

While Republicans are offering workable and commonsense justice reform, the Democrat leadership digs in saying “no” to any negotiation. Yet they continue to support or remain silent about the senseless destruction of our cities and history.

Chances are if you were to list the greatest Americans, you may think of George Washington, Teddy Roosevelt, and Ulysses Grant, men who have made tremendous positive impacts on our country, and in doing so, the entire history of humanity. Yet this week, enlightened leftists have gone after statues of these men, attempting to rewrite history and tarnish America’s overwhelmingly positive legacy for humanity.

As with other humans, these men are not perfect, but none of these monuments were erected to honor their shortcomings or faults; they were erected to honor their extraordinary contributions to society.

These men are responsible for some of the most important distinctives: freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the ending of slavery, victory over the Confederacy, and conservation of America’s greatest natural treasures.

Ironically, the rights these vandals and anarchists enjoy, like the right to assemble, would not be possible if not for the very men they ignorantly tear down.

Even the Lincoln Memorial was vandalized recently, the Great Emancipator, who was the first President nominated and elected by the party formed in my district in 1854 Under the Oaks in Jackson, Michigan, the Emancipation/Republican Party.

Make no mistake: this is an attack on America itself, not an attempt to make reforms or anything else the defenders of these cowardly acts may claim.

Few in the Democratic Party have spoken out against these acts, which leads me to wonder, at what point did pride in America become a partisan issue?

□ 0945

Is it because these anarchist acts are taking place in Democrat-run cities?

Is it because these are the same people that they have directed all of their so-called antipoverty, social welfare, Big-Government-will-take-care-of-you programs toward?

Or is it because Democrat leadership fears crossing the big-moneyed, sinister individuals and organizations masterminding radical societal change?

What exactly is the endgame of these attempts to erase and rewrite history? Could it be the destruction of the American idea or America itself?

I call for my colleagues, Democrat and Republican, and America-loving patriots to stand with me as proud Americans in our fight against anarchy and ignorance. May we be people who, with courage and humility, echo the words of our Framers in pledging “our

lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor” to defending and perfecting America.

ELEVATING VOICES OF BLACK LEADERS

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, the recent killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Rayshard Brooks by police officers have highlighted the anguish and injustices that Black communities have experienced for generations; have shook our Nation to its core; and made evident, starkly, the racial injustice in our Nation.

As we watch the unrest, as we hear the pain, it is imperative we ask ourselves: What are we doing about it?

It is more important than ever that we have the difficult but necessary conversations to address racially targeted excessive use of force and racial profiling by police who do not follow their own professional code of conduct. There must be dialogue. There must be a humble willingness to listen, reflect, and come together to make change.

In the last few weeks, that is exactly what we have done in my district, in California’s 36th. Over the past few weeks, I held listening sessions and roundtables to elevate the voices and experiences of leaders in the Black community. They shared their stories, perspectives, and recommendations for change.

I also convened an important dialogue between African-American leaders and our local police chiefs. Our local police chiefs have come to the table with open ears and a willingness to be part of that change that we seek.

These conversations were impactful and productive. We outlined next steps, steps like banning choke holds, expanding the use of body cameras, increasing transparency and accountability, increasing community engagement, and annual mental health wellness checks for police officers.

I am encouraged by the progress, and I look forward to the hard work that will lead to real change in our community, change that will move our community and Nation from internalizing despair to externalizing hope and action for change.

SUPPORTING ACA ENHANCEMENT

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, as an emergency physician, I have seen the faces of failed healthcare policies. I have looked into the eyes of the suffering when they couldn’t afford care. I have cried with families who have lost a loved one, knowing it could have been prevented with routine care if only they had health insurance.

Even now, I have gone into hard-to-reach and high-risk communities and personally conducted COVID-19 testing, watching the health inequities and disparities play out in real time, seeing disproportionately higher rates of transmission and deaths in low-income,

uninsured, Latino, farmworker, and the homeless communities.

As a physician and humanitarian, I find it unconscionable, repulsive, that during a global pandemic, while millions are infected by COVID-19 and millions more are unemployed and struggling economically, that the Trump administration is actively working to repeal the Affordable Care Act through the Supreme Court.

Repealing the ACA would be a disaster, leading to millions of families facing financial hardships and many, many more deaths from COVID-19.

Repealing the ACA would eliminate protections for people with preexisting conditions, the very same conditions that render a person more likely to die from COVID-19.

Repealing the ACA would take away health insurance from millions of Americans who, for the first time, have health insurance because of the Medicaid expansion.

It is precisely during this time that we must work to expand healthcare access and make it affordable, which is what H.R. 1425, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act, would do.

It is precisely now that we need to lower healthcare premiums for middle-class families, encourage States to expand Medicaid, strengthen protections for preexisting conditions, and lower the cost of prescription drugs.

I support this bill for the people, and I will continue fighting for the people to make healthcare more accessible and affordable for the people.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o’clock and 49 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARSON of Indiana) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Lord of us all, thank You for giving us another day.

With the House back at the Capitol, we ask Your protection on them and all who work for and with them in their important work. The ravages of the coronavirus are spreading still in various sections of our Nation, sections from which Members have returned to gather here.

Bless and inspire those who labor to bring treatments and cures to those suffering from and threatened by COVID-19.

In these days, pour forth Your spirit of wisdom and insight that Members from all the corners of our country can find reform solutions for peacekeeping in our communities. Americans everywhere know that love and respect, rather than fear and force, must be the basis of our commonweal.

Bless the people's House, collectively and each Member, and may all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. WEXTON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. WEXTON 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 PRO TEMPORE

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

POLICE REFORM

(Ms. WEXTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, the horrifying murder of George Floyd awoke the conscience of America to a generations-old system of racial injustice. Since then, Americans—led mostly by young people—in all 50 States and in every part of my district have taken to the streets to demand action, and that gives me hope.

The Justice in Policing Act is an important step towards real change. This bill will implement meaningful reforms to increase transparency and accountability in policing: banning chokeholds, stopping no-knock warrants, establishing new standards for policing, combating racial profiling, reforming qualified immunity, and much more.

As a former prosecutor and defense attorney, I have witnessed firsthand the unequal application of justice toward Black Americans, and I know more needs to be done. But the Justice in Policing Act provides concrete legislative solutions that will help reform a deeply unequal system of policing right now.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill today.

What we are witnessing is a once-in-a-generation call to action. Let's not fail to answer the call.

KALEB FARMERY ACADEMY NOMINATION

(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 to congratulate Kaleb Farmery of Marion Center, Indiana County, Pennsylvania, for accepting a fully qualified appointment to the United States Air Force Academy.

Kaleb is the son of Wyatt and Jessica Farmery and a senior at Marion Center High School. During his time in school, Kaleb was involved with the Air Force Junior ROTC and Future Business Leaders of America.

Kaleb is a salutatorian of his senior class. Throughout his time in school, Kaleb has served as class president, a senior patrol leader in the Boy Scouts, and as both a chapter and region president of FBLA.

Kaleb has committed his time as a student to service and academic excellence. His drive and determination will serve him well as he embarks on this exciting new chapter with the United States Air Force Academy.

COVID-19 IN PENNSYLVANIA NURSING HOMES

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask for answers from Pennsylvania's Governor Tom Wolf and his administration, answers as to why his administration allowed COVID-19 to spread like wildfire in Pennsylvania's nursing homes, long-term care and assisted living facilities, and answers as to why he required these facilities to admit patients who tested positive for COVID-19 but couldn't be quarantined from healthy residents.

Far too many Pennsylvania seniors have died, tragically, to date, 4,476 from COVID-19. Sixty-eight percent of all deaths in Pennsylvania have occurred in these facilities.

It didn't need to be this way. Forty-five States took a far different approach.

To make matters worse, at the same time as the Pennsylvania Department of Health was enforcing this order, the Secretary of Health, Dr. Rachel Levine, had her mother removed from a personal care home and had her checked into a hotel.

Now Governor Wolf and his administration are choosing to ignore my colleagues who are members of the House of Representatives Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis. The committee sent a letter asking for answers to these questions.

I ask the Governor to address this letter. It is important for the residents

of Pennsylvania, who deserve an answer.

POLICE REFORM

(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, as America has been shocked at the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, I agree with Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York that 99.9 percent of police are dedicated public servants.

Reaffirmation of appreciation of law enforcement has been provided by Senator TIM SCOTT with the Just and Unifying Solutions to Invigorate Communities Everywhere, JUSTICE, Act. This reform legislation will provide more resources and de-escalation training.

Senator SCOTT has correctly identified that the police department is a part of our community. I am grateful to cosponsor the House companion legislation, led by Congressman PETE STAUBER, a veteran police officer.

Now is the time for Republicans and Democrats to work together to restore trust in our police and reduce divisions which destroy families.

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

I am grateful to Chief Andrew Richburg and Chief Dennis Tyndall.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1154

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to be removed as a cosponsor from H.R. 1154.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

CONGRATULATING DR. RICHARD MICHEL

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Richard Michel of Marksville, Louisiana, on his retirement after 60 years of service to his community.

Dr. Michel spent much of his career serving as both a doctor and as mayor, which earned him the title of Doctor Mayor. He was valedictorian of his high school class and attended LSU Medical School before joining the Air Force in 1957.

A cattle rancher in his spare time, Dr. Michel found himself in a hospital bed after breaking two vertebrae in his back in 1976. This was when he decided to run for public office. He was elected mayor of Marksville in 1978 and served four terms before leaving office. In 1998, he ran again to serve another three terms, for a total of 28 years as mayor of Marksville.