

the constitutional duty of the United States Senate to give us a verdict:

Did the President actually obstruct Congress?

Did he actually abuse power?

What were the definitions of those things?

They are not crimes.

What were the definitions?

Let's find out the judgment of these Senators, yes or no, guilty or not guilty, and then the next question is: Should he be removed from office?

I say not. I didn't see the evidence here. I don't see any crimes, and there have been no crimes.

All it amounts to also is in delaying these Articles of Impeachment if the Speaker can block a majority action from the House of Representatives, then the Speaker can block every action from the floor of the House of Representatives. It is not a sustainable position for the Speaker to refuse to message and have a de facto veto because that would make the Speaker of the House all-powerful with a veto for any piece of action that would come through the floor of the House of Representatives.

Let's get this done this week, and I encourage the Senate to get it done quickly. I would like to see the President stand here before us at the State of the Union address February 4 and be able to announce to the world that he has been exonerated by the United States Senate.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 23 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Almighty God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

You have promised, O God, that You are with us wherever we are and whatever we are doing—to heal and to help, to give strength and make us whole.

We pray that the Members of this assembly especially, and all of us, will be receptive to Your promises and receive them with confidence and conviction, that, armed by Your spirit, they will be able to forge good legislation which promotes justice, equity, and truth.

May we be mindful that all are created in Your image. Help us to see Your spirit in those who are different from us in age, color, religion, and all

other ways, including in politics, and engage each other with goodwill and respect.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BUDD 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from California, Mr. HUNTER, the whole number of the House is 430.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF MAMIE KIRKLAND

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, last month Buffalo's oldest resident, Mamie Kirkland, passed away at the age of 111. Mamie made Buffalo her home in 1923 after spending a lifetime outsmarting racism in Mississippi, Illinois, and Ohio. She fled rioting, burning of homes, and the shooting of residents by an angry racist mob. She witnessed the Ku Klux Klan burn a cross on the lawn of her family home.

Through these memories she inspired the creation of both the Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice.

Four years ago Ms. Kirkland was honored at a gala by the Equal Justice Initiative. When asked to speak on her journey, she said: "I left Mississippi a scared little girl of 7 years old. Now I am 107—and I am not afraid anymore."

I rise to honor the fearless legacy of Ms. Kirkland for the citizens of Buffalo, a city honored to be Mamie's home.

IRAN PROTESTS

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

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, the amazing capabilities of our men and women in uniform, combined with decisive action by President Trump, inspired thousands of civilians throughout Iran to take to the streets over the weekend to protest their government. These individuals braved the threat of live fire, teargas, and further damage to show the Ayatollah and his thugs that enough is enough.

It is a shame that in sharp contrast, House Democrats last week buckled to the Iranian regime and passed a concurrent War Powers Resolution attempting to tie the President's hands and obstruct his already successful Iranian strategy. Furthermore, the Speaker yesterday sadly attempted to downplay these nationwide protests as just "students" upset about the downed airliner.

To the protesters in Tehran, Shiraz, and elsewhere: I say the Speaker of this House does not speak for all of us. We do not downplay your courage, and we stand with you.

DRUG PRICING

(Ms. JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a professional registered nurse in Congress, I must say how crucial it is for essential medications to be affordable and accessible.

In 2017, 42 percent of Texas residents stopped taking medications as prescribed simply due to cost according to AARP. Over 2.6 million Texans have diabetes, and they must have daily access to affordable and quality insulin.

Mr. Speaker, huge investments from taxpayers go into the development of quality medications, yet just in the first days of 2020 multiple pharmaceutical companies have increased prices on over 400 drugs by 5 percent of the taxpayers' money.

We must do more to protect the vulnerable members of our communities, especially our seniors and the uninsured. With support of this House and Senate, we must continue to work together to lower the cost of prescription drugs for our constituents.

ANTI-SEMITISM

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

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the increasing anti-Semitic violence that has spread in recent months, including the recent stabbing that happened last month in New York.

Mr. Speaker, anti-Semitic and anti-Israel attitudes often emerge because

of a lack of understanding of the painful history directed at the Jewish people and the horrors of the Holocaust.

For this reason, I introduced H. Res. 782 alongside Representatives ZELDIN and KUSTOFF that encourages public schools to design and teach a curriculum about the history of anti-Semitism and the Holocaust and it calls on Federal law enforcement to hold the perpetrators of these attacks accountable.

Our Jewish community is feeling rattled, frightened, and unsafe. We cannot allow these feelings to fester. So in support of this community, I am proud to lead a resolution that will help increase understanding and rid our country of all anti-Semitic hatred.

CONGRATULATING THE UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the United Way of Central Massachusetts as they celebrate their 100th birthday this month and to thank the incredible staff, interns, fellows, volunteers, and community partners who allow this amazing institution to make a difference for so many people.

When I think of organizations that change lives, organizations that mobilize and unite our community to inspire change and create a better world, organizations that look out for the least among us by giving families the tools and stability they need to break the cycle of poverty and get back on their feet, I think of the United Way of Central Massachusetts.

I am so proud and grateful for the work they do every day and the positive impact they have on the folks I am privileged to represent.

On behalf of my constituents and with thanks from the entire United States Congress, congratulations to the United Way of Central Massachusetts for a century of awe-inspiring work, and here is to many more.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK MITCHELL

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a trailblazer and Springfield, Illinois, native, Frank Mitchell, who on Christmas Day at age 70, unfortunately passed away after a fight with lung cancer.

In the spring of 1965 Frank made history right here in the House of Representatives when he became the first African American page since Reconstruction. Nominated by the late Congressman Paul Findley, who represented what makes up much of the

18th Congressional District today, Frank was appointed by then-House Republican leader and future President, Gerald Ford.

As a page, Frank answered calls in the Republican Cloakroom, worked on the House floor, and witnessed many historic events, including the civil rights movement and the debate on the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Frank's historic appointment was long overdue, and he blazed a path for those who followed him with his work ethic and compassion for everyone he encountered. Frank often said that he couldn't fail because the door of opportunity had to remain open. Frank succeeded in every respect, keeping that door of opportunity open for generations to come.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Mitchell family, and may Frank rest in peace.

SUPPORTING IRANIAN PROTESTERS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the people of Iran have taken to the streets in defiance of their oppressive regime and refuted the lies that Soleimani was a beloved general. Already 1,500 people have been killed while protesting the authoritarian regime.

The Epoch Times of January 7 is correct: "The protesters' central demand in Iran is for the mullahs' regime to step down, stop its terrorist adventures abroad, and end its massive corruption at home."

This is why I am cosponsoring H. Res. 791, introduced by Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY that supports the protesters of Iran. I am thankful for the courageous leadership of President Donald Trump and his support for the Iranian people.

He tweeted in Farsi: "To the brave, long-suffering people of Iran: I've stood with you since the beginning of my Presidency, and my administration will continue to stand with you. We are following your protests closely and are inspired by your courage."

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

EARTHQUAKES IN PUERTO RICO AND SUPPORT FOR EMERGENCY DECLARATION

(Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, today I rise on behalf of every single one of my constituents impacted by the ongoing seismic activity in Puerto Rico.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the southwestern coast of the island has been the epicenter of over

1,000 earthquakes since December 28 of last year.

On January 7 the island experienced a 6.4 magnitude earthquake that has triggered consequent aftershock tremors that are felt in the entire island, mainly in the municipalities of Guanica, Guayanilla, Yauco, Penuelas, and Ponce.

Mr. Speaker, I urge President Trump to approve the major disaster declaration requested by the Governor of Puerto Rico. This should be the next step to ensure proper and timely recovery efforts on the island as we push through yet another natural disaster.

□ 1215

CONGRATULATING LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY TIGERS

(Mr. ABRAHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I am here to congratulate the LSU Fighting Tigers for winning the national championship last night, the fourth national championship, a record-setting year, 15-0, 726 points. Joe Burrow is the Heisman Trophy winner, a record-breaking quarterback with 60 touchdowns this year.

LSU alumni are especially proud of what they did last night in the national championship.

I was honored to fly down with President Trump to attend the game. The cheers and standing ovation he got in the Louisiana Superdome was just phenomenal and well deserved, the fifth time the President has been to Louisiana this past year, and rightly so. Our State leads with seafood, oil and gas industry, forestry, and agriculture. You name it, we have got it in Louisiana, and we are very, very proud.

This football team, our baseball team, and our other sports lead the Nation and will continue to do so.

Please join me in congratulating the LSU Fighting Tigers football team for winning the national championship last night.

SUPPORT GRANDPARENTS IN PRIMARY CAREGIVER ROLES

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5583, the Help Grandfamilies Prevent Child Abuse Act. I am proud to cosponsor this legislation with my colleague, Congresswoman MARY GAY SCANLON of Pennsylvania's Fifth District.

All children deserve a loving and safe home. Sadly, due to the Nation's growing opioid crisis, more and more children are being left without structure, without safety, and, in some cases, without parents. As a result, grandparents have become the primary caregivers for many children.