

fiscal responsibility. They are rooted in racist, sexist, and authoritarian ideology.

I will not stay silent while extremists attack our scientists, our students, our universities, and our future.

We are woefully underproducing scientists and engineers in our society. You can look at the growth of those communities in other nations, other continents. This country is woefully underproducing. We do not have the luxury of walking away from any one demographic of students out there based on gender, race, or ethnicity to meet our goals. We cannot skip over any of those populations.

We must stand up—stand up for science, stand up for equity, and stand up for the truth.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. TONKO for his years of leadership on the Scientific Integrity Act, still very essential legislation for this country.

What a profound honor it is to be with colleagues in this democracy sharing these views.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Ms. STEVENS and Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, for hosting this Special Order hour. Their leadership is much needed, and I appreciate them.

Madam Speaker, I rise today because something is deeply wrong. The Trump administration is gutting our Nation's scientific infrastructure and doing it with purpose. This isn't some misunderstanding or clerical error. It is an attack on research, on truth, and on the people who have dedicated their lives to making our country stronger, smarter, and healthier.

Thousands of scientists have been laid off. Grants approved by Congress are being withheld. Whole labs are shutting down. Now, the administration wants to slash funding for the NIH, the CDC, the Department of Energy's labs, and the university partnerships that have built the modern American economy.

They call this reform. It is not reform. It is a dagger to the heart of American innovation.

Let's be honest about what's going on here. Elon Musk and the so-called Department of Government Efficiency are using the Federal Government to settle scores: cancer trials, nonessential; national science databases, too expensive. That is not policy. It is a crusade against expertise.

Last month, I sat down with five undergraduate researchers at UC Riverside. They are doing remarkable work on everything from climate change to biomedical engineering. Their students are bright; their ideas are bold; and their funding is suddenly at risk, not because the science failed but because politics did.

While we fire researchers, other countries are sending job offers. France, Germany, Canada, and Australia are rolling out the red carpet for

the scientists we are pushing out the door.

While we make it harder for international students, researchers, and the greatest minds around the world to come, to bring their talent, other countries are offering funding, housing, and guaranteed lab space.

One institute called it a "once-in-a-century brain gain opportunity," a once-in-a-century brain gain opportunity for other countries. This is what it looks like when a country values science. Meanwhile, we are bleeding talent.

As ranking member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I need to speak plainly: Our veterans are being hurt, too.

In Pennsylvania, doctors at VA hospitals warned that lifesaving cancer trials were being shut down. I was told by the Secretary—I rushed from that hearing—that they really weren't being shut down, but there are a lot of questions around the status of these trials.

More than 1,000 veterans are at risk of losing access to treatments for head and neck cancer, kidney disease, and traumatic brain injuries. Some of these trials have not been restarted.

In Pittsburgh, a study for veterans struggling with opioid addiction stalled out when a hiring freeze hit.

In Los Angeles, all chemotherapy treatments almost stopped entirely before the VA reversed course.

These are not just numbers. These are people. These are veterans who stepped up for this country, who are now wondering why the country will not step up for them.

We passed the PACT Act to expand care to those exposed to burn pits and other toxins. It was the largest expansion of veterans' care in generations, making good on a promise to help those who served our Nation. Now, it is being broken.

While all of this is happening, China is investing billions in biotech, AI, and clean energy. They are not just competing with us; they are outpacing us because they are not undermining their own scientists.

While we fire, they fund. While we second-guess researchers, they fast-track them.

We are not losing this race because we Americans are not capable. We are losing because we are allowing our government to sabotage them.

Today, some of the National Science Foundation scientists who were fired may be watching from the gallery, others—grad students, post-docs, public health experts—are tuning in from their labs and classrooms across the country.

To all of them, I say this: We see you. We value you. We are not giving up on you. This is not about science; it is about who we are as a country.

Do we invest in the people solving cancer, or do we dismiss them as expendable?

Do we stand by our veterans mid-treatment, or do we tell them to wait until the budget looks better?

Do we fight to stay at the forefront of discovery and innovation, or do we hand the future to someone else?

Madam Speaker, I represent a region full of young people who believe they can cure disease, fight climate change, and explore the stars. What message are we sending them right now?

We should be investing in their future, not pulling the rug out from underneath them.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject these cuts, reject this anti-science, anti-veteran agenda. Let us fight for the truth for our researchers, for our vets, and for the country we still have a chance to become.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SUBRAMANYAM) to close us out. He is such a leader, and I am so proud of him for helping with this Special Order hour.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman STEVENS for yielding, and I will keep it very short.

A study a few weeks ago said that a 25 percent reduction in public support of science and research would correlate to a 3.8 percent drop in economic output. That is the same as the Great Recession. That is how bad it would be.

Protecting science funding is not just about labs or some agencies. It is about preserving hope for families across the country. These cuts are bad for our economy, small businesses, parents, children, teachers, patients, you name it. Our country cannot afford these massive cuts to science and innovation.

We must reject these cuts and stand up for the health, safety, and prosperity of every American.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

We will continue to use our voices. To every scientific researcher, science student, and American wondering, we have your back. We will use our voices. We will not be silent in the face of these cuts.

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

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. EVANS of Colorado was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EVANS of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. FEDORCHAK). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. EVANS of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER), a fellow former law enforcement officer, who

served in the Duluth Police Department.

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative EVANS for yielding.

Madam Speaker, this National Police Week is a somber one for Minnesotans, as we have lost three brave officers in the line of duty: Paul Elmstrand, Matthew Ruge, and Jamal Mitchell. I would also be remiss if I did not acknowledge Firefighter/Paramedic Adam Finseth.

In February 2024, Paul Elmstrand and Matthew Ruge were attempting to negotiate with a convicted felon who had taken several family members hostage, including seven children. After 3½ hours of negotiations, the subject opened fire on the officers. Firefighter/Paramedic Adam Finseth was fired on while trying to help the wounded officers to an armored vehicle.

On February 18, 2024, Officers Elmstrand and Ruge and Firefighter/Paramedic Finseth did not return home to their families.

In May 2024, officers responded to shots fired in Minneapolis, Minnesota. When the officers arrived, a gunfight ensued. Officer Jamal Mitchell stopped to help what he thought was a wounded victim on the ground. The subject opened multiple rounds and fired upon Officer Mitchell.

On May 30, 2024, Officer Jamal Mitchell did not return home to his family.

I visited the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial yesterday morning. I saw the names of these men etched into the walls alongside their brothers and sisters who have also paid the ultimate sacrifice.

I saw the pictures and the notes left behind by loved ones. I saw the Minneapolis Police patch accompanied by two beers, a silent farewell from a colleague who never got that last drink with their friend.

Every year, we have to put more names on that wall, and every year, it is just as heartbreaking as the last. We have to do better by the men and women who serve our communities. We have to support them in their actions, our policies, and our rhetoric. We need to care for their families as if they were our own.

I thank those who put on the law enforcement uniform every day, who kiss their families good-bye not knowing if they will come home. It is because of them that our communities and loved ones are safe.

To my fellow law enforcement officers across this great Nation, in big and small communities, although my time in uniform may be over, my watch will never end. Please know that I will use my time in office to serve you and your families always.

□ 1830

Mr. EVANS of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for those words. It is truly meaningful.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY).

HONORING CAPTAIN BRUCE "PUPPY" FECHT

Mr. ELLZEY. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Colorado (Mr. EVANS) and my friend from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER), both police officers. Of course, the gentleman from Colorado was a fellow helicopter pilot, unrestricted aviator, and I thank the gentleman for the time that he has given me today.

Madam Speaker, today I honor a friend of mine and a true American patriot, Commander Bruce "Puppy" Fecht, born November 16, 1955, passed away March 16, 2025.

Captain Bruce William Fecht, U.S. Navy, retired, a true American hero, passed away on March 16, 2025, at the age of 69. He was born in Missoula, Montana, to Robert William Fecht and Marjorie June Fehr. When he was a young boy, the family along with older sister Bobbi moved to Spokane, Washington, where the family grew to include his two younger sisters, Rebecca and Brenda.

Bruce went to Mead High School, where he was a standout basketball player. He continued his education and basketball prowess at Spokane Community College, eventually completing his electrical engineering degree at UW.

His first job at AT&T offered the comfort of a 9-to-5 routine, but it was the thrill of flight that ultimately called to him.

Bruce pursued his dream of becoming a naval aviator, applying to and being accepted into Aviation Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida. He was commissioned in 1982, and 1 year later in April 1983, he received his wings of gold in Beeville, Texas, marking the beginning of a distinguished career in the skies.

For the next decade, Bruce, call sign Puppy—we will talk about that in a bit—served with distinction in various squadrons, including the VF-124 Gunslingers, VF-111 Sundowners, VF-126 Bandits, and VF-1 Wolfpack, flying the iconic F-14A and F-14D Tomcat along with the T-2C, A4-E, and F-16N.

He completed multiple deployments aboard aircraft carriers like the USS *Carl Vinson*, USS *Ranger*, and USS *Enterprise*.

He also graduated from Fighter Weapons School, Top Gun, Adversary Course and earned a master of science degree in systems management from the University of Southern California.

Bruce was selected as an extra for the movie "Top Gun," and he can be seen a couple of times, which was filmed on sight in Miramar. He can be seen in the infamous "Top Gun" group photo used in the movie.

Bruce's career was defined not only by his technical skills and unmatched piloting abilities but also by his leadership. After 14 years in the cockpit, he transitioned to staff roles, including serving as the Pol-Mil officer at U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. There, he played a key role in operations in the Middle East, focusing on Israel, Lebanon, and Syria.

Bruce returned to the cockpit in 1999, joining the VF-14 Tophatters as executive officer and, later, commanding officer.

Bruce was a man of faith and in the last 2 years of his life, he earned a master's degree in Catholic theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville. He planned to retire from General Atomics and serve as a chaplain. He attended Saint Ann Catholic Church in Ridgecrest, California, and enjoyed serving meals and singing in the choir.

Bruce will be forever remembered for his great sense of humor and his generous heart. He was a faithful son, wonderful brother, and a fun uncle to his nephews and nieces. His personal relationship with Jesus Christ took him through his last difficult journey with the strength and confidence that he can trust his Lord with the outcome of his life.

We will miss him dearly but look forward to the day we will be reunited in Heaven. Bruce is survived by his sisters, Bobbi, Rebecca, and Brenda; numerous nieces and nephews; cousins; aunts; friends; and the countless men and women who were fortunate to serve alongside him. He leaves behind a legacy of courage, integrity, and commitment to excellence that will continue to inspire for generations to come.

May he rest in peace.

HONORING DETENTION OFFICER ISAIAH PATRICK BIAS

Mr. ELLZEY. Madam Speaker, it is Police Week. In honor of Police Week, I will recognize two remarkable individuals whose bravery and dedication serve as examples of heroism in our communities.

First, I honor the life and service of Detention Officer Isaiah Patrick Bias of Ellis County Sheriff's Office. Last December, Officer Bias made the ultimate sacrifice while serving his community at the Ellis County Jail.

He began his journey with the sheriff's office as a teenager in the Explorer Program, growing into a respected officer known for his kindness and professionalism.

I had the honor of attending Officer Bias' funeral, where family, friends, and fellow officers gathered to remember a man who served with dignity and heart.

Ellis County Sheriff Brad Norman spoke of Isaiah's unwavering dedication and the impact he made on everyone who knew him.

His passing is a powerful reminder during this Police Week of the dangers faced by our law enforcement officers each and every day. His memory serves as a beacon of service and courage to us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF MOLLIE MCCALISTER

Mr. ELLZEY. Madam Speaker, I next recognize Mollie McCalister.

Mollie is a dispatcher from Cherokee County, whose quick thinking and intuition saved a life.

Most days, Mollie takes calls about all kinds of things: lost pets, traffic accidents, and folks just needing a little

help. Yet, one day, she picked up the phone, and it was different.

A woman called asking about her child's eye prescription. That might sound like an odd call for 911, but Mollie picked up on something: a hesitation, a tone in her voice.

She knew something wasn't right. She sensed fear and desperation from the other side of the phone. Rather than brushing it off, Mollie followed her instincts. She coordinated with deputies in the area and sent them to the caller's location.

Thank God she did because that woman was being held at gunpoint. Madam Speaker, because of her actions, the suspect was arrested, and that caller is still with us today.

That is real heroism. It is not the kind you read about in big headlines but the kind that happens every single day in our communities because people like Mollie are paying attention. She listened. She cared and because of that, a life was saved. Mollie reminds us that sometimes the most important thing you can do is simply listen and act.

Today, I was privileged to recognize these two heroes, but I am not the only one you have heard from today, and these are not the only two people in my district who deserve recognition.

Mr. EVANS of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for those incredibly moving tributes and for the words, the memories, and the recognition.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the 23rd District of California (Mr. OBERNOLTE), a fellow member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER SETH FRANKLIN AND
OFFICER SHAUN JARVIS

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives and the legacies of two remarkable law enforcement officers from California's Inland Empire: Officer Seth Franklin of the Redlands Police Department, and Officer Shaun Jarvis of the San Bernardino Police Department.

These two men dedicated their lives to serving and protecting others not just as officers but as fathers, husbands, sons, and brothers. Their commitment to their communities was matched only by their love for their families.

Officer Seth Franklin passed away on April 6, 2025, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He was just 34. He is survived by his wife, two young children, his parents, and three siblings. Seth was known for his leadership, compassion, and quiet strength; qualities that define not just his work, but every part of his life.

Officer Shaun Jarvis tragically lost his life on May 1, 2014, in a motorcycle accident. He was only 30. Shaun left behind his wife, Rachel; their two young children, Griffin and Aislynn; and his stepdaughter, Aubrey, who he proudly raised as his own.

He was a deeply devoted family man who made time for the moments that

mattered, whether it was coaching Little League or walking his daughter to her first day of school year after year after year.

This year, Officer Jarvis' name was added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial here in Washington, D.C. His service and sacrifice are now forever enshrined among the heroes who gave their lives in the line of duty or while still devoted to their uniform.

Madam Speaker, these men lived with purpose and served with honor. Their legacies endure in the lives that they touched, the families that they loved, and the communities that they helped keep safe. We owe them and their families a debt that we can never fully repay.

I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our deepest condolences and sincerest gratitude to these two men.

Mr. EVANS of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD), himself a veteran of our United States military.

IN MEMORY OF FRED FISLAR AND BRANDON
SCHREIBER

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado for yielding to me.

Madam Speaker, every single day, our brave men and women in blue leave their families not knowing if they will return home.

During National Police Week, we pause to show our gratitude for our law enforcement officers and recognize the sacrifices that they make every single day to keep our communities safe.

Today, I particularly recognize Fred Fislar from the Hendricks County Sheriff's Office and Brandon Schreiber from the Newton County Sheriff's Office, two constituents of mine who tragically lost their lives in the line of duty in 2024.

Their service and sacrifice will not be forgotten.

To the law enforcement officers across the State of Indiana, I thank them for their unwavering courage, dedication, and service to our communities.

I also thank the families of our law enforcement officers. Their strength, resilience, and sacrifices should also be honored and appreciated.

Let this week serve as a reminder that we should always back the blue.

ADDITIONAL RECOGNITIONS FOR NATIONAL
POLICE WEEK

Mr. EVANS of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today during National Police Week in strong support of the law enforcement community and the men and women I served with in my former career as a police officer as we all worked together to protect our communities.

Police service runs deep in my blood. In fact, both of my grandfathers were proud veterans. One of them, my abuelito Cuauhtemoc Chavez, earned his citizenship in World War II along with two Purple Hearts.

My other grandfather, Gregory Evans, was a career naval aviator. He

believed that service to this country wasn't just an obligation; it was a privilege. That belief has shaped who I am today.

From a young age, I was taught that truly loving this country means being willing to serve, to protect, and to sacrifice for it. That lesson has stayed with me and led me to serve 12 years in the U.S. Army and the Colorado Army National Guard, and later to my 10 years of service with the Arvada Police Department.

Wearing the uniform teaches you so much about leadership, resilience, and responsibility. It gives a deeper understanding and respect for the men and women who put themselves in harm's way for others. These are the people who don't just talk about courage and service; they live it.

During my first term here in Congress, I have made it a priority to defend and honor our law enforcement officers, especially those who have given everything in the line of duty.

The very first bill I introduced as a Member of this House was about defending and uplifting our State and local law enforcement, the UPLIFT Act.

This bill is about empowering law enforcement officers to do their jobs and keep our communities safe by extending hold harmless protections to officers who work with Federal law enforcement to remove people who are illegally present in our communities and who are committing other crimes.

In fact, I found out just today that a friend of mine had lost a daughter, Kaitlyn Weaver, to an illegal immigrant who was driving over 90 miles an hour in a 45-mile-an-hour zone and created a fatal traffic accident.

Unfortunately, the State that I represent, Colorado, continues to prioritize the protection of illegal immigrants who commit crimes over the safety of innocent American citizens like Kaitlyn.

While Colorado has been a sanctuary State for nearly 6 years, the State legislature continues to handcuff police officers from cooperating with their Federal law enforcement counterparts. Colorado also severely restricts local police officers from being able to even safely and orderly transfer a criminal to Federal custody, which jeopardizes officer safety and results in our police officers being assaulted.

My bill, the UPLIFT Act, would help fix this problem. As a former cop, I will never stop advocating for the protection and well-being of law enforcement.

While my first bill focused on defending law enforcement, my most recent one focuses on honoring law enforcement. As someone who has worn the badge, I know firsthand the sacrifice and commitment that the job requires.

Law enforcement isn't just a profession. It is a calling. It takes a special kind of person to wake up every day knowing the risks, knowing the dangers, and knowing that that might be their last day, and they still put on the uniform and go to work

John 15:13 talks about the greatest love that someone has as being willing to lay down their life for their friends. Police officers across our country embody that kind of love every single day when they go out and protect our communities.

When I think about this fundamental principle of law enforcement, I think about officers from my district. I think about folks like Weld County Sheriff's Deputy Sam Brownlee.

A devoted husband, father, and step-father, Deputy Brownlee was tragically shot and killed in the line of duty in 2010 during a struggle with a gang member. He served with distinction for 5 years with the Weld County Sheriff's Department and was always committed to protecting his community.

Deputy Brownlee's story is one that should never be forgotten. His sacrifice is a solemn reminder of the risks that our law enforcement officers face every day and the courage it takes to wear the badge. That is why I am proud to announce that, this week, during National Police Week, I introduced a bill to rename the Evans Post Office in Weld County after Deputy Brownlee to ensure that the community that he loved is able to properly honor and remember his courage, his service, and his enduring legacy.

□ 1845

In a time when law enforcement officers across this country face growing threats and far too little appreciation, we must do more to recognize their bravery, their sacrifice, and their families.

This bill is a tribute not just to Deputy Brownlee, but to every officer who has laid down their life in defense of their community and the families that they left behind.

I look forward to continuing to build support for this bill with the Colorado delegation and working to get it signed into law.

Part of my passion in doing this comes from one of these specific assignments that I had when I was a police officer. I served in a variety of capacities, but one of the most meaningful was serving as a member of, a sergeant of, and the lieutenant for our Honor Guard.

The Honor Guard is the agency within a police department that is responsible for conducting a variety of ceremonies. They do the flag postings at civic events, but one of the most sacred responsibilities that they have is honoring the fallen officers who gave their lives in the line of duty.

I served in that role for several years with my agency and, unfortunately, I have buried more officers than I can remember starting with Heath Gumm of the Adams County Sheriff's Department and ending with Eric Talley from the Boulder Police Department.

There are two officers that I had to bury that I will specifically mention. The first was my friend and coworker for almost 10 years, Officer Gordon

Beesley of the Arvada Police Department.

Gordon was a school resource officer. He was one of the nicest people that you would ever meet. In fact, before his ambush and murder, he actually was making the news because of his work as a school resource officer who took the time to personally ride his bike to school with a kid who was having some trouble at that school.

Officer Beesley truly embodied what it meant to serve your community, to protect your community, and to work alongside your community to make sure that everyone gets the best possible outcome that they possibly can. He had a life motto and his life motto was: Find the good. Find the good in every person and in every situation.

Even though he was a police officer and had to sometimes do things like put handcuffs on people and hold others accountable, Gordon Beesley lived by those words every single day. He was a pillar in the community who truly worked to find the good in every situation.

Another officer from my agency was Officer Dillon Vakoff. Dillon was actually an Air Force veteran. He served for several years in the United States Air Force before he became a police officer. Dillon was actually an officer on one of the units that I commanded. He was one of my mobile field force officers. I remember training him to be able to go out and do the requirements of that special assignment.

Dillon was, unfortunately, shot and killed on September 11, 2022, while he was responding to an altercation that turned deadly.

Dillon also had a motto that he lived by. I can't say it on the floor of this House, but the acronym for it is NFQ. It means never quit.

Dillon was somebody who never quit. He never quit in his commitment to his country. He never quit in his commitment to his State. And Dillon never quit even when he was called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice and lay down his life in defense of his community.

In many ways Dillon embodies what it means to be a police officer. Having served for 12 years in the Army and another 10 years in law enforcement, I often compare military and law enforcement service to being two sides of the same coin or to use police terminology, two sides of the same perimeter.

In law enforcement, whenever we have a dangerous situation, we have to contain that situation to keep the public safe, so we set up what is called an inner perimeter. We also want to make sure that the rest of the community does not go into that perimeter.

While you have an inner perimeter of officers who are containing the situation and who are focused inward, you have an outer perimeter of officers who are making sure that the innocents stay away from a potentially hazardous situation or area.

That is how I see the military and law enforcement. Law enforcement is the inner perimeter. They protect us in our homes, in our communities, in our schools, in our parks, and on our roadways. The military protects us from external threats, but they are two sides of the same coin.

When folks like Dillon or Gordon or Heath Gumm or Eric Talley or so many others are called upon to make that sacrifice, they are making that sacrifice from the exact same motivations as the broader community of military and law enforcement and first responders who are out to make sure that we stay safe.

At a law enforcement funeral, which, again, I have unfortunately been to too many of, we honor those sacrifices, and we make two solemn promises. The first promise is to never forget. We honor that promise by doing things like what we are doing tonight. We honor that promise through memorials and through speeches and through memories, through carrying the actual lives and stories of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Dillon and Gordon are no longer with us, but as long as we talk about them, as long as we talk about how they lived their lives, as long as we carry on their mottos, never quit, find the good, in a small way they are still with us and their memories, their examples, their courage, their commitment, and their service lives on through them as long as we never forget.

There is a second promise that we make at law enforcement funerals. We have the watch from here. Law enforcement is like the thin blue line, individuals may come and go, but the thin blue line itself never sleeps, never grows tired. It doesn't fail. It cannot fail. The thin blue line is what keeps our communities, our country, and our way of life safe from the threats and the harms and the chaos that would exist if just for a single day police officers didn't put on the badge and the uniform and go to work. Individual officers come and go, but the thin blue line never does.

We make a promise to the fallen who gave the ultimate sacrifice. They are no longer able to continue in that watch. We do a final radio call, but then we make a promise. We have the watch from here. For everyone within the sound of my voice—for the police officers, for the citizens, for everyone else, that is the action item, that is the takeaway from this speech. We have the watch from here.

For the police officers, for the first responders, for the families who serve right alongside their loved ones, know that we will not forget and that we will stand by you to the absolute utmost of our abilities because that is what having the watch from here means.

It means that the sacred requirement to protect our communities will not end. It means that those of us, the living, and particularly the living who are in this great self-governed society that

we call the United States of America, it means that we have the responsibility to work with, to support, to empower, and to protect our law enforcement officers as they go out into the community and they put their lives and their families' future on the line to protect us.

As someone who has made those sacred promises too many times at funerals, it is my honor to stand here today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives on May 15, police day in police week, to reaffirm and to challenge all of us to continue with those two sacred promises: never forget and then go out, be a good citizen, be a member of a community, support the law enforcement officers, and the men and women who themselves are physically every day putting on the badge and the uniform and who are keeping that watch from here.

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

PROUD TO BE AN UNBOUGHT, UNBOSSSED, LIBERATED DEMOCRAT

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. GREEN of Texas was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise, Madam Speaker, proud to be an unbought, unbossed, liberated Democrat. I am proud also to have friends, and tonight I will thank a couple of my friends who have helped me with an endeavor that I believe is necessary and that is going to generate a movement that will make a difference in the lives of the people of this country.

Tonight, I will start by thanking my friend, attorney John Bonifaz, a lawyer par excellence, a person who has been involved with the movement to impeach and who has, through his organization, Free Speech For People, they have collected more than 500,000 signatures for impeachment.

These are the people who are at the genesis of this movement, and I thank all of them for what they are doing.

I also thank another friend, a lawyer as well, but a great consumer advocate, a protector of rights for people who we consider consumers, and that, of course, is the attorney Ralph Nader. The great Ralph Nader. While I missed his last birthday, I heard it was quite a celebration. He is 91 years young, and I am grateful to him for all that he has done. He has done things that have benefited people when it comes to safety with automobiles, safety with consumer products, generally speaking.

I thank them both for what they have done in this effort to impeach and to inspire me to do the things that I will do and call to your attention.

Madam Speaker, I also make note that on this evening, I have filed Articles of Impeachment. The articles are H. Res. 415. I say articles. There is really but one article within this resolution.

I will not read the resolution. There will be an appropriate time to read it. This is not that time, but I do want to call to your attention the fact that I have been censured not silenced, and I say this because I will be presenting this resolution, but I have many more things to say about the effort that we are embarking upon and because this effort is so important to us, I will be talking about it a good deal of the time in the future. I am censured but I am not silenced.

I am, at this moment, bringing to the attention of everyone the countdown to impeachment. The countdown begins tonight with a message that I have for my colleagues, for the press, for the public, and for all who are interested in this topic. This message will be sent to persons. It will be published. It will be on my website. It will be available to those who desire to know the essence of it.

The message reads with a reference, and the reference is: "My reason for impeaching the President: The threat that we said Donald John Trump posed to democracy prior to his being sworn in on January 20, 2025, has become our reality."

"To whom it may concern:

"I pen this communicate with a heavy heart, driven by a conscience that will not allow me to ignore my well-founded, strong preelection condemnation of Donald John Trump as a threat to American democracy that has now become our reality."

□ 1900

Currently, I am among the many who denounced President Trump as an authoritarian, defined by Merriam Webster as "of, relating to, or favoring a concentration of power in a leader or an elite not constitutionally responsible to the people."

I am among those who have pointed out President Trump's failure to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution by flouting constitutional law, as well as the orders of Federal courts, including the Supreme Court of the United States of America.

I am among those who strongly denounce the President's dangerous flouting of separation of powers and undermining the independence of the Federal judiciary by calling for the impeachment of Federal judges who rule against him rather than appealing the decisions, as was explained to all by Chief Justice John Roberts on March 18, 2025.

I am among the throngs who know that the President violates the Fifth Amendment constitutional right to due process when he condones the deportation by our Justice Department of anyone residing in the United States of America to another country without providing them with constitutionally mandated legal process owed to present evidence of why they shouldn't be deported.

Regrettably, the President is doing the above things that I just mentioned

in tandem with expressions of American citizens being deported while condoning the potential suspension of the great writ of habeas corpus, another fundamental constitutional right.

I cannot in good conscience, as a Member of Congress, having said what I have said, knowing what I know, wait until the next election to deal with authoritarian President Donald John Trump's pre-election threat to American democracy that has become a post-election assault on our government.

The President has devolved American democracy into authoritarianism with himself as the authoritarian. Authoritarian President Donald John Trump is the problem. The threat of impeachment can act as a deterrent. Should that fail, actual impeachment becomes the solution.

Having presented Articles of Impeachment that laid the foundation for President Trump's prior impeachments, which contributed to his Presidential defeat, I am compelled by my moral imperative, driven by my conscience to act again.

In Federalist No. 65 of the 85 articles of essays contained within the Federalist Papers, written to promote the ratification of the Constitution, the great Alexander Hamilton explains that the subject of the Senate's jurisdiction for trials of impeachment are those offenses which proceed from the misconduct of public men or, in other words, from the abuse or violation of some public trust. They are of a nature which may with peculiar propriety be denominated political, as they relate chiefly to injuries done immediately to society itself.

Contrary to what many status quo personalities may have you believe and would have you believe, there is no requirement for the existence of a constitutional crisis before impeaching for high crimes and misdemeanors.

Because of the importance of this statement, I shall repeat it. Contrary to what many status quo personalities would have us believe, there is no requirement for the existence of a constitutional crisis before impeaching for high crimes and misdemeanors.

In fact, in 1868, President Andrew Johnson was impeached for speaking ill of Congress in Article 10 of the Articles of Impeachment against him. Federal Judge John Pickering became the first person convicted by the Senate. He was impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives in 1803 for misconduct as a judge and for intoxication. He was impeached and convicted under the same constitutional law that all Presidents have been impeached under.

Typically, there has been no constitutional crisis associated with Articles of Impeachment. I have to repeat this because there seems to be the notion that you must wait for the constitutional crisis before you can initiate impeachment.