

and it is an amazing occupation, and we should honor it every chance we get.

There are days when we honor our democracy, so I am just going to tell you a quick story. If any of you have time and you want to come by my office—it is no longer in the majority side, but it is in the minority side over here. At one time it was the Speaker's office, whom some of you served, so you can find where it is.

In there I put paintings, and there is a reason why each painting that I put in there is from a different artist. I put my favorite Presidents, Lincoln and Reagan, and then I have the one of "Washington Crossing the Delaware." And this is the story I will tell you today.

When I look at the paintings, I always wonder what advice Lincoln would tell us. If you think about it, he was a Member of the House.

My favorite part whenever I give a tour is to go to Statuary Hall, stand right where Lincoln's desk is, and have my guests look back at the clock. I ask them to tell me what time it is because it is the exact same view and the exact same clock that Abraham Lincoln looked at. I am sure he did, and that is an opportunity to have.

But what would Lincoln tell us today? Lincoln would tell us to believe in the exceptionalism of this country; that we are different than any other country before us. And the reason why I believe that is, is the Gettysburg Address.

You all know it. "Four score and seven years ago our Fathers brought forth on this continent a new Nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

There has never been another country like ours. Conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that we are all equal. There is something about democracy that that brings forth.

When you think about the world today, Saudi Arabia just now allows women the right to drive, and it makes you think about where we have come from.

But the painting that I want you to look at, and some of you have served with me and you have been in that room, is "Washington Crossing the Delaware." You know of that painting. You know that it hangs in New York, but did you know the history of who actually painted that picture? It wasn't even an American. His name was Emanuel Leutze. He had lived in America. He was an immigrant.

He lived here for a number of years and went back to Germany, and painted a picture based upon the belief that he wanted to inspire the Germans to have a revolution because he believed America was more than a country, that America was an idea. And he wanted the revolution in Germany to inspire the idea of freedom and democracy.

So he doesn't get it historically correct, but we don't blame him, right?

The Delaware looks like the Rhine, but he is German, so we live with that.

He puts 13 people in a row boat. Why would he put 13? 13 colonies, right? But he only shows you 12 faces.

He gets it historically incorrect, because people will tell you Washington either crossed in a Durham boat or on a barge, but he just makes it a row boat. But he puts Washington in a ceremonial uniform, standing up, crossing the Delaware on Christmas, at night.

We think that probably is not true, but when you look at Washington, you would say, "I bet that man has never lost a battle." Well, history tells us he had not won yet; that was our first victory when we surprised the Hessians, right?

But what I want you to do when you look at the picture, I want you to see who is in the boat. And this is the story of why democracy matters.

If you look at the second person, he is wearing a beret; he is Scottish.

If you look at the person directly across from him in the denim jacket, he is African American.

You come down the boat to the midsection, in the red is a woman. And in the very back, is a Native American.

I don't know if they were in the boat that night, but this young immigrant, that is who he believed—having lived in America—would have been in that boat.

But the second to last person is a farmer, and he has hand across his face. It is the hand of the 13th person nobody sees.

And what the young artist was saying, Here we are as a young nation—not even a nation yet, but an idea for a nation—an idea that we can self-govern, an idea about democracy, that we are willing to risk everything, having never won before, and do it on our holiest of nights: Here is a hand. Would you get in and join us?

I believe that is as true today as it was then.

It is not guaranteed, you have to earn it through each generation. And the service that you have provided actually passed the torch to the next.

I came here in 2007. I admired an individual, Connie Morella, who I watched stand up. She belonged to my party. And the part that I looked at is, I grew up in a family of Democrats, but I was a Republican based upon belief. And my belief was that an individual can govern themselves.

And I watched Connie stand up not only to things she disagreed with, but to things even within her own party. And she inspired people.

People would say she inspired a lot of women; she also inspired me.

And the idea that after she left this House she continued to work for democracy says a lot about who she is and why she was elected in the first place.

So it is an honor for me to be here today to say thank you for your service. And thank you, all of you, for what you contributed to this country.

Mr. STEARNS. We thank the distinguished minority leader.

And with that, let me close by saying, the Chair again, wishes to thank the former Members of the House and Senate for all of your presence today.

And before terminating these proceedings, the Chair would like to invite those former Members who did not respond when the roll call was called to give their names to the reading clerk for inclusion in the roll.

I think Tom McMillen came in. Is there anyone else to add?

If not, the Association of Former Members of Congress and the report to Congress is closed.

The meeting stands adjourned.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Help us this day to draw closer to You, so that with Your spirit and aware of Your presence among us, we may all face the tasks of this day.

Bless the Members of the people's House. Help them to think clearly, speak confidently, and act courageously in the belief that all noble service is based upon patience, truth, and love.

May all citizens, for their part, feel empowered to encourage their Representatives to use their best judgment in considering how to address the many needs of our Nation.

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BAIRD 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.

HISTORIC EMBASSY OPENING IN JERUSALEM

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