a government official can be criminally responsible for violating someone's civil rights. (Section 242 does not specifically define prohibited conduct and has historically been interpreted too narrowly, failing to hold police officers accountable for a wide range of misconduct.)

Legislative action is also needed to reform/eliminate the judicial doctrine of qualified immunity that drastically reduces the legal liability of police officers. Qualified immunity limits the circumstances in which an individual can sue a police officer for violating their civil rights only to situations where the behavior violates "clearly established law." This strict legal standard curtails accountability in policing to such a degree that officers face few repercussions—even when their conduct violates the Constitution.

While it is broadly recognized within the police reform movement that changes to the doctrine of qualified immunity and Section 242 are needed, Congress will need to pass legislation for these changes to become law.

As I have stated many times, direct action is vitally important but to be effective it must be accompanied by political, legislative, and governmental action, which is necessary because the strength and foundation of democratic government rests upon the consent and confidence of the governed.

Effective enforcement of the law and administration of justice requires the confidence of the community that the law will be enforced impartially and that all persons are treated equally without regard to race or ethnicity or religion or national origin.

As the great jurist Judge Learned Hand said: "If we are to keep our democracy, there must be one commandment: thou shalt not ration justice."

Equal justice is the proud promise America makes to all persons; the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act will help make that promise a lived reality for African Americans, who have not ever known it to be true in the area of community-police relations.

And when Black Lives Matter, then and only then can it truthfully be said that all lives matter.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GRIFFITH (at the request of Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana) for today on account of family matters.

#### BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Kevin F. McCumber, Acting Clerk of the House, reported that on May 16,

2024, the following bill was presented to the President of the United States for approval:

H.R. 3935. To amend the title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-4248. A letter from the Program Analyst, OBPA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's funding announcement on grants.gov — Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities-Building Markets and Investing in America's Climate-Smart Farmers, Ranchers and Forest Owners to Strengthen U.S. Rural and Agriculture Communities [USDA-NRCS-COMM-22-NOFO0001139] received May 3, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-4249. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Community Planning and Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's notice of final determination — Final Determination: Adoption of Energy Efficiency Standards for New Construction of HUD- and USDA-Financed Housing [Docket No.: FR-6271-N-03] (RIN: 2506-AC55) received May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-4250. A letter from the Program Analyst, OBPA, Rural Development-Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — 30-Day Notification of Nonpayment of Rent in Multi-Family Housing Direct Loan Programs [Docket No.: RHS-22-MPH-0022] (RIN: 0575-AD25) received May 8, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-4251. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's request for applications — Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grants [EPA-R-OAR-CHDV-24-06] received May 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4252. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's submission of EPA action for Congressional review — Fiscal Year 2024 Lead Service Line Allotments for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Provisions of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding received May 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110