

## 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.

Heavenly Father, we stand before You, acknowledging Your sovereign wisdom and mercy. We come to You at this hour asking You to bless and strengthen our civil servants as they labor for our country and its citizens.

Let their deliberations be inspired by love, compassion, and justice for all; serving the common good with integrity and a heart for the needs of every citizen, without distinction of race or creed.

In all things, O Lord, remind us of our dependence on Your divine grace. Father, we ask You to bless our land, which has been a beacon of hope and a refuge for the oppressed and the marginalized. Grant freedom to the captive, relief to the suffering, and help us all to construct a better and safer tomorrow for our future generations of Americans.

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 Texas (Mr. LUTTRELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LUTTRELL 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.

#### WELCOMING REVEREND FATHER ANDREW AZIZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona was recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Father Andrew Azia, a devoted priest in the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East and a proud Arizonan.

Father Andrew faithfully serves Arizona's thriving Assyrian-American community—thousands of strong families preserving one of the world's oldest Christian faiths and their ancient Mesopotamian heritage. Like so many who came to America seeking freedom, they have brought deep faith, tight-knit families, entrepreneurial drive, and true patriotism to our State.

Through their churches and community work, they strengthen Arizona every day.

I am proud to thank Father Aziz for his dedicated service. Arizona is stronger because of leaders like him and the vibrant Assyrian-American community he serves.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### RECOGNIZING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JASON HAWKINS

(Mr. LUTTRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary educator, mentor, and leader who has made a lasting impact at Magnolia Junior High School as assistant principal: Mr. Jason Hawkins.

A proud alumnus of Cy-Creek High School, Texas A&M, and Lamar University, Jason began his teaching career with Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District, rising to assistant principal in 2011.

After years of faithfully serving students and staff there, he stepped into the role as assistant principal at Magnolia Junior High in 2018, where his impact has continued to grow.

In a world where strong role models matter more than ever, Jason represents the very best of public education. His leadership reminds us that the true measure of an educator is not only found in policy and test scores, but in the lives they influence, the confidence they build, and the example they set for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to join me in recognizing an exceptional assistant principal, educator, mentor; husband to Krystina; father to Kayla and Cody; and a friend to everyone: Mr. Jason Hawkins.

#### RISE OF INFLATION

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue that is hitting families in every corner of our country—the unyielding rise of inflation.

This month, the Consumer Price Index climbed to 3.8 percent, and that number isn't just a statistic. It shows up every time you fill your gas tank, check out of the grocery store, or open your utility bill.

The pressure on your paycheck is real, and it is growing.

Hardworking people are stretching every dollar. But, instead of tackling this affordability crisis head-on, my colleagues here in the House continue to bring forward legislation that does nothing to lower costs. We are continually obsessed with culture war and emotional issues, choosing personal political gain over good governance, and ignoring the prevailing crisis that is facing our country.

It is time to give Americans the relief they deserve and restore affordability in everyday life.

#### HONORING VETERANS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, veterans have courageously served America to protect the freedoms we enjoy. They deserve the respect of American families and must never be forgotten.

This week, House Republicans will vote on multiple bills to protect the constitutional rights of veterans and expand access to benefits they have earned through service.

House Republicans believe that veterans deserve better—care they can access; veterans' benefits delivered on time; a Veterans Administration that works for veterans; real support for mental health, housing, education, and employment.

Memorial Day on Monday is a solemn day of remembrance for the Americans who have given their lives in service for our country, liberating dozens of countries from socialism and communism.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstating peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump and mocking Trump as the Chinese Communist Party trains Putin troops to murder Ukrainian civilians where Ukrainian parents provide whistles at night to children to be heard as Putin attacks civilian apartment buildings.

□ 1210

#### HONORING BRAVE SERVICEMEMBERS

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, far too many Vietnam servicemembers return home without the honor and recognition their sacrifice deserved.

As Memorial Day nears, we remember brave servicemembers from eastern North Carolina who made the ultimate sacrifice, such as:

Lieutenant Eric Parker Brice of Rocky Mount was a Navy pilot flying dangerous combat missions over Vietnam. On June 4, 1968, he went down after his F-4 Phantom II was struck by enemy fire.

Army Sergeant Willie Farmer, Jr., of Pinetops, was only 21 years old when his life was tragically cut short after being struck by fragments from a downed helicopter rotor blade during combat operations on September 29, 1967.

Mr. Speaker, the stories of Lieutenant Brice and Sergeant Farmer reflect enormous sacrifice. We must always honor and remember our Nation's heroes.