

I, like so many in this Chamber, was the recipient of Elijah's generosity. His greatest gift to us was the ability to challenge all of us to do better and not just to accept things as they are.

Elijah would always say, "We are better than this." He led by example, taught us by doing and showing, not just talking—although his talk, his speech, his quiet advice, and most memorably, his powerful oratory were truly inspiring and matchless.

When I ran for Governor, Elijah supported me. What I will always remember is not that he stood by my side on the stage on the evening of my primary election victory, but, rather, that months later, he was standing by my side late into the night as I experienced a difficult general election defeat.

That was Elijah. His support was unwavering, his friendship unconditional, and his encouragement uplifting.

When I successfully ran for Congress, Elijah and Maya were there for me and Karmen, ready and eager to help us prepare for the rigors of Congress. I thank both Elijah and Maya from the bottom of my heart for always picking up the phone, answering my texts, lending an ear, and offering a word of encouragement, advice, and support.

Mr. Speaker, Elijah was distinguished. He not only mastered the science and statecraft of governing, but he was also conspicuous in the art of understanding and representing his constituents, the people of the city of Baltimore—their dreams and aspirations, their challenges and frustrations.

Elijah possessed a keen intellect and understanding of government as a vehicle to empower the people. He possessed a radiant, remarkable passion that was both commanding and, when necessary, calming, as only Elijah could accomplish.

Whether Elijah was wielding the gavel from his elevated positions as chairman of the Oversight and Reform Committee or when Elijah was wielding a bullhorn on the streets of Baltimore city, the community that he cherished and that adored him, Elijah was always leading at the intersection of intellect and compassion, bringing just the right mix, at the right moment, to address the right issues, and moved us and his people in the right direction. And that direction was always toward righteousness.

History will be kind to Elijah, even when others were not, because Elijah did his work with kindness and compassion, and with moral clarity.

Mr. Speaker, Elijah closed his floor speech in April 1996 with a poem. He said:

I only have a minute, 60 seconds in it.
Forced upon me, I did not choose it.
But I know that I must use it, give account
if I abuse it, suffer if I lose it.
Only a tiny little minute, but eternity is in it.

Elijah, what you did with the minute that God gave you will last an eternity.

Rest, my dear friend. Rest well.

OPPOSING UN-AMERICAN IMPEACHMENT INVESTIGATION

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the secretive and un-American impeachment investigation taking place right now in the House of Representatives.

Behind closed doors, our President is being tried, tried by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle using an undemocratic process that wouldn't hold up in any American court of law.

Democrats talk about Russian collusion while using Soviet-style investigative techniques against President Trump, denying him due process.

In fact, one of my Democratic colleagues from New York recently said: "The President says he is innocent, so all we are saying is prove it."

Really? Mr. Speaker, I spent 41 years in law enforcement, and I know a little something about due process, and that sure isn't it.

What is taking place before us is an insult to fairness, a mockery of justice, and a political witch hunt designed to reverse the will of the American voter. There were over 62 million people who voted for this President.

The Speaker hasn't even formally held a vote on whether or not this is an impeachment inquiry. If this is an impeachment inquiry like the Speaker says, come to the floor and hold a vote.

Some have called this process fair because Republican Members of certain committees—only certain committees—are allowed to be in the room during depositions and interviews. However, they are not even allowed to call witnesses or openly discuss the smears that have been selectively leaked by the Democrats.

But this is not about us. It is not about the Members of this Congress. It is about transparency for the American public. The American people deserve to know what is going on.

Let's recap the last 3 years of searching for a smoking gun that just did not exist.

First, Democrats claimed that President Trump colluded with Russians to influence the 2016 election. That was the message played every single night on television—collusion, collusion, collusion.

Then, Democrats supported Robert Mueller and told him to go find that collusion, which, of course, he didn't.

So they dragged Robert Mueller into a congressional hearing room, and this time, they had no problem being open and transparent before the cameras.

But when that failed, I thought the dog and pony show was going to be over. I had to hope that my colleagues on the other side would get this legislative body back to work for the American public, but, no, here we go again.

We have a whistleblower with secondary information, which the only way they could do that was to change the rule in secret—secret depositions in the underbelly of Congress, targeted leaks, and rampant speculation.

Mr. Speaker, this is the House of Representatives, not the KGB. It is about time my friends on the other side of the aisle started acting like it. If you actually believe the President has committed an impeachable offense, why hide the truth from the public?

If you don't like this President, you will have an opportunity to vote against him in November 2020. Until then, let's stop wasting the taxpayers' hard-earned money on frivolous, expensive investigations to nowhere and come together to solve America's problems.

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STILL I RISE

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, Mr. Speaker. I rise today with a heavy heart and tears welling in my eyes.

I rise because how dare the President compare lynching to impeachment? How dare he do this?

Does he not know the history of lynching in this country?

Does he not know that thousands of African Americans were lynched—mob violence?

Does he not know that this is the equivalent of murder?

How dare the President compare Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution, a lawful constitutional process, to mob violence and lynching?

Mr. President, do you not understand the history that you are encroaching upon?

If you continue to weaponize racism and bigotry, this makes you no better than those who were screaming "blood and soil" and "Jews will not replace us." It makes you no better than them. It makes you no better than those who burned crosses. It makes you no better than those who wear hoods and white robes.

Do you not understand what you are doing to this country?

More importantly, do we, the Members of this Congress, not understand how he is denigrating and berating decency in this country?

At some point, we must say that enough is enough. At some point, we must move on to impeach.

Mr. President, I beg that you would reconsider your thoughts; but for fear that you may not, I will say more of this tonight, because I have been promised 30 minutes, and I will use these 30 minutes to talk about what you have done and to also talk about what I may do to continue this impeachment movement.

You are unfit to hold this office.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President. Members are further reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

THE NATION'S CATTLE MARKETS

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the state of our Nation's cattle markets.

Following the August fire at Tyson's beef packing plant in Holcomb, Kansas, live cattle prices hit a 5-year low. At the same time, retail beef prices rose. It makes sense: if you can process less cattle, then there is an oversupply in the live cattle market and less processed beef, which increases retail beef prices.

But the Holcomb processing plant represented only 5 percent of America's processing capacity, and yet live cattle prices fell 11 percent, while retail prices hit their highest levels since 2015.

I asked Secretary Perdue to investigate the cattle market following the Holcomb fire, and he agreed. The USDA expects the investigation to wrap up by the end of this year.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to do the right thing by America's ranchers and also to look into this cattle market. Montana ranchers produce the world's best beef, but current conditions in the market are hurting them. They deserve an explanation and to be treated fairly.

I look forward to a full accounting of the cattle market.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the high cost of prescription drugs in this country.

This year, I have held 26 townhalls across Arizona's First Congressional District. At each and every one, I hear from families, seniors, and veterans who are concerned about the overwhelmingly high cost of their prescription drugs.

I hear from people like Karen from Globe, Arizona, a 74-year-old widow who cannot afford her prescriptions and often goes without them; or Elizabeth from Tucson, Arizona, who said: "I don't have much hope." An American saying "I don't have much hope" is unacceptable in America.

Between the years 2012 and 2017, the average annual cost of prescription drug treatment increased by more than 50 percent—way above inflation rates—while the annual income for Arizonans increased by only 12 percent. In 2017, 26

percent of Arizona residents stopped taking medication that is prescribed, due to cost.

The skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs has become a crisis in this country, and something must be done. It is critical that we come together to identify commonsense, bipartisan solutions to address these costs and ensure that hardworking families can access the care and prescriptions they need at affordable prices.

I am working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to bring down these costs by identifying a holistic approach that allows Medicare to negotiate for lower prices, caps out-of-pocket drug expenses for seniors, and improves access to lower cost generic drugs. Throughout this process, we must protect innovation and allow for the research and development of new drugs on the market.

As we discuss these solutions, we must also remember the ways this crisis disproportionately affects medically underserved rural and Tribal communities. We need to identify solutions to address their unique needs because Americans deserve quality, affordable care regardless of their ZIP Code. No one should ever have to make the choice between the medication they need and putting food on the table.

Mr. Speaker, I am working hard to ensure this is a reality for all Americans. Let us all start to begin to have hope again.

A BURDEN ON SMALL BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. KEVIN HERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2513, the so-called Corporate Transparency Act. I fear that, in the pursuit of "transparency," my colleagues have crossed a line.

This bill would be more appropriately titled the Small Business Registration and Surveillance Act because that is exactly what it would do. This bill would require America's small business owners—those with 20 or fewer employees—to register their confidential information with a Federal law enforcement and intelligence agency they have never heard of and allow that agency to surveil them without a subpoena or a warrant.

As a former small business owner for 34 years, I know that paperwork is incredibly burdensome and small business owners have to file paperwork themselves. Unlike the big banks, they don't have compliance departments to fill this information out.

NFIB estimates that this legislation will cost small business owners \$5.7 billion over 10 years. CBO estimates that this bill will have a significant impact on 25 to 30 million small businesses in America. This is a slap in the face to the small business owners who are

doing everything they can to achieve the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 2513.

RECOGNIZING BETTY REID SOSKIN

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of esteemed public servant, activist, and great American Betty Reid Soskin.

Betty is a constituent, a friend, and a pillar of Contra Costa County in the Bay Area in California. She is fondly known as the National Park Service's oldest serving ranger, at 98 years old, and is assigned to the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, California.

As an interpretive park ranger for the past 13 years, Betty has educated thousands of visitors about the Rosies and her own experience as a young Black woman working in Richmond during World War II. She worked as a file clerk for the Boilermakers Union A-36, a Jim Crow, all African American union auxiliary.

Betty has been an activist her whole life. She fought for civil rights during Freedom Summer, was an activist against the Vietnam war, helped with faith-based racial healing work in the Unitarian Universalist church, and became a delegate to the 1972 Democratic National Convention.

Betty also served as a legislative aide for a Berkeley city council member and as a field representative for two California State Assembly members, which led to her involvement in designing the Rosie the Riveter National Park. Her advocacy ensured that marginalized communities' narratives and stories were included in the park's historical exhibits and resources on the war efforts in Richmond, California.

In 1995, Betty was named a Woman of the Year by the California State Legislature. She was also named one of the Nation's 10 outstanding women in 2006 by the National Women's History Project.

In 2015, she was formally recognized by President Barack Obama, who gave her a silver coin with the Presidential seal.

Born in 1921, Betty has lived through many pivotal moments in U.S. history and is a crucial voice in speaking to the value of American democracy, the realities of the African American struggle, and the importance of continued progress.

In an interview for a feature in Glamour magazine, Betty said, when she was Woman of the Year: "Democracy has been experiencing these periods of chaos since 1776. They come and go. And it's in those periods that democracy is redefined. History has been written by people who got it wrong, but the people who are always trying to get