

remind us of the true cost of freedom. May he rest in peace as we welcome him home.

HONORING LARRY DOBSON

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Dobson, a remarkable leader and selfless servant in Missouri, for receiving the Lieutenant Governor's Senior Service Award.

Born on July 4, 1948, in Harrisonville, Missouri, Larry's dedication to education and community service shaped countless lives across our great State. From his impactful career as an educator and guidance counselor in the Raymore-Peculiar District and Blue Springs School District to his steadfast commitment to Peculiar United Methodist Church, Larry has embodied the spirit of service.

He has contributed more than 50 years to numerous community boards, including Caring Hearts of Peculiar and the Missouri Bluebird Society, where he has worked tirelessly to enrich his community and uplift others.

Larry's motto is: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you," the Golden Rule, a guiding principle that has certainly inspired a lot of us and him over the years.

Today, we celebrate Larry Dobson's legacy and his profound impact on the great State of Missouri.

CREATING A SHADOW CABINET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. NICKEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, last week is done. As Democrats, we simply failed to convince the American people we have better ideas to solve their problems, but we do.

Now, we need to dust ourselves off and get ready to fight. We can't let Donald Trump's extreme MAGA agenda go unanswered or unopposed. Zone defense isn't going to work. We are going to have to go man on man.

Here is an idea on how to organize our opposition. We need to borrow from our British friends and appoint a shadow cabinet to fight back against the worst abuses of a second Trump administration.

The special relationship between the United States and Britain extends not just to our strength on the global stage but also to our shared commitment to democracy. Across the Atlantic, the British have something we don't: a team from the opposition that mirrors the government's own Cabinet members.

They watch the Cabinet closely, publicly challenging, scrutinizing, and offering new ideas. It is another form of checks and balances, a quiet guardrail that holds those in power accountable. With a shadow cabinet, there is no hiding.

Each decision by the government faces a ready counterpoint, not just from the media and voters, but also from political leaders poised to step in.

Shadow cabinet members can also become the clear point people for advocacy and grassroots organizers, making it easier to unify and amplify the solutions that those in power are ignoring.

It is democracy's insurance policy, and it strengthens the government, too. There is no room for lazy ideas when rivals stand ready to step in.

What would a shadow cabinet look like here in the United States? We certainly would make it our own, an American version. We have an amazing wealth of talent on the Democratic side of the aisle in Congress, people loyal to the Constitution and ready to be the watchdogs for an out-of-control Trump administration.

Democratic Leaders HAKEEM JEFFRIES and CHUCK SCHUMER in the Senate could appoint 26 Members of Congress to go one on one with each member of Donald Trump's Cabinet.

□ 1045

If Trump attempts to weaponize the justice system against his political opponents with Matt Gaetz at the helm, we could see incoming Senator ADAM SCHIFF as our shadow attorney general, arguing against replacing our independent prosecutors with Trump loyalties.

If Trump seeks to eliminate the Department of Education, Congresswoman JAHANA HAYES, a former teacher of the year, could step up as shadow education secretary to loudly defend public education in the United States.

If Trump orders MARCO RUBIO to hand Ukraine and much of Eastern Europe to Vladimir Putin, Congressman GREG MEEKS, as shadow secretary of state, could be a strong voice in support of maintaining international relationships and protecting democracy at home and abroad.

Senator MICHAEL BENNET as shadow treasury secretary and Congresswoman SUZAN DELBENE as shadow commerce secretary could help ensure the middle class and small businesses have a voice in government and call out Trump's proposed tax cuts for billionaires and corporations.

As shadow defense secretary, Congressman ADAM SMITH, a great Representative for the people of Washington, and not a FOX News host, could counter Trump's threat to use military force against his political opponents and work to ensure the Department of Defense stays loyal to the Constitution and not some wannabe dictator.

Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH could argue against cuts to the Department of Veterans Affairs that would delay the benefits and care our servicemembers have so rightly earned.

If Trump hands over the EPA to Big Oil ally Lee Zeldin, we could see Congresswoman KATHY CASTOR pushing back for environmental protection and conservation to protect the air we breathe and the water we drink.

If Trump pushes to ban abortion nationwide, Congresswoman ROSA DELAURIO could step in as shadow sec-

retary of health and human services to defend women's right to choose and argue against the gutting of Medicare by Trump and his cronies.

Mr. Speaker, new times require new solutions. The shadow cabinet isn't just about opposing extreme MAGA attacks on our government; it is also about making clear what we stand for, not just what we are against. It is time to show, not just to say, what we believe in: justice, accountability, and democracy.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF WILLIAM NOEL "BILLY" LAWLESS

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn remembrance of William Noel "Billy" Lawless, a member of the Irish Senate, immigration activist, successful entrepreneur, pillar of the community, and proud Irish American.

Born in Galway, Ireland, where he was raised on a dairy farm, Billy saw President John F. Kennedy give a speech as a young boy when our first Irish-American U.S. President visited Ireland in 1963.

After that experience, he knew he wanted to move abroad to the United States. In the meantime, he prospered in Galway, becoming a beloved part of his community, successfully owning and operating a restaurant and pub.

His boyhood dream of coming to America persisted. At 48 years old, he made it a reality. An accomplished rower in his own right, set to represent Ireland in the 1976 Olympic Games until he withdrew to care for his ill father, it was his daughter moving to the East Coast to row that helped him make the final decision.

Billy arrived in the U.S. in the late 1990s. He opened The Irish Oak pub in Chicago, Illinois. Billy would go on to open many successful restaurants and be a leader in the Chicago hospitality industry.

However, that was not the only thing that occupied his time. He had begun to hear a common story: people who had overstayed their visas but didn't want to leave the communities that they had grown to love so much in the United States. His Irish heritage informed his commitment to others who struggled for citizenship like himself.

Billy became a leader in the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and cofounded the Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform. In 2014, he introduced President Barack Obama at the Copernicus Center for a speech on immigration reform. That same year, both he and his beloved wife, Anne, proudly became American citizens, one of the world's great privileges.

For St. Patrick's Day celebrations, you could often find him honoring the holiday at the White House.

Billy used his voice and identity as an immigrant himself to help others.

He successfully lobbied for a bill in Illinois that made driver's licenses available to individuals regardless of immigration status. He worked with the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition where he collaborated with business leaders to persuade elected officials to support immigration reform, creating a bipartisan base of support.

In 2016, he became the first senator based overseas in the Irish Senate after his appointment by Enda Kenny, then Ireland's Taoiseach, giving a voice to the Irish diaspora that enriches every corner of our diverse Nation.

His businesses and restaurants live at the center of Chicago's hospitality industry, and his legacy of fighting for immigration reform continues to have ripple effects throughout the Nation.

I am grateful for our years of friendship, strengthened by our shared commitment to our Irish culture.

While serving as a senator, our Buffalo Irish community welcomed Billy and Anne to see how we honored and lived our shared heritage. We visited the James Joyce Collection at the University at Buffalo, a literary treasure honoring the Irish novelist, and many Irish monuments in Buffalo, including the Fenian Invasion Monument and the Western New York Irish Famine Memorial.

I join the long list of those inspired and heartened by his compassion and dedication, which he used to make his community and our country a better place.

Billy Lawless was a consummate gentleman, a visionary, and a brilliant international leader.

He leaves behind his wife, Anne; his four children, Amy, Clodagh, Billy Jr., and John Paul; and his eight grandchildren.

May Senator Billy Lawless rest in peace and may his vision for ever-closer ties between the United States and Ireland continue to flourish.

PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP'S CABINET APPOINTMENTS

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this week, I came back to Washington with the idea of trying to give President Trump a chance, an open mind, hold my tongue a bit. It has been difficult, and it will get more difficult, it appears.

I first got inspired to get into government because of John Kennedy. I knew every single one of John Kennedy's Cabinet members. They are referred to in a book as the best and the brightest. That is what we used to have in our Cabinet of the United States of America was the best and the brightest.

What we have seen with the nominations that have come forth and the request for changes in the Senate's confirmation policy really is scary and should be of concern to the American people. It is a red light on the possibility of loss of democracy and the im-

plementation and institution of autocracy.

Mr. Trump asked the Senate leadership to give him a 2-week period where he could make Senate recess appointments, something that is permitted in the Constitution but was permitted because of the idea that back when they wrote the Constitution, if the Senate took a recess, it could take weeks or months before they could all get back to Washington by trains or horses, or however they traveled back in those days, in the late 1700s, to conduct business.

That is not the case anymore. The Supreme Court has ruled in a case about 10, 15 years ago that—I think it was Justice Scalia who was the lead on the Court—this should only take place in intersession, between the times the Senate ends a term and begins a new term, and that is simply whenever they decide to take off.

President Trump has asked. Senate leaders, candidates, and the Senate leader who was chosen, Mr. THUNE, all said they would do it when Mr. Trump asked them to do it, to have a period where he could have his appointments for Cabinet to come forward and be approved because of lack of action by the Senate in what is called a recess appointment. That is a dereliction of the Constitution, and anybody that goes along with it should be questioned.

The Senate is to act as a check and balance on the President and his nominations and appointments of Cabinet members. The Senate meets, has hearings, and votes to confirm or not to confirm nominees.

To not have hearings, to not have votes because at least some of his Cabinet recommendations are so abhorrent that they would scare the American people, and have a spectacle of bringing forth the facts about their backgrounds, lack of experience, and the lack of character that they have shown in their times in government and life here on this planet—to not have hearings and to not have votes is a dereliction and an offense to the Constitution that has the Senate as a check and balance before nominees are approved.

The worst was yesterday when Matt Gaetz was recommended for Attorney General. After his recommendation, and he flew back and forth to Washington with President-elect Trump, he announced his resignation from this body. By so doing, he thwarted an ethics investigation that has been going on in the House Ethics Committee concerning alleged conduct that he had had with a 17-year-old girl, sexual conduct, his involvement in activities using illegal drugs, use of his congressional powers for the benefit of people illegally, use of campaign funds for personal activities, and other offenses that would call for the expulsion of a person from this House.

By his resigning from the House, that investigation ends because the Committee no longer has jurisdiction over him. He will become a nominee for At-

torney General to go through the recess process where all of these facts won't come forth.

I would hope that our Ethics Committee and the chair of the Ethics Committee, who has done a great job on other occasions, and I have great respect for, would release the results of that study to the American public because they should see it. They should see the work that has been done, and they should see the type of person who is going to be brought up for Attorney General of the United States, even if the Senate doesn't want to bring it forth with hearings.

As I understand it, the report would be eye-opening and extremely damaging and should be released to the American public. They have a right to see it.

The recommendation of Tulsi Gabbard to be the head of intelligence, when she has mostly been known for controversial statements supporting our foes around the world, from Syria to Russia to Iran, is disturbing and challenging.

The suggestion that the Department of Defense should be led by the host of Fox & Friends on weekends, as his main contribution to society, is scary to our soldiers, who need the best and brightest at the helm.

□ 1100

MOURNING THE LOSS OF VERNON LEON DAVIS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Vernon Leon Davis. Leon Davis was a firefighter for over 30 years in Blackshear, Georgia.

Mr. Davis worked his way up to assistant fire chief of Blackshear while working part time over his expansive 30-year career.

Sadly, Mr. Davis passed in the line of duty while helping the Blackshear community during Hurricane Helene. This hurricane has hit Georgia and the Southeast region of the United States hard. Without the tremendous efforts and service of people like Mr. Davis, our communities would not be able to recover.

Mr. Davis was known to be an exceptional man by his family, friends, and all the people he worked with throughout his career. He has deeply touched the Blackshear community and will be greatly missed by many.

Our community is forever indebted to Mr. Davis' service, and I send my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

CELEBRATING HOWARD YOUNG'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Howard Young's 100th birthday.

Born on November 25, 1924, in Louisiana, Howard Young has lived an incredible life. Howard grew up in Louisiana during the toughest of times,