

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, within the last hour or so, there was a decision by the Baltimore City State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby in the investigation of the death of Freddie Gray, a Black man who died under questionable circumstances; circumstances that kind of made us all wonder where the truth lies; circumstances that cause young people and others to take to the streets across this Nation; circumstances that brought into a sharp, bright light the question of justice in America, the question of police misconduct in America, the question of mayhem in America, the question of poverty in America, and the question of bias in America.

Freddie Gray's murder, Freddie Gray's death, and the questionable circumstances around his death brought into sharp relief all of these issues of race and living in an urban center—brought into sharp relief, Mr. Speaker, 50 years or more of abject, determined, and callous disinvestment in our urban areas, 50 years or more of joblessness, bad schools, bad housing, bad health care, and 50 years of hopelessness.

In the last few minutes, Mr. Speaker, this brilliant, young, African American woman, Baltimore City State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby, made a decision; and she decided that, yes, notwithstanding all the differences of opinion, the changed stories, the moving target, notwithstanding all of these things that happened, she decided that Freddie Gray was murdered—Freddie Gray was murdered—and that she would indict the police officers who were responsible.

By indicting the Baltimore City police officers who were responsible for Mr. Gray's murder, she made a giant, enormous step for justice for young people, young African American men and women, young people who live in our urban areas.

By her decision today, just a few moments ago, she has done this Nation an invaluable service, especially for young people, especially for the African American and other minority youth. These young people have, for decades now, sought and yearned for justice as it relates to police misconduct, police brutality, and, yes, police murder.

This new standard for justice is a standard that now transcends Baltimore and transcends even the entire State of Maryland. It transcends and it reaches to other points all across this Nation—Ferguson, New York City, Chicago, Cleveland, and other places all throughout this country.

Mr. Speaker, as an African American male who represents the South Side of the city of Chicago, I know firsthand about police misconduct, police mayhem, and police murder.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, that, in my 68 years living mostly in the city of Chicago, I have never seen the wheels of justice move so profoundly, so pointedly, and so purposefully as I have witnessed with Baltimore City State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby's actions.

She has raised all kinds of standards. She has captured the imagination of all of us who fight for justice, who want to see justice delivered in the true American way, and who want to see an end to all the machinations, excuses, turning away, and closing our eyes to police misconduct in our urban areas.

This wonderful, courageous, young city State's attorney has raised the standard for prosecutors all across our great Nation. She has raised the standards for mayors, chiefs of police, and other law enforcement officials. She has raised the standard for even those who are in this body. Open your minds, open your eyes, and see the truth.

Let me just say right now, Mr. Speaker, that the police officers of this Nation, the overwhelming majority of them, are good, hard-working defenders of the community. They are not lawbreakers. They are there to serve and protect.

We honor them, and we lift them up; but there are a few who think that they can get away with all kinds of illegal actions just because they can get away with it because the system has a tendency and a habit of rising to protect even those who violate not only the laws of the Nation, but the spirit of the laws of this Nation, these laws that keep this Nation together, these laws that make us have an identity as one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

These police officers, this minority of those on the urban police forces across this Nation, these are the ones that abrogate the Constitution, short-circuit our Constitution, short-circuit our quest for justice, our appeal for justice, our right for justice, and short-circuit those just for their thrill of the moment.

Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, being handcuffed and leg-cuffed, laying down facedown in the back of a paddy wagon driven not accidentally recklessly, determined by those police officers who were driving, who had him in custody, to maim, harm, and brutalize him, different speeds driven by the driver of that van, tossed about because of sudden stops?

You are in the back of a paddy wagon, handcuffed and leg-cuffed, and these police officers are getting a thrill out of tossing you around in a steel-encased paddy wagon, not caring about the broken parts of your body that might occur, not caring about whether you really live or die, not even caring about their oath that they were sworn to when they were hired and when they took that oath to serve and protect.

All those things became secondary to their thrill of seeing how much havoc and harm they could cause to this Black man in Baltimore. Yeah, they thought they would get away with it, that no one would even think to question their decisions, their thrill-seeking, their conduct.

Thank God there is a woman in Baltimore who said to them, to all the police officers who are like minded such

as them, said to this Nation: No more. No more, not this time. You are going to be indicted, and you are going to be charged, and that is the way it is.

Grieving mothers, Mr. Gray's mother, his father, his relatives, his loved ones, his friends, and his neighbors can all now say that there will be justice for Freddie Gray. I said, in Chicago, there will be justice for Freddie Gray. From this Nation's borders, young people are rejoicing now. The day is soon to be justice for Freddie Gray.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Mosby's actions, her courage, her dedication, her commitment, and her decisiveness have spoken to the idea that is creating this movement for justice all across this Nation.

□ 1200

She has very clearly and profoundly and without hesitation spoken to all of us, to this Nation. Her actions have shouted out that Black lives do matter, that Black lives do matter, that all lives in America matter, and that Black lives matter also.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LEWIS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, May 5, 2015, at 11:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1348. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Kenneth E. Floyd, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1349. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Accomack County, VA, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2015-0001] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8379] received April 28, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1350. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Minority and Women Inclusion Amendments (RIN: 2590-AA67) received April 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1351. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2014