

Meanwhile, just months ago, these same Republican leaders gave an average tax cut of \$80,000 to every millionaire in this country. Do you think they really need more? Yet, when the time came to stand up for hardworking families, they ran away.

President Trump's \$40 billion bailout of Argentina alone could have paid for nearly 2 years of these tax credits.

Bravo, House of Representatives. What an honor it is to serve with people who care about the American people.

HOLD THE ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTABLE

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I could not leave Washington this week without calling out House Republicans for their hypocrisy.

They have been silent while DHS agents shoot Americans in broad daylight and then smear them as domestic terrorists. At the same time, they try to vanish the memory of January 6 from our collective memory, refusing to put up a plaque to honor law enforcement officers who defended them from actual domestic terrorists in this very building.

They won't hold this administration accountable because it would make them feel as unsafe as many Americans feel right now. They all saw what happened when Marjorie Taylor Greene, one of Trump's staunchest supporters, opposed the President and in doing so saw her and her family's safety threatened. This is the culture of fear this President has created and which House Republicans have been complicit in.

The American people deserve better, and I will keep coming down here until House Republicans finally speak up for the American people and hold this administration accountable.

A CONFESSION OF OUR VALUES

(Ms. SIMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about betrayal. Nearly 14,000 veterans who served this Nation will sleep unsheltered tonight, not in beds. They will sleep on concrete, in cars, and under bridges.

There are 37 million American children who depend on Medicaid for their healthcare, and this Congress just signed \$1 trillion in cuts to that lifeline. Also, 12 million Americans will lose their health insurance, the largest rollback of healthcare in American history.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon just failed its eighth consecutive audit. There are over \$4 trillion in assets that they cannot account for. They are the only Federal agency who has failed to ever pass

an audit, not once. We have got money for war, but we can't feed the poor. We refuse to fully fund cancer research. We refuse to house low-income elders in their final years, and we refuse to shelter the very soldiers we sent to die in wars that we keep funding.

This is a confession of our values.

FOLLOW THE MONEY

(Ms. STANSBURY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, as they say, follow the money: invading a foreign country, stealing their oil, extortion, violence, giveaways to corporate America, American oil and gas companies, and, yes, Trump donors.

What is going on here? Today, Donald Trump will convene the CEOs of some of the largest oil and gas companies in America, the same individuals who promised to raise a billion dollars in campaign donations for him when he was a candidate.

In fact, this week I was shocked to learn that the White House and the President are not only planning to sell the oil of Venezuela, but to place it in foreign bank accounts that only the President controls.

We are asking what is going on here: endangering the lives of our service-members, unauthorized use of the military, extorting foreign countries, invading foreign countries and taking their leaders, and, yes, stealing their resources.

I will say this to you, Mr. President: We are watching. We will follow the money, and we will hold you to account.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of West Virginia.) Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

□ 1110

FEARING FOR OUR LIVES

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. GREEN of Texas was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, and still I rise, a liberated, unbought, unbossed, unafraid Democrat.

And still I rise, and I rise today because I have grave and great concern for the American people. I fear for the lives of the American people.

I do so, Mr. Speaker, because if the President of the United States and his underlings and his persons who are in charge of very powerful agencies within the Federal Government can convince this country or some significant portion of the people in this country that Ms. Renee Good was a terrorist, I fear for the lives of the people in this country.

In fact, I fear for my own life. I am not afraid to speak truth to power. I

am not afraid to speak truth about power. I am going to speak truth about power today, but I can tell you that I fear for our lives because if you can justify what happened to Ms. Good after seeing with your very own eyes what took place, and if we can allow the king's men to conclude that only they can investigate this and remove the local constabulary from the process, if this can happen, I fear for our lives.

We are now living in a country where people are expected to believe that this mother of three, a Christian woman, seated in her vehicle—yes, the vehicle was across the roadway—that somehow she was a terrorist. The head of Homeland Security has as much as said so, a terrorist.

Mr. Speaker, I fear for our lives because what we saw when this lady, this woman, was accosted—and I say “accosted” because men who had on masks in police regalia, I suppose, approached her rather aggressively, it seems to me, and one of them, in approaching, said: “Get the f out of the car.” I am not using the profanity, but that is what was said.

You can see it for yourselves, and you can hear it for yourselves. That is what was said: “Get the f out of the car.” When men can approach a female in a car and say this to her and expect her to immediately respond in a positive manner, and if she does not and attempts to drive away, if they can take her life, I fear for our lives.

Do not assume that it can happen only to her. They aggressively approached her. Cars were going around her in various ways, but when she made her move to extricate herself, to move along, to move her car, officers started to shoot. She was shot. One officer shot through the side window as she was moving away.

You don't have to know this lady. I don't know her. I don't know who she was other than what I have seen and what I have read, but the truth is, officers ought not be allowed to do what was done to this lady. There should be an investigation that includes the local constabulary.

If you truly want to be transparent, if you truly believe in liberty and justice for all, if you want the people in this country to believe that what occurred was the right thing, then you would want the local constabulary to be involved, but no. This administration is shutting out the local investigation, and they are including only the Federal investigation, which means, by some thought processes, that they have no desire to let this go to trial.

There are people who believe that this administration has no desire to let this case go to a trial. For edification purposes, I am one of them. I don't believe that they want this case to go to a trial.

I think that this is why they have decided that only the Federal authorities will investigate. I also believe that if the case goes to a trial and if there is

a conviction and it is a Federal conviction, I believe this President will do for the person or persons convicted, I believe he will do for them what he did for the people who assaulted the citadel of democracy on January 6. I believe he will pardon, and I believe he will do it without question, reservation, or hesitation, just as he did for those persons who assaulted this Capitol. He did it immediately after being sworn in.

Mr. Speaker, I fear for the lives of the American people, and again, I say that includes me. I think we have a reckless, ruthless outlaw who has found his way into the Presidency.

To further validate my thinking, I have here the words of the President of the United States of America, Donald John Trump. Here are his words when asked if there were any limits on his international power. I know what happened within the country was national. This deals with international power. Give me just a moment, please, of your time so that I might connect these dots.

When asked if there were any limits on his international power, here is his response: "My own morality. My own mind. It's the only thing that can stop me." Some things bear repeating: "My own morality. My own mind. It's the only thing that can stop me."

Mr. President, what about Congress? What about the Constitution? What about the power to declare war and where that power is vested? What about it, Mr. President? Only your mind? Only your morality?

I won't go into the President's moral standards. I will leave that to you.

□ 1120

Mr. Speaker, what the President is saying is, this joint resolution, S.J. Res. 90, over in the Senate—here is a copy of it—permit me to read some excerpts.

Mr. Speaker, it reads: "Joint Resolution—To direct the removal of the United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against Venezuela that have not been authorized by Congress."

S.J. Res. 90, it goes on to say: "Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives."

Eventually, if it passes the Senate, it has to come to the House for our approval.

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

"Section 1. Findings. Congress makes the following findings: (1) Congress has the sole power to declare war under article I, section 8, clause II of the United States Constitution."

Mr. President, the Constitution still has some relevancy. The Constitution is not meaningless.

It goes on to say: "(2) Congress has not yet declared war upon Venezuela or any person or organization within Venezuela, nor enacted a specific statutory authorization for use of military force within or against Venezuela."

Mr. Speaker, it is only his mind and his morality. That is the only thing that can stop him. This resolution won't stop him.

Here is what he knows. He knows that if it passes the Senate and he knows that if it passes the House, he knows that he has a vote. He knows that if he votes "no" with his veto, he knows or believes that it will not be overridden.

Mr. Speaker, I still say this is the right thing to do. I say this because you cannot allow a President to do what he has done in terms of going to another country, bombing the country, to do this and not put some check on him. At least you have to try. You can't just allow it to happen and decide we will wait until we can override his veto.

Pass it in the Senate even if it never passes the House. You ought to pass it in the Senate. The House should pass it. If the House doesn't, the Senate is doing the right thing. Pass it. Let him know that there are some people who are watching.

By the way, the President has also gone on to say that the five Republicans who voted for this to move forward shouldn't hold public office again. Threats and intimidation, this President spells the word "respect" f-e-a-r. That is respect. He wants people to fear him.

I don't fear you, Mr. President. I am concerned about your behavior. I am concerned about what you might have your underlings in some way do to me. I want you to know I will not be deterred, just as these Senators are not being deterred. Yes, they are doing the right thing, notwithstanding the fact that you have a vote in this process. They did it, and they are doing it. I support what they are doing.

In doing what he has done, the President is doing the following. He is using the noble ends—not always noble—to justify ignoble means. They are noble ends to justify ignoble means. That is what is happening in Venezuela. Only it is noble ends to justify unconstitutional means.

I think some Senators seem to agree with me on that: Unconstitutional means to justify what are perceived to be ignoble ends. The President of Venezuela is a part of this, but it is not about him. It is about the Constitution. It is about whether we will have a Constitution.

If we are going to allow what are perceived to be noble ends to justify unconstitutional means, at some point the Constitution of the United States of America will become meaningless. He is using noble, perceived ends to justify unconstitutional means.

The President should have brought this to the attention of the Congress. He did not do so. He did, however, bring it to the attention of the oil companies. Have the oil companies replaced Congress in the United States of America? Is what they think more important than what we think, given that

the Constitution has given us the authority to declare war?

I know that this is a difficult topic for some people to embrace, but this is where we are. Congress has become irrelevant in the mind of this President. It is not relevant. It is not. His own morality, his own mind is the only thing that can stop him.

Well, Mr. President, you are wrong. Congress is relevant. Just as the Senate took this action, Congress, meaning the House of Representatives, should take action. By definition, the House and the Senate make up the Congress. The House of Representatives should take action. We have the power to do what has to be done. We have the power. Before I go further with that power, I want to come back to, if I may, Ms. Good.

If the President believes this about international law, if the President believes that the only thing is his mind, I believe he believes the same thing about domestic law. I think he believes that the only thing that he has to concern himself with is whether he agrees, whether he thinks it is right.

I believe he thinks that what those officers did can be justified simply because they are officers of the law. I support officers of the law. I don't support outlaws who are pretending to be officers of the law when they are committing crimes.

My uncle was a deputy sheriff. I support officers of the law, but I am not going to support officers who would do what happened to this lady and the President is then going to immediately back them up. The head of Homeland Security immediately backs them up. The Vice President of the United States immediately backs them up.

They set the narrative to allow the exoneration of the persons who did these dastardly things. They have put in motion immediately without an investigation.

Well, you say: AL, you didn't investigate.

No, but I am investigating by virtue of seeing what happened and having read news articles and having looked into it. They didn't do as much. They just immediately concluded that this lady was a terrorist.

I am not a terrorist, but if you can conclude that she is, I am not sure that anybody is safe from being captioned, labeled, or designated a terrorist. I am not sure.

I am standing up for her today. I am standing up for the American people today. I am standing up for those good law enforcement officers who would have approached that lady with a kinder gesture and not as bullies. They would have approached her and simply said: Ma'am, would you please step out of the car.

What is wrong with being kind? You have got the gun. What is wrong with being respectful? No, the President as a bully has passed on his tendencies to those who are under him. It starts at the top. The tone and tenor starts at

the top. It starts with a bullying President.

□ 1130

Now, you have officers who believe that they can bully people into doing things. I imagine this lady was frightened. I would have been, rushing up to me, mask on, "Get out of the f'ing car." That may have been the last thing I would want to do. It may have been the last thing she wanted to do.

The President, in his thinking, believes he is above and beyond the law, whether it is international law or whether it is domestic law. That is his thinking.

I come back to where I was when I said the Senate is doing the right thing, and they are. I said the House should do the right thing, and we can.

The President fears what the House can do. He fears it because he knows that this is where an indictment can take place, right here in this House. He knows it. He knows that that indictment can be very harmful to him, very harmful to him.

He is afraid of what the House can do. He has as much as said it without using those explicit words. He said it. He has said it. He said that they will find some reason to impeach him, find some reason.

Mr. President, it is easy to find the reasons because you have given them to us. Venezuela is a reason. We don't have to look very far or very hard to find a reason. It is right before our eyes. The reasons are there. It is not about whether we can find the reasons. The question is whether we can find the will. It is the will. Do we have the willpower to do what should be done?

I am talking about bipartisan effort. It should be bipartisan. But if it can't be bipartisan, that doesn't mean we shouldn't try to stop this reckless, ruthless President.

If the Senate can go forward knowing the rules and how things are likely to play out, if we can pass legislation here just yesterday that I supported going over to the Senate—there is a good likelihood that their behavior is not going to be acceptable to me. If we can do this, we can also do the same thing with the one thing that can stop a reckless, ruthless, outlaw President, the one thing. That one thing, my friends, is what the President fears most. He fears even having votes on it take place.

There are people who will say: "Well, if you can't pass it, why vote on it?" Because the American people need to know that there are some people who see the wrong and who are willing to take a stand against the wrong. They see the injustice, and they are willing to take a stand against the injustice, even when that stand may not result in what is the desired end. A noble end, a noble cause, ought not be avoided simply because you can't bring it to fruition today. It ought not be.

Yes, this thing that we can do is almost sacred. Yes, it requires consider-

able thought. Yes, it is something that we should do when we have the evidence. Well, friends, I guess the evidence is comparable to the evidence that we had on January 6 when we saw it before our very eyes. After all, this is an indictment here. The trial will take place in the Senate.

There is this one thing that he fears, and he is very much concerned about it and what we will do.

I can't speak for anybody else. I don't speak for any of my colleagues who are in Congress. I don't speak for anybody outside of Congress. I speak for one person, so do not now say that the Democrats are doing something. Just say AL GREEN. Tell the truth.

On some issues, I believe that it is better to stand alone than not stand at all, so I am going to take a stand. I am going to agree with what the Senate has said. By the way, I would invite you to read all of it because there is much more to it than what I read to you.

I agree with what the Senate has said when they said that Congress has the power to declare war. They go on to say Congress has not yet declared war. You had no right, under the Constitution, to do what you did, but you do have the right to do it if the standard is your mind and your morality.

We should not assume that this applies only to international affairs. It applies to domestic affairs as well. I am going to do what the Senate has done, as best as I can, but it will just be me. It is not the Democratic Party.

I believe that these are votes of conscience. Let your conscience be your guide, Members. Don't follow my lead, Members. Don't do it because I am doing it. I don't think that there are very many who would. Do it because you believe. If you don't believe, do not do it.

I am not asking anybody to vote for it when I bring it to the attention of Congress. I am not asking you to. Don't vote for it if your convictions don't command that you do so. Do what you think is right.

The Senate has done what they believe to be correct, and I assure you—without question, I assure you of this—I will bring Articles of Impeachment against the President of the United States of America for taking our military to war against Venezuela, for doing it based upon some theory that in and of itself does not align with the Constitution, some theory that if you have an indictment, you can now send in the police or the Justice Department and various officers associated, you can send them in to do something—in this case, to seize the President of a country—and use the military to back them up.

I marvel at how people will say: "Well, they did it in Panama. If we did it in Panama, we can do it here." God, the list is endless of things that have been done that were wrong that at some point we had to stop. It was wrong to bring folks to this country in

chains. They thought it was lawful at the time, I suppose, in their minds, but we stopped it.

Regardless as to what has happened prior to this second in time, I say to you the Constitution still rules. The Constitution is above indictments. The Constitution is above the things that are in the mind of a President that he believes would give him the authority to do these things. It is the Constitution that counts.

If you are going to have a Constitution, you have to make it count. It doesn't count because the words are on paper. It is how we react and behave in response to the words that are on paper. It is the Constitution that counts.

An indictment is no constitutional reason to send the military, to send a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, to send planes in large numbers, or to send other military paraphernalia. Indictments don't accord you that, Mr. President.

□ 1140

The only way we can stop this is with impeachment because that is the only thing. Why is it impeachment? Because, friends, it would say to the next Donald John Trump we will not tolerate unconstitutional means that are justified. You can't decide that you are going to use some sort of means-justifies-the-ends theory to go to war. He needs to be impeached. He needs to be convicted, and he needs to be removed from office; impeached, convicted, and removed.

However, if we can't do it now, that doesn't mean that the process can't start now. If we can't do it now or sometime in the near future, it doesn't mean that we should not let the American people know that we know that what has been done is wrong. We should protect the Constitution, not allow this to happen. The only way we can do it—while I believe that this is good and I support it, S.J. Res. 90. I support it. I believe it is good; but the real remedy, the remedy that can make the difference is to impeach, convict, and remove Donald John Trump from the Presidency.

Friends, this is where I stand. I don't do these things to make friends. I do them because I care about my country. I do it because I believe it when I salute the flag in liberty and justice for all. I do it because I believe in government of the people, by the people, for the people, and that includes the people who have the authority to enforce the Constitution. We are the people. We are the "we" in we the people. I believe we have to do whatever we can when we can, and this is something I can do, and I will do.

By the way, those who say: Well, you are just taking up time. We take up more time in between votes than it takes to vote on Articles of Impeachment. We took up more time just recently in between votes than it takes to vote on Articles of Impeachment. It

doesn't take up the time that prevents us from doing other things.

All of these things that people will say now in terms of why we can't do it, when we get the opportunity to by their standards, they will push all of these things aside and move forward. Well, I will be there with you. I am not asking you to be here with me, but I will be there with you. I will be there because it is the country, it is the Constitution, and it is the Republic that we must protect.

I promise you, friends, I will not be deterred. There is no need, not that anybody would, but there is no need to try and dissuade me. What happened in Venezuela was an act of war. The President doesn't have the authority to do that without consulting with the Congress. The Congress may very well conclude that you shouldn't do it. Maybe the Congress doesn't want to take over Venezuela. Maybe the Congress doesn't want to do this to provide the oil companies with greater revenues. Maybe the Congress has a different point of view. Your point of view is but one. The Congress has the right to have its point of view recognized as well. I must—others can do what they may. I must take this stand. I will take this stand.

This President will face Articles of Impeachment for his declaration of war based on his moral standards and his mind, based upon what he thinks he can do without congressional input. I will take a stand. I will bring the Articles of Impeachment.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MESSMER). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities towards the President and direct their comments to the Chair.

RECOGNIZING ALACHUA COUNTY FIRE RESCUE CHIEF HAROLD THEUS

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mrs. CAMMACK of Florida was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional public servant, a trusted leader and a dear friend to myself and everyone around him, Alachua County Fire Chief Harold Theus.

Chief Theus was recently named Florida's Career Fire Chief of the Year, an honor that truly reflects his lifetime commitment to service, leadership, and his community.

For many years now, Chief Theus and I have worked side by side on issues that matter deeply to our Alachua County community. Whether it is public safety, emergency preparedness, disaster response, or ensuring that our first responders have the tools, training, and support they need to do their jobs safely and effectively, Harold is there. Through hurricanes, wildfires, medical emergencies, and moments of unimaginable loss, Chief Theus has been a steady and trusted presence, quite literally the definition of a phone call away.

Under his leadership, Alachua County Fire Rescue has set a standard for excellence, emphasizing readiness, innovation, and above all, care for the very people who wear the uniform every single day. Chief Theus understands that a strong department is built by investing in people, by mentoring young firefighters, prioritizing safety, and fostering a culture where every team member knows that they matter.

That kind of leadership doesn't happen by accident. It comes from lived experience, from showing up day after day, and from the understanding of the weight of responsibility that comes with the badge.

I also want to speak personally for a moment. As the wife of a first responder, I know the quiet sacrifices that families, particularly fire families, make, the missed holidays, the overtime shifts, the late-night calls, the constant awareness that danger is just always part of the job. Leaders like Chief Theus don't just protect communities, they look out for our fire families too. Chief Theus understands that behind every firefighter there is a family praying for his safe return.

Mr. Speaker, Florida's Career Fire Chief of the Year is simply not an award for operational excellence. It is a recognition of character. It honors someone who embodies integrity, resilience, and service above self. With Florida being the third most populous State in the Union, that is one heck of an achievement.

For the people of Alachua County, Chief Theus is more than just the fire chief. He is a leader in a time of crisis, a team builder, and a man who has earned the trust of the community that he serves.

For me, he is a friend, someone whose counsel I value, whose commitment I admire, and whose example reminds us all of what public service is meant to be.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Fire Chief Harold Theus on a well-earned recognition and thank him for his service.

On behalf of the families that he protects, the firefighters that he leads, and the community that is safer because of his service, I thank Chief Theus. May his example continue to inspire the next generation of first responders.

□ 1150

HONORING LIFE AND LEGACY OF MARY SUE RICH

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a remarkable public servant, trailblazer, and beloved member of our Ocala community, former Ocala councilmember Mary Sue Rich.

At the end of last year, at the age of 85, Mary Sue Rich passed away. Ms. Mary left behind a legacy that helped shape the city of Ocala for generations. She was a woman of courage and conviction, and her life reminds us that progress is often driven not by loud moments but by steady, faithful service over time.

In 1995, Mary Sue Rich made history when she became Ocala's first Black councilmember. At a time when representation mattered deeply and change did not come easily, she stepped forward with grace and determination. She was ready to serve her community, but more importantly, she opened doors.

Mary Sue Rich remained on the Ocala City Council until 2019, becoming the longest serving councilmember in the city's history. Her longevity was not just a matter of years but a testament to the trust that her community placed in her and the respect that she had earned through her leadership.

Ms. Mary was a mentor, a role model, and a living example of what it means to lead with integrity. She believed that progress comes when we bring people together, not when we divide them. Her leadership style was always rooted in listening, collaboration, and, of course, with a deep love for the city that she called home.

Her impact is not measured in titles alone, but it is reflected in the strengthened institutions that she helped guide, the voices that she elevated, and the countless residents whose lives were improved because she cared enough to serve.

I remember meeting her for the first time many years ago. I was a young, freshly elected Congresswoman, and she was just so gracious and kind. I recall thinking to myself how remarkable she was, someone whose tiny shoulders—she is not that tall—had been so small, but she carried so much. She was a force, a tiny titan, if you will.

That meeting that we had was actually a groundbreaking for a building that today bears her name. The dirt that we dug that day still sits on my desk.

As we extend our sincere condolences to her family, her friends, and the entire Ocala community, we mourn her passing, but we choose to use this as a moment to celebrate a life well lived and a legacy that will endure long after this moment.

Mr. Speaker, Mary Sue Rich's story reminds us why public service matters, and I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring the extraordinary life of Ms. Mary Sue Rich.