

1024(a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Joint Economic Committee:

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, to rank after Mr. BEYER of Virginia.

DISINFORMATION IS THE BIG  
MAMA OF ALL WEAPONS TAR-  
GETING OUR NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, our Nation has gone through quite a tumultuous first 15 days of 2020. We marched right up to the brink of war after President Donald Trump authorized the assassination of Iranian General Soleimani. And even though the Iranians did launch a measured attack, it is like the argument that the husband believed he won with his wife. It ain't over yet.

Long before the current crisis with Iran, our peerless intelligence agencies began warning us of robust cyberattacks from Russia, China, North Korea, and, of course, Iran. These nations are all hell-bent on doing damage to us and using bots, an online method of passing disinformation to unsuspecting Americans, with the ultimate goal of turning unsuspecting Americans against each other.

If we do that, we are repeating or allowing the repetition of what the Russians did in 2016, which is to again meddle in our upcoming quadrennial election.

Now, for me, it is difficult to blame our enemies for seeking to exploit the weaknesses in our society, because it is so crystal clear to me that we are doing to ourselves what our enemies have been unable to do in the last 150 years.

Our current extreme political partisanship and reliance on social media—which is, by the way, littered with disinformation—but with that, we have allowed a well to be dug into the soul of American democracy. Our Nation is wounded and it is a wound that our enemies will seek to further infect.

Sadly, I must give some frightening news to our Nation. This, I guess, is a matter of national security information. Russia has designed and advanced the most menacing, yet non-nuclear weapons on Earth. Every American should know that the blast from this bomb can do greater damage to our Nation than the combined marching armies of Hitler, Mussolini, and Tojo.

Mr. Speaker, I say to my fellow Americans: We are now threatened by the big mama of all weapons. It is called disinformation and the delivery system is called Facebook and other forms of social media.

In many ways, Congress has been complicit in this tribalistic way in

which we conduct business in our Nation. We have opened wide the door to a brazen alien incursion into our elections. Some Members of this august body are actually pushing disinformation into the delivery system.

In days gone by, kings and lords built their fortresses around deep wells to provide cool and clear water for those who lived inside the garrison. Strategically, these wells were inside the walls of forts so that at a time of an attack from the enemy, the water supply could never be blocked so that the life-saving water, in a time of war, would be controlled by those inside the fort. Therefore, the inhabitants would not be at the mercy of invaders.

Here is the point: If our great Republic could be led by our leaders into the babbling, cool waters of internal oneness and toleration, we will not be victims of the kind of vicious misinformation that has been flowing across this Nation now for a number of years. We would not be vulnerable to the whims of those who wish to do us harm.

Mr. Speaker, I close with an ominous note: Most of the great empires throughout the history of the world fell into decline not because of some new military juggernaut, but because of internal fighting and the failure to appreciate the amazing ethnic and racial mosaic that is uniquely ours as Americans.

Will that happen to us? Let me just say that we can only be saved by the well water of civility and decency inside our Nation. We control what is inside our Nation. What we need most is inside our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we please accept and remember and meditate on this: Under the right conditions, even the most inspirational democracy in the history of the world can wane.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM  
"BILL" GRAVES WOFFORD, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES) for 30 minutes.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William "Bill" Graves Wofford, Jr., of Rockwall, Texas, who passed away on October 29, 2019, at the age of 95.

Bill was born on May 1, 1924, in Fort Worth, Texas to William Graves Wofford, Sr., and Margaret Melinda Wofford.

As a very young man, Bill left his family to fight in World War II and to defend our country. He proudly served in both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy. At the close of the war, at the age of 21, Bill returned to the States to pursue an education from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Following graduation, Bill returned home to Texas where he embarked on

his 27-year career alongside business partner, Bob Timberlake, to form Timberlake & Wofford, a manufacturing representative firm that served the north Texas area and experienced great success.

Bill is remembered for his great sense of humor and his gentle personality. His love of sailing and the outdoors led him to help found the Rush Creek Yacht Club.

Bill was not only a leader in his community, but a friend to all: a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Wofford family. We also lift up the family and friends of Bill Wofford in our prayers.

I have requested that the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor his life, legacy, and his service to our country.

As I close today, I ask all Americans to continue praying for our country during these difficult times, for the brave men and women who serve in our military who protect us, and for our first responders who protect us here at home.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DEPUTY SHERIFF  
MATTHEW RYAN JONES

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Matthew Ryan Jones of Waco, Texas.

Deputy Sheriff Jones was killed on October 11, 2019 in the line of duty as he assisted a motorist on the side of an area highway.

Matt was born on February 7, 1989, in Waco, Texas, to Ronnie and Debbie Coleman Jones. He graduated from Connally High School and the Texas State Technical College in Waco before joining the Falls County Sheriff's Office in August of 2015.

Matt bravely served his community for 4 years, most recently being named the department's canine deputy. Fellow first responders have sung the praises of their fallen brother stating that: Matt "never backed down from a challenge and understood the nature of policing in a small community."

Matt was not only a proud public servant, he was a friend to all, a loving husband, and an avid outdoorsman. Matt enjoyed spending time in nature, hunting, fishing, and riding his ATV.

Mr. Speaker, Matt's life was defined by his service to his community. He will be forever remembered by his community as a husband, a son, a brother, and a selfless public servant.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Jones family. We also lift up the family and friends of Matthew in our prayers.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor his life, legacy, and his service to our central Texas community.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue to pray for our country, for our military men and women who protect us overseas, and for our first responders who keep us safe here at home.