

REMEMBERING EMMANUEL  
DAMAS

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember Emmanuel Damas, who was 56 years old, a father, brother, son, valued community member, and neighbor of the Massachusetts 7th.

Like so many, Emmanuel came to this country seeking safety from the violence, instability, and crisis in Haiti, only to be abducted by ICE and transferred far from his family.

Now, while in custody, Emmanuel pleaded for necessary medical care for a toothache, a basic human right. He was repeatedly denied medical care. That toothache became an infection, an infection that resulted in septic shock, as infection took over Emmanuel's body. I can only imagine the agony he was in. Eventually, Emmanuel fell into a coma, and he died a tragic, preventable, shameful death.

Mr. Speaker, this is not an isolated tragedy, but a pattern of cruelty and neglect that is robbing us of lives. Emmanuel was at least the 10th person to die in ICE custody this year, and his death was entirely preventable.

While there can never be true justice for Emmanuel—in a just world he would still be alive, at home with his family—there must be accountability.

Today, we extend our deepest condolences to his loved ones and community, and together we will keep pushing for the accountability, transparency, and healing they deserve.

HONORING OUR TSA WORKERS

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of our dedicated TSA workers throughout the country, including in the Massachusetts 7th, who take pride in their essential work and call Boston Logan International Airport their employer. They have gone 40 days without pay for their essential work.

The Trump administration does not care about protecting our workers or serving the traveling public. This is all a ploy for power and pushing an inhumane agenda against our immigrant neighbors.

Let's go back to Project 2025. I am a cofounder of the Stop Project 2025 Task Force here in the House. Project 2025 proposed privatizing TSA screening, shifting airport workers away from the government and its protections and into the hands of private contractors. It called for the deunionizing of TSA workers immediately.

What we see unfolding right now, this is not a contingency plan. It was always the plan. To bring in ICE agents who continue to be paid as if they will be able to step in for these highly trained, dedicated, and still unpaid TSA workers is not a solution.

Mr. Speaker, these are the lives and livelihoods of our neighbors, who are strained by missing paychecks and an inability to put food on the table.

Democrats have put forward multiple proposals to keep key agencies, such as TSA and FEMA, funded while not giving another cent to ICE.

Republicans have refused each and every time. The cruelty is truly the point.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to survivors of sexual violence in my district, across the country, and around the world. As a survivor of sexual violence myself, their stories matter. I am so sorry for what they have been through, the shame they carry that was never theirs to carry.

For too long, survivors have suffered in silence while abusers have carried on without consequence. Last week, our sister survivor Dolores Huerta shared her story publicly for the first time. She revealed that she feared if she came forward there would be no justice or accountability, only the vilification of a workers' movement she had dedicated her life to. Imagine the burden, the pain, the silence she carried.

Women and mothers far too often experience the brutal violence, only to hide their pain and wake up every day carrying on for their children, for their community, for their family, while they are shattered inside.

No survivor should have to suffer in silence. Society tells us our silence will stop the shame and trauma. It does not.

While I will always respect and fight for survivors who choose privacy if it is part of their healing journey, I want survivors to know that I believe them. I believe them if their voice shakes. I believe them if it happened decades ago. I believe them if they shared their story in real time or buried it away for years. I believe them.

Abusers may think they wield the power through violent acts, but let me tell you, anyone who violates another person in this way is small and broken. They should not be feared. They should be named, shamed, and held accountable for survivors everywhere.

OUR COUNTRY FACES A  
CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

(Mr. LARSON of Connecticut was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, good morning. This is a great day for the Larson and Messier family. My granddaughter Soleil Audrey Messier turns 1 year old today. She is the sunshine of our lives and a bundle of joy. We wish her and her mom a happy birth day.

Mr. Speaker, also on her birthday, I come to the floor as a concerned Member of this body and note that we are in a constitutional crisis, a constitutional crisis where this administration is currently ignoring the rule of law.

The President of the United States treats the Constitution as though it is a mere suggestion and that he is above

the law. Article I of the Constitution means little to him.

Mr. Speaker, fortunately, there are citizens in this country who care deeply about this. I am honored to have such a citizen who is one of my constituents, the renowned, legendary, and iconic Ralph Nader. Ralph Nader is coming to Washington, D.C., on April 8, along with Bruce Fein, a constitutional lawyer and authority on the Constitution. I will be holding meetings open to staff and open to people here in the Rayburn Building on this campus to talk about governmental accountability.

Ralph Nader has long been a voice throughout his history of public service since he first published "Unsafe at Any Speed," where he went after the automobile industry because of what they were doing to the American people and citizens.

He has been a voice, and I have to read this, Mr. Speaker: An author, lecturer, attorney, political activist, and in 2006 he was cited by The Atlantic as one of the 100 Most Influential Figures in American History.

□ 1115

Time magazine called him "the U.S.'s toughest customer." The New York Times has said of him that Nader stands apart because he is moved beyond social criticism to effective political action—beyond criticism to effective political action.

In 1974, a survey conducted by the U.S. News & World Report rated him the fourth most influential person in the United States. I am proud to have him as a constituent.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Nader along with Bruce Fein will be discussing articles on government and corporate accountability on April 8.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Nader also gets up and says every day that there can be no daily democracy without daily citizenship. That is so true.

We just heard Mr. COMER over here talking before about the need for bringing forward whistleblowers. Yet, on the Committee on Ways and Means, we have been asking for the whistleblowers who have said that every person, including all the viewers here today, Social Security information has been stolen and placed in an insecure cloud—not one whistleblower, but two. Who brought them forward? The Trump Judiciary Department, the judicial branch of the Trump administration.

I listened to Mr. COMER call for whistleblowers coming forward in Minnesota and California. How about right here in the United States Congress, we hold accountable people who are looking at every Member of Congress' 435 districts, all of their data and information.

The public should be outraged. We should be demanding that they come before us as we have. Instead, we voted yesterday, once again, to alleviate resolutions of inquiry, the minority's choice to get answers.

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

REMEMBERING EMMANUEL  
CLIFFORD DAMAS

(Ms. ANSARI of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in outrage over the negligence that led to the death of Emmanuel Clifford Damas on March 2, 2026.

Emmanuel Damas was a 56-year-old Haitian asylum seeker who died after reportedly being denied adequate medical care while in ICE custody after complaining about a toothache to the staff at Florence Correctional Center in Arizona.

On March 13, I traveled to the Florence Correctional Center to conduct an oversight visit. I was met by more than a dozen people, including, to my surprise, private counsel for CoreCivic, the company that operates the facility and profits from mass detention.

When I asked basic questions about medical staffing, available care, and what happened to Mr. Damas, there was extreme reluctance, especially from the private lawyer.

Under DHS leadership, and masterminded by Stephen Miller, the architect of the Trump administration's racist mass deportation agenda, ICE has made it nearly impossible for Members of Congress to do our jobs.

Despite following ICE's arbitrary requirements, I was denied the ability to speak with detainees that day. I returned on March 20 and what I learned confirmed the worst. Detainees described Mr. Damas in excruciating pain. They called the medical care "fatal." His face had swollen to the size of a potato. He could no longer speak or walk. Night after night, he begged for help but was ignored. ICE only checked his blood pressure. By the time he was taken to the hospital, he could barely breathe.

Mr. Damas' death was a clear case of medical negligence at the hands of ICE. I have called for a full independent investigation into Mr. Damas' death, including the release of his medical examiner's report, a complete timeline of his care, and all medical records from his time in custody.

My heart goes out to the Damas family. They should never have experienced such a tragedy, perpetrated by the U.S. Government and funded by our taxpayer dollars.

These taxpayer dollars should be going to healthcare, to food assistance, and programs that support communities.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the only case. My constituent, Yari, is currently detained while suffering from leukemia. She has endured severe medical neglect for over a year. What happened to Mr. Damas could very well happen to her. Every time I visit these deten-

tion facilities, it brings me to tears. It is sickening. It is traumatizing. It is deeply un-American.

Firstly, I will not stop until there is an independent investigation into the death of Emmanuel Damas. At least 46 people have died in ICE custody under the Trump regime, and it cannot stand.

Second, I will be a "hell no" on ICE funding. Republicans are blocking essential workers from being paid just to protect a lawless, violent ICE system, while Democrats are pushing to separate ICE funding from the rest of the Department of Homeland Security.

Third, I urge my colleagues to sponsor my DRAIN ICE Act and the Stop Inhumane Conditions in ICE Detention Act. These bills would rescind ICE's \$75 billion slush fund and improve oversight, transparency, and conditions in detention centers.

Fourth, release my constituent, Yari, now so she can receive the care that she needs.

Finally, it should not be that damn difficult to provide humane conditions. ICE and companies like CoreCivic and GEO Group have billions of dollars at their disposal, and yet are choosing to treat human beings in this country like animals.

I will keep fighting until the American people know the truth about what is happening in ICE detention centers.

OUR 250-YEAR-OLD EXPERIMENT  
IN DEMOCRACY

(Mr. MULLIN of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, all of us on this floor are heirs to a political system that generations before us believed could be the way to overcome our differences.

Is it perfect? Anyone who has been paying even the slightest attention for the past 250 years knows the answer to that question, but each generation has believed in our democracy. All of us elected to this body believe we can make people's lives better, not by fighting in the streets, not by fighting, where might makes right, but by coming together, by talking, by arguing, and then by voting.

Sometimes we win. Sometimes we lose.

Why is it that the majority party seems to be doing everything in its power to prevent voters from having their say?

I am actually old enough to remember when the Republican Party was the party of States' rights. Now, unfortunately, it is the party of following the lead of their President, overriding State laws to "nationalize the vote." It is the party of an executive order attempting to eliminate voting by mail under the guise of voter fraud, which we know is virtually nonexistent.

The SAVE Act and the MEGA Act make it harder for voters to cast a ballot. It has sadly become a party of deniers who only believe election results when they win.

President Trump's Department of Justice raided an election office in Georgia. He sent FBI agents to seize ballots. Meanwhile, he is attempting to extort Minnesota, California, and others into handing over voter data. His supporters are calling for ICE to surround the polls in November. We remember he sent an angry mob into this citadel of democracy to hang his Vice President and overturn the results of an election he lost in order to prevent a peaceful transfer of power. History will never forget.

The American people always have the last word on who has power in this country. If there is one thing we know how to do in this country is run elections. We cast our ballots in school gyms, in churches, in community rooms, and more commonly now at the kitchen table. Even President Trump votes by mail.

Ours is a decentralized system by design. The Framers of the Constitution, flawed as they were, knew that we would one day be faced with this moment: A strongman and his followers ready to throw it all away to avoid another free and fair election, but we won't let them.

My Republican colleagues, many of whom I genuinely like and respect, know better. Privately, I believe they are deeply ashamed by what is happening, and without a doubt, the American people are increasingly disgusted with what they are seeing and experiencing.

They know America is less affordable than it was even just a year ago. Support for the President's callous immigration policies has collapsed. The images of Federal agents executing Americans in the streets have been horrific.

All the while, the President is more obsessed with personal grievances, renaming buildings, starting wars, and exacting revenge on his opponents than making people's lives better.

He and his party know this is not a winning political message, so they are resorting to changing the rules to cling to power, but the American people know better.

All of us have a duty to protect elections. All of us must let the will of the people prevail. This Congress must seat the winners of the election regardless of party.

I hope there are some colleagues on the other side of the aisle who can still muster the courage to do the same because our 250-year-old experiment in democracy depends on it.

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

RECOGNIZING FRANK W. HARRIS,  
III

(Mr. VINDMAN of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Frank W. Harris III, a