

Constitution, made it the First Amendment in the Bill of Rights. However, it seems today that some of America's youngest minds of this generation have forgotten just what it is this great Nation stands for and what ideals it was built on.

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A disturbing trend has begun cropping up on some college campuses around the country. The ideals that our Founding Fathers so painstakingly penned into life are at risk of disappearing from the sacred parchment of liberty. Freedom of speech is under attack. The left has perpetrated the idea that freedom of speech only applies to them but not to opposing views: free speech for me but not for thee.

Conservative thinkers are often banned from some universities. If they are invited, students are allowed the disrupt the events.

Mr. Speaker, since when does a war of words include physical violence against anyone who disagrees? Some universities and students claim that if speech is offensive, it must be banned; and who are we going to let decide what is offensive or hurtful? The listener? The elite academia? The government?

This is a very dangerous philosophy that some of our universities are promoting and students are accepting. The British censored speech critical of the King. That is one reason the free flow of diverse ideas is protected in our country. The Bolsheviks and Lenin enforced censorship of ideas they opposed.

Lenin said, to paraphrase: We don't let our enemies have guns. Why should we let them have ideas that are calculated to criticize the government?

Speech control by universities, professors, students, or government is a violation of the 1776 movement. It seems as if our very founding document is at risk of fading into the abyss of history.

Have we forgotten the meaning of the First Amendment? The First Amendment protects all forms of speech, even those we don't personally agree with. Even those words that offend us personally are protected.

If our American public square or university becomes a place where only ideas that the speech police allow, then we have lost our way and have become nothing more than an echo chamber.

How can political ideas be challenged if people cannot be allowed the freedom to speak different opinions? In *Terminiello v. Chicago*, Supreme Court Justice Douglas stated: "A function of free speech under our system of government is to invite dispute. It may indeed best serve its high purpose when it induces a condition of unrest, creates dissatisfaction with conditions as they are, or even stirs people to anger."

I guess Justice Douglas would not be allowed on some of our university cam-

pus today to have dialogue with students because he ruled controversial views are constitutionally protected.

Freedom of speech is one of the things that made this country different from the rest of the world.

We must remember that fact and reject the tendency to bruise the First Amendment by stamping out speech that is controversial.

In the famous words of Evelyn Beatrice Hall, who wrote under a pseudonym in the 1900s: "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

I don't see any university professors teaching this dedication to free speech. What is most disturbing is that often it is the public universities that are responsible for silencing speech that they don't agree with. This is clearly a violation of the philosophy of the First Amendment.

George Washington said it best: "If the freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led like sheep to the slaughter."

America must always remain a free and open public space where the marketplace of ideas, even those we may detest or disagree with, are always freely expressed.

Mr. Speaker, I leave you with the words of James Madison: "The advancement and diffusion of knowledge is the only guardian of true liberty."

Our college youth of today should heed the words of American youth of 1776. But the elite academia of our university speech police may not allow controversial words—those words of Madison and Jefferson—to be taught on campus because it just might offend them.

And that is just the way it is.

HONORING OFFICER SEAN GANNON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, so many people in this world are focused on: What's in it for me?

Not Officer Sean Gannon. Sean was a giver. His life was defined by his focus on serving and helping others.

Sean was taken from us last Thursday in an act of violence that shocked our sensibilities and broke all of our hearts.

In his early years, he gave to his community in New Bedford, his classmates at All Saints School, and then his classmates at Bishop Stang High School in North Dartmouth. He gave to his college mates as he prepared for his lifetime goal of becoming a police officer at Westfield State and Mass Maritime Academy.

He gave to the communities in preparation of this at Westfield and Nantucket working there as a police officer and began his real career at Stonehill College, working to support and help students there, keeping them safe, and working with one of his mentors and

friends, former Police Chief Peter Carnes.

He gave as a Big Brother to a young boy through the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program of Cape Cod and the Islands, and that young boy now wants to grow up and be a police officer just like Sean.

He gave to the children he visited in the schools as a police officer accompanied most often by his partner and canine friend, Nero.

He gave to his friends and his second family at the Yarmouth Police Department where he is loved and missed dearly.

Sean gave the greatest love to his parents, Patrick and Denise; his brother and sister; his family; and particularly to his wife, Dara, who shared in the spirit of giving as she conducted her work in the Cape Cod Foundation with helping over 250 charities. Sean and Dara were a fixture at every charitable event on Cape Cod.

Ultimately, he gave his life—the ultimate sacrifice—to protect us and protect others from a dangerous and violent individual whom the Yarmouth Police Chief Frank Frederickson said would have clearly taken another life had Sean not intervened.

Sean is a hero. He is one of us. He is much more than that. He is someone we aspire to be, a giver, whose love for others will continue to inspire us.

There was a vigil last Saturday in the town of Yarmouth, Massachusetts, where 1,000 people showed up to pay tribute to Sean. Tomorrow he will be laid to rest joined by several thousand who will gather together to pay tribute and share love with him.

God bless Officer Sean Gannon. May he rest in peace. May his soul and spirit continue to live among us and inspire us.

RUSSIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shed light on a quiet war that has plagued our Nation for years. It is not the type of warfare we typically consider, but this war's implications are just as grave. It is a war being waged on our soil, in our communities, and exploiting discourse among friends, family, and neighbors. It is a war intended to divide our great Nation in order to weaken our unity and our resilience.

The tactics of this warfare are not always apparent, making it possible for any citizen to become a casualty of this dangerous campaign against the United States. The war I am referring to is the disinformation war against Western democracies being waged by the Russian Federation.

Russia's disinformation campaign against the United States started before the 2016 Presidential election. In 2013, the Chief of Staff of the Armed