

Joe Pfadt is a retired U.S. Army veteran himself, and has been invigorated by giving back to our most recent veterans. He stresses the significance of visiting our Nation's Capital and seeing the very documents that every service person swears to defend: the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.

Each year, the Warriors to Washington trip grows and evolves, continuously adapting to support the community and always striving to benefit as many veterans as possible. I am overjoyed to see members of my constituency stepping up to empower our veterans, and I am pleased to recognize the Warriors to Washington organization, which I am proud to say was founded in my district.

I ask my fellow colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in saluting the unwavering dedication of Warriors to Washington and all those who are involved in their admirable efforts to serve our veterans.

DECORUM AND CIVILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak a little about decorum and civility. Here in Washington, D.C., we have a lack of it, it seems, and it is spreading all over. We are seeing it in the news. We are seeing a lot of it happen right here in this building.

Just a few days ago, an intern on the Senate side decided it would somehow be good or proper to make obscene comments as the President was walking around in the building. That intern received only a slap on the wrist for doing so.

We see it happening inside this Chamber in several ways. It is in something as simple as the 1-minute speeches we have in this Chamber each day. Members frequently blow through that time up to 80, 90 seconds before finally being gavelled down.

House rules are supposed to mean something. Sometimes in those speeches, even though they know it is against House rules, Members are disparaging individuals, calling them out by name, only to be gavelled after the speech is over with, instead of during, to stop that bad behavior.

About 2 years ago in June, we even had a sit-in that occurred in this Chamber in a big part of this side of the room over here; a sit-in where bootleg videos were being sent out and C-SPAN broadcast them, outside of the House rules, because one particular group felt like their voice needed to be heard, even outside of the rules, instead of working within the process the American people sent us here to do. Very disappointing.

Then, just last week, one of our Members decided that they wanted to play a tape recording that came allegedly from inside one of the detention

centers along the border, outside of clear decorum of House rules. The Member was repeatedly told it was outside the rules. Yet that recording went on for at least 3½ minutes, disrespecting this institution, disrespecting what the people sent us here to do.

We need to have enforcement of these rules. They need to be stronger. We need to empower the Speaker and the Chair to enforce the rules. When it is time, shut off the mike. It goes against the grain of what the American people sent us here for in the over 200 years of this institution.

Outside of this room we have Members of this body actually publicly calling for intimidation and harassment of fellow workers in government, whether it is in the Cabinet or fellow Members of this body.

What have we come to as a country when that behavior is called for by elected Members of this body? What have we come to?

We have seen it on the streets after the election and after the inauguration of this President, with Antifa and other groups claiming to be the voice of, I don't know who. Certainly, it isn't the voice of the people, hiding behind masks, hiding their identity, and causing wanton destruction.

When words like this come from people elected as a part of this body, that just fuels the fire, not only for bad behavior and disrespect for people who are doing their jobs, maybe with a different opinion from others, but respectfully doing their jobs; harassing them in restaurants or in markets, at the gas station, or wherever it is going to be; it is completely out of line.

I do not know where we are going as a country when our elected officials are calling for that kind of bad behavior.

So what are we going to do about it?

A lot of what drives this is what the people think, when the people demand that their elected leaders ratchet up their behavior to be just a little bit better.

You don't have an institution here when there are no rules, no order, no function. Instead, you have chaos. You can't get anything done around here, or anywhere else—even something as simple as a board game—if people are not following the rules. All that breeds is more misbehavior and more rule breaking.

There are a lot of people across this country who feel like that with the government out of control, legislation out of control, rules are for suckers. Why should they play when no one else is; when our borders aren't enforced; when laws on the books aren't enforced; and they see people being given rewards, whether the benefits of citizenship or just as simple as running this House Chamber. It is very discouraging and disappointing to the American public.

This institution is a much older and much more hallowed place than any one of us will ever walk through for

whatever time we are bestowed the opportunity to serve people in our respective districts 2 years at a time.

So it is high time that we have the rules in place, and that they are enforced, but also to look inwardly at ourselves as Members of this body to uphold the rules, the integrity of this institution.

TAX REFORM

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

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, Friday marked 6 months since the tax reform bill was signed into law. Since that time, we have seen increased paychecks, greater investment, and new job opportunities across the country.

My colleagues and I on the House Ways and Means Committee talked about how best to overhaul our Tax Code. Our goal was always the same: to get our economy booming again.

In Washington State, where I am from, we are already seeing this boom and the positive impacts of tax reform: employee bonuses, savings on utilities, increased wages, and 401(k) matches.

They are people like a young woman in Seattle, for example, who was able to afford a new car, thanks to some extra money in her paycheck each month; or, the mother from Woodinville, Washington, who has been helping her son, daughter-in-law, and grandchild make ends meet while they were living paycheck to paycheck. With tax reform, her son is now taking home more money, which helps them provide for their family much easier.

Tax reform is not only resulting in more take-home pay, but it is making a difference in the workplace, too. Companies are creating new retail and manufacturing jobs and increasing wages and benefits. The Boeing Company is increasing investments in workforce development, facilities and infrastructure improvements for employees, and charitable giving.

But it is not just the employees of big companies who are seeing the benefits. Our local, family-owned businesses are seeing lots of good come from this new Tax Code.

Another example is a delivery driver from Kent, Washington, who works for one of these small, local companies. He shared that just 2 weeks after the tax reform bill passed, his boss gave everyone in that company a raise.

These are encouraging stories from real people living real lives across Washington State. They are hard-working people who see substantial benefits, thanks to tax reform.

RESPECT AND LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I want to change topics just for a moment, if I can, and address an issue that is invading all across the country and our communities.

I was in law enforcement for 33 years before I came to Congress, and my job

was to keep people safe and bring people together. I see that as my job here in Congress. This is my 14th and last year. I am not running for re-election.

Some people in this body call themselves leaders. A title does not make you a leader, Mr. Speaker. It is the actions that make you a leader. I believe that true leaders lead from the heart. I believe that leaders have the heart of a servant. I believe that when I got elected to this office, my job was to serve the people of the Eighth District of Washington and to put their needs before my needs.

Mr. KELLY here and I are friends. He comes to work every day putting my needs before his. I do the same. We formed a friendship, a bond, and we want to be honest with each other. Honesty is okay. But honesty is a moment in time. We need integrity and consistent honesty.

Servanthood and integrity is what this country should be built upon, that is what leaders are, not calling for each one of us to say, you are not welcome here anytime, anyplace, anywhere. That is not leadership. That is division.

Leadership, heart of the servant, integrity. That creates a team that we all want to be a part of. That gives this country the opportunity to be the leader of the world. You can each do that across this country, Mr. Speaker—we can all do that—by being leaders in our community. Beginning in the White House. Beginning from that Oval Office, speak with civility. Beginning here in Congress, speak with civility. If you are a member of a State legislature, speak with civility. Serve with the heart of a servant.

Mr. Speaker, it is simple: respect and love your neighbor.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is a violation of the rules of the House.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

PROCEEDINGS OF FORMER MEMBERS PROGRAM

The following proceedings were held before the House convened for morning-hour debate:

UNITED STATES ASSOCIATION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS 2018 ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Martin Frost, vice presi-

dent of the United States Association of Former Members of Congress Association, at 8 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Lord God of history, we thank You for this day when former Members return to Congress, to continue in a less official manner their service to our Nation—and to this noble institution.

May their presence here bring a moment of pause, where current Members consider the profiles they now form for future generations of Americans.

May all former Members be rewarded for their contributions to this constitutional Republic and continue to work and pray that the goodness and justice of this beloved country be proclaimed to the nations.

Bless all former Members who have died since last year's meeting, 17 in all. May their families and their constituents be comforted during a time of mourning and forever know our gratitude for the sacrifices made in service to the House.

Finally, bless those here gathered, that they might bring joy and hope to the present age and supportive companionship to one another. Together, we call upon Your holy name now and forever.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Martin Frost 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.

Mr. FROST. The Chair now recognizes the president of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress, the Honorable Cliff Stearns of Florida, to address the Members.

Mr. STEARNS. Good morning, and thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Father Conroy, for that wonderful blessed prayer.

It is a distinct pleasure to be here with you this morning, to be back in this revered Chamber and to see so many of my good friends and colleagues. So on behalf of the former Members of Congress, I appreciate the Speaker's invitation to return to this wonderful place and to present to the Congress the Former Members of Congress' 48th annual report.

I will be joined by some of my colleagues in reporting on FMC's activities and vision for our future. I am also submitting for the RECORD a more detailed review of our activities for the year 2017.

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