

Frankly, the American people tuned out a long time ago. They find the proceeding simply boring, and rightly so. In fact, a recent focus group of Democrats said they don't even care about this impeachment trial. They are not interested, and they are ready to move on.

The truth is that, despite all of the repetitive accusations of coverup, quid pro quo, he said, she said, et cetera, et cetera, this is nothing more than an attempt at a soft coup against President Trump by the people who still can't get over the fact that he beat Hillary Clinton fair and square at the ballot box.

Just listen to some of the recent rants made by the impeachment managers. As one manager says: "The President's misconduct cannot be decided at the ballot box, for we cannot be assured that the vote will be fairly won."

What an insult to American voters. If we can't trust the American voters, who can we trust? Does he think they are gullible? Does he think he is better than them?

Or take the comments of another impeachment manager, a Democrat. He said, referring to President Trump: "He is a dictator. This must not stand, and that is another reason he must be removed from office."

These are insulting to the American public who chose this President over Hillary Clinton.

But these are the types of comments you would expect in a Third World country in which military coups are a common occurrence, not in the United States of America where we honor the votes and choices of the American people.

President Zelensky and President Trump both said there was no pressure or coercion, and the call transcripts have been released to the public to prove this.

But even if there had been pressure, if withholding foreign aid is an impeachable offense, why did Joe Biden threaten to do it?

As I have stated repeatedly, if the bar of high crimes and misdemeanors has been brought down so low to include President Donald Trump's so-called abuse of power, then Joe Biden should be charged for his actions in Ukraine. Instead, he gets a pass.

This impeachment trial is simply a farce. But it is an expensive and time wasting one foisted on the American people by those who do not have our country's best interests at heart.

Even the Speaker of the House, who is a Democrat, said, if there is going to be an impeachment trial, if there is going to be impeachment proceedings, it should be bipartisan, it would have to be bipartisan.

Mr. Speaker, the only thing bipartisan about this sham is the opposition to it. Democrats joined every Republican to vote against it in the House. I expect we are going to see similar results in the Senate, a bipartisan opposition to this partisan sham.

I look forward to the Senate bringing this farce to a speedy conclusion.

END THE USE OF TOXIC MILITARY BURN PITS

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address one of the most pressing health threats facing veterans across this Nation: exposure to burn pits.

Burn pits are literal pits, sometimes 10 acres large, used by the military to burn trash, medical waste, jet fuel, batteries, even human waste. As you might imagine, this creates large plumes of toxic black smoke, which can have terrible health effects for anyone exposed.

Our servicemembers and veterans who were exposed to burn pits are developing severe, debilitating pulmonary diseases like pulmonary fibrosis and constricted bronchiolitis, leaving them oxygen dependent. And young veterans are dying from rare cancers of the brain, pancreas, blood cells, and other organs.

This means that many of our servicemembers survived the battlefield but only become delayed casualties of war at home, dying due to lung and pulmonary illnesses, from cancers, from autoimmune diseases from their burn pit exposures.

If we don't act now, they will be resigned to the same fate as our Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange, who waited up to 30 years to get the help they needed. For many, it was too late.

Our veterans cannot wait. It is my objective to end the use of toxic military burn pits once and for all and give servicemembers and veterans the care they need. That is why, today, I urge a vote on two bills that would go a long way to address this critically important issue:

H.R. 4574, the Veterans' Right to Breathe Act, which would establish presumption of service-connected exposure to burn pits for nine evidence-based pulmonary diseases, including chronic bronchiolitis and others; and

H.R. 4137, the Jennifer Kepner HOPE Act, which would make veterans exposed to burn pits eligible for low-cost healthcare through the Priority Group 6 under the Veterans Health Administration.

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These bills are part of the comprehensive plan to end the use of burn pits, educate physicians and veterans on their health effects, get veterans and servicemembers exposed to burn pits the healthcare and benefits they need, and continue research to fully understand the health impacts posed by burn pits.

We cannot let burn pit exposure become this generation's Agent Orange. We must act now for veterans and for their families.

CBP DIRECTIVE FALLS SHORT

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because children and families in CBP

custody continue to be without basic humanitarian standards of care.

Last year, Customs and Border Protection put out a directive outlining its "enhanced medical support efforts," with the objective of mitigating risks for people in CBP custody along the southwest border. But their directive for addressing medical needs falls short of even basic humane treatment to prevent the heartbreaking conditions I saw when I visited the southern border: people piled on top of each other in cold, windowless, concrete rooms, crowded with so many bodies you couldn't even see the floor; open toilets in crowded cells; and visibly sick children coughing on one another.

The conditions I witnessed were inhumane and inconsistent with our American values and our moral conscience, and the CBP directive does nothing to address them.

The directive does not include, for example, pregnant women, the elderly, or disabled individuals as vulnerable populations who need priority screening. The CBP medical directive does not address humanitarian standards for water, sanitation, hygiene, shelter, or food and nutrition, nor does it even set standards for private, safe, clean, and reliable toilets with proper waste disposal.

Last year, I wrote the House-passed H.R. 3239, the Humanitarian Standards for Individuals in CBP Custody Act. This bill sets basic public health standards for people in CBP's care, such as health screening priorities, nutrition, food standards, water, sanitation, hygiene, and reporting requirements. It makes sure individuals have essentials, such as toothbrushes, diapers, and baby formula.

Because this bipartisan bill was blocked from consideration in the Senate, these standards of care for children and families are not currently law, and the recent CBP medical directive falls short. It fails to outline proper humanitarian standards of care.

This is why the Senate must take up and pass the bipartisan bill, the Humanitarian Standards for Individuals in CBP Custody Act, to ensure CBP's treatment of children and families is consistent with our American values and the principles of basic human dignity and prevent children from dying under the custody and responsibility of CBP.

CELEBRATING HICKORY'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Hickory, North Carolina.

In 1870, Adolphus Shuford founded Hickory Tavern, which would later become the city of Hickory. Originally, it