

Connor of the Forest Preserve District of the Cook County Police Department.

So an older racist yells at a young Latina because he doesn't like what she and other Puerto Ricans living in "his" community represent.

Is that news? No. Sadly, no.

While most police officers would have done the right thing in that incident, this guy was caught on tape doing the wrong thing or, more accurately, doing nothing at all.

For me, this was very personal, because something similar happened to me, and something similar has happened to most Puerto Ricans, most Latinos, most people of color, and most people who are somehow different in this country, at one point or another in their lives.

Twenty-two years ago, when I was a sophomore in Congress, I was entering one of the Capitol office buildings with my daughter, Omaira, and my niece, Maritza. I was new, and I was dressed somewhat casually, because we were just returning from a Puerto Rican celebration, and my daughter was carrying a Puerto Rican flag. The flag came unfurled as it went through the X-ray machine, and one of the officers wanted to stop us from coming in.

I showed my official ID as a Member of Congress, to which the officer said: "I don't think so," indicating that she thought my ID was a fake and that I couldn't possibly be a Member of Congress. She stated my ID was fake, in fact.

There was also the comment at the end: Why don't you and your people go back where you came from?

Twenty-two years after that incident, we are still seeing the same kind of bigotry, the same kind of misunderstanding about who Latinos and Puerto Ricans are, and the same fear that we are outsiders who don't belong here.

Sadly, the same fear and otherness is extended to other people: the handicapped, gay and lesbians, transgender Americans, immigrants, Muslims, and people of color. The list just goes on.

This is certainly not the first time, but, right now, we are in a moment in history when Americans are being told to fear other Americans. One of the reasons I think the video went viral is because it is emblematic of our times.

Bullies who do not understand the first thing about their fellow human beings—Latinos, people of color, immigrants, or Muslims—are being taught to fear that something they have is being taken away from them. Some now feel it is their right, their privilege, and maybe even their duty to go off in public and take action.

I wonder where they get such an idea.

When our President calls Puerto Ricans lazy and expensive to help, it hurts our Nation. When he calls Mexicans rapists and murderers, or calls refugees fleeing violence with their children illegal immigrants, or calls transgender soldiers a threat to our country, and says good people on both sides of a racist rally where a woman was killed are the same, it filters down.

Maybe the President is just reflecting back the fear, anger, and misunderstanding of the voters he wants to mobilize. But all the lying, hostility, and racism are clearly taking a toll on our country.

I just hope that we are all as poised as Ms. Irizarry was, if and when someone gets in your face, whether you are wearing a pussy hat, or a hijab, or a rainbow flag, or a Black lives matter T-shirt.

I hope we are all more willing than Officer Connor to take action when someone is trying to bully someone else. I know most Americans are not like Mr. Trybus, who is afflicted with fear, ignorance, and probably a substance abuse problem.

But the video makes it clear that we all have to step up to defend the United States from this tide of misogyny, homophobia, and xenophobia, and stand up for what America is really all about.

Please, let's just do it all together. If you see hate, stand up and speak.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD my letter to the Civil Rights Division at Main Justice for an investigation into this matter.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 10, 2018.

Hon. JOHN M. GORE,
Acting Assistant Attorney General, Department
of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR ACTING ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL GORE: I watched video footage of a woman being harassed by an intoxicated male at a forest preserve in Cook County and I write to express my outrage and demand that the Civil Rights Division does all it can to investigate this incident.

This past June, Mia Irizzary recorded her unfortunate encounter with an intoxicated male while at a Forest Preserve of Cook County park outside Chicago. An officer with the Forest Preserve looked on, avoided responding to the man and ignored the pleas for help from the woman who was being harassed. It is clear from the video that she was accosted by the man because of her ethnicity and wearing a Puerto Rican flag T-shirt. The man makes reference to his fear that Hispanics are coming to the United States to change him.

What is even more unacceptable than the man's behavior is the unwillingness of a uniformed officer to intervene when the woman's civil rights were being challenged and the man used physical and verbal intimidation. I have learned that the man was eventually arrested by a different uniformed officer and the initial officer has been consigned to "desk duty" pending an investigation.

Because of the seriousness of the encounter, the fact that it targeted the Puerto Rican community in and around my District, and growing number of anti-Latino and anti-immigrant hate crimes being reported, I demand the Civil Rights Division investigate to see if federal civil rights charges are warranted.

I would like to remind you of your division's responsibilities which are to enforce federal statutes prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, disability, religion, familial status and national origin.

I understand this incident on a gut level because almost exactly the same thing happened to me when I was a freshman in Congress. I was denied entry into the Capitol complex by U.S. Capitol Police despite being

a Congressman with identification, because my daughter was carrying a Puerto Rican flag and the officer doubted that I could possibly be a Member of Congress. So this kind of incident is unfortunately not unusual and though we did not have viral videos 25 years ago, I wish I had done more than to stop the kind of behavior on display in Ms. Irizarry's video, so that we can prevent the cycles of hatred and bigotry that often repeat themselves today.

Thank you and I look forward to your response. If you have any questions please contact me or Rafael Hurtado of my staff.

Sincerely,

LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ,
Member of Congress.

HONORING CARL WALLNAU

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the memory of an extraordinary individual from Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Carl Wallnau of Newtown passed away on June 29 at the age of 99.

A man of many talents, Carl paid for his education by playing trumpet in a jazz ensemble. He later served in World War II under General Patton, retiring from the Air Force with the rank of major in 1979.

After his service, Carl began a successful career as a lawyer and as an engineer, eventually becoming acting CEO of Swan Oil Company.

Despite his success, Carl always made time to give back to our community, serving on many charitable boards, including those of the Bucks County Industrial Development Corporation, the Bucks County Chamber of Commerce, the Delaware Valley Philharmonic, the Red Cross, and the United Way of Bucks County.

Mr. Speaker, we send our condolences to Carl's children, Carl, Lance, Kurt, and Joyce, along with the rest of his family. We thank them for sharing him with our community.

RECOGNIZING THE NORTHAMPTON PATRIOTS FLAG PROGRAM

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Northampton Patriots Flag Program, a longstanding tradition of Northampton Township in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

The Northampton Patriots Flag Program, established in 2003, honors Northampton residents who have served in the Armed Forces, recognizing their deployment and their return home to Bucks County. While these heroes are serving, a flag signifying their military branch is hung within the administration building of Northampton Township. Upon their return, it is replaced with an American flag.

This program recently recognized Austin Fizel, a Southampton resident who currently serves in the Air Force and who is stationed in the United Arab Emirates. We would like to extend our gratitude to Austin for his service and would like to recognize his

parents, George and Marie, along with his siblings, Derek, Kyle, and Meredith, who all attended the ceremony.

I would also like to thank a local hero who helps run the Northampton Patriots Flag Program, Pete Palestina, along with Northampton Township Chairman Barry Moore, for their work in recognizing our community's bravest citizens.

RECOGNIZING PATROL OFFICERS OF LANSDALE
BOROUGH

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three of the newest additions to the Lansdale Police Department in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, who will serve as full-time patrol officers.

James McVeigh, who studied at Upper Perkiomen High School and Lock Haven University, graduated from the Montgomery County Police Academy in 2008. Before joining the Lansdale force, Officer McVeigh served with the Upper Perkiomen Police Department for 10 years and is now joining Lansdale.

Christian Gregory is a graduate of my alma mater, LaSalle University, and the Philadelphia Police Academy. Before joining the Lansdale force, Officer Gregory served with the SEPTA Transit Police Department.

Corey Pfister is a graduate of the Souderton Area High School, Gwynedd Mercy University, and the Montgomery County Police Academy. Before joining the Lansdale force, Officer Pfister served with the Pottstown Borough Police Department.

Mr. Speaker, I commend these officers for their bravery and their service to our community, and we wish them well in this new chapter of their careers. I would also like to recognize Police Chief Mike Trail for leading such a fine group of law enforcement professionals in our community.

RUSSIAN COLLUSION

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, it was almost exactly 2 years ago, as Donald Trump closed in on the Republican nomination, that the Russians began weaponizing stolen emails it had acquired some time earlier.

This disclosure of stolen emails was only one vector of the Russian active measures campaign. At the same time, the Russians were engaged in a surreptitious social media campaign and a very overt use of their paid media platforms, like Sputnik and Russia Today, to influence the American electorate.

What was this about? Was this new and unprecedented intervention in our affairs merely about choosing one candidate over another in the American Presidential system? Or was there something broader within the Russian aims?

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It is certainly true that the Russians had a preferred candidate in Donald

Trump. Candidate Trump had talked disparagingly about NATO. He had talked about doing away with sanctions on Russia over its invasion of its neighbor. He had talked about making common cause with Russia in Syria, where our interests are not at all aligned. And most significant, he had talked about doing away with the penalties we had imposed for Russia's invasion of its neighbor, something we never thought would take place in the last century, the remaking of the map of Europe by dint of military force. That is something we thought we would never see in this century.

It is certainly true they had a preferred candidate in Donald Trump, for all those reasons. It is also true that they had a deep antipathy towards Hillary Clinton, someone who, when people gathered in massive numbers in Russia to protest fraudulent elections in 2011, spoke out on behalf of people's right to protest and assemble, something that the Kremlin felt was a direct threat to the regime.

But far more fundamental was the Russian object of sowing discord in the United States, of pitting one American against another, of playing along the fault lines in our society, of weakening the very fabric of our democracy.

It is very important to recognize that what the Russians did here, they did not do alone in the United States. Yes, it was new and unprecedented for us, but what the Russians did here, they have been doing for years elsewhere in Europe and around the world. It is an attack not only on our democracy, but on the very idea of liberal democracy. This attack takes place at a time in our lives where, when you look around the world, you must conclude objectively that the autocrats are on the rise in places like Poland and in Hungary and the rise of the far right parties in Germany, Austria, and France, with Erdogan in Turkey—Turkey is the now the leading jailer of journalists in the world—and in the Philippines with Duterte.

It cannot be said that an iron curtain is descending, but there is a rising tide of authoritarianism that threatens to submerge some of the great capitals around the globe. For those of us who had lived in the post-World War II generation, I think we were always under the assumption that our freedoms around the world were ever-increasing, that it was some immutable law of nature, that our freedom to express ourselves, to practice our faith, to associate with whom we would, was ever-increasing. To paraphrase Martin Luther King, the moral arc of the universe may be long, but it bends toward justice, only to find that today, it does not bend towards justice.

As much as the idea of America as the indispensable Nation has been given a bad name, we truly are indispensable. All around the world people look to us: people in prison who gathered in Tahrir Square wanting a better government; people in the Philippines,

the victims of a campaign of mass extrajudicial killing; people in prison in Turkey for journalism.

People all over the world look to us. They are not going to look to Russia; they are not going to look to China; they are not going to look to Europe, with all of its problems; and increasingly they do not recognize what they see. They look to our White House and they do not recognize what they see. They see a President more comfortable with autocrats and dictators than they do with Democrats and democracy. This is a terrible tragedy for us. It is a bigger tragedy for the rest of the world.

In 1938, Winston Churchill published a series of speeches he gave on the rise of Nazism. In America, the book was titled, "While England Slept." America is not sleeping, but one of its great parties is. As John Boehner said recently, the Republican Party is off taking a nap somewhere.

Wake up. Freedom-loving people all around the world are looking to us. Wake up. Our democracy is at risk at home, and the very idea of liberal democracy is at risk around the world. Wake up.

COMMEMORATING VICTIMS OF 1994
TERRORIST ATTACK AGAINST
JEWISH COMMUNITY IN ARGENTINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, next Wednesday, July 18, marks 24 years since the horrific terrorist attack on the AMIA Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

This attack, carried out by the Iranian-backed terror group Hezbollah, left 85 innocent people dead and many more wounded. It shook the entire Jewish community in Argentina, and all across South America, who were targeted by Hezbollah just 2 years earlier with a deadly attack at the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, which left 29 dead and 250 wounded.

The AMIA bombing remains the deadliest terror attack in Argentina's history, yet its perpetrators and those responsible for the Embassy bombing have yet to be brought to justice. But that has not been for lack of trying. In fact, Special Prosecutor Alberto Nisman had dedicated his life to identifying those responsible and to bringing them to justice.

Indeed, my friend Alberto ultimately gave his life in this pursuit, having been assassinated just hours before he was to present his complaint to a court implicating then-President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner and other high-ranking Argentine officials for covering up Iran's role in the bombings.

In 2015, President Macri of Argentina made the brave decision to assign a special prosecutor to investigate and uncover the truth surrounding