

That principle is still the right one, but the current model is no longer sustainable. American vehicles have become more fuel efficient, and some Americans even drive electric vehicles. That is why our legislation updates the highway trust fund, ensuring owners of electric vehicles still contribute to the maintenance of the roads they also rely on.

We are preserving the conservative idea that those who use the system help pay for it, while modernizing the way we keep our trust fund solvent and focus on our core mission.

Mr. Speaker, America is a nation that builds. That spirit helped President Eisenhower, a proud Kansan, leave a transportation legacy that still serves our country today.

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is honoring that legacy by focusing on the basics, respecting States, spending taxpayer dollars wisely, and strengthening the roads, bridges, and freight networks that keep America moving. I urge my committee colleagues to support the BUILD America 250 Act going forward.

STATE OF CIVIL RIGHTS IN AMERICA TODAY

(Mr. MAGAZINER of Rhode Island was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, generations of Americans fought and bled for civil rights, to make the United States of America a place where everyone's voice can be heard, regardless of the color of their skin.

However, in the last few weeks, at the urging of the President, the Supreme Court effectively overturned section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, which had been the law of the land for decades. Since then, Republican Governors and State legislators across the South have been racing to break up majority Black and Hispanic congressional districts.

What a horrible state of affairs, to see the law that Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, John Lewis, and Lyndon Johnson fought for cast aside. What a shameful way for Republicans to try to win elections, by breaking up majority-Black and Hispanic districts, to try to rob those voters from being able to elect their chosen Representatives in Congress.

Now, these Republican politicians redrawing the maps in State after State claim with a straight face that they are not engaged in racial gerrymandering, only partisan gerrymandering. Well, then why is it that only majority-Black districts are being split up in Alabama, Tennessee, Louisiana, and potentially South Carolina and other States? It is only the Black vote in those States that they are trying to dilute.

Republicans, you see, have given up on trying to make the case to people of color in those States that their policies are better. They have given up on try-

ing to persuade people and win elections through campaigning. Instead, they have resorted to splitting up those communities to rob them of their chosen representation in Congress. What a shameful way to try to cling to power.

John Adams, our second President, wrote that the House of Representatives should be in miniature a reflection of the people at large. Yet, when it comes to the Republican side of this House, their own former Speaker of the House, KEVIN MCCARTHY, admitted that they do not look like America. He said that his Republican Congress looks like "the most restrictive country club in America."

Now, the Democratic Party is not perfect. We don't always get it right. There have been times occasionally when I thought that most of my Democratic colleagues were wrong on an issue, and I voted with the Republicans, but I am a Democrat because the Democratic Party is the one party left that is still committed to government of, by, and for the people.

Seventy percent of the House Democratic Caucus are women, people of color, or LGBTQ. I am none of those things, but when I look at the two sides of this Chamber, I know what side I want to be on. I want to be on the side that looks like America. I want to be on the side with an inclusive vision of America, that wants every American's voice to be heard, not the side that is cheering the destruction of the Voting Rights Act.

I want to be on the side that honors the legacy of King, Parks, Lewis, and other civil rights heroes, not the side moving at breakneck speed to try to break up majority-minority districts and rob people of color in our country from their chosen representation.

□ 1115

I don't care what your politics are. There is no honor in winning that way, and it is not good for America.

Republican colleagues should think about their own legacy. If they refuse to speak out against the racial gerrymandering their party is engaged in, if they stay silent, history will see them for who they are.

At times like this, it can be easy for people of good faith to become discouraged, but I still believe in the fundamental goodness of America. I still believe that the politics of division cannot prevail over the politics of hope. As long as we are willing to do the work, we will move past this troubling chapter in our Nation's history, and our country's better angels will prevail.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

(Ms. STANSBURY of New Mexico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, on Memorial Day, we pause to honor the brave Americans who gave their lives in service to this Nation, those who

wore the uniform knowing that freedom and liberty always carry a cost.

Today, I rise in remembrance of the fallen from my home State of New Mexico, a State with a proud military tradition, where generations of servicemembers have answered the call to serve from communities large and small, from Tribal communities, rural towns, land grants, and our great military installations.

In New Mexico, military service is woven into the fabric of our communities and the identities of our families. Families sacrifice together. Spouses hold households together through deployments. Children grow up learning resilience and service. Veterans continue serving long after they have hung up the uniform.

On Memorial Day, we remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

This year, we are also mourning the 13 American servicemembers killed during the Iran war, Americans who stood in harm's way on behalf of this country and paid the ultimate sacrifice.

We remember: Captain Cody Khork, Sergeant First Class Noah Tietjens, Sergeant First Class Nicole Amor, Sergeant Declan Coady, Major Jeffrey O'Brien, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Marzan, Sergeant Benjamin Pennington, Major John Kliner, Captain Ariana Savino, Technical Sergeant Ashley Pruitt, Captain Seth Koval, Captain Curtis Angst, and Technical Sergeant Tyler Simmons.

We honor these brave men and women. They were sons and daughters, husbands and wives, friends, neighbors, teammates, and leaders.

Behind every fallen servicemember stands a family whose life will be forever changed.

To the Gold Star families in New Mexico and across this Nation: We see you. We honor you. We carry a solemn responsibility to remember your loved ones not just on Memorial Day but every single day.

Memorial Day is a sacred reminder of the human cost of war and the extraordinary courage of those willing to defend this Nation even at the highest cost.

As we honor the fallen, we also recommit ourselves to supporting our veterans and military families who continue carrying the burdens of service today. That means ensuring veterans can access care through a strong VA system. It means supporting our military families who endure repeated deployments and long separations. It means investing in the servicemembers who are stationed today in places like Kirtland Air Force Base in my district. It means never forgetting the debt this Nation owes to those who have served.

This Memorial Day, may we honor the fallen not just with words but with action worthy of their sacrifice.

May we remember them, may we honor them, and may we strive every single day to build a nation truly worthy of what they gave for us. Amen.

A TIME FOR POLITICAL COURAGE

(Mr. NEGUSE of Colorado was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, John F. Kennedy once said that “there are few if any issues where all the truth and all the right and all the angels are on one side.”

Mr. Speaker, this is one of those issues.

Five years ago, I stood here on the House floor, just a few feet from where I stand today, as the worst nightmare of our Framers and our Nation’s Founders came to life, when rioters stormed the U.S. Capitol, this citadel of democracy, attacked police officers, and attempted to enter this Chamber and subvert the peaceful transfer of power.

Donald Trump, on the very first day that he was sworn in, in his second term, pardoned 1,600 individuals who were convicted of crimes connected to January 6. Felons, people who attacked police officers here on Capitol Grounds, he pardoned them, gave them a get-out-of-jail-free card.

Now, 15 months later, he again does the unthinkable. He sues the Federal Government that he administers and attempts to secure a \$10 billion shake-down from the IRS. When that fails, when he realizes that that isn’t politically palatable, that the American people won’t tolerate Donald Trump signing a \$10 billion check of their hardworking money to himself, he dispatches the Acting Attorney General, his former personal attorney, to negotiate a so-called settlement.

The outcome? A nearly \$2 billion slush fund, where the Department of Justice will pay rioters who attacked our Capitol. These individuals will be paid with your money, the money of hardworking taxpayers.

It is unconscionable. It is corrupt. My Republican colleagues in this Chamber do nothing about it.

Where is the Speaker? Where is MIKE JOHNSON? How can he look the officers who guard him every day in the eye, knowing that the people who attacked those officers will now be paid out of this Trump slush fund?

It is outrageous. If there were ever a time for political courage, now would be it.

There are a handful of Republicans who have said publicly that they abhor what this is, just a handful. The Speaker of the House of Representatives—let me say it clearly—MIKE JOHNSON owes the country an answer.

Will he allow these rioters, these convicted felons who assaulted Capitol Police officers, to be paid with taxpayer dollars out of this slush fund? If not, what does he intend to do to stop it?

We have a bill that has been introduced. I believe it will be bipartisan. There are Members of the U.S. Senate on both sides who are pushing to try to stop this from materializing. The Speaker could end it today.

We are not asking him for much. Show a modicum of courage.

HONORING BARNEY FRANK

(Mr. GREEN of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, a proud, unbought, unbossed, liberated Democrat. I rise today, Mr. Speaker, with a heavy heart. I rise as an ally of the LGBTQIA+ community.

I rise today to say just a few words about a member of that community who has gone on to glory. I rise to recognize the greatness and the brilliance of the honorable Barney Frank, the first person as a Member of Congress to voluntarily announce that he was a gay person.

I rise to honor him and his brilliance because I had the preeminent experience of sitting right in front of him for a good deal of time on the House Financial Services Committee.

The Honorable Barney Frank was brilliant in the sense that he knew the subject matter. Not only did he know the subject matter, but he could present it with a great degree of eloquence and a certain amount of humor.

He did it with style, and he did it without any notes. He never came to a hearing with notes. He could talk about the derivatives. He could talk about credit default swaps. He could talk about the 3/27s and 2/28s, all without a single note. I never saw him bring notes to one single hearing.

He was brilliant, one of the great minds of our time, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to salute him because he not only helped to shape the destiny of this country with Dodd-Frank, but also because he helped to shape the destiny of my path in Congress. He was a great mentor. He was someone who was well respected and that all the members of the committee, regardless of party affiliation, looked up to. He truly had something special—I believe the French call it *je ne sais quoi*—just something very unique, something that you just don’t see in people, generally speaking. I am proud to call him a friend.

I am proud to say that as a friend of the community, I, AL GREEN, an ally of the LGBTQIA+ community, present the Pride resolution annually in the Congress of the United States of America.

□ 1130

In so doing, I have made the Honorable Barney Frank an honorary sponsor of that resolution. I will continue to do so in H. Res. 550. He was an honorary cosponsor, and I shall continue in his absence to do so.

Dear brother, Barney Frank, you have made a difference, and that difference is known to many; unfortunately, unknown to many others.

Today, I rise to salute you and pay you the respect that you have earned as a great and noble American.

God bless you, dear brother. Rest in eternal peace.

THANKING MOLLY CUTRONA, MY CHIEF OF STAFF

(Mr. AMODEI of Nevada was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, some may be surprised to see me standing on the House floor today, including the person this speech is about. I felt it was necessary.

Today is a bittersweet day. For my longtime Chief of Staff, Molly Cutrona, it is her last day on Capitol Hill. Unfortunately, we are losing her talent, her leadership, and her feisty energy to the private sector.

Although she is a native of Nevada’s redheaded stepchild’s neighbor, California—no offense to my colleagues from there who don’t hold her in the same regard that we do—we consider her, after her stint in this office, an honorary, born-again Nevadan.

Molly started in my office 8 years ago as my legislative director. Over those 8 years, I have watched her grow both professionally and personally, getting married, and welcoming beautiful twins into the world.

However, Mr. Speaker, don’t be fooled. I have experienced plenty of bullying from her disguised as advising. I will say this once, and only once: Some of it may have been deserved.

Those 8 years aren’t defined by her antics. She will be remembered in these Halls for her ambition, loyalty, creativity, confidence, and absolute dedication to her colleagues and to the people of Nevada’s Second District.

We are losing one of the best in the business. It has been an honor to work alongside her, and we have no doubt that she will continue to set a phenomenal example for her daughters, Claire and Coco.

Molly, from the bottom of my heart, thank you for everything. With C-SPAN as my witness: I apologize for allowing Ken, your successor, to rearrange your office.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o’clock and 31 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. SIMPSON) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Father Andrew Aziz, Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East, Gilbert, Arizona, offered the following prayer:

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the holy spirit, one God, Amen.