

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.