

State of Delaware and the future of this Nation.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JULIAN L. McPHILLIPS, JR., OF MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

(Mrs. SEWELL of Alabama was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Julian L. McPhillips, Jr., the people's lawyer of Alabama, who passed away on April 12, 2025, at the age of 78.

Julian was a compassionate lawyer, a devoted family man, an obedient man of God, a dedicated servant leader in Montgomery, Alabama, and a dear mentor who was instrumental in my personal and professional development.

Julian was born in Birmingham and raised in Cullman, Alabama. He was a gifted athlete and a graduate of Sewanee Military Academy. He became an All-American wrestler at Princeton and graduated cum laude in 1968 with a degree in history. He earned his law degree from Columbia University Law School in 1971 and began his legal career on Wall Street.

Julian returned to Alabama in 1975 and launched his own Montgomery-based law firm in 1978, which became known as McPhillips Shinbaum, LLP.

As a lawyer in Alabama for over five decades, Julian gave a voice to the voiceless, representing the marginalized and disenfranchised. He took a bold stand against discrimination of all kinds and was a champion for civil rights, labor rights, and social justice.

Among his many victories, Julian successfully challenged laws targeting low-income Alabamians and civil rights activists, and he secured acquittals in all five death penalty cases he undertook.

His fearless advocacy for the marginalized earned him the moniker of "The People's Lawyer." He was a brilliant lawyer, fierce advocate, and a generous investor in people and just causes.

Julian's heart was his family: His beloved wife, Leslie; his three children, Rachel, Grace, and David; and his seven grandchildren; as well as his surviving siblings, his two sisters, Sandra and Elizabeth, and his brother, Frank.

On a personal note, my life's journey was paved by many mentors but none more influential than the special relationship I shared with Julian McPhillips.

It was a phone call by Julian when I was a senior at Selma High School inviting me to his home to learn about Princeton that set my life on a different course.

Julian had read a newspaper article about my winning national debate tournaments and got in touch with me through my school guidance counselor. Julian's love for Princeton was infectious, and his insistence that I apply was relentless. He wrote me a glowing

recommendation letter, telling the admission officers that with a Princeton education I would certainly be the Barbara Jordan of Alabama.

There were countless times throughout my life's journey that Julian stood in the gap making sure that I didn't fall through the cracks. It was Julian that gave me a summer job before college at his law offices so I could save money for school. While my parents could not afford to visit Princeton, it was Julian and Leslie that came to campus for athletic and alumni events and always took me and my roommates out to lunch or dinner.

When I graduated from Harvard Law School, it was Julian who suggested that I apply to work at his old New York law firm, Davis, Polk & Wardwell, and made the call. When I moved back to Alabama 7 years later, after my father's massive stroke, it was Julian who suggested that I give his brother, Frank, a call to learn about his Birmingham law firm, Maynard Cooper & Gail.

When I decided to run for Congress, yes, it was the McPhillips brothers, Julian and Frank, that gave me my first checks.

When Julian believed in something or someone, he was relentless. Julian's faith in me was unwavering, and his kindness knew no bounds. His belief was so powerful that he made me believe in me too.

When his prediction came true, it was Julian and Leslie that stood with my parents as I placed my hand on our family Bible to be sworn in as Alabama's first Black Congresswoman.

There are times in a person's life that change the trajectory of one's life. Some may call it serendipity, but I call it divine intervention.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Leslie and the entire McPhillips family for sharing Julian with me and my family. I thank Julian for being one of the angels in my life. I am so proud to call him a lifelong mentor and friend, and I am forever grateful for the profound impact that Julian had on my life.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Alabama's Seventh Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary life and legacy of "The People's Lawyer," Julian L. McPhillips, Jr. May his legacy live on in the many lives that he touched and may my dear friend rest in power and peace.

ELECTION PROMISES MADE, PROMISES KEPT

(Mr. HARIDOPOLOS of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I bring good news today talking about what is happening right here in our great House.

First and foremost, what I am most pleased about is, isn't it refreshing that when politicians talk during election time, they actually for a change

keep the promises that they made to the public. The President promised the idea that we would get America back on track, secure our border, and reduce taxes for those hardest hit over the last 4 years.

When people look at the tax bill they are working on, what is called the big, beautiful bill, the great thing about it is that who gets helped most. Those folks who earn overtime, who earn tips, who have earned Social Security, those are the folks being helped by this tax package we are putting together.

One of the myths that is out there, over and over I hear on this floor every day, is that somehow this is a big tax cut for the rich.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, let me inform the public very clearly: The current tax rate for the rich is 37 percent. Under this bill, the tax rate will be 37 percent.

When you look at the actual tax cut package to those folks who are hardest hit with high food prices, rent prices, and gas prices and are now, finally, getting relief, let alone families who are enjoying the largest tax cut in American history with this package, it is smart policy to reward those families that make America work every single day and to recognize that sometimes the government has left them behind and that we need to step up and help those folks most in need.

The second issue that a lot of people talk about—in fact, in my campaign the most—was the issue of the border. They talk about almost 10 million people coming here, not just illegally, but we don't even know who the heck they are. They could be all kinds of vicious. We want to make sure that we let people into this country who are the right people who assist and contribute to society as opposed to taking from it, let alone commit violent actions against society.

The good news to report is that the number of people coming across the border is down 99 percent. It didn't take a new law. It simply meant enforcing the law. Those people who are enforcing the law are actually men and women in the military, including my own son, who is in the United States Air Force.

The great news is that because America's spirit is back, the enlistment numbers are at record levels. A year ago, they were at record lows. Now, they are at record highs.

That is the kind of enthusiasm that people have, once again, for America. The chants of "USA, USA" will permeate not just, of course, at the baseball stadium tonight but across America because we believe that America is back. The respect is back, especially after the failures of what happened in Afghanistan.

With this in mind, how do we move forward? One of the things that has really disappointed me is this debate we have had about Medicaid. I happen to know a lot about Medicaid because I

am a former member of the Florida State Senate, and Medicaid is the fastest-growing government program in our State.

Just so everyone understands, it is not Medicare. It is Medicaid. Medicaid is the program that is simply known as welfare healthcare, which helps people most in need: persons in nursing homes, the disabled, kids from low-income families, and pregnant women. That is an essential program, and we want to help those people who truly are most vulnerable.

Yet, the demagoguery on this issue has really gone over the top, and it is really frustrating, as a person who actually understands Medicaid, that we are not cutting one single person out of that program who truly qualifies for that program.

The only people who will be out of that program or “lose healthcare” are people who lied on their applications and are no longer eligible.

Second, if a person is an illegal alien, they will not get Medicaid. People will say that is not true. Ask the Governor of California. He even talked about how he is going to make sure that we can’t allow illegal aliens on Medicaid.

Third and finally is the issue that if you are able to work, you should work. You should not be a ward of the State. You should not be getting free healthcare when other people are working hard to pay their \$1,500 or \$2,000 a month to get healthcare.

These are commonsense realities. This is something that Bill Clinton and others talked about in the late 1990s, the idea of for welfare to work, that it should not be a permanent state because God did not put you on this Earth to be a ward of the State.

I am proud to support the One Big Beautiful Bill Act because it keeps the campaign promises that the President talked about. We helped the people hardest hit over the last 4 years, and we bring the American Dream back to America by investing in people instead of investing in more and more government.

I am looking forward to working with the President and, more importantly, to signing this bill later this year so that we can see these programs in action, move this country forward, and empower America.

PROTECTING OUR IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

(Ms. PRESSLEY of Massachusetts was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of our neighbors and community members, our immigrant brothers and sisters who are being targeted and abducted, taken from their homes, torn away from their babies, and disappeared on their way to church, work, and school.

There are children crying in their teachers’ arms, families separated, and communities traumatized that if they

have not already been kidnapped, they are fearful that they will be.

Children crying in their teachers’ arms are afraid that they are going to come home and their parents will be gone. There are elders carrying all of their medications with them in their comings and goings for fear of being abducted and sent somewhere without access to necessary healthcare.

We see a spike in no-shows and cancellations at health clinics as patients would rather miss critical care than risk detainment. We see young parents and grandparents alike attending their immigration court hearings, eager to officially call this country their home, only to be met with handcuffs and shoved into cars by masked ICE individuals.

This is Donald Trump’s America, but these are real people. These are hard-working people whose labor and contributions make our communities a better place. These are young people who show up every day in our schools as part of our learning communities. These are mothers and fathers working overtime to provide for their children.

In my district, Massachusetts-07, my Chelsea constituent Kenia and her three children were driving to a Mother’s Day church service with her husband, Daniel, when ICE agents in unmarked vehicles ambushed them, broke the passenger side window, forcefully extracted Daniel from the car, and slammed his face on the hot sidewalk while their three children watched on in horror.

In East Boston, my constituent Mercedes and her son are struggling after her husband, Jose, was arrested at work and detained for 2 days at an ICE facility in Burlington. Jose was living here legally with temporary protected status but was told by the ICE agents who detained him that only people born here have rights.

These are real people—real people—children and adults alike traumatized, whose lives have been disturbed, upended, and irreparably harmed.

Donald Trump and ICE claim that they are committing this assault on our communities in the name of safety. Terror makes no one safe. It does the opposite. It sows chaos. It breeds fear and fosters unrest.

From my home in Massachusetts-07, where mothers have wept on my shoulder, pleading for their husbands to come home and for their families to be reunited, to Los Angeles, where Donald Trump sent the National Guard and the Marines to descend on justice-seeking, peaceful protesters, the hurt and harm of this hostile White House is felt by us all.

This has nothing to do with law and order. That is laughable coming from the most godless, lawless Oval Office occupant in our history.

This has everything to do with power and control: deploying the National Guard without a Governor’s approval and taking unwarranted and unprecedented action against peaceful justice seekers and freedom fighters.

We must see our neighbors’ humanity in this moment. Yet, across the country, occupant Trump is working overtime to be a fascist dictator, to weaponize our government against its own people, to sow fear and chaos, and to silence dissenting voices in our communities, at our colleges, in the courts, and, in fact, even in Congress.

These actions are lawless, a complete violation of our constitutional rights to due process, and void of common sense and compassion.

Know this, for those of you watching at home who might be tempted to think that this is not your problem: An extremist march toward fascism is everyone’s problem. Trust me, if you are not already suffering, you will be.

We need solidarity, resistance, and a rejection in this moment of these attacks on our immigrant communities. An attack on our immigrant communities is an attack on all of us.

As a woman of faith, my God tells me to welcome the stranger. Do not be indifferent to the suffering of your neighbors. Immigrants make our country a better place. Immigrants make America great, and our immigrant brothers and sisters deserve to call this country home.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEUSER). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o’clock and 38 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of North Carolina) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

God and Father of us all, in just a few short hours, after weeks of practice and hours of coaching, sides will be drawn, each boasting in their finesse, and their prowess, ready to address their worthy opponents on the battlefield of the Congressional Baseball Game.

When the first pitch is thrown and the batter swings, we pray you protect each player, safeguarding them from their own enthusiasm, that each will finish the game without injury or ignominy, and will walk away with a deepened respect for the courage and conviction that each player has brought to the game.