

AMERICANS MARCHED TO DEFEND OUR FOUNDING PROMISE OF EQUALITY FOR ALL

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

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.

In the weeks since Mr. Floyd's murder, over 25 million Americans have marched to defend our founding promise of equality for all.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all those who marched. Their demands for equality have made today possible. I am proud to be a citizen of a country where so many of my fellow citizens are forcing that arc of history to bend a little faster towards justice.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank them all for reminding us of how far we still have to go.

No justice, no peace; because a country founded on the rule of law cannot guarantee peace if that law does not apply equally to all.

Black lives matter; because we still live in a country where the health, wealth, and social disparities between the races make equality anything but a self-evident truth.

Say their names; because the victims, they are not just Black bodies. They were human beings with families and dreams, talents, and flaws.

In a truly colorblind world, the only thing that all these victims would have in common, really in common, is that they shouldn't be dead.

We are not going to end systemic racism today, but we do have the opportunity to correct just a few of our sins, the opportunity to end chokeholds, the opportunity to end no-knock warrants, to make lynching a Federal crime—can you believe we haven't done that yet?—the opportunity to hold police departments to the same standards of equality and fair play that all other employers do.

Mr. Speaker, I implore my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, please, please, please vote "yes" on this bill, not because it means our work is done, not because it means that we are going to end systemic racism, not because what needs to be done is synonymous with a bill that can pass this body in the Senate and get the President's signature.

Vote "yes" on this bill so that you can tell your children that George and Breonna and Tamir—Tamir Rice, who would have turned 18 today—and Trayvon, and Amadou, and Ahmaud, and Emmett, and so many others, vote "yes" so that you can tell your children that they did not die in vain.

RICHARD BARBER: MAN OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a

really fine man, Richard Barber from Jackson, Tennessee.

Richard runs the Aspell Recovery Center in Jackson, and he was recently honored as the Jackson Exchange Club's Man of the Year, a title very much deserved.

I first met Richard through a really good friend of mine, Dr. Ron Kirkland. Ron is a board member of Aspell and wanted me to see the great work that Aspell does in Jackson and the west Tennessee community, treating, mentoring, and loving those who need it the most. Most of the staff members working at Aspell have also traveled the path to recovery.

Richard Barber has been a strong leader in the community, and he has a true commitment to helping those in need.

I have seen firsthand how hard Richard has worked to make changes in the drug and rehabilitation field for those suffering from addiction.

Richard has literally changed lives through Aspell, where he was instrumental in the development of two new expansions: A Mother's Love in Humboldt and the Savannah/Hardin County intensive outpatient care unit.

There is no doubt that without Aspell, so many folks in west Tennessee wouldn't get the care and the wherewithal that they need to survive. Without Richard Barber, there would be no Aspell as we know it today.

Congratulations, Richard. Through your hard work and your incredible humility, you are the right pick for the Exchange Club's Man of the Year. There is no doubt that west Tennessee and the city of Jackson are better because of you.

RECOGNIZING THE BLACK DOCTORS CONSORTIUM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you the inspiring story of a Philadelphia doctor who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in this extraordinary time to combat the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Black and Brown communities in my district and across the country.

As evidence mounted that Black Americans were suffering both from greater exposure to COVID-19 and from less access to testing, Dr. Ala Stanford, a board certified surgeon, was done waiting. She took the community into her own hands, as so many Black women have done when our institutions have failed them, and she recruited a group of Black healthcare workers to form the Black Doctors Consortium.

Staffed by Black doctors, med students, and nurses on their days off, the Black Doctors Consortium has spent the past few months using their own resources to test thousands of patients in church parking lots, union halls, and

rec centers, going into our communities to deliver testing services where they are most needed.

The group recently received a \$1 million grant to expand and plans to start testing 250 to 350 people a day.

Looking ahead, the Black Doctors Consortium plans to use their successful community-based approach to distribute COVID vaccines once they become available.

Dr. Stanford represents the very best of who we are and the leadership we so desperately need in times of crisis.

I thank Dr. Stanford and her entire group for their courage and commitment to addressing inequality with direct action.

WAKE UP, AMERICA

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, what in the world is happening in our God blessed country? A lengthy pandemic decimating our economy and taking over 121,000 precious American lives, followed by the horrific murder of Mr. George Floyd by a bad cop, leading to nationwide protests and demonstrations of people wanting to be heard.

Sadly, all of this has been overshadowed by the violence, looting, destruction, and lawless mayhem in America's major cities.

We have even seen weak and feckless Democrat government leaders acquiesce to anti-American warlords setting up their own countries at the expense of residents and shopkeepers.

This is taking place under the influence of shadowy, anti-American organizations and individuals. We know who they are, so I will not distinguish them by saying their names.

America is awake and willing to address major concerns.

Despite the hundreds of heroic police officers who have been injured, paralyzed, or killed just doing their jobs for us, violent punks continue hijacking the sad event that began all this foment we grieve over. Their goal is to literally tear down and destroy our history and freedoms.

America is under attack. We must wake up before it is too late. These evil forces of destruction are showing us that we can't stop them. Or can we?

John Witherspoon, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, said this: "A republic once equally poised, must either preserve its virtue or lose its liberty."

I don't know his position on slavery at that time, though even as a minister and President of Princeton, I am sure he had his flaws. Yet this message rings true as we view in live time our Nation's loss of virtue and liberty.

The key purpose of government is to reward the doer of good and punish the doer of evil.

Today, the forces of division and anarchy are rejecting this purpose, calling for the defunding and/or ending of police.