

Representative ABIGAIL SPANBERGER said: "Trump is a threat to our democracy. . . . The threats to our democratic Republic are real."

Representative MIKE LEVIN said: "Donald Trump is a threat to our Nation, our freedom, and our democracy."

Representative ERIC SORENSEN said: "He is the greatest threat to law and order we have in our country today."

Representative JAKE AUCHINCLOSS said: "What unifies us as a party is knowing that Donald Trump is an existential threat to democracy."

Yesterday, just 2 days after the second assassination attempt, White House Press Secretary KJP said: "President Biden has been clear-eyed about the threat that the former President represents to our democracy."

Seriously?

She just couldn't stop herself and had to join in.

Moreover, let's not forget President Biden who said: It is "time to put Trump in a bull's-eye."

President Biden has also said: "I mean this from the bottom of my heart, Trump is a threat to this Nation." As well as: "Donald Trump is a genuine threat to this Nation."

"He's literally a threat for everything this America stands for."

For the last 9 years, the left erroneously labeled Trump as a racist, a Fascist, and an existential threat to our democracy. They have encouraged protests, approved of violent rhetoric, and, in some cases, refused to condemn violent actions. They have made it acceptable to view someone with opposing political beliefs not as a fellow American but as an enemy to be destroyed.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is when you constantly tell people that our democracy is in existential danger because of one man, and when you label that man a threat to the very fabric of our country, then you should take some responsibility and not be surprised when unhinged individuals take matters into their own hands.

Words have power, and Democrats have recklessly used that power for nefarious political gain, no matter the cost. We, as a nation, must be better than this.

I have six words for my Democrat colleagues: Stop it and stop it now.

#### VANDALS DEFACED BAPS SHRI SWAMINARAYAN MANDIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HAGEMAN). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, we all know that hate has always been a part of the human existence, but we see so many hate crimes today.

Late Sunday night, vandals defaced the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir on Long Island with vile hate and bigotry against the Hindu community.

I have seen Hindus many times, and many of you have as well, when they

place their hands together and they bow and they say "namaste," "I bow to you." When they do that, they are recognizing the divinity in the person in front of them. They are showing their respect for the person in front of them.

We really need to recognize that with all of our fellow human beings, that we are all special, made in God's image, and we need to treat each other with more respect.

What is happening that we see these acts of vandalism, bigotry, and hate happening so often?

Is it because of the inflammatory rhetoric we hear all the time?

Is it because of extremism?

Is it because of the lack of accountability?

What do we need to do to address this problem because hate is not the answer. Love is the answer.

In the short term, we need to hold vandals, criminals, and people who commit hate crimes accountable. We need law enforcement to work to apprehend these criminals, and we need prosecutors to prosecute them to hold them accountable because people can't just say whatever they want regardless of the impact it has on other human beings.

In the long term, we need to do a much better job educating people about the importance of love and of respect for other people.

On Monday, I stood in unity with the BAPS community gathering with State and local officials, people from different religions, Democrats and Republicans from the Federal, State, and local level. We spoke out for the values that the people of the BAPS community stand for, that Long Islanders stand for, that New Yorkers stand for, and that Americans stand for.

Let's remember the importance of mutual respect and love and the role they play here in our country and in our world. Love will always win out.

#### CONSTITUTION WEEK

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

Mr. MASSIE. Madam Speaker, the Constitution of the United States of America, is the guardian of our liberties. It embodies the principles of limited government in a republic dedicated to rule by law.

September 17, 2024, marks the 237th anniversary of the framing of the Constitution of the United States by the Constitutional Convention.

It is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate it.

To honor this year's Constitution Week, I ask my fellow citizens and my colleagues here to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties.

Moreover, don't forget, Madam Speaker, the Constitution does not give us rights, and it does not grant us rights. The Constitution seeks to bind our government and protect our God-given rights.

I extend my sincerest gratitude to the members of the John Guill-Polly Hawkins Craig Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution for their steadfast commitment to honoring the history of our great Nation and for hosting a Constitution Week celebration for my constituents.

#### CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. MASSIE. Madam Speaker, we are told today that we are going to vote on a continuing resolution with another bright, shiny object attached to it.

I feel like this legislation is insincere and unserious.

Now, why is it unserious?

It is unserious because we are cramming all government spending into one bill, and instead of deciding what to spend on, we are saying: Let's just spend at least as much as we spent last year and not worry about running any of these bills through committee or debating how much we should spend on things.

It is also unserious because we spent 2 years uncovering deficiencies in our government. We have been stonewalled by the FBI and the Department of Justice with that familiar refrain: Oh, Mr. Congressman, that is the subject of an ongoing investigation, and it is our longstanding policy not to comment on that.

They can say that in a press release, but they shouldn't be saying that to Congress. However they get away with it because we don't cut their spending every time they do that to us.

If we would withhold the ink cartridge for one printer at the FBI, they would come to heel. Yet we are not going to do that in this bill, this continuing resolution. It is just unserious.

It is also very insincere. It is an insult to the American people. It is an insult to their intelligence to bring this bill to the floor because it sets up a fake fight that we all know here is fake. Somebody come down here and tell me it is not fake. You all know it is fake.

Here is what is even more insincere about it: The compromise has already been reached in a smoke-filled backroom here. They already know what we are going to do. It is going to be a clean CR when we get to September 30.

What is the deal they have reached?

It is the same deal they reach every year: We will let you spend a few billion dollars more if you let us spend a few billion dollars more.

In fact, what we should be doing is correcting this country's course. We are on a course to financial ruin.

I ask my colleagues: When history looks back, how will it judge you for what you do today on this vote?

Will it say: Oh, well, this is a person who was unserious and insincere, and

instead of making the tough arguments and having the tough discussions with their voters decided to go along to get along on the path to financial ruin or will you be one of the people who stands up and says: This is unsustainable. We must stop it. I will not engage in a fake fight. I will not be part of this political theater.

Will you stand your ground?

Will you be one of those people?

I hope you will.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the continuing resolution with the fake shiny object attached to it.

□ 1030

#### HONORING LINDA RONSTADT

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

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, this Hispanic Heritage Month, I pay tribute to a legendary Latina singer who crossed genres and generations, Linda Ronstadt.

Utilizing her distinctive voice, she brought delight to fans of pop, country music, folk, light opera, and, of course, Latin music.

She was incredibly proud of her Mexican heritage. When she told record executives that she wanted to record an album all in Spanish, they told her it would ruin her career. She went ahead anyway, releasing “Canciones De Mi Padre,” which stands as a best-selling non-English language album in American history.

Selling over 100 million albums, Linda has 12 Grammys, an Emmy, and, in 2014, was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

A passionate advocate for the arts, in 2013, she was honored for her work by President Barack Obama with the National Medal of Arts.

She announced her retirement in 2011. She revealed having a neurodegenerative diagnosis that left her unable to sing aloud. She is a personal favorite of mine. My favorite song of hers is “Blue Bayou,” and I will always honor her love of music and people.

This Hispanic Heritage Month, Linda is someone I will uplift and support. Her musical achievements will be remembered for a long, long time.

#### A WARNING TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to warn the American people about one of the greatest threats we face as a country.

A shadowy network led by a billionaire businessman is working to threaten some of our most important values. This businessman attacks immigrants from far places and mild-mannered journalists here in our country. The shadowy network seeks power at all costs.

No, I am not talking about Lex Luthor and his legion of doom, but

Donald Trump and his authoritarian and dictator friends who threaten our very democracy and world peace.

I am here to raise the alarm about the massive foreign interference of our politics at the highest levels. We know that, recently, The Washington Post reported allegations that the Egyptian President, seen right here, may have tried to transfer \$10 million to the Donald Trump campaign for President in 2016. We also know that other foreign governments have also tried to buy influence from the Trumps and the Kushner family.

We know that Jared Kushner colluded to collect \$2 billion from the Saudi royal family for his investment fund just 2 months after leaving the White House job.

We also know the Trump Organization has collected, at a minimum, \$7.8 million in foreign payments from multiple countries during his Presidency, funneled through The Trump Organization and his hotel properties.

Madam Speaker, we cannot delay more accountability or an investigation. Donald Trump has made dangerous allegiances with enemies of the United States of America and our allies. They do not stand for truth, justice, and the American way.

I have raised this alarm over and over again, and we should not stop.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward nominees for the Office of President.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MADELYN CONNOR

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

Ms. LETLOW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Madelyn Connor.

There are very few times in life when you meet a person and leave the conversation inspired to do more, but that was Maddie.

Madam Speaker, she was a dreammaker. She had a vision for her community, a dream in her heart, and a drive to see it through to completion.

Earlier this year, I received a request to visit a new charter school opening its doors in northeast Louisiana. I knew very little about the school named the Academy of Collaborative Education, also known as ACE. I only knew that it would serve students from our region who had received an autism diagnosis.

On the day of my visit, Maddie swung open those school doors, and I was met with her contagious smile and a huge hug. As she sat me down to explain the origin of the school, I noticed that her passion for the kids who would benefit from this program shone through the most. It came from one of the most genuine and fiercest of places: a mother's heart.

She explained that her son had received an autism diagnosis, and she

was left with disappointment and frustration when she realized the curriculum at her local public school would not suffice for his needs. She sat down with his speech pathologist, Joellen Freeman, one day to share her concerns, and it was there that a dream and a plan was born: to start a charter school aimed at supporting children with autism.

The journey to start this school was riddled with obstacles and heartache, but Maddie never gave up. That was her nature. Nothing was going to stop her from giving these kids an opportunity to learn in a supportive environment.

It took 2 years and an arduous 250-page application process, but her dream was finally realized with an official ribbon cutting on July 26, 2024, alongside her cofounder, Joellen.

This picture of her was taken on that very day the ribbon was cut. Her family and friends were there to celebrate and remember her beaming with joy on the day that her dream was realized.

I will never forget when I stood up to leave after our meeting and tour of her new school was complete. She stopped me on the way out to grab something from her desk. Her eyes flooded with tears as she showed me a picture of her son, Ace. She said: This is my why.

She didn't have to say another word. Our eyes met, and I instantly understood. There is nothing more powerful than a mother's love. It has the power to change the world.

In northeast Louisiana, we lost our dreammaker on August 30, 2024. Richard, who is with us today in the gallery, lost his loving wife. Gracyn, Ace, and Jett lost their precious mother.

As they navigate this journey through grief, I pray they will find some comfort in knowing that they were Maddie's whole world, so much so that she left them a legacy.

The Academy of Collaborative Education has the power to transform a region and impact countless lives in our State of Louisiana and beyond. It will be there for years to come to help autistic children and worried moms and dads because Maddie had a dream in her heart and a fierce determination to help her children, and she never gave up.

Madam Speaker, I leave my colleagues with the words spoken by Maddie's husband, Richard, at her funeral. He said: We lost Maddie, but only in flesh. Her spirit lives on through her family, friends, and each and every one of the people who knew her. We will all be reunited with her again one day. How sweet that day will be.

May we all live each one of our days left inspired by the way Maddie lived hers: as a dreammaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of Utah). The Chair reminds Members not to refer to persons in the gallery.