

and requirements for paperwork reporting of small payments to casual sellers and service providers.

This, again, is an effort to simplify the tax code and make it work for American families so they will be able to have more of what they earned. I will get to more of that.

Filing taxes is a pain point—we all know that—for most people because of both the amount and the process. We have simplified it to improve the experience for filers and increase accountability for lawmakers deciding where those funds are allocated.

Working families were our top priority in these tax cuts. We wanted to help them achieve the American Dream, make life more affordable, and make filing taxes less of a burden. This year, Utah families will be able to keep more of their hard-earned money through the increased standard deduction and face less burdensome paperwork.

It is very simple. Republicans have created a tax code that simply works for American families. This is something that doesn't work against them, as so oftentimes things from Washington, D.C., do.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a part of delivering this win for Utahns, and I yield back the balance of my time.

#### REWRITING HISTORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY) for 30 minutes.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material in the RECORD on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight during Black History Month to raise the alarm on the rewriting of American history that is happening at our national parks, our museums, our monuments, and our public spaces as the Trump administration is attempting to erase the histories, the stories, and the lives of our Black, Native, Chicano, AAPI, and LGBTQ+ communities.

I rise tonight to talk about what this means for the past, the present, and the future of this country because, as they say, those who cannot remember the past are doomed to repeat it, and this country has come too far to forget.

□ 1800

Mr. Speaker, how we as a nation remember matters, what we remember matters, and who we remember matters because this collective memory is the map on which we build our future. Our Nation's national parks, our monuments, our memorials, our museums,

and our public spaces are the places in which those memories are inscribed.

Now, I begin tonight with a simple premise: that the act of remembering is a deeply political and a deeply powerful act. So, too, is the act of erasure, of erasing and removing history. These are not merely acts of omission, but acts of power, acts of dominance, and, yes, even acts of violence.

Erasing is about telling people that their histories and their people do not matter. That your history, your ancestors, and your collective memories of pride, joy, struggle, resilience, and generations that came before do not matter.

This is exactly what this administration is doing. They are trying to take us back to a time where only the stories and lives of the few mattered. It began a year ago, on day one, when the President signed an executive order renaming Denali, the tallest mountain in Alaska and most sacred site to multiple indigenous communities, renamed after a President from Ohio without any consultation to the indigenous people of Alaska.

That same day, the President signed an executive order mandating the elimination of diversity, equity, and inclusion offices across the Federal Government, leading to the illegal firing and loss of leadership across Federal and military service.

In March, he signed another executive order called the "Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History" order, directing the Smithsonian and the Secretary of the Interior to remove what they called improper partisan ideology from exhibits and materials across the country.

It targeted mentions of slavery, Native American history, Chicano history, AAPI history, LGBTQ+ history, climate change, and other topics which they claimed were divisive, anti-American, and created "national shame," thereby erasing the history of tens of millions of Americans.

Secretarial orders, including those at the Department of the Interior, that have led to the censorship of government websites and the tearing down of signs at multiple monuments, references to the histories of famous leaders removed from websites, national holidays erased, rewriting history and removing us from the American story.

What is this all in service of? It is promoting some singular narrative to undermine the recognition of this Nation's true history and its long history of struggles that have shaped it, from overcoming the loss of land, the killing and displacement of indigenous people, slavery, Jim Crow, internment, and the continued struggle for justice across our communities.

This is our true history as a nation, not something we should be ashamed of, but what has shaped who we are. These actions erase the story of what makes this great Nation beautiful: it is multicultural, multiracial, indigenous, Black, Brown, White, and diversity that makes us who we are.

This erasure delegitimizes the movements and wins we have secured generation after generation, from the struggle for civil rights at Selma and the Edmund Pettus Bridge, slavery at Gettysburg, and westward expansion into Tribal lands that secured Tribal sovereignty.

References to transgender were erased from the signs at Stonewall, where the birth of the modern LGBTQ+ movement began. References to indigenous history were removed in places where people came from, including the battleground at Little Big Horn in Montana. Memories of Black and Native history were erased from Independence Park, Cape Hatteras, and The National Mall.

Remembrance of internment of Japanese Americans was removed from Jamaica Bay in New York City. References to climate change were removed at Fort Sumter in South Carolina and Acadia National Park in Maine. Public institutions and gift shops were banned from carrying books. In America, they were banned.

In addition, the Department of Education is seeking to defund schools, universities, and institutions for teaching the history of the people and students and children who are there.

Mr. Speaker, these are not isolated incidents. This is a wholesale attack on American history, on American democracy, on American progress, and the stories of our people. It is, at its core, about power. As George Orwell noted: "Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past."

This is not, as this administration claims, about patriotism or telling the American story. It is about controlling knowledge and history itself. Those whose histories, whose stories, and whose people are lifted up, especially as this country is celebrating its 250th birthday.

We are here tonight to say: Not on our watch. We will not let this country slide into an Orwellian or authoritarian state where we cannot even tell our own histories.

We are here to tell the truth, just as history does.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI).

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because history is not just being forgotten, it is being erased.

In 1942, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, approving the removal of American citizens of Japanese descent to remote camps. My parents and grandparents were among the 120,000 forced to leave their homes and their businesses.

They were sent by their own government, our government, to a camp in Poston, Arizona. They lived in appalling conditions, surrounded by barbed wire and armed guards, solely because of who they were.

I was born in that internment camp, and that history lives with me every day. It drives me to fight for my neighbors, for their rights, for their dignity

because that injustice didn't begin with barbed wire and armed soldiers. It began with fear, with racist, incendiary rhetoric, and with leaders who decided unjustly to single out an entire community as a threat.

That is why the National Park Service's decision to remove references to the incarceration of Japanese Americans, along with other hard truths about our history, is not benign. It is deeply reckless.

History is not just something we remember. It is something that teaches. When we strip away the truth, we strip away all the warnings that go along with it.

In fact, during World War II, Fort Bliss in Texas was used as a detention center for Japanese Americans. Today, you don't see a sign. You see another active detention center.

This administration is detaining children on the same ground used to unjustly hold people during one of our country's darkest chapters. We are, once again, seeing people singled out because of who they are.

□ 1810

ICE is ripping families apart. Innocent people are being hurt. Children are being detained. Again, we hear incendiary rhetoric at the highest levels of power, language that dehumanizes, that scapegoats, that tells people who to fear, and who to blame.

We have been down that road before. When fear is normalized, when lies are repeated, injustice is excused, and when history is erased, it becomes easier to repeat it.

Our national parks are not just places of beauty. They are public classrooms. They carry the responsibility to tell the full American story, especially the parts that expose how fragile our freedoms truly are.

That is why I have fought to expand and protect the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program to make sure that these places are preserved and accessible, not hidden, not sanitized, not erased. Because civil liberties are not self-sustaining. Democracy is not self-fulfilling. We must work at it.

History does not protect us unless we are willing to tell it. I believe that this is a great and wonderful country, but that promise only survives if we confront our past honestly and refuse to let fear write our future.

Mr. Speaker, I will not be silent about our past. I will not stop fighting for our future.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congresswoman for her extraordinary words and for sharing her story with us tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. GRIJALVA).

Mrs. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative STANSBURY for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, national parks hold a sacred mandate. They are not just places of extraordinary beauty. They

are places of truth. Their purpose is to preserve and interpret the full breadth of the American experience: the good, the bad, the inspiring, and the painful.

Erasing history doesn't make it disappear. It makes us more likely to repeat it. History shows us in this country and around the world that when governments begin scrubbing uncomfortable truths from public spaces, they are often moving toward something darker and more dangerous.

People don't visit our national parks to not only marvel at the mountains or coastlines. They come to understand who we are. They come to confront the complex tapestry of our past: our triumphs, our failures, and the lessons that bind them together.

That is why the recent removal of the interpretive materials titled "Life Under Slavery," "The Dirty Business of Slavery," and signage addressing climate change should alarm every American.

These changes don't make us more patriotic. They make us more ignorant. Let's be clear: These materials were not factually incorrect. They weren't misleading. They weren't partisan. They were accurate reflections of our history and our present. They are histories that make some people uncomfortable, but discomfort is not a justification for censorship.

If we allow history to be erased in our national parks, places meant to endure beyond political cycles, we normalize the idea that facts are optional and truth is negotiable.

That is not just an attack on historians or park rangers. It is an attack on democracy itself, and the timing could not be more ironic.

As we approach America's 250th birthday, our national parks should be a place of reflection, learning, and honest celebration. Instead, we are fighting simply to ensure that these public lands continue to represent the full dimension of the American experience.

National parks are not propaganda tools. They are not instruments of partisan comfort. They exist to preserve and interpret the full American story, not just the parts that make some politicians feel at ease.

That is why the work of the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks is so critical. This nonpartisan organization is made up of more than 4,800 current, former, and retired National Park Service professionals, people who have devoted over 50,000 years of combined service to caring for our most valuable, natural, and cultural resources. These are experts. These are the stewards of our shared history.

We owe it to them and to future generations to protect the integrity of our national parks because a nation confident in its values does not hide from its history; it learns from it. It tells the truth, even when the truth is hard.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON).

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, on January 22, the Trump administration

forced the National Park Service to remove panels at Independence Hall National Park, the cradle of our liberty, telling an important chapter in George Washington's Presidency.

Early in our Nation's history, Philadelphia was our Nation's Capital, and when Washington moved to the President's house near Independence Hall in 1790, he brought with him eight slaves from his Virginia plantation.

Mr. Speaker, 10 years earlier, Pennsylvania had begun to abolish slavery, allowing slaves brought to the Commonwealth by residents of other States to claim their freedom if they lived there for 6 months or more.

Therefore, from 1790 to 1797, President Washington rotated the slaves he brought to Philadelphia so that they could not establish the 6 months of residency which would have given them their freedom.

The panels that President Trump ordered to be removed were the result of decades of scholarship and community advocacy to acknowledge and examine the paradox between slavery and freedom at the founding of our Nation.

Telling the story of the slaves who lived in President Washington's home in Philadelphia is an expression of the American values of courage and honesty, acknowledging that our Founders and our Nation were not perfect at its inception, but that we must continually strive to form a more perfect union, to learn from the lessons of the past, lest we repeat them, and to acknowledge the humanity of those who were enslaved.

Telling the history of George Washington's use of slave labor reflects a mature choice to own up to past imperfections and mistakes rather than erasing history and the people who lived it.

The current White House has chosen a different path, seeking to erase our history and the people who lived it to fit a whitewashed and largely fictitious narrative.

The White House says that the panels were removed to "ensure accuracy, honesty, and alignment with shared national values" and claims that the panels were aimed at "demeaning our brave Founding Fathers."

This White House doesn't want Americans to learn about the horrors of slavery, the wrongful internment of the Japanese Americans, the denial of civil rights to a host of people, or other abuses of our past because they don't want us to identify the abuses in our present.

The panels at the President's house must go back. The city of Philadelphia has filed a lawsuit, and I am working with Congressmen EVANS and BOYLE, my colleagues in the Philadelphia delegation, to demand their return. However, that is not all that needs to happen.

Our history, all of our history, the triumphs and horrors, must be acknowledged.

Mr. Speaker, we all need to take notice and stand up to this administration's abuses, lawlessness, and attempts to erase facts and history because the ability to tell the truth is probably the most essential American value.

□ 1820

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER).

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, Representative STANSBURY, for bringing us together tonight to discuss an important and alarming situation.

Every American should be outraged at the Trump administration's attempt to erase American history and specifically to erase the history of Black, Native American, Hispanic, and other people of color who have helped shape this country.

The Department of the Interior under this administration recently removed a slavery-related exhibit at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia recognizing people enslaved by the Founders. They removed a sign from Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park mentioning Native American massacres. They have removed a sign at Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site in Colorado describing the forced removal of a Native Tribe and a family's slave ownership.

Why? Why are they doing this? When people try to erase history, they are often doing it because they want to shape the future. They want to shape a future in which America does not honor the full diversity that has made our country the beacon of light that it is in the world. They do not want people to know about the struggle that went into building this more perfect Union. They want to build a future that looks more like the past. We cannot allow that to happen.

This insidious plot to erase American history goes far beyond the national parks and the Department of the Interior. The Trump administration has given guidance to Federal agencies to limit the use of or avoid using 200 words, including "Tribal," "Native American," "immigrants," "racial," "Black," and "women."

They are not trying to erase all of our history. In fact, they have restored a Confederate statue of General Albert Pike here in Washington, D.C., and ordered a portrait of Robert E. Lee to be placed in the Pentagon. These are men who committed treason against this country in the defense of slavery.

This administration has continued to allow its own employees to post white supremacist language on social media. A 25-year-old DOGE employee wrote: "You could not pay me to marry outside my ethnicity," and, "Normalize Indian hate." This came to light a year ago. He is still employed by the administration.

The assistant chief counsel for ICE had a social media account: "America

is a White nation," and "'Migrants' are all criminals." He is still employed.

Mr. Speaker, this is not okay. We must fight back, and I thank my colleague for bringing attention to this matter.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA).

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, on a hilltop in Santa Fe, New Mexico, there is an interpretive plaque on a boulder. It stands where the government locked up thousands of Japanese as so-called enemy aliens.

My great-grandfather, my GG, was one of them. He was locked behind barbed wire while his son, my grandfather, joined the Military Intelligence Service in service to a country that saw him as the enemy. That small stone marker is all that remains to tell their story.

Today, the Trump administration is removing national park signage that tells the truth about slavery, the genocide of indigenous Americans, and the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

In Nazi Germany, it started with burning books. In the USSR, they erased people from photographs. In North Korea, they deleted political leaders from online archives. Today, in the United States, quite ironically, the Trump administration calls it removing negative information about past or living Americans.

What happens when they decide the story of my GG is too negative to remember? What happens when they want to whitewash history and remove the service and sacrifice of our communities of color?

In March 2025, the U.S. Army removed its web page honoring the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the all-nisei unit that became one of the most decorated in American military history.

That is not a simple edit. It is not an accident. It is not an oversight. It was an intentional action by this administration to push a revisionist history of American history, scrubbing away one plaque, one web page, one sign, one sentence at a time.

Mr. Speaker, five incarceration sites are now part of the National Park System. They are Manzanar in California, Minidoka in Idaho, Tule Lake in California, Amache in Colorado, and Honouliuli in Hawaii. Across the country, a dozen federally recognized landmarks and museums preserve this history, our history, from Heart Mountain to Topaz to Santa Fe. Are they next? Will the truth be rewritten or, worse, completely erased?

History is not just decor for a museum exhibit or a national park. It is a warning label for the same injustices we are now seeing repeated today. We see it in the targeting of immigrants. We see it in the dismantling of civil rights protections. We see it in efforts to attack birther citizenship. We see it when they invoke legal powers that once falsely justified locking up over 120,000 Japanese Americans.

Looking back, what would have changed if someone had just stepped in, if the books had been saved, the pictures restored, the stories preserved, and the truth protected? That is the choice before us now.

We are the truth-tellers. We are the truthkeepers. It is on us to truly be the keepers of this history and to make sure that the truth is known and cannot be forgotten.

We have the chance to make this the moment when someone did step in, when someone did say not again. The question isn't whether history will repeat itself. The question is: Will we let it?

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PATRONIS). The gentlewoman from New Mexico has 2 minutes remaining.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, our country's history is complicated. Our country's history is at times uncomfortable to confront. That does not make it divisive or offensive to preserve and to learn from.

Japanese incarceration during World War II stands as one of those uncomfortable chapters that Trump and his administration are attempting to erase. More than 125,000 Japanese Americans, including my parents and grandparents, were rounded up and placed in desolate camps at the hands of their own government.

There are dozens of these camps memorialized around the country for people to visit and honor these experiences. At the Manzanar National Historic Site in California, content is now being censored because the words on the plaque there make this administration uncomfortable.

As the saying goes, those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

This administration wants us to forget that our government is capable of rounding up entire families and upending their lives, as they did to my family, without any due process. They want us to forget the past while they perpetuate yet another legacy-defining human and civil rights abuse on a national scale.

Will Americans generations from now visit alligator Alcatraz and think to themselves: How could our government do this? How could our leaders do this?

Will students on school trips one day walk through cages behind razor wire, trying to comprehend the brutality that took place there?

More importantly, these future generations of Americans will look to us, the Congress, to see what we did to try to stop it.

We cannot stop it alone. We need Republicans like you, Mr. Speaker, to join us. Think of our future. Think of how history will remember this government you are a part of: executions of Americans on our streets, demanding

papers from Americans to prove that they belong, and mass Federal agents acting with impunity.

One day, everyone will say that we were against this. One day, they will say that you should have been against this, that we should have been against this.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1830

#### UNITED STATES' FISCAL SITUATION

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

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, we are going to try to consolidate some of this for some efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), and then we will finish up.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Arizona, and I would really just commend the people who watch C-SPAN, all 14 of them, the greatness of my friend from Arizona and how much he focuses on the spending concerns of our country and the vast amount of debt that we are passing down to our children and grandchildren and what we can do to fix it. He is one of the smartest guys on the subject, and I am deeply proud to serve alongside of him.

I appreciate his time here. I actually would like to sit here for 1 hour or 2 to regale him with charts, but I have to go do another thing.

Mr. Speaker, I am here right now because the American people are demanding that we, the elected leaders in Washington—that we in the people's House—that we secure the elections of the United States. They are tired of wondering whether their votes matter. They are tired of wondering if those who have no right to vote—those who are noncitizens—are actually packing our ballot boxes with illegal votes.

I am more determined than ever to secure our elections, but in an age of progressive, suicidal empathy, basic concepts such as voter ID and proof of citizenship have been attacked as suppression. Let me be clear: Nothing could be further from the truth.

Voter ID, voter identification, is arguably the single most commonsense proposal to ever grace this Chamber. A proof of citizenship requirement to register to vote is an idea so basic, so assumed, and so inherent to a functioning republic that opposition to it would offend every man who signed his name to our Declaration of Independence.

I have good news for the American people. No longer will our elections be governed by a check box if we do our jobs in this House Chamber and our colleagues in the Senate do their jobs. No longer will people pretend to be an American and, thus, influence our elected leaders. No longer will our elections be insecure if we do our jobs.

Last week, I joined with my friend, Senator MIKE LEE, in the Senate Chamber to introduce a bill that we call the SAVE America Act. This legislation builds upon bills that we introduced last Congress, the SAVE Act, legislation that was focused on a simple idea of requiring demonstration of citizenship and for States to guarantee that their voter rolls are matched to guaranteed citizenship to be able to have an election in that State.

We had a simple bill to guarantee that only citizens are voting in American elections. Now we have added another simple concept: voter identification. Under the SAVE America Act, an individual will be required to provide that proof of citizenship in order to register and, on election day, required to demonstrate voter identification in accordance, by the way, with a majority of American States.

Mr. Speaker, the problem is that we passed the SAVE Act. We passed the SAVE Act in the previous Congress, and CHUCK SCHUMER and Democrats stopped it. We passed the SAVE Act in this body last year, in this Congress. So far, CHUCK SCHUMER and Democrats are saying that they wish to stop it in the Senate.

So the question is: What will we do here in this House Chamber? I am proud to say that our House leadership is working with us to advance the SAVE America Act as early as next week to be able to move that bill off of the House floor, to get it sent over to the Senate, and thereby allowing the Senate to be able to move that legislation, if—if the Senate will do what it can do, which is force those who are saying that they are going to filibuster to actually take the floor of the Senate and filibuster.

See, people don't understand Senate rules. They think that the "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" version of the filibuster is the filibuster. But the truth is that Senators have, for a long time, hidden behind the rules to say that there is somehow a magical 60-vote threshold to move legislation through the Senate.

There is not. The 60-vote number is simply a fake filibuster—a zombie filibuster, as my friend, MIKE LEE, calls it, meaning it is an arbitrary rule that was put in place to, yes, if you have 60 votes, you can shut off debate.

The core of the Senate—the core of the filibuster was about people being able to speak. Because on the Senate floor, you can speak, you can vote, or you can be assessing whether you have a quorum. Those are pretty much the things that you can do on the Senate floor.

So guess what. If you have a quorum, if you have 51 Senators sitting on the floor of the Senate demanding action for the American people, such as passing the SAVE America Act, then you can force the vote, unless a Member wishes to speak.

If Members in the Senate wish to speak against passing a commonsense

piece of legislation that polls at 80 percent, then let them do it.

Let Democrats go to the floor of the Senate. Let them take the floor. Let them look at 51 Republicans sitting on the Senate floor who want to move a bill that 85 percent of White Americans, 82 percent of Hispanic Americans, 76 percent of Black Americans, 71 percent of Democrats, and 95 percent of Republicans believe we should pass so that we can have security in our elections.

We can pass the SAVE America Act. We will do that in the House Chamber next week. We will have citizenship. We will have voter ID. We will send it to the Senate, and if the Senate does its job, if Senate Republicans put this on the floor of the Senate, then we can force action and force Democrats to stand up on the Senate floor and oppose the will of over three-quarters of the American people.

I want to see them try. I think if we do it, I think we will win, and I think we will save this Republic, and we will save America.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is an incredible leader and passionate on this, and it is absurd that something that America desperately wants has been this difficult for the Democrats, particularly in the Senate.

How many Democrats, when we passed it out of the House before, voted with us?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. ROY. Last year, we had five Democrats join with us and, this year, four Democrats joined with us. I think there will be pressure for a number of Democrats to join with us here and in the Senate.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Let's save America. Let's protect our elections.

I will give you one last concept, being someone from Arizona. How do you protect a republic if your citizens don't trust the institutions and don't trust elections? So even if you are uncomfortable with the legislation, which I have no idea why you would be, defend the institution by passing a piece of legislation that actually raises the level of faith and trust in our elections. How can it not be amazingly good for this Republic?

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I want to yield the gentleman his time, but I will just close by saying: We sit here in this Chamber under the In God We Trust motto. We sit here in front of this flag. We think about all of the people who came before us who sacrificed for this country. This is the most basic of things that we can do to restore trust in a Republican form of government, where Representatives are sent to Washington to represent them.

They have to believe in it. They have to believe in us. They have to believe in the country. What more can you do besides guarantee that their votes