

Now, this weekend, Donald Trump said: "Let's . . . not waste time and energy on Jeffrey Epstein, somebody that nobody cares about."

Well, Mr. President, a lot of people actually care. We know that MAGA was all in on Jeffrey Epstein. My Republican colleagues have sent letters, they have posted, and they have demanded disclosure. Donald Trump, Jr., the President's own son, has tweeted dozens of times about this case.

FBI Director Kash Patel swore under oath in front of the Senate that he would be transparent with the American public and release the Epstein files. He said: "Make sure the American public knows the full weight of what happened."

He said that he would do that. That was his quote.

Now, in February, Attorney General Pam Bondi told FOX News that Epstein's client list is: "Sitting on my desk right now to review."

Now, they claim there was never a list. This weekend, Donald Trump claimed that the files were written by Obama, Hillary Clinton, and the Biden administration.

These are bizarre reversals. It is obvious to the American public that someone is lying, and someone is trying to hide something.

Let's look at the facts. We know Elon Musk said publicly on June 5 that Donald Trump is mentioned in the Epstein files. We know that Epstein died in a Federal prison overseen by Donald Trump's Department of Justice. We know that Jeffrey Epstein in 2008 was given a generous nonprosecution agreement for sex trafficking charges. That agreement let him continue his criminal activities, and that agreement was offered by Alexander Acosta, who is Donald Trump's chosen Secretary of Labor.

That is not all. We know that Donald Trump and Epstein had a longstanding personal relationship. Epstein told one writer: "I was Donald Trump's closest friend for 10 years."

Donald Trump told New York magazine in 2002: "I've known Jeff for 15 years. Terrific guy. He's a lot of fun to be with. It is even said that he likes beautiful women as much as I do, and many of them are on the younger side. No doubt about it, Jeffrey enjoys his social life."

That is disgusting, wrong, and we must require more information. The truth is, we don't know what the facts are in this case.

I can't explain why the Trump administration has changed their minds on Epstein, but their behavior raises questions. This is the time that we must demand answers, and the Oversight Committee is going to do just that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain in engaging in personalities toward the President and to direct their remarks to the Chair.

HONORING JIM IRSAY

(Mrs. SPARTZ of Indiana was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Jim Irsay, longtime owner and CEO of the Indianapolis Colts.

Mr. Irsay grew up surrounded by the family atmosphere of the Colts organization. He attended Southern Methodist University and earned a degree in broadcast journalism. He soon joined the franchise and worked in nearly every department, gaining experience that led to his appointment as general manager at the age of 24 before becoming sole owner of the team in 1997.

The Irsay family made history by bringing the Colts to Indianapolis in 1984, a transformational move that forever changed the city's sports landscape. Their decision not only gave Indianapolis an NFL franchise but also helped shape its identity as a major-league city.

Under Mr. Irsay's leadership, the Colts went on to win the Super Bowl in 2007, and the Lombardi Trophy toured over 130 miles throughout Indiana. During the tour, the Colts raised over \$225,000 for charity, benefiting local communities.

Mr. Irsay left a lasting mark on the city's skyline by leading the development of Lucas Oil Stadium. The stadium became home to the Colts and elevated Indianapolis as a premier host city for major events, including the 2012 Super Bowl.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Indianapolis, Mr. Irsay chose action and personally led a fundraising drive, raising over \$1.3 million in 48 hours to provide emergency meals and resources to those in need across the city.

In this difficult time, he found assets and e-learning materials for Indianapolis students, raised money for community centers, and helped fund resources for frontline healthcare workers.

Continuously charitably minded, Mr. Irsay and his family launched a mental health program in Indiana called Kicking The Stigma aimed at educating and raising mental health awareness with the goal of ending the stigma surrounding mental health.

Kicking The Stigma has raised and committed more than \$31 million toward mental health research, treatment, and awareness in the region.

An avid music fan and collector, Mr. Irsay started The Jim Irsay Collection, an assembly of various historic and culturally significant collectors' items detailing both American and some of the world's greatest music history. His collection has been turned into a traveling museum hosting free exhibitions nationwide, as well as loaning artifacts to museums, nonprofits, and other organizations for research and display.

Mr. Irsay's values of family and community are seen and heard by all in the Colts community. From working with his father, Robert Irsay, in the early days of the Indianapolis Colts to con-

tinuing the legacy with his daughters, Charlie Irsay-Gordon, Casey Foyt, and Kalen Jackson, Jim Irsay reflected generations of hard work, integrity, and commitment. His legacy stands as a test of time in the Colts organization as it continues to grow in Indianapolis.

On behalf of Indiana's Fifth District and the great State of Indiana, I commend Mr. Irsay for his valued work and determination. Not only did he impact the Colts' franchise, but his community and charitable efforts impacted Hoosiers statewide, touching upon the lives of so many individuals.

From bringing the Colts to Indianapolis to helping build the stadium that redefined the city's skyline, his vision and compassion have left a lasting imprint on Indiana.

I thank Jim Irsay. May his impact and dedication be remembered.

IN DEFENSE OF CHILDREN

(Ms. SIMON of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of every child in this Nation who deserves to enter into a classroom and be treated with dignity, care, and respect.

In writing these remarks, I thought of my kindergarten teacher, Ms. Jasko at Claire Lilienthal Elementary School in San Francisco.

On my first day of kindergarten—I remember it very, very clearly—my last name starts with an s, so I sat at the back of the classroom and kept my head down. I was not verbacious then.

Within about 5 minutes of the class starting—and there was a lot of chatter of little children—Ms. Jasko noticed that my head was bowed. She brought me up to the classroom board, and she saw clearly that I was a child with an acute visual impairment. She kissed me on my forehead and asked me to sit by her desk where I sat for the rest of the year. She understood me. I did not have to fight for the right to learn in that class. I sat next to the board.

This week, the Supreme Court handed the President of the United States the power to gut the Department of Education without congressional approval. Nearly 1,400 Federal staff at the Department of Education may be fired, including those tasked with protecting the civil rights and the human dignity of students.

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The Court's decision sets a dangerous precedent as it tells the executive branch that it can effectively dismantle the very agencies that Congress has created without any oversight.

Let us remember why the Department of Education exists in the first place. The Department of Education was not a bureaucratic creation. It wasn't an organization developed just to create more staff salaries.

The Department of Education was a victory secured through the long and

hard march of civil rights in this country. It was built to ensure that children in every part of this country could have a real chance. It was not to standardize curriculum but to standardize the worth of children. It was to guarantee that, no matter your background, your race, your ability, your identity, where you lived, or who you prayed to, the Federal Government would have the backs of every student in this country.

If this decision stands, the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights will be shattered and gutted, which means that, within this office, which was created and implemented to investigate when students in this country were not treated respectfully or with dignity, that schools would potentially not be required to provide accommodations for students with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, for every mother fighting for their child with autism, for every parent fighting for their child with a visual or intellectual disability, and for every child who rolls in with their wheelchair every single day, mighty with pride and glory that they, too, can learn and be integrated, there may not be any Federal protections to make sure that they are respected.

Rapes and sexual assaults on college campuses may no longer be investigated. When the cities don't investigate those sexual assaults, the Federal Government—particularly the Office for Civil Rights under the Department of Education—took on that role. Shame on us.

National standards for protecting LGBTQ students, because they are students and are children, will go away. Native students, Black students, Latino students, students navigating poverty, and students who have disabilities may no longer have the Federal support that they so deserve. This is a betrayal. It is cruel, and it is a deep attack on our children.

How will the United States of America compete academically, economically, or morally if the Federal Government walks away from its most sacred responsibility to guarantee basic fairness in education?

We cannot meet the demands of the future by returning to a past—returning to a past—where only the privileged are protected. The work of the Department of Education was never about charity. It has always been about justice.

As bell hooks taught us in "Teaching to Transgress," teaching is about liberation. Education is about more than information. It is a practice of freedom.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL JOHN PEYTON SWAIN

(Ms. TENNEY of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel John Pey-

ton Swain of the Civil Air Patrol, the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary. He is an inspiration in the world of public service, whose legacy spans more than 60 years of volunteerism and defense of our Nation's airspace, development of youth, and civic readiness.

As Civil Air Patrol's first director of government relations, Colonel Swain reestablished its presence in Washington after a 50-year absence. His legislative strategy more than doubled its Federal funding, built trusted bipartisan relationships on the Hill, and led the successful effort to award Civil Air Patrol the Congressional Gold Medal in honor of its World War II service.

Colonel Swain's lifelong commitment from cadet to congressional liaison made Civil Air Patrol stronger, more visible, and better equipped to serve the Nation.

I have been proud to work with Colonel Swain to fight for Civil Air Patrol funding throughout my time in Congress and thank him for his service.

I am also thankful that my son, Trey, who now serves as a major in the United States Marine Corps, was inspired to answer the call to serve after his experience as a cadet in the Civil Air Patrol.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Colonel Swain for his service and congratulate him on his retirement. Without his strategic vision and leadership, Civil Air Patrol would not be the venerable organization that it is today.

HONORING LATE U.S. AIR FORCE VETERAN RICK N. PARSONS

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late United States Air Force veteran Rick N. Parsons for his remarkable service to our country.

Rick grew up in Lyndonville, New York, a small town in Orleans County. After graduating from Lyndonville High School in 1962, he proceeded to enroll in the United States Air Force Academy.

After graduating from the Academy and marrying his high school sweetheart, Nancy, he went on to serve 26 years in the United States Air Force.

During his tenure, Rick would become the commander of the 32nd Tactical Fighter Squadron Wolfhounds, later the 33rd Tactical Fighter Wing. However, his most notable accomplishment came on February 7, 1991, when he downed an SU-7/17, becoming the only wing commander to record an aerial victory during Operation Desert Storm.

His life of service included two tours in Vietnam, one tour in Saudi Arabia, and he logged over 5,000 hours of flight time. Rick earned the rank of colonel in the United States Air Force.

Rick went on to lead another successful career as a financial adviser in Monument, Colorado. He often enjoyed spending time with his fellow 1966 Academy graduates and cheering on his grandchildren, whether they were performing in a play or competing in sports.

Sadly, in 2021, Rick passed away with his wife, Nancy, by his side. On the Fourth of July, the town of Lyndonville recognized Rick at its annual Independence Day parade, expressing gratitude for its native son for his legacy of service, valor, and leadership.

It is an honor and wholly appropriate to recognize Rick's exceptional service and devotion to our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING NEW YORK STATE SENATOR TARKY LOMBARDI, JR.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of my dear friend Senator Tarky Lombardi, Jr., who passed away on November 24, 2024.

Tarky Lombardi leaves behind five children; eight grandchildren; and his wife, Marianne, whom he happily was married to for over 66 years; as well as a profound legacy in service to the State of New York and our country.

His wonderful grandson, Mark Fogelson, also served as an intern in my office.

After earning a law degree from Syracuse University and serving in the United States Army, Tarky returned to New York, dedicating his life to public service, including 27 years in the New York State Senate, where he represented the 49th District.

Senator Lombardi earned a national reputation for his accomplishments in the health field, including spearheading the Nursing Home Without Walls Program, a first-of-its-kind program that was so transformative that it was replicated in so many other States.

Lombardi was also devoted to his alma mater, Syracuse University, and was pivotal in working with the Governor of New York to facilitate the construction of the Carrier Dome. Tarky was so tenacious. Without his advocacy, the dome would never have been built.

Tarky was a one-of-a-kind member of the Greatest Generation. He loved our State and our country. He was a unifying force in the State legislature, always bringing together members of both sides of the aisle for dinners in the legacy of Reagan and O'Neill in that wonderful tradition.

I congratulate Tarky's family and so many who have done so much to help our region, upstate New York, and Syracuse University, and all of the wonderful legacies of everyone who lives in the region and everyone from the State of New York.

Tarky was a dear friend, and he is so missed by many of us, including me. We love his family, and we are grateful to him.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO TREY TENNEY

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish a happy birthday to my son, Trey, today, and congratulate him for being a major in the Marine Corps.

WEAPONIZATION OF ICE

(Mr. IVEY of Maryland was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)