

I have got the freedom to speak my mind with this resolution on the floor of the House of Representatives.

So I thank all of the leadership for acknowledging the change and allowing the resolution to be presented. With this said, I kindly and respectfully yield back the balance of my time.

RECOGNIZING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topic of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER).

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for very graciously allowing me to speak and for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Police Officer Tamarris L. Bohannon, who gave his life and service to his city on August 30 of 2020. His untimely and tragic killing is a profound loss to the people of St. Louis.

Mr. Speaker, according to the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, there have been nine—nine—St. Louis police officers shot since June 1 of 2020. We grieve Officer Bohannon's sacrifice, and we honor him for his sense of duty, his dedication, his generosity, and his heroism.

Known as "T" by his family and "Bo" by his squad, Officer Bohannon was a loyal St. Louisan and a hard worker who inspired admiration for his diligent service. With his wife, Alexis, he lived and raised his three wonderful children—Tamara, Ayden, and Tylor—in the city that he protected as a police officer of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. He was a veteran of the force, serving with distinction for more than 3 years.

Officer Bohannon's heroic actions to keep the citizens of St. Louis safe are the truest example of selfless service. I extend my deepest condolences to his fellow officers, his many friends, his loving wife and parents, and the rest of his family. We cannot repay him for his sacrifice, but we will always remember his love for our city and the people who live there.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I will begin by recognizing the heroic men and women who serve in the L.A. County Sheriff's Department as well.

This week, our country witnessed a cowardly evil attack on two L.A. County deputies. As the two county deputies were sitting inside of their parked car in Compton, California, a thug approached their vehicle and shot them point-blank. We are grateful that both of them are expected to survive. We regret that ambush, totally without justification, and we need to bring them to justice.

I am reminded of what the British moralist C. S. Lewis described in his book, "The Abolition of Man," where he said of shallow and heartless people as being "men without chests."

Perhaps, now, we are seeing that from the vicious criminals who are attempting to single out and overthrow our cities and, specifically, attack our police force.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON).

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support our First Amendment. I want to support the ability of people to assemble peaceably, but I also want to address the mobs that we have seen in our streets and, fundamentally, to defend our police.

What is it that the mob wants? It is hard to answer. There is a disparate set of views. Some have called them anarchists. They don't really have anarchy in mind; they just don't agree on which leftwing ideology they want to support. But they also are obeying their leaders. They are doing what their leaders have sent them to do.

One of our House colleagues, in June of 2018, said: "You get out and you create a crowd. And you push back on them, and you tell them they are not welcome anymore, anywhere."

Isn't that exactly what the mob is doing? Little old ladies trying to have a meal on a sidewalk here in our Nation's Capital have people shouting at them—mob intimidation.

And it gets much worse, as my colleague, Mrs. WAGNER, just highlighted. Nine police officers shot just in St. Louis alone. We all saw the horrific attacks in Los Angeles over the weekend—unprovoked, unjustified, unjustifiable, indefensible, yet people defend them and are reluctant to condemn them. This is what the mob is doing.

This is not the First Amendment. This is not the right of the people to assemble peaceably. And our law enforcement protect that right. They defend freedom. They protect and defend our communities. They do it heroically with bravery every day and, so often, thanklessly.

We are right to give them thanks. They put their lives in harm's way. And they call out their colleagues when they can when they break the trust of their departments.

We do need to reform some laws. We do need to hold some individuals accountable, but the idea that we can lay at the feet of all police these charges that are made is abhorrent.

So we need to defend our police. We need to defend our First Amendment freedoms to assemble peaceably, and we need to reject the cries of the mobs.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, last week, a husband and wife awoke to see, through their bedroom window, a brazen burglar breaking into their car. The dad retrieved a gun and tried to protect his family. He knew that the console of the car being burglarized contained another gun, and he saw the burglar retrieve it. They exchanged fire, and the confrontation had become more than even that prepared father could handle. So it became the responsibility of Ryan Hendrix.

The 8-year veteran of the Henderson County Sheriff's Department arrived with two other deputies at 2:54 a.m. last Thursday. They spotted the suspect, and at first he appeared to comply with commands, and then suddenly raised a weapon and fired.

The first shot struck Deputy Hendrix in the face before his fellow officers returned fire and shot the gunman dead. Investigation revealed that the gunman was a career criminal, wanted by South Carolina Probation, with arrests in four States.

Ryan Philip Hendrix, 35, Marine Corps vet, was declared brain dead the next day. Ryan's 6-year-old son and 9-year-old daughter will live with only fragmentary memories of their father. Ryan's fiancée will not have that October wedding that they planned.

This murder is not an isolated story. Two hundred law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty in 2020, up 90 percent.

Nothing I say can ennoble the sacrifices of those lost nor of the many others injured. Those sacrifices, that service, speak for themselves.

But I can speak to a fast-growing cancer in our civic spirit, an activism that exploits the wound to our national psyche born of racial injustice in our history, an activism that draws explicitly on Marxism and attacks core foundations of our society, including, and perhaps foremost, the consensus of support for law enforcement, a consensus that abides in every nation capable of surviving. It manifests itself in riots, looting, arson, destruction, shootings, and killings.

I can contend against it along with you. I have introduced into Congress the No Riots Act to criminalize injuries not only for Federal but, also, State and local law enforcement officers and to extend the death penalty for killing an officer in the course of interstate rioting.

But we cannot return to law enforcement officers the protection they deserve if leadership of our country is divided on the institution of police—indeed, if the people are divided. All

must back the blue. If we do not, then God have mercy on us, because the criminals and thugs like the one who took Ryan Hendrix's life assuredly will not spare yours or those of your loved ones.

This country is exceptional, the recognition that every human is special and has fundamental rights. Our Nation is a story of refining those rights in practice so that everyone gets a fair shake, that everyone's life is protected and respected.

But elemental to that, what we cannot do without are those who defend us from chaos and keep order, those whose service, whose sacrifice most Americans understand and honor.

Most Americans know that Ryan Hendrix is a hero and so are all who serve in blue. Most Americans know that they are highest caliber among us and that they deserve our respect and support.

I back the blue.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, in the sweltering heat of Arizona deserts, we have multiple jurisdictions of police officers who come to the rescue, not just armed with guns, but they will save those who are fighting through the desert, fighting through the heat, whether they are here in this country illegally or not. Whether they are with the Customs and Border Patrol, whether they are with ICE, whether they are with the county sheriff's department or our local municipal police departments, they provide first aid assistance and lifesaving assistance, and I pay homage to them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN).

□ 1645

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

There is no more important element of our society that the Founders guaranteed us than safety and security. I rise today in strong support of our Nation's law enforcement officers and join my colleagues in strongly condemning the recent attacks on those who serve and protect our communities.

Peaceful protests have been hijacked by malevolent radical organizations like Antifa, while national political and media-driven narratives have further incited violence against the very people who patrol our streets, stop violent criminals, and keep our communities safe. That is what the blue does.

It is imperative law enforcement have the means necessary to investigate who and which organizations are funding, organizing, and inciting these riots occurring in our country.

As Members of Congress, it is our sworn duty to defend our Nation from enemies both foreign and domestic. While we must always protect the right to peacefully protest, it is imperative that people or entities funneling money to cause disruption and damage

in peaceful communities are held accountable for their actions.

Michigan's First District proudly stands with our law enforcement community, and we honor the good work that so many brave men and women do every day, keeping strong that thin blue line which defends against chaos and anarchy threatening our society.

I fervently urge the Department of Justice and the FBI to take all available further action to ensure that the rioters, and especially those funneling money to them, are held accountable to the maximum extent allowable by the law.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD).

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. He is a great chairman, but also a great friend. I thank him, also, for organizing this Special Order.

Over the past several months we have witnessed lawless anarchists take to the streets and destroy historic monuments, vandalize and burn small businesses, physically assault a U.S. Senator and his wife, harass regular Americans who are simply enjoying an outdoor dinner, and so on. The fact that this activity goes on and is tolerated by Democrat-run cities is outrageous and an insult to every law-abiding citizen of this land.

We need to double the Federal penalties for those who riot and loot. We need to strip Federal funding from cities that refuse to confront this lawlessness in their communities. And we need to put those dithering local officials on the hook legally for the carnage that they allow to happen.

There are people here in Washington who stand for law and order and are trying to regain control of our streets, starting with our President. Violence like this has no place in America. We have to get back to resolving our issues through debate and democracy, not through looting and lawlessness.

If officials in Democrat-run cities won't stand up for all of their citizens, then under the leadership of President Trump, Republicans will.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO).

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, a country as ours, a constitutional republic, requires a citizenry that is well-educated and are responsible.

I questioned a colleague of mine from New York about her policies calling for defunding of the police. The city of New York cut funding to the city police department by \$1.5 billion, but my colleague from New York said that is not sufficient, we need 100 percent defunding of the police, while at the same time advocating for people to shoplift if you are hungry.

My question is: Do you suppose that is okay for the shop owner? Do you suppose it is okay for our children

watching those police? Who does the shop owner call and how do the police respond with those kinds of ideas out there? Do you call Antifa? I don't know. I wouldn't.

A civil society needs rule of law. We need policemen who uphold those laws and are willing to serve to protect the citizens. Our lawmakers need to preserve the rule of law, not weaken it.

The dangerous policies of the left espouse no police, free this, free that, free healthcare, it is not your fault. This does not lead to the utopia they promise.

In reality, this leads to the Hugo Chavez/Nicholas Maduro's Venezuela, and that is a short period of time. People don't think it can happen here, but we need our policemen.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's comments and his efforts and service in Congress as he prepares to retire soon. I thank the gentleman, Mr. YOHO.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY), who on the other end of the spectrum is fairly new to Congress.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding some time to me here this afternoon.

First, we are setting up a picture here on the easel to the right of me. And what you see there are not the wildfires in California. What you see is a picture from my district in western Wisconsin of Minneapolis at the end of May as the city was burning.

Organized anarchist groups like Antifa have been engaging in systematic criminal activity including assaults, widespread property damage and destruction, repeated looting, and attacks on law enforcement and others.

They have turned parts of Kenosha, Madison, and Milwaukee in my State, as well as neighborhoods just over the border in Minnesota, into post-apocalyptic hellscape.

And if I can take just a minute. Growing up in western Wisconsin, I will never forget, it was always a treat to go into the Twin Cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. And in the Midwest, Minneapolis and Saint Paul were always known as the best of the big cities to live in. They can no longer say that after what has happened here in 2020.

These are not mostly peaceful protests, and Antifa is not a myth. These are orchestrated assaults on civil society and the American way of life designed to spread terror and chaos, to destroy businesses, and to shake the very foundations of our country.

First, it was Minneapolis and Atlanta, then Portland and Seattle, then Milwaukee, Madison and even Kenosha. Tomorrow it could be your community.

So let's talk about those cities here in Wisconsin.

Madison: In June, a violent mob vandalized the State capitol and other State buildings, shattering windows, hurling Molotov cocktails and destroying historic monuments. In fact, it was

very fortunate that the Molotov cocktail that went into the county building just off from the State capitol did not lead to a loss of life.

They attacked a statue of Hans Christian Heg, a statue that I was just walking past a few months ago as a State legislator in Wisconsin. He was a Civil War veteran, immigrant, abolitionist who fell at Chickamauga fighting to end slavery and preserve the Union. Yes, they tore it down. His nearly 100-year-old sculpture was decapitated and thrown into a lake by rioters.

The mob also tore down the statue of Lady Forward, a monument that is emblematic of Wisconsin being the first State to ratify the women's suffrage movement. The original Lady Forward statue was first placed in front of the Wisconsin State Capitol in 1895.

And for my friends on the other side of the aisle, whether you are a Republican or Democrat, if you don't think they are going to come for you at some point, go ask my former colleague Democrat State Senator Tim Carpenter, who was beaten by rioters during that unrest and needed surgery to recover. He told the media, "I don't know what happened . . . all I did was stop and take a picture . . . and the next thing I'm getting five-six punches, getting kicked in the head." That is a Democratic State senator.

Roving bands of thugs looking to intimidate residents torched and looted State Street. The State Street riots proceeded when they tore down the statues around the beautiful State capitol in Madison, Wisconsin.

But let's talk about Bernell Trammell. In July, Mr. Trammell, an activist known for carrying handmade signs supporting President Trump, was gunned down in broad daylight in Milwaukee. To date, no arrests have been made.

Mr. Trammell is an African American. And, in fact, I am quite sure he supported an African American former state senator that I used to work with.

There is growing public concern that the violence and lawlessness that has plagued Milwaukee for months has rendered local officials either unwilling or unable to thoroughly investigate his murder and bring those responsible for his death to justice. And that includes the top law enforcement official in Wisconsin. We are hearing nothing from him in regard to Bernell Trammell.

The failure of local officials to apprehend any suspects a month after this brutal crime was committed sets a dangerous precedent, one that could encourage more politically motivated killings and undermine the civil rights protections afforded to all Americans.

I have asked Attorney General Barr and the U.S. Attorney to initiate a civil rights investigation into his killing as they did into the shooting of Jacob Blake.

Kenosha: During the Kenosha riots, at least 56 businesses were severely

damaged or destroyed racking up a \$50 million price tag. Thank you, President Trump, for coming to Kenosha and offering your assistance.

The destruction has left business owners devastated and wondering whether they will have the money to rebuild and stay in the neighborhood.

The Uptown neighborhood, home to a majority of minority-owned businesses, was among those hardest hit. One news report described the plight of one local business owner:

Inside La Estrella Supermarket, owner Abel Alejo surveyed the water and smoke damage his shop suffered. Carpeting in a hallway was spongy with water as he surveyed packages of spoiling food that needed clearing out last week. A few pinatas still hung overhead from an intact part of the otherwise broken ceiling in the closed store.

Wauwatosa: According to police, a mob targeted the home of a Wauwatosa policeman, vandalizing his home, physically assaulting him, then firing a shotgun through his back door.

A Democrat state representative participated in the unrest and actually accused the officer, who lives in the home with his girlfriend and two children, of aggressively provoking the confrontation by "choosing to come out of his home."

So I think about my district. I was talking to the mayor a short week after I was sworn in on May 19, when the riots were happening in Minneapolis, and he was wondering, along with lots of other citizens in St. Croix and Polk Counties on the western edge of Wisconsin, are the riots of Minneapolis going to come to our community? We can only hope that that does not happen here as we close out 2020.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, when I reflect on the incident of the weekend when the two L.A. County deputies were shot and they had to tend to each other and apply first aid to each other, and they were rushed to the hospital, the rigid cruelty of the mob that gathered at the hospital trying to block an ambulance from accessing the emergency room, accompanied with hateful shouts and taunts, as evidence of the loss of goodness in our society.

The feckless leaders of some States and cities that have not only permitted the destruction of property, but the wasting of lives and livelihoods are without heart, as well. In many cases they have not only stood by watching the wreckage, they have fomented the rioting, looting, the murder, and mayhem.

□ 1700

One of the enemies of a free society is one who will appease people who are intent on destroying the rights of individuals within that society, those who permit and encourage by inaction criminal conduct.

We saw this when the Portland mayor, Ted Wheeler, was driven from his own home because the mob had turned on him. He is not alone.

Winston Churchill once noted that an appeaser is someone who feeds others

to the alligators with the hopes that he will be eaten last. That is what is being lived out in some American cities before our eyes today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD), my friend.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, who would have thought—who would have thought—that today we would be here discussing this topic.

When I ran for office, when I stood in this room for the first time and took the oath of office to protect and defend the Constitution, I expected that we would have many discussions on this floor with deeply held opposing views on the many issues facing our Nation. I did not expect that one of those issues would be whether this, the law-making body of our Nation, expects the laws to be followed, or whether or not we support the brave men and women tasked with enforcing that law.

Policing is a noble and necessary profession of any civil society, a profession which, by and large, is full of dedicated, courageous citizens who have chosen to serve their community, often putting aside higher-paying professions to work in one of the most difficult, challenging jobs, daily prioritizing public safety over their own.

It is these families for whom the greatest sound one hears is the sound of Velcro at the end of each shift as their loved one removes their body armor and takes up their other most important duty of being a mom, dad, brother, or sister. For too many of our law enforcement officers' families, because of the violence against police, they are now denied the joy of that moment.

Each day, we see images of organized armed riots embracing lawlessness, destroying property, sowing hate, and instilling fear, all in order to advance a political agenda.

The barrage of destruction and violence in major American cities is almost nonstop. The rioters across the Nation have cost over \$1 billion in damages and claimed numerous lives.

In one of the latest acts of horrific violence, two Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies were shot and critically injured as they sat in their patrol car at a metro rail station Saturday evening. Protesters gathered outside the hospital where the deputies were receiving treatment, some chanting: "Death to police. Kill the police." This is shameful and cannot be tolerated.

It is notable that this mass chaos is occurring in cities with leftist leaders who have been tragically slow at condemning the violence.

This lack of leadership, we might add, whether by intentional design or perhaps by good but misguided intentions, has kept entire segments of our population in failing schools, in crime-ridden communities, and in generational cycles of poverty and dependency.

We owe it to the American people to protect their homes, families, and businesses from any mob that seeks to tear down our society.

We owe it to our hardworking police officers, who dedicate their lives to upholding the law, to give them respect and provide them with the resources, training, and support they need to do their jobs safely and effectively.

This is why I stand with the American people, with our law enforcement, and will oppose any attempt to, in a matter of fact or even in simply imagining, defund the police.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for being here tonight. I appreciate his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE), my friend.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BIGGS for organizing this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our men and women in law enforcement and to call for the restoration of the rule of law in this country.

Over the past several months, we have heard politicians, pundits, and riot participants vilifying our Nation's law enforcement officers, brave men and women who have sworn an oath to protect and serve their communities.

We must remember that words have consequences, especially when those words are uttered by Members in this Chamber.

The overwhelming majority of police officers are good people. These men and women do the right job for the right reasons, and the people of Virginia's Sixth District strongly support these brave men and women. We have seen Back the Blue rallies spring up across the Commonwealth.

Following the ambush of two sheriff's deputies in L.A. County this past weekend, I was moved to speak today to urge my colleagues to recommit themselves to honoring those in blue.

According to the Officer Down Memorial Page, 193 members of law enforcement have been killed this year in the line of duty, nearly 40 of whom were as a result of a gunshot wound.

These brave souls were moms, dads, brothers, sisters, husbands, and wives, each with a story, and each laid down their life for their fellow citizens. Their deaths bring no more holidays, no more anniversaries, no more birthdays, simply no more days.

Regardless of race, gender, or creed, police officers are there in times of crisis. They very literally answer the call and run toward the sounds of danger while others run from them.

Too many have given their last full measure in the line of duty, only to have their memory disgraced with calls to defund and dismantle our police departments, which by doing so would destroy the peace in which Americans are blessed to live.

Some in this Chamber have been actually pushing an antipolice agenda.

Mr. Speaker, I am tired of folks playing politics with people's lives. Over the past few months, we have seen too much death, too much destruction, and too much division. We must restore the rule of law in this country, and we must get our country back on track.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), my friend.

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend from the great State of Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) for organizing this Special Order so we can focus on the civil unrest that has enveloped our Nation in recent months.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of my colleagues who have already shared their thoughts on how we can stop the unrest and restore law and order.

Too many Americans are home tonight worried about what will happen if a violent mob descends on their community or on their small business. That is why I join my friends here tonight and rise up to voice my concerns about leftwing activists running through our streets rioting, looting, and destroying people's livelihoods.

But what concerns me the most is that we are not holding them accountable for their actions. That is why I have written a bill that would strip a rioter caught and convicted of looting, vandalism, or violence of coronavirus unemployment benefits.

While we all support the right to protest peacefully, I know I speak for my colleagues and my constituents when I say it is time to put a stop to the destruction of American cities and leaving the taxpayers and small business owners as the ones who are holding the bag.

My bill is called the Support Peaceful Protest Act. Not only would it hold those rioting and looting accountable by preventing them from receiving enhanced unemployment benefits, but it would also force those arrested and convicted to pay the costs of policing these spectacles.

It is time to force these rioters to face the financial costs of their actions. They need to feel the consequences of their actions.

I offer this piece of legislation as part of a solution to stop the rioting and restore law and order across our Nation. The civil unrest is dangerous, and it must come to an end.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank my friend and colleague, Mr. BIGGS, for letting me share about my bill. I hope that all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will consider adding their names to it.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. BIGGS, once again, for holding this important Special Order hour on what is on the top of the minds of so many of the American people.

Thank you. God bless.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) for his words and also for his work on the legislation that I think will be very important.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR), my friend and my seatmate from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BIGGS for yielding to me.

In 1928, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis said: "In a government

of laws, the existence of the government will be imperiled if it fails to observe the law scrupulously. . . . If the government becomes a lawbreaker, it breeds contempt for law; it invites every man to become a law unto himself; it invites anarchy. . . . Crime is contagious."

Mr. Speaker, let's just look at the lawlessness perpetrated by our own government that the American people have had to endure and for which, regrettably, I have had a front-row seat for in my career here in Congress: Fast and Furious; the IRS attacks on conservatives; Benghazi, where four Americans died; Hillary Clinton's email scandal; the attacks on the press of James Rosen, James Risen, and Sharyl Attkisson; the unmasking of American citizens; Russia-gate; Ukraine-gate; and now, Obama-gate.

Who has paid the price for the crime?

What we are witnessing today in many of America's Democratic-run cities are the repercussions of years of lawlessness and amnesty in Washington, D.C.

Recently, I had a woman leave me a voice mail saying she "thinks it is totally okay for her to come with her gun and shoot me in the head." Only a couple days later, two L.A. County sheriffs were shot in the head.

Do you know what happened as those deputies were fighting for their lives? The mob was blocking the entrance to the emergency room, chanting: "We hope they die. We hope they die."

That is how little regard the mob has for the rule of law and their fellow man in their disavowment of the greatest country in the world, the United States of America.

President Trump is right: We must restore law and order. We must defend our police, not just by fully funding them but by increasing the criminal penalties for assaulting officers, bringing violent groups like Antifa and BLM to justice, and applying existing Federal laws like RICO statutes to combat the patterned commission of violent crime.

Ronald Reagan wisely said: "We must reject the idea that every time a law is broken, society is guilty rather than the lawbreaker. It is time to restore the American precept that each individual is accountable" for his or her actions.

I strongly support law enforcement. I firmly disavow the groups and individuals funding, enabling, and partaking in mob violence. And I call on my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the men and women in blue and brown: Thank you.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague from Arizona, Representative GOSAR, for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. HICE), my friend.

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BIGGS for yielding.

Look, we have all seen the out-of-control left hijacking our cities across

the Nation, and we know where the bottom line ends. It is organizations like Antifa, where they are targeting police officers, burning down buildings, destroying private property, besieging Federal buildings, attacking innocent civilians. We have seen what happened with the police in L.A. and the chants that took place there.

But all this type of behavior does not happen in a vacuum. It doesn't happen in a vacuum.

In fact, we are seeing all of this fueled by reckless rhetoric, much of it coming from our Democratic colleagues, where they say things like: All cops are evil, all cops are bad, and cries to defund the police.

The result we are watching? Record numbers of police murdered and killed across the country, record numbers injured.

Yet, the left is still calling to defund the police. Rather than condemn this lunacy that is happening in our country, the majority continues to appease, continues to fuel this horrible behavior.

In fact, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee won't even admit that Antifa violence exists. He calls it a myth. It is unthinkable.

Where is the leadership of the Democratic Party? Where is the Speaker of the House, for that matter? She has consistently downplayed this crisis that is happening in our streets.

It is time that we have leadership here. It is time that we address the issues. The Speaker, frankly, should be ashamed of the absolute failure to address this horrific behavior that is happening and the unrest that is happening in our country.

In fact, when the Senate passed serious legislation, the Speaker went out to say that the Senate is trying to commit murder. My question is, how many murders have occurred on the streets of America since she made that statement?

Rather than work with us, the Democrats and the Speaker call us and the President domestic enemies and enemies of the state, and that is just totally unacceptable.

It is time that we restore law and order in this country, and it begins by restoring it right here in this Chamber.

□ 1715

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN), my good friend.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want every American to look at this picture of what, sadly, has become "the new normal" in many cities across our great Nation. The one common thread for all of these cities is that they are run by liberal Democrats who tolerate these criminal activities: buildings deliberately being set on fire, department stores being looted of merchandise, police cars, as you see here, being bashed and torched, and our brave law enforcement officers being executed in broad daylight.

Imagine, if you are an owner of these businesses who invested a lifetime of savings, waking up to their places of work being destroyed through no fault of their own.

Here is my question: Why have Democrats remained silent on condemning these acts of violence?

Is it any coincidence that there is not one Democrat standing with us tonight? Where are they? They are not here.

I would submit that this is a preview of coming attractions to cities and towns all across our great country if this lawlessness is allowed to continue.

Now is the time to support law enforcement, not defund law enforcement.

Now is the time to enforce our laws and put those criminals behind bars if they destroy private property.

Now is the time to get back to we, the people, not we, the criminals, not we, the government, not we, the politician.

In closing, you do not build up America by tearing down America.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), who will be speaking as fast as a Texan can speak.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding.

Detective James Skernivitz;
Police Officer Tamarris Leon-Wesley Bohannon;

Sergeant Ricardo Perez-Ortiz;
Police Officer Edelmiro Garza, Jr.;
Police Officer Ismael Chavez;
Police Officer Anthony Dia;
Sergeant Craig Vincent Johnson;
Wildlife Officer Julian Keen, Jr.;
Deputy Sheriff James H. Blair;
Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller;
Lieutenant Stephen P. Williams;
Police Officer Waldis "Jay" Johnson;
Police Officer Nathan James Lyday;
Police Officer Cody N. Holte;
Police Officer Michael S. Mosher;
Lieutenant Glenn Dale Hutto, Jr.;
Police Officer Dan Walters;
Police Officer Justin Putnam;
Officer Breann Leath;
Commander Greg Carnicle;
Sergeant Ben Jenkins;
Police Officer Christopher Ryan

Walsh;
Sergeant James R. O'Connor, IV;
Corporal Brent William Perry Scrimshire;

Corporal Andrew J. Gillette;
Officer David Kellywood;
Police Officer Nick O'Rear;
Trooper Joseph Jon Bullock;
Deputy Sheriff Richard Edward Whitten;

Officer Tiffany-Victoria Bilon Enriquez;

Officer Kaulike Kalama;
Public Safety Officer Jackson Ryan Winkler;

Captain Stanley Curtis Elrod;
Police Officer Bryan Brown;
Corporal Bryant Searcy;
Police Officer Sheena Dae
Yarbrough-Powell;
Trooper Caleb Starr;

Police Officer Destin Legieza;
Animal Control Officer Darrian May Young;

Police Officer Christopher Eric Ewing;

Police Officer Kaia LaFay Grant;
Police Officer Alan Daniel McCollum;
Police Officer Katherine Mary Thyne.
I have two questions, Mr. Speaker:

Where is the NBA? Where are those names? Where are the names I just read of the 43 police officers who have died in the line of duty this year? I want to know that. I want to know where those names are.

My second question is: Where is the Speaker? Where is the Speaker of the House? Where is this body? Why aren't we on the floor voting on a resolution honoring these fallen 43? Why aren't we standing up for law and order? Why aren't we standing up for security in our streets? Why are we instead turning over this country to mob rule?

These names matter too, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, an article from the Federalist by Joy Pullman today points out: "Contrary to corporate media narratives, up to 95 percent of this summer's riots are linked to Black Lives Matter activism, according to data collected by the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project. . . . Of the 633 coded as riots, 88 percent are recorded as involving Black Lives Matter activists."

So all of these corporations that are donating money, it is very clear: They are helping a Marxist organization whose ultimate goal will be to relieve these corporations of all of their private property.

Way to go.

Early estimates from insurance agencies apparently say they have set a record in destruction for what the media—the alt-left media or mainstream, whichever you prefer—say is just mainly peaceful uprisings. It is astounding what has been occurring.

This article from The Daily Signal points out, from yesterday, that if you go to the website for Black Futures Lab, a venture of Black Lives Matter founder Alicia Garza, and click on donate, "it will ask you to send your money to an obscure organization, the Chinese Progressive Association, explaining that 'Black Futures Lab is a fiscally sponsored project of the Chinese Progressive Association.'"

So there you go. You are not only helping destroy America and eliminate private property that you own, you are also helping the Chinese Communist Party.

Congratulations for all of those. You are not making Black lives matter; you are helping the Chinese Communist Party.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am still sickened by the sight that I saw, that all of us saw: two officers who showed up to work, an assassination attempt, attempted execution, just for sitting in their car, for honoring their pledge to preserve and protect the safety of the citizens they serve.

For the past month, law enforcement officers have endured attacks, have been shot at, bottles thrown at, fireworks, glass bottles, powerful lasers attempted to blind them.

This year, as my friend from Texas said, 43 law enforcement officers have been killed, nearly twice the rate of last year.

And what is coming from the other side of the Chamber here? You got it. Silence.

When elected leaders refuse to stand with our law enforcement officers and continue to bend to the whims of violent mobs, we lose our civilization. We lose our civil society.

Now, you think, when you watch TV maybe you see it on the news, it is happening far away, thousands of miles away across our country. But right in Pennsylvania where I live, south central Pennsylvania, just on Monday, unfortunately, violent riots came to the streets on the heels of the death of Ricardo Munoz, a mentally ill 27-year-old who was captured on a police officer's body camera charging at the officer with a knife in his hand.

Now, the death of Ricardo Munoz is a tragedy, no doubt, and my prayers are with Mr. Munoz's family. However, an adult man wielding a large carving knife over his head while charging at police—by the way, having a record of doing this in the past, stabbing people—is a clear mortal threat, and the officers are well within their rights to protect themselves.

Let me be very clear. Every person in the United States of America has the right to peacefully protest. Your constitutional right to protest, however, does not include violent riots, setting fires to things, looting, and harming and killing other people.

Now, this is an account from that protest which wasn't a protest:

The mob marched from the scene of the shooting on Laurel Street to the police station, chucking glass bottles, rocks, bricks, gallon jugs filled with liquid, and plastic road barricades at the police. A county vehicle parked in front of the station was damaged.

Numerous buildings and vehicles were damaged, fires were set—all without regard for the owners and individuals who could have been physically harmed by the riotous actions.

Mr. Speaker, anyone in this Chamber, any leader in our community who does not stand up for civil society, for our police officers who take an oath to protect their citizens, is supporting a dangerous and deadly violent mob, and it absolutely must end.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I include the following items in the RECORD:

A letter dated September 10, 2020, to the Honorable William P. Barr, Attor-

ney General; a newspaper article dated September 15, 2020; another one, dated August 26, 2020; another piece which is undated, which I will get the date for; and then another series of articles as well.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, September 10, 2020.

Hon. WILLIAM P. BARR,

Attorney General,

U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL BARR: We write to share our deep concerns regarding the ongoing violence that has gripped American cities and threatened the rule of law across our nation. ANTIFA and other left-wing anarchist groups have unleashed a barrage of totalitarian attacks on our country in recent months, including accosting a sitting U.S. Senator, hijacking peaceful rallies, organizing armed riots, destroying property, burning buildings, stealing livelihoods, and spreading hate.

It is clear that these individuals are well-funded and supported by a national network of left-wing activists committed to perpetrating violence and furthering anarchy in our streets. As such, we urge you to immediately open an investigation to identify and prosecute all individuals and groups responsible for funding and organizing these terroristic acts that are wreaking havoc on our nation.

As you know, 18 U.S.C. §2101 makes it a federal crime punishable by up to five years in prison to incite a riot; organize, promote, encourage, participate in, or carry on a riot; commit any act of violence in furtherance of a riot; or aid or abet any person in inciting or participating in a riot. Tragically, we are seeing the letter and spirit of the law being desecrated on a daily basis, as ANTIFA and other organized groups of anarchists continue to infiltrate peaceful protests and launch violent attacks against American citizens. Tragically, these activities recently turned deadly in Portland, Oregon, as Michael Forest Reinhoel, who described himself as "100% ANTIFA" shot and killed a supporter of President Trump.

Additionally, the riots in Portland and other major American cities have revealed a targeted effort to destabilize our way of life, including deliberately targeting federal buildings and law enforcement in an effort to undermine the rule of law. The prolonged nature and organization of these violent attacks, including the rioters' use of military grade helmets, gas masks, protective vests, and illegal fireworks, clearly displays the high level of coordination and outside funding supporting these anarchist groups. It is readily apparent that these individuals were outfitted for war and were clearly part of a planned effort to infiltrate peaceful protests, provoke violence, and further subvert our system of government.

Unfortunately, these are not isolated incidents. Well-organized factions of ANTIFA and other anarchist groups have taken advantage of peaceful protests to sow division, threaten free speech, and enflame tensions throughout the nation for more than 90 days.

The violence occurring in our cities cannot continue. The DOJ must take action to stop these dangerous attacks. As such, we urge you to fully investigate the groups responsible for these attacks on our republic and prosecute all individuals who are violating federal law by participating in, inciting, organizing, or funding these destructive riots. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this urgent request and your prompt action to protect our nation.

Sincerely,

KEN BUCK,
ANDY BIGGS,

BRIAN BABIN, D.D.S.,
TED BUDD,
DOUG COLLINS,
BOB GIBBS,
JEFF DUNCAN,
STEVE KING,
Members of Congress.

[From Fox News, Sept. 15, 2020]

LA COUNTY SHERIFF SAYS PROTESTERS CALLING FOR AMBUSHED DEPUTIES' DEATH IS 'ALMOST WORTHY OF ISIS'

(By Joshua Nelson)

Protesters showing up at the hospital treating two deputies who were shot in an ambush and calling for their death is "something almost worthy of ISIS," said Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva on Tuesday.

"It's just a new low for the hatred that I don't think anyone in this nation has ever seen before," Villanueva told "America's Newsroom."

"We just don't expect it on our own shores and we have been here fighting to save people's lives across the county—it doesn't matter who you are and it is not something we are going to expect or tolerate," Villanueva said.

Villanueva on Monday challenged NBA star LeBron James to match and double the reward money, which is currently up to \$200,000, that is being offered for information on the gunman who ambushed and shot two deputies over the weekend.

"This challenge is to LeBron James. I want you to match that and double that reward," Villanueva said. "I know you care about law enforcement. You expressed a very interesting statement about your perspective on race relations and on officer-involved shootings and the impact that it has on the African American community."

"And I appreciated that," he continued. "But likewise, we need to appreciate that respect for life goes across all professions."

The Los Angeles Lakers star has been one of the most vocal professional athletes to speak on social issues and to condemn police misconduct. After Jacob Blake was shot multiple times by officers in Wisconsin last month, James said Black people in America are "terrified" of police misconduct.

"I know people get tired of hearing me say it, but we are scared as Black people in America," James said following the Lakers' Game 4 win over the Portland Trail Blazers last month. "Black men, Black women, Black kids, we are terrified."

Villanueva on Tuesday said he had yet to hear from LeBron regarding his challenge, but that the NBA star needs "to take some ownership of exactly what he said in terms of propagating the idea that people are being hunted" due to the color of their skin.

"I think that is just flat out not the case. I think we need to hold those accountable for breaking the law, be it law enforcement when we are crossing the line, but, then we have to acknowledge the bigger problem of violence overall and this ambush, cowardly ambush, of the two deputies just doing their own job, doing their business there in Compton, really illustrates that. That is that the problem we need to address," he said.

[From Fox Business, Aug. 26, 2020]

BLM BRINGS ECONOMIC STRESS TO COMMUNITIES IT CLAIMS TO REPRESENT: PASTOR

(By Bishop Aubrey Shines)

Early in August a news story jumped out to me and not in a good way my friends. I am still thinking about it.

As Fox Business reported on August 5, a trucking company will no longer deliver to cities that are defunding police. The co-

owner of JKC Trucking, Mike Kucharski, told Fox he was concerned for the safety of his drivers and their cargo going to cities where police have had their budgets slashed.

As an African American and a minister, I knew something like this would happen sooner or later.

My colleagues and I founded Conservative Clergy of Color because we were afraid something like this would happen if Black Lives Matter was the only voice in the room.

We wanted to give a voice to African Americans who believe in real change, not leftist platitudes and want their country to be better.

My father was able to watch this country become a better place from the segregation he knew growing up but now I fear the progress he witnessed is being turned on its head. We've now seen the first domino fall in the rollback of that progress.

It's sad we've come to this, but it's the truth. Black Lives Matter has crippled the police across dozens of cities, and we're now seeing the economic impact.

These, friends, are the first tangible results from Black Lives Matter's mad, anti-police crusade. These are the first far-reaching consequences beyond the violence in cities this summer that has gone so long it's beginning to feel lethargic. These are the consequences that BLM's leadership probably are fully aware of, but that the young misguided social justice warriors that make up their ranks haven't stopped to think about.

When you do stop and think about it, why should the owner put his drivers in danger? Why would he risk the danger in cities where police have been hamstrung and rioters have free reign of the streets?

When young children like poor Secorcia Turner in Atlanta are getting gunned down in the streets, I wouldn't want my employees going to those cities either.

It's sad we've come to this, but it's the truth. Black Lives Matter has crippled the police across dozens of cities, and we're now seeing the economic impact.

Cities that normally receive commerce by way of trucking companies and shipping outlets are now going to lose a vital source of income. Depending on the size of the city, the effect could range from negligible to devastating.

Either way, it's a problem none of these communities should have faced. But because city leaders and governments either were bullied into defunding their police or just felt like being politically correct, grocery stores and retail outlets are going to have to find other ways to supply their products.

Now you might be thinking, "I see your point Bishop, but won't another trucking company just step up and fill the void?" Ideally, you'd be right, but I would pose the counter-question of how long it will take before other companies follow JKC's lead if the riots aren't brought to heel soon.

For that matter, how long will it be before other industries start making similar choices? How long will it be before the results BLM's leftist ideology impedes different businesses from providing income to communities?

What if a company like Staples or Walmart decides to build new facilities in Portland but then pulls out at the last second because rioters there are still out of control? And it's not just mega-retailers; I haven't even touched on small businesses and entrepreneurs. If I were a young, bright individual looking to start my own company, I certainly wouldn't want to do it in a place with kneecapped police and no guarantee of stability.

The worst part of this debacle is that minority communities, the very people BLM claims to represent, will suffer the most.

A weaker police force means less business in a community and that's less jobs to go around including for minorities.

Minorities in low-income neighborhoods need the work, not just bloated government welfare programs. These are minorities who could work in shipping warehouses, malls, stores, or startups are worse off if none of those industries decide to do business in their communities.

BLM's "justice" has already gotten black children killed on the streets. Its crusade to replace police authority with an anarchist mob has made it less safe in low-income neighborhoods than before George Floyd's tragic death. But now we're finally seeing the long-term consequences; the purging of business opportunities that will only drive minorities further away from prosperity and into the loving arms of government dependency.

[From Fox News, Sept. 16, 2020]

LA SHERIFF ALEX VILLANUEVA CHALLENGES
LEBRON JAMES TO MATCH REWARD MONEY
FOR GUNMAN WHO AMBUSHED TWO DEPUTIES
IN COMPTON

(By Louis Casiano)

Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva on Monday challenged NBA star LeBron James to match and double the reward money being offered for information on the gunman who ambushed and shot two deputies over the weekend.

Speaking with KABC Radio on the John Phillips Show, Villanueva said the reward money reached \$175,000—a combination of donations of \$100,000 from the county and \$75,000 from two private individuals.

"This challenge is to LeBron James. I want you to match that and double that reward," Villanueva said. "I know you care about law enforcement. You expressed a very interesting statement about your perspective on race relations and on officer-involved shootings and the impact that it has on the African-American community.

"And I appreciated that," he continued. "But likewise, we need to appreciate that respect for life goes across all professions."

The Los Angeles Lakers star has been one of the most vocal professional athletes to speak on social issues and to condemn police misconduct. After Jacob Blake was shot multiple times by officers in Wisconsin last month, James said Black people in America are "terrified" of police misconduct.

"I know people get tired of hearing me say it, but we are scared as Black people in America," James said following the Lakers' Game 4 win over the Portland Trail Blazers last month. "Black men, Black women, Black kids, we are terrified."

He earlier tweeted his frustrations about police shootings.

"And y'all wonder why we say what we say about the Police!! Someone please tell me WTF is this????!! Exactly another black man being targeted," James wrote. "This s--- [sic] is so wrong and so sad!! Feel so sorry for him, his family and OUR PEOPLE!! We want JUSTICE."

It was not clear if James was aware of Villanueva's challenge. Messages to the LeBron James Foundation were not immediately returned.

"Let's see what he does," the sheriff said. "I'll be very curious to see what his response is, if any."

[From Fox News, Sept. 11, 2020]

ST. LOUIS BLM PROTESTERS FROM MCCLOSKEY CONFRONTATION CITED FOR TRESPASSING

(By Louis Casiano)

Nine Black Lives Matter protesters who were confronted by an armed St. Louis cou-

ple on their lawn have been issued citations for trespassing, officials told Fox News.

The June 28 encounter between the demonstrators, and Mark and Patricia McCloskey made headlines as the country was gripped by nationwide protests over police brutality. The couple—both personal injury lawyers—were seen on video and in photos pointing a handgun and a rifle as demonstrators moved through their neighborhood.

No shots were fired.

Calls and emails to the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department from Fox News were not returned.

The office of City Counselor Julian Bush told Fox News in an email that the citations were mailed to the nine people but that Bush has "not yet determined whether to file charges."

The protesters could face up to \$500 in fines and up to 90 days in jail. However, Bush told NPR it was rare for anyone to receive such penalties for a municipal ordinance violation.

Last week, Black Lives Matter activist Ohun Ashe tweeted that she received a summons.

"I was just sent a summons to appear in court for 'trespassing on private property'" on Portland PI aka the street Patricia and Mark McCloskey live on," the post read. "I had a gun waved in my face by them but trespassing is what matters?"

Video footage captured the confrontation as 300 demonstrators marched in the street, claiming they were headed toward the home of St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson. The McCloskeys aimed their weapons at the marchers and have since been charged with felony unlawful use of a weapon.

Missouri Gov. Mike Parson, a Republican, has said he will almost certainly pardon the McCloskeys if they are convicted.

The incident landed the couple an appearance during the first night of the Republican National Convention last month, where they asserted their Second Amendment right to defend themselves.

"The radicals are not content just marching in the streets," Mark McCloskey said during a virtual speech. "They want to walk the halls of Congress. They want power. This is Joe Biden's party. These are the people who will be in charge."

[From the Wall Street Journal, Sept. 14, 2020]

CONFESSIONS OF A NEW GUN OWNER

(By William McGurn)

On Monday it became official: The police issued me a gun permit.

Never did I imagine I'd be here. Not because I was anti-gun. My dad was a career FBI agent, so my siblings and I grew up with guns.

At the same time, my father was never particularly interested in guns. To no avail, we would beg him to go to shoots to show off his skills. More frequently he would remind us that many who keep guns in the house are more likely to shoot a friend or family member than a would-be robber or rapist. His proudest boast about his own career was that not once did he have to shoot anybody.

This may help explain why we all grew up supporting the Second Amendment in principle while not much interested in the practice. What changed? Certainly the rioters played a key part. But far more shocking than the rioters themselves has been the associated spectacle of police and political authorities across America standing down in the face of night after night of criminal behavior directed at the lives and livelihoods of innocent, law-abiding citizens.

Even in suburbia, many are no longer confident our authorities would or could keep us

safe. In a small suburb such as mine, what would happen if even 100 or 200 people bent on violence were to arrive at once? Could our small police force really handle it? Or would we be left to fend for ourselves like Mark and Pat McCloskey in St. Louis, who defended their home and were then treated as if they were criminals?

A few years back, I asked a former colleague whom I knew to be pro-Second Amendment philosophically if he owned a gun. He answered no, and then asked if I had one. I said I wouldn't know what to write down as my reason for wanting one.

He told me, "Write down, 'Because I don't trust the government.'"

That might have worked for the Founding Fathers. But in today's New Jersey—a state ranked by the Giffords Law Center's annual Gun Law Scorecard as the nation's most restrictive after California—the response might be 40 squad cars on the front lawn by morning. I say this only half in jest: Do other Americans buying guns for the first time find it as grating as I do to learn that we need government permission to exercise a constitutional right?

Equally illuminating has been learning about guns and those who own them. Over four decades in the news business, I have often written about the National Rifle Association, usually about some proposed new gun law. Most recently the NRA has been in the headlines over a lawsuit filed by New York's attorney general in which she accuses top leaders of decades-long corruption and misspending.

But our family's decision to buy a gun has introduced us to the side of the NRA more Americans see: the education side. The NRA has courses, online and in person, for almost everything. The NRA instructor my wife and I engaged, Billy De Almedia, was firm, professional and patient.

It's not just the instruction that impresses. It's the sheer Americanness of a private organization established to support a constitutional right in all its manifestations, from defending the Second Amendment legally and philosophically to instilling in newbies such as myself the respect for guns necessary to keep and use them safely. Not to mention a taste of the satisfaction that comes from mastering a new discipline.

Surely if the government were to assume the functions the NRA provides, the experience would be akin to going to your local Department of Motor Vehicles. In America, by contrast, the ethos emphasizes private initiative and responsibility. In our new interactions with gun owners, gun instructors and owners of gun ranges, my wife and I have found them unfailingly eager to help and to answer even the dumbest questions.

This year a record five million law-abiding Americans, like us, have become new gun owners. Many don't fit the stereotype: African-Americans account for the largest percentage jump in gun ownership, while women are 40% of first-time buyers. These new buyers join an even larger demographic: the 43% of American households that already have a gun.

The record gun sales for 2020 may have implications for swing states in November as well. In Pennsylvania alone, the National Shooting Sports Foundation reckons there are 276,648 first-time gun owners this year. To put this in perspective, in 2016 Donald Trump won Pennsylvania by 44,292 votes.

Now, I appreciate how unlikely it is that I will ever reach for a gun to defend my home or myself. But after watching the mayhem that's taken over so many city streets I wonder, probably with plenty of my fellow first-time gun buyers, what alternative I'd have if ever I had to make that terrible 911 call—and it went unanswered?

[From the Washington Times, July 27, 2020]

REP. JERRY NADLER SAYS ANTIFA VIOLENCE IN PORTLAND A "MYTH"

(By Jessica Chasmar)

Rep. Jerrold Nadler declared Sunday it's a "myth" that Antifa provocateurs are behind the ongoing violent protests in Portland, Oregon.

In a now-viral video posted on Twitter, writer-producer Austen Fletcher caught up with the House Judiciary Judiciary Committee chairman on his way to his vehicle.

"I ran into Jerry Nadler in DC and asked him to disavow the Antifa violence/rioting in Portland. His response? 'THAT'S A MYTH,'" Mr. Fletcher said in a tweet along with the video.

"It is true," Mr. Fletcher tells Mr. Nadler in the video. "There's violence across the whole country. Do you disavow the violence from Antifa that's happening in Portland right now? There's riots—"

"That's a myth that's being spread only in Washington, D.C.," Mr. Nadler responded.

"About Antifa in Portland?" Mr. Fletcher asked.

"Yes," Mr. Nadler replied before a staffer nudged him to get into the vehicle.

"Sir, there's videos everywhere online," Mr. Fletcher continued. "There's fires and riots, they're throwing fireworks at federal officers. DHS is there. Look online. It gets crazy, Mr. Nadler."

The New York Democrat was slammed for his response, which came as Portland entered its 60th day of riots since the death of George Floyd.

Portland is the home of Rose City Antifa, the oldest known so-called anti-fascist group in the country.

[From American News, Sept. 14, 2020]

DHS LEAKED EMAIL CONFIRMS ANTIFA IS AN ORGANIZED GROUP

(By Ian Miles Cheong)

An internal email from the Department of Homeland Security leaked to CBS Catherine Herridge late Monday detailing that the violence in Portland was not "opportunistic," but rather "organized"—confirming long-suspected details about the Antifa movement.

The email explains that Antifa is organized and runs contrary to reports in the mainstream media that Antifa was not responsible for anti-police violence, but an impromptu movement spurred on by anti-fascist sentiments held by most of the American public.

A recent article in the Washington Post by Mark Bray, author of *Antifa: Anti-Fascist Handbook*, attempted to dispel "myths" about Antifa, claims that the group is not an organization, but rather a "tradition of militant antifascism." The article disputed claims that Antifa "masterminds violence at Black Lives Matter protests."

In printed email documents attained by Herridge, the DHS' Acting Under Secretary for Intelligence & Analysis Brian Murphy wrote to his colleagues on July 25 detailing his findings of Antifa in Portland.

Murphy urged for an immediate change of definitions for the violent activity in Portland following a review of the individuals arrested by federal authorities, as well as intelligence surrounding their affiliations and activities.

"The individuals are violently attacking the Federal facilities based on these ideologies," he said in regards to Antifa, which he classed as VAAI or "VIOLENT ANTIFA ANARCHISTS INSPIRED."

"We can't say any longer that this violent situation is opportunistic," wrote Murphy. "Additionally, we have overwhelmingly in-

telligence regarding the ideologies driving individuals towards violence and why the violence has continued."

"A core set of Threat actors are organized, show up night after night, share common TTPs and drawing on like minded individuals to their cause."

TTP stands for Tactics, Techniques and Procedures.

"I recognize we may not be able to attribute every individual as VAAI however we need to look at the totality of the intelligence both current and previous and recognize the motivation for the violence and why people have shown up to commit violence for about 60 days. And why the individuals are using social media to encourage the VAAI on the ground to carry out acts of violence."

The nightly riots in Portland numbered at sixty days when the email was composed. Rioting has shifted from Portland to other cities with some of the same actors, including Washington DC, Seattle, and Kenosha—violence of which was spurred largely by pro-Antifa advocates on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitch, and Twitter.

"Threat actors who are motivated by Anarchist or ANTIFA (or a combination of both) ideologies to carry out acts of violence against State, Local, and Federal authorities and infrastructure they believe represent authority or represent political and social ideas they reject," Murphy concluded.

Phrases like "Every city, every town. Burn the precincts to the ground" are a common refrain at Black Lives Matter rallies, and have been chanted during arson attacks on the Portland Police Bureau, the Mark O. Hatfield federal courthouse in Portland, and other facilities where Antifa and Black Lives Matter militants were present.

The intelligence provided by the DHS validates claims by conservative voices who have long identified Antifa as an organized movement, and flies in the face of claims that the group was not intent on committing violence or conducting an insurgency against the United States government.

[From gatewaypundit.com, Sept. 15, 2020]

MILWAUKEE TRUMP SUPPORTER ARRESTED FOR BRANDISHING A GUN AT BLACK LIVES MATTER MOB THAT WAS SURROUNDING HIS HOME (VIDEO)

(By Cassandra Fairbanks)

A Milwaukee man has reportedly been arrested after pulling a gun on a mob of Black Lives Matter supporters who were surrounding his home for several hours. It is currently unclear who the man is or why the mob was at his house, but he did have a "Trump Train" flag hanging outside.

Members of the mob claimed on social media that their actions were justified because he is a "racist" and had a confederate flag. The flag was not seen in the videos, but an American and Trump flag were hanging prominently on the front of his home.

In livestream footage of the incident, the mob is clearly seen stepping on to the man's property.

"They went specifically to his house to protest him for 'being a racist.' The homeowner was arrested, and the crowd remains outside. They seem to have gone on his property. WTF Milwaukee?" Kitty Shackleford, a Twitter user that archives riot footage, tweeted along with videos.

After the mob was outside his home for more than two hours, police arrived. As they entered the man's property, the rioters cheered for police and called for the man's arrest, yelling about how he had a weapon.

When the man was taken outside, seemingly in cuffs, the crowd went wild.

The militant leftists were threatening the man saying that he was going to have big problems if he dared to step outside.

As they threatened him, shined lights into his home, and pranced all over his property, he pointed a shotgun out the window.

The person who called for the “protest” livestreamed the mob outside the man’s home for several hours.

It does not appear that any members of the mob have been arrested.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, as we have recognized here today with our speakers the importance of law enforcement to maintaining our rights and the safety of our neighborhoods and communities, I am reminded that it was just a little over a month ago, late July 2020, when the chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the House of Representatives said about antifa, as the city of Portland was being burned by antifa, he said it is a myth. It is a myth.

And then what has happened is an internal email from the Department of Homeland Security revealed Monday that the violence in Portland was not opportunistic but, rather, organized by the antifa organization.

We have got to see that our Attorney General—I urge him, I urge the FBI to investigate and the Attorney General to take every action that the law allows, whether it is civil RICO or prosecution of these individuals, because, if you want to bring our society back into order, you take people who are violent, rioting, looting, causing mayhem and murder, you arrest them. You charge them, you prosecute them, and you convict them.

We know there are law enforcement who do a great job, but right now, in many places around this country, it will take a law enforcement officer 5 or 10 minutes or longer to get to a home or a business that is under attack by a criminal. When that happens, if they are under attack, these individuals need to have the right, as they do under the Second Amendment, to protect themselves. That right must be protected and maintained.

So I am kind of surprised—I am going to give you a fact here. In Pennsylvania alone, this year, you have had an increase in new gun owners by more than a quarter of a million. More than a quarter of a million people in Pennsylvania own guns today who didn’t own them at the beginning of the year. Why? Because of what is going on in our streets, whether it is in Pennsylvania, Oregon, or wherever else it may be.

A mob circles a home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; an individual holds up a shotgun inside as this mob surrounds his home. What does the mob do, the antifa folks? They call the police to have this man arrested for having a gun on the ready to protect himself from that very mob. That is backwards.

□ 1730

Mr. Speaker, we thank the police. The purpose of the police is to protect the weak and the rights of all.

When our leaders in places like Portland, Minneapolis, you name it, casti-

gate the police or celebrities castigate the police, what they are really saying is: We are content with mob rule. That can’t be the case.

We have heard this tonight from my colleagues who have said this so well. We support the police, and we support the thin blue line that protects our rights. This rioting and this mayhem must end tonight.

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

ISSUES OF THE DAY

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON).

RECOGNIZING DEAN C. MATHISEN’S SERVICE TO OUR NATION AND NEBRASKA’S SECOND DISTRICT

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my very respected friend from Wisconsin today for yielding. We had our 5-minute speeches cut short, so I appreciate the opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Dean C. Mathisen for 20 years of service to our Nation and Nebraska’s Second District. Dean is retiring from Federal service at the end of the 116th Congress in January 2021.

Dean is a former U.S. Army officer and a combat veteran. He served as a field artillery officer on Active Duty in the U.S. Army during the Cold War, on its front lines in West Germany. He was next assigned as a military police officer who deployed to the desert during the first Gulf war. Dean also commanded a transportation company in the U.S. Army Reserves.

In Nebraska’s Second District, Dean served over 12 years as a senior constituent liaison for the Honorable Lee Terry from 2002 to January 2015. During this tenure, he was instrumental in identifying the need and communicating with the Department of Veterans Affairs about bringing a national veterans cemetery to the district. Dean was a key element in finding the resources to enable the first homeless veterans housing project in Omaha to be completed as well.

Dean then crossed the Missouri River in Iowa in 2016 and continued his Federal service in the office of the Honorable JONI ERNST. Here, he continued to use his personal experience to aid him in understanding the needs of our military servicemembers and veterans while solving constituent issues.

In 2017, Dean became a member of my original Omaha district office team as a senior constituent liaison. During this time, he saw the need for and coordinated the efforts to establish a Federal veterans court for the State of Nebraska. In the summer, Dean was promoted to deputy district director.

In his free time, Dean is active in local animal rescue and animal-assisted therapy. He is known in our of-

fice to be an avid horseman, hunter, and shooter. He is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and The American Legion and is known as a great Dane.

I want to offer Dean my sincere appreciation for his years of dedicated service to our great Nation and to Nebraska’s Second Congressional District. His retirement is well earned. He should take great pride in his accomplishments in both his military and civil service careers for the citizens of the United States of America and the constituents of the Second District of Nebraska.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Dean all the best in his future endeavors.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH: HONORING KATHY AND GREG GONZALEZ

Mr. BACON. I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to commemorate two wonderful people during Hispanic Heritage Month by honoring a husband and wife pair of wonderful police officers from my district in Omaha. They have given lifetime contributions to law enforcement and have engaged in community efforts for our hometown.

Gregory Michael Gonzalez and Katherine Lynn Belcastro-Gonzalez were born in South Omaha in the early seventies to immigrant families.

One of six siblings, Greg grew up in a military environment as his father was stationed at Offutt Air Force Base.

Kathy’s mother fled from Lithuania to Nebraska after her grandfather was taken as a prisoner of war. Kathy and her siblings were then raised in the basement of a Lithuanian parish in South Omaha.

Kathy and Greg were high school sweethearts at Omaha South High and went on to become married first-generation college graduates. Greg obtained an athletic scholarship at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and Kathy attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln while simultaneously working three jobs. She graduated in 1993 and joined the Omaha Police Department the following year. Greg began his career in law enforcement in 1993 as the only Mexican American in the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office.

As assistant chief of the Omaha Police Department, Greg now helps oversee the hiring of officers and works to reflect the diverse community it serves, including Spanish-speaking officers. Additionally, Greg is an adjunct police academy instructor and instructs criminal justice courses at his alma mater.

As captain of Omaha’s southeast precinct, Kathy oversees one of the most culturally diverse areas in Omaha. In addition, her precinct also manages large-scale events and cultural celebrations, including the NCAA College World Series, events at TD Ameritrade Park, and Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium.