

for a federal emergency declaration to address this crisis.

We urge the administration to act. We urge the administration to unblock the Federal resources that Puerto Rico needs to address this problem. We urge the administration to empower the people of Puerto Rico to be able to overcome this issue.

Now, for the benefit of my constituents, I will repeat my remarks in Spanish.

(Spanish translation of the statement made in English is as follows:)

Señor presidente,
Imagina que es la víspera de Año Nuevo.

Estás lleno de esperanza y optimismo. Este será tu año. Vas a terminar la escuela; conseguirás ese ascenso; tal vez, finalmente, perderás esas libras de más.

Y, de repente, se va la luz. Puede que sea la primera vez que pasa ese día, pero probablemente no es la primera vez que pasa esa semana y, sin duda, no es la primera vez que pasa ese año.

Lamentablemente, ya estás acostumbrado. Pero pasan las horas y la luz no regresa.

El reloj marca la medianoche, ves los fuegos artificiales, escuchas la cuenta regresiva, pero no puedes encender las luces. Recibes el nuevo año con un sentimiento de desesperanza, frustración y desconsuelo.

Esa fue la triste realidad de casi 1.2 millones de puertorriqueños el 31 de diciembre.

Esa es la triste realidad de miles de puertorriqueños muchas veces al año.

¿Por qué? Por una red eléctrica anticuada y una recuperación lenta después del huracán María.

Este no es un asunto partidista. La izquierda puede verlo como un asunto humanitario. La derecha puede verlo como un obstáculo para "Make America Great Again". El centro puede verlo como ambas cosas. No importa; esto es un problema y necesita una solución.

Por eso, junto a los representantes Torres y Soto, envié una carta al presidente Trump en apoyo a la solicitud de la gobernadora republicana de Puerto Rico para que se declare una emergencia federal debido a la crisis energética de la isla.

Instamos a la administración a actuar. Los instamos a declarar un estado de emergencia, liberar recursos federales, y empoderar a Puerto Rico a enfrentar este reto.

CASE OF ETHEL ROSENBERG

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the case of Ethel Rosenberg, who along with her husband, Julius, was convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage and executed in 1953.

For decades, evidence has cast serious doubt on the charges against Ethel Rosenberg. She had no KGB code name. In 2001, her brother even admitted falsely testifying against her.

Last year, with the help of my colleague, Intelligence Committee Ranking Member JIM HIMES of Connecticut,

I urged the National Archives and Records Administration to release information that we believed would exonerate Ethel.

Working with Robert and Michael Meeropol, Ethel's sons, we helped shake loose a Freedom of Information Act request for a crucial document written by a senior U.S. Army code breaker and analyst, Meredith Knox Gardner, in 1950.

□ 1230

In August 2024, we finally secured the release of this document, and it confirmed what we suspected and what the Meeropol brothers have always known: Ethel Rosenberg was not a spy.

Not only that, the government knew that she was not a spy and executed her anyway. Let me repeat that. This government, the United States Government, knew way back then that she was innocent and executed her anyway.

In fact, Gardner explicitly wrote in his classified memo that Ethel "did not engage in the work," meaning espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union, "herself."

Despite this concrete evidence, the government has never righted this wrong, and I, for one, think it is unconscionable. The truth is clear: Ethel Rosenberg's execution was motivated by fear and politics, and it was not based on the facts.

I urged former President Biden to exonerate her. The proof is right there in the documents, and we handed over everything. Yet, unfortunately, President Biden did not act.

Ethel Rosenberg's execution was a miscarriage of justice. I think it is a disgraceful stain on our history. It was also a tragedy that left two young boys orphans.

Her sons, Robert and Michael Meeropol, have spent their lives seeking justice for their mother, turning their pain into advocacy. Their work continues through a fund supporting children whose parents have been incarcerated or executed for political reasons. Their own children and family are even involved in this advocacy, and I greatly admire the way they have taken such a terrible tragedy of their lives and used it to put good back into the world.

I deeply admire them, but no family should have to fight this long for the truth. It is my hope that, one day, a Presidential administration will acknowledge the wrongfulness of her death and fully exonerate Ethel Rosenberg so that her name may be cleared once and for all. Until then, let the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD show and every person in this building know that the U.S. Government knew that Ethel Rosenberg was innocent.

We knew that she was not a spy, and we executed her anyway. I find that to be a disgrace, and I want to apologize for the pain and grief her family suffered because of what happened.

Ethel was put to death during the height of McCarthyism, a time of

hysteria when due process was cast aside. She was put to death at a time when due process was not guaranteed and our democratic values were not always upheld. We let fear, anger, and hate get the best of us.

We are currently living through an equally troubling time in our country. People are being targeted and attacked for the way they think, what they say, and who they are.

Facts must still matter, Mr. Speaker. Let's learn from our imperfect history. Nothing will bring Ethel Rosenberg back or erase the pain and challenges her sons have had to face in her absence, but as we continue to work to exonerate her, my hope is that by telling her story, we can prevent this dark chapter in our history from repeating itself.

Ethel's story has not been forgotten, and she must be exonerated.

PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY DATA

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address ongoing concerns about Social Security, especially just in this past week since Mr. Musk has decided that he, in an unauthorized position not approved by the Senate and with no accountability, is after everybody's data and information at SSA.

Mr. Speaker, it might surprise some of the viewers in our audience to know why the wealthiest man in the world needs to know your Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid information. Privacy is something that Americans value. Data is something that billionaires can turn into money. Mr. Speaker, we need to know what role Elon Musk and DOGE—or I call it dodge because they dodge accountability—will have with the agency and everyone's hard-earned benefits, as if an unconfirmed, unelected billionaire should have access to yours or anyone's sensitive information.

If the cuts that they are promising and what he is looking for come through, then that means people's personal Social Security will be reduced by 36 percent. It hasn't been enhanced since Richard Nixon was President of the United States. Now, Mr. Musk is out because he has been charged to cut the budget by \$2 trillion. As everyone knows, 70 percent of the Federal budget comes from Social Security, Medicare, and defense.

They are coming after you. Specifically, they need that data also so he and his minions of unauthorized, unaccountable people can go forward.

We have written to Acting Commissioner King. Attorneys general across the country, including my own from the State of Connecticut, Attorney General Tong, are putting forward attempts. Then, we learned today or this

morning that President Trump says that he is just going to ignore the courts because he believes that he is above the law, Mr. Speaker, that he is not accountable to anyone. Now, he is saying that he is not even accountable to the courts because he and the billionaire class have gotten together and said: Don't worry. No one on the Republican side of the House and Senate who controls both the House and Senate is going to speak up and challenge us.

We need to protect Americans' privacy and their Social Security. For 40 percent of all Americans, Social Security is the basis for their retirement and their retirement savings. For 28 million Americans, Social Security is the only thing that they have, and that is why we have to make sure that we are protecting it, as well.

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

LIFT EVERY VOICE

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

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to say happy birthday to my father, John Bell; happy heavenly birthday to my stepfather, Larry Greer; and happy Founder's Day to the national AME Church and, at home in St. Louis, St. Paul AME Church led by Pastor Spencer Booker.

I rise today humbled and with deep gratitude to deliver my first speech here in these Halls, this living testament to both the promise and the challenges of American governance.

I stand not merely as a Representative in Congress but as a proud son of St. Louis, one who believes in the power of bringing every voice into our shared conversation. It is my mission to ensure that every single person in my district feels seen, heard, and valued.

My first foray into public service was as a city councilman elected in 2015 in a place called Ferguson. In 2018, I was the first African American elected to serve as St. Louis County prosecuting attorney, working with community partners to create the first of its kind diversion advisory committee and connecting nonviolent offenders to substance abuse, opioid, and mental health treatment to address underlying root causes of crime. We also created the first conviction incident review unit in St. Louis County, investigating credible claims of wrongful conviction and police misconduct.

Here I stand, elected to this great House, at a time when the current administration has actively intended to make diversity into scarlet letters and is attempting to rebrand the three letters "DEI" into a four-letter curse word.

As we celebrate the lunar new year, we will not forget the contributions of

our AANHPI brothers and sisters in atomic science, medicine, and engineering, to name a few.

We will not forget the contributions of our Hispanic and Latino "brothers and sisters," "hermanos y hermanas," in science, music, medicine, and biochemistry, to name a few.

We will not forget our Muslim brothers' and sisters' contributions in education, science, and medicine, to name a few.

Moreover, we will not forget our Jewish brothers' and sisters' many contributions, but more personally to me, the contributions in the civil rights movement from those who bled and died during the Freedom Rides. Rabbis were locked in arms and risked their lives, marching across the Edmund Pettus Bridge with Dr. King and others, like the late John Lewis, who also graced these very same Halls.

As we celebrate Black History Month, I would be remiss if I did not also mention the tremendous contributions of Black folks in building this Nation.

To the current administration, I rise to say directly that Black history is American history; diversity is this Nation's superpower; equity is about fairness and fair play, which all Americans believe in; and inclusion literally refers to all of us.

From slavery to Jim Crow to being denied basic civil rights but still fighting for and believing in the promise of this promised land, it is this land that, despite that history, we still love.

This is evidenced by a song you may hear a lot during this month and in June. It is a song dubbed the Black national anthem. As my esteemed colleague Congressman CLYBURN accurately remarked, it is a song everyone can identify with. It is a song not about retribution, as it could have been. It is a song not about hopelessness, as it could be. On the contrary, it is a song about hope, faith, and freedom.

It is a song that does not direct some voices to be lifted, but directs us instead to:

Lift every voice and sing,
Till Earth and Heaven ring;
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising Sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of West Virginia) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

In the spirit of a national pastime and a game well played, we rejoice with those who rejoice and do our best to refrain from gloating in the company of those who weep.

For it is not in our victory but the Lord's in which we trust. In the Lord, we will renew our strength. In the Lord's protection, do we find shelter. Inspired by Lord's abiding presence hovering over us, we run and do not grow weary. With the Lord's guidance and care, we will soar to new heights of faith.

In Proverbs, we read that there are many mysteries only the Lord can answer, like how a ship sails on the sea or how an eagle soars to the heights of the sky. But those who trust in the Lord will spread their wings and fly like eagles.

In faith, let us soar and humbly serve the Lord this day.

In Your strong name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PROTECTING FARM FAMILIES

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize crucial legislation that protects farm families. Farming tends to be an asset-rich but cash-poor industry, and America's hardworking farm families should not be unfairly burdened when it comes to accessing higher education.

For generations, these families have contributed to our Nation's food security and economy. Yet, their eligibility