

with interim President Juan Guaido and call on Maduro to step down so that humanitarian aid can flow to the Venezuelan people, who are sick, starving, and scared.

All Americans stand with Venezuelans, who want their republic back; they want their rights back; they want their freedom back.

CLOSE THE LOBBYIST LOOPHOLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ROSE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROSE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the Lobbyist Loophole Closure Act.

This bill will close a loophole that lobbyists on both sides of the aisle—and they are lobbyists—have been taking advantage of for far too long. They have been using it to skirt disclosure under the guise of just providing strategic guidance for billion-dollar corporations.

You know, when I go back to Staten Island and south Brooklyn, they see right through this. They see it for what it is, people getting over on the system on the backs of hardworking Americans. And they are tired of it.

It is time that we do our job here in the Halls of Congress to end this. This is the way our jobs should work, because for far too long we have been allowing lobbyists on both sides of the aisle to undermine this process and keep our constituents in the dark.

Just look at this—both sides of the aisle. We have seen this in my own party with former Senate majority leader Tom Daschle:

He laid the blueprint for the shadow lobbying industry. He did work that looks, smells, and tastes a lot like lobbying, but the public was in the dark. He earned millions advising healthcare clients and others about how to navigate Congress without registering as a lobbyist.

And on the Republican side, the President's former lawyer, the infamous Michael Cohen, getting paid hundreds of thousands of dollars for providing strategic guidance to corporations when, in truth, it was providing access to the President without ever registering as a lobbyist. Again:

Used his ties to the President to land consulting agreements; secretly hired to work on the same issues their lobbyists were already registered to work on; was paid millions of dollars to help influence administration policy without once registering as a lobbyist.

Folks, this is corruption. Mr. Speaker, make no mistake, this is corruption.

And no matter if you are a Democrat, if you are a Republican, or if you are an independent, we all see it for what it is.

Now, this is why H.R. 1 is such an essential step. I applaud my Democratic colleagues for putting a bold anticorruption bill on the floor of the House this week, of which the Lobbyist Loophole Closure Act will be a part.

We have got to take this opportunity and push the ball forward because, for the last 4 years, the American people have been voting for change. The Republicans called it draining the swamp. The Democrats called it anticorruption.

The American people are united against the American political class. They are united against the D.C. political class.

We have got to do something about it, because, if it looks like a lobbyist, if it talks like a lobbyist, if it acts like a lobbyist, then, Mr. Speaker, let's call it a lobbyist. Let's disclose it and regulate it as such.

COMMEMORATING THE 157TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOMESTEAD ACT

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 157th anniversary of the Homestead Act passing the House of Representatives.

The Homestead Act was instrumental in bringing settlers to the Midwest and forming the State of Nebraska, as it allowed any qualified person to claim up to 160 acres of Federally owned land in exchange for 5 years of living on and improving the property.

Homestead National Monument, which is located in Nebraska's Third Congressional District, commemorates this law.

Unfortunately, the name of this facility does not represent its cultural and historical value, as many tourists show up looking for a physical monument rather than a park, which would more accurately describe it.

For this reason, and at the request of the local community, I introduced a bill on Thursday, February 28, the law's anniversary, to reclassify Homestead National Monument as a national historical park.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill in order to maximize its value in terms of education, tourism, and economic development for the surrounding community as it commemorates an important event in our Nation's history.

REMEMBERING REPRESENTATIVE WALTER JONES

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

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to remember my good friend and our late colleague Representative Walter Jones.

Walter Jones was someone who deeply cared about this institution and the constitutional principles that undergird our service. He was a respected member of the Armed Services Committee, where he was a passionate advocate for military families and against endless, senseless wars that seem, too often, to have a small per-

centage of Americans bear a disproportionate burden for the decisions that are made by this body and others.

Walter was a deeply caring individual. He was an encourager. When he saw Members on the floor, regardless of your seniority or your status within the institution, he referred to everyone as "chairman." He thought that was a distinction that should be shared and one he used to reverberate those with whom he served in this body.

He had friends on the right, on the left, and in the middle, because Walter treated everyone with respect and was the ultimate southern gentleman.

I will miss his friendship, his guidance, his mentorship, and this institution and this country will miss the principle with which Walter Jones served our great Nation.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TED LIEU of California) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of this assembly, and us all, that we would be worthy of the call we have been given as Americans, to nurture and guarantee democratic freedoms to all who dwell in our great Nation. Help us all to be truly thankful and appropriately generous in our response.

Give each Member the wisdom, patience, and perseverance to attend to the pressing issues of these days.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.