

Sergeant Stephen began his career as a first responder when he was just 16 years old, following in his father's footsteps by joining the Calico Rock Fire Department.

As a soldier, Mike Stephen rose to the rank of sergeant first class. As a firefighter, Mike Stephen led the Pineville Volunteer Fire Department while he served as a sheriff's deputy. He instilled his values and dedication to public service and his family, all of whom served as volunteer firefighters. Whenever a call came to the Stephen home, the entire family responded.

As a career law enforcement officer, Sergeant Stephen served in the Mountain View Police Department, Arkansas Department of Corrections, and, ultimately, the Stone County Sheriff's Office. Beloved by his colleagues, Sergeant Stephen viewed public service as more than a job. He was always on call 24/7, ready to assist his community in any way. He advocated for first responders by testifying before the Arkansas General Assembly.

On Thursday, July 18, Sergeant Stephen responded to his final call. Early that morning, Sergeant Stephen responded to a domestic welfare call in Leslie, Arkansas. As Stephen performed his duties, shots were fired, and Stephen was struck fatally, as was the suspected shooter.

As Arkansas mourns the loss of Sergeant Mike Stephen, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending my condolences to the Stephen family and honoring the life of a true public servant who gave his life protecting the community he loved.

OUR COUNTRY'S ATTENTION IS FOCUSED ON THE MUELLER REPORT

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, today much of our country's attention is focused on the hearing happening across the street from where we stand. For weeks, pundits have been speculating: What else would the special counsel reveal? Where is that smoking gun or the viral moment?

These questions are understandable, but they also obscure a powerful tool already at this body's disposal as we consider whether or not to hold the President accountable: what we already know. And for that, we turn to the special counsel's report.

Volume I details a "sweeping and systematic" attack by the Russian Government on our democracy, an attack that our President still refuses to acknowledge. Volume II describes 11 different occasions—11—where the actions of the President may have obstructed justice.

The legal framework is pretty straightforward. In criminal cases, an individual must meet the so-called elements of an offense, essentially, a

checklist of actions, which, if each is proven, means that a crime was committed. What follows in the special counsel's report is an exhaustive detailing of facts uncovered and a thorough analysis as to whether the elements of obstruction of justice were met in those 11 instances.

The special counsel instructs, on page 9 of Volume II, that "three basic elements are common to the most relevant obstruction statutes: one, an obstructive act; two, a nexus between the obstructive act and an official proceeding; and three, a corrupt intent."

In a few of the occasions investigated, the special counsel indicates that the evidence is not sufficient to reach that standard. In several others, however, his analysis is crystal clear.

On page 84, the report begins to detail how the President directed White House Counsel Don McGahn to remove the special counsel. "Mueller has to go."

"Call me back when you do it."

The special counsel then applies the law:

One, an obstructive act: page 88, "Substantial evidence supports a conclusion that the President . . . directed McGahn to call Rosenstein to have the special counsel removed."

Two, a nexus: page 89, "Substantial evidence indicates that . . . the President knew his conduct was under investigation by a Federal prosecutor." In fact, the President had tweeted about it.

Three, corrupt intent: page 89, "Substantial evidence indicates that the President's attempts to remove the special counsel were linked . . . most immediately to reports that the President was being investigated for potential obstruction of justice."

Substantial evidence to show that all three elements of the offense are met; substantial evidence that the President obstructed justice; substantial evidence that the President of the United States committed a crime.

There are countless other troubling facts which the special counsel indicates may meet the obstruction threshold.

Page 91, just days after pressuring McGahn, President Trump directs his former campaign manager Corey Lewandowski to deliver a message to Attorney General Jeff Sessions to limit the scope of the Mueller investigation to future election interference alone.

Page 92, the President follows up with Lewandowski with the same request a month later.

Page 96, the President writes Chief of Staff Reince Priebus, "Did you get it?"—referring to Sessions' resignation. "Are you working on it?"—which leads Mr. Mueller to conclude, on page 97, that "taken together, the President's directives indicate that Sessions was being instructed to tell the special counsel to end the existing investigation into his campaign." And, the same page, that "substantial evidence indicates that the President's efforts to

have Sessions limit the scope of the special counsel's investigation . . . was intended to prevent further investigative scrutiny of the President's and his campaign's conduct."

These are the findings of the report, the facts as they were uncovered and applied to the relevant statutes of our criminal law. This is the information already in our hands today.

Summed up by Mr. Mueller's devastating conclusion: "Our investigation found multiple acts by the President that were capable of exerting undue influence over law enforcement investigations, including the Russian interference and obstruction investigations."

The special counsel has done his job. We must do ours.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

HONORING BOYD W. SORENSON

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Boyd W. Sorenson of Waite Park for receiving France's highest distinction, the Legion of Honor, for his service during World War II.

As a fighter pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps, he flew 89 missions in the European theater during World War II, assisting in the liberation of France.

Mr. Sorenson's service didn't end after World War II. In fact, Boyd went on to fly 72 missions during the Korean war.

Mr. Boyd is no stranger to recognition for his bravery. He has already been awarded the European African Middle Eastern Medal with three bronze stars, the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters, and the Canadian Operational Service Medal with maple leaf cluster.

Boyd is a hero, and his actions helped further the cause of freedom we enjoy today. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Sorenson for his service and congratulate him on another well-deserved award.

CONGRATULATING VIOLET HALVERSON

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Violet Halverson of Sartell, Minnesota. At 94 years old, Violet has just earned herself the silver medal in shuffleboard at the National Senior Games. The National Senior Games were created to promote healthy lifestyles for aging adults through education, fitness, and sport.

Violet began playing shuffleboard in the 1980s. Over the years since, she has participated in recreational leagues and competitions. When she heard about the National Senior Games, she knew she had to compete. Violet won gold her first year, and this year she takes home a silver.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Violet and can't wait to see how she performs next year.