

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF TONY CORBO

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2020

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to pay tribute to Tony Corbo, one of the original founders of Food and Water Watch. Tony was one of the fiercest consumer advocates I have ever had the good fortune to have known and his loss will be deeply felt by all of those who had the opportunity to know and work with him.

“Fight Like You Live Here” was a motto that drove Tony’s passionate advocacy in food safety. He described himself as a “watchdog of big Ag” and it was profession to which he dedicated himself for more than twenty years. He held a particular focus on food safety, consumer safety, and worker health which led to his ardent efforts to both better protect our food supply as well as food processing workers. During my tenure in Congress, I worked closely with Tony on critical issues—from Chinese chicken and linespeeds in slaughterhouses to worker safety issues and advancing trade policies that protect consumers. His passion led to an expertise and keen understanding of food safety and consumer issues that was second to none.

Outside of his professional contributions, Tony was also a dedicated member of the Washington, D.C. community. An avid Nationals fan and season ticket holder, he enjoyed attending the games and rooting for his team. He was also an enthusiastic gardener and bee keeper and in what free time he had, Tony could also be found volunteering at the local garden shop. He had an engaging personality with a contagious laugh, the combination of which could draw anyone in. Tony was a special soul and that larger than life spirit will be missed by many.

Tony was a fervent ally who provided myself and my staff with invaluable counsel over the years. He was not one to take no for an answer or shy away from a fight which is why we worked so well together. Over the years, Tony and I developed a friendship for which I will always be grateful.

Though taken from us much too soon, I am honored to have this opportunity to stand and recognize Tony Corbo for the indelible mark that he left on all those who knew him. I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, Elizabeth, as well as his brother, Joe, and sister, Cathy. His is a legacy that will continue to inspire those who knew him.

CONSTITUTION DAY AND THE
PRESIDENT’S ASSAULT ON THE
CONSTITUTION

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2020

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Constitution Day. Every year, on September 17, Constitution Day reminds us that while we are a nation of diverse races, ethnicities, religions, backgrounds, and stories, we share at least one commonality: a collective belief in the amended document that founded our nation.

The Constitution represents what our nation strives to be: a country of laws, fairness, and justice. A nation that strives to protect the rights of each of its citizens and inhabitants and embolden, not subvert, the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness.

The Founding Fathers always realized that the Constitution is an imperfect document, and that is why they allowed it to be amended. It has been amended twenty-seven times since its original ratification, and there are still people who are proposing additional amendments. The Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery, and the Fourteenth Amendment abolished the provision that counted African American slaves as three-fifths of a human being. The Nineteenth Amendment gave most, but not all, women the right to vote. Some provisions of our Constitution are still being debated by the American people, such as the Second Amendment.

The Founding Fathers allowed for these amendments because they understood that the Constitution would always represent a vision of a more perfect nation, and that vision must necessarily change and evolve over time. The Founding Fathers risked their lives to rebel against tyranny, and their struggle to win the freedom to write the Constitution must serve as a reminder to us that we too, if need be, must struggle to defend it.

We must honor Constitution Day not only by celebrating the document, but by pledging to protect it. Because this year, the Constitution is in need of our protection.

The President of the United States took an oath to “preserve, protect and defend the Constitution”. It is an oath required by Article Two, Section One of the Constitution. Yet it is an oath that has not been taken seriously or upheld for four years now.

The First Amendment protects our freedom to peacefully assemble. Yet this President has deployed unmarked, unidentified federal agents to localities to tear gas and attack Americans who are peacefully assembling.

The First Amendment protects freedom of speech, yet an executive order was signed this year directing the federal government to

reconsider the laws governing online speech after the President’s online posts were marked as false and misleading. The executive order was an attempt to silence this President’s critics, in clear violation of the First Amendment. If a person’s right to free speech depends on a ruler approving what is said, then free speech does not exist at all.

The First Amendment protects the freedom of the press. In violation of this amendment, the President has called the press the “enemy of the people”.

Article One of the Constitution contains the Foreign Emoluments Clause, which prohibits the President from receiving any gift of value without the consent of Congress. This President has never divested from any of his holdings and refused to place his assets in a blind trust. Funds from foreign governments continue to flow into this President’s personal accounts, in blatant violation of Article One.

Article Two, Section Three of the Constitution obligates the President to “take care that the laws be faithfully executed”, yet this is a President who, on at least ten separate occasions, deliberately attempted to interfere with Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into collaboration between Russia and the President’s campaign.

The Fifth Amendment states that all persons, citizen or otherwise, shall be afforded due process of law. This President created a family separation policy that tore children from their families and indefinitely imprisoned them in cages, in flagrant violation of their Fifth Amendment rights.

The Constitution protects freedom of religion and guarantees all people equal protection under the law. In direct violation of these freedoms, this President banned people from entering the United States based on nothing more than the religion they practice. He even called it a “Muslim Ban”.

The Constitution states that Congress has the power to establish post offices, and this President took an oath to defend this provision of the Constitution. In violation of his oath and this constitutional provision, this President is making every effort to dismantle the agency that, today, is an inseparable part of our shared American identity.

The “right to vote” is mentioned five times in the Constitution. Yet this President admitted to voter suppression when he stated that he did not want to fund the U.S. Postal Service because doing so would help Americans vote by mail.

Upon exiting the Constitutional Convention in 1787, Benjamin Franklin was approached by a group of people asking what sort of government the delegates had created. His answer was: “A republic, if you can keep it”. On this Constitution Day, let us remember our responsibility to defend the Constitution, so that we may “keep it”.

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.
