

NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC  
COUNCIL

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we recognize the achievements of many African Americans this Black History Month, I want to acknowledge the Divine Nine, historically black fraternities and sororities of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, and the role of their members in shaping our Nation.

Divine Nine organizations consist of:

Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, founded in 1906 at Cornell University, whose brotherhood includes: the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; my colleagues Congressmen EMANUEL CLEAVER, DANNY DAVIS, CHAKA FATTAH, AL GREEN, GREGORY MEEKS, CHARLES RANGEL, DAVID SCOTT, and BOBBY SCOTT; legendary Olympic Gold Medalist Jesse Owens; National Urban League President Marc Morial; and legal pioneers Charles Hamilton Houston and Thurgood Marshall; and they are led by Grand President Mark S. Tillman.

Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, founded in 1911 at Indiana University, includes: civil rights leader Reverend Ralph Abernathy; my colleagues Congressmen SANFORD BISHOP, WILLIAM LACY CLAY, dean of the House JOHN CONYERS, ALCEE HASTINGS, BENNIE THOMPSON, and HAKEEM JEFFRIES; General Daniel "Chappy" James, the first African American four-star general; attorney Johnnie Cochran; Dr. Bernard Harris, Jr., the first Black astronaut; Hall of Fame Chicago Bear running back Gale Sayers; and a special shout-out to a proud Kappa, Brace Clement of Seattle, Washington. They are led by Grand Polemarch William "Randy" Bates.

Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, founded in 1908 at Howard University, is a sisterhood which proudly boasts of Congresswomen SHELLA JACKSON LEE, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, TERRI SEWELL, FREDERICA WILSON, ALMA ADAMS, and BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN; astronaut Mae Jemison; the late Maya Angelou; the late civil rights leaders Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King; and their honorable president, Dorothy Buchanan Wilson.

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Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, founded in 1911 at Howard University, men who include in their ranks Assistant House Democratic Leader JAMES CLYBURN of South Carolina, Congressmen HANK JOHNSON, and Kendrick Meek; NASA Administrator Charles Bolden; Hall of Fame Chicago Bulls star Michael Jordan; and Dr. Charles Drew, whose medical research in the field of blood transfusions led to the founding of the Blood Bank. They are led by the Honorable Grand Basileus Antonio F. Knox.

Delta Sigma Theta, founded in 1913 at Howard University, who count as sisters our next Attorney General, Loretta Lynch; Congresswomen MARCIA FUDGE, YVETTE CLARKE, JOYCE BEATTY, and BRENDA LAWRENCE; the first Afri-

can American woman elected to Congress, Shirley Chisolm, one of my sheroes; former Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman; and their Honorable President Paulette C. Walker. Another special shout-out to my bonus daughter, Michelle Mills, and my mentee, Miki Grace.

Phi Beta Sigma, founded in 1914 at Howard University, the fraternity of my husband, Dr. Nathaniel Horn; civil rights pioneer and leader of the first Black labor union, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, A. Philip Randolph; civil rights icon Congressman JOHN LEWIS; Dr. George Washington Carver; James Weldon Johnson, author, politician, and songwriter, whose works include "Lift Every Voice and Sing," the Black national anthem; Alain LeRoy Locke, the first Black Rhodes Scholar; and former President of the United States, William Jefferson Clinton. They are led by President Jonathan A. Mason.

Zeta Phi Beta, founded in 1920 at Howard University, a sisterhood that counts Congresswoman DONNA EDWARDS; the late Congresswoman Julia Carson; author Zora Neale Hurston; Lillian Fishburne, the first African American to hold the rank of Rear Admiral in the U.S. Navy; and their honorable president, Mary Breaux Wright.

Sigma Gamma Rho, my sorority, Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN of Florida, the late Lindy Boggs of Louisiana; Eugenia Charles, first female Prime Minister of Dominica—she was the first woman elected head of government in the Americas; the first African American winner of the Academy Awards, Hattie McDaniel; broadcast trailblazer founder of Radio One, Cathy Hughes; and our esteemed Grand Basileus Bonita Herring.

Last, but certainly not least, Iota Phi Theta, whose brotherhood includes Congressman BOBBY RUSH; Billy Ocasio, former alderman to Chicago's 26th Ward and adviser to former Governor Pat Quinn; and Elvin Hayes, NBA player and NBA Hall of Fame Inductee.

The brothers and sisters of the Divine Nine have saved countless lives, advanced civil rights, and left a lasting legacy across our Nation. I thank the Divine Nine brothers and sisters for their groundbreaking contributions and for their commitment to molding future leaders, improving education, and the advancement of civil rights.

PRESERVING THE AMERICAN  
REPUBLIC

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I believe this debate over the funding for the Department of Homeland Security represents a pivotal moment in the history of the United States because it will, I think, determine whether or not we will continue to be a nation of laws and whether or not we will preserve the

American Republic left to us by our Founders.

I always remember that as Benjamin Franklin left the Constitutional Convention, a woman asked him: What kind of government have you given us, Dr. Franklin? And he said: A republic—if you can keep it. My hero and mentor, Thomas Jefferson, always said that a government was republican only in proportion to the extent that it embodied the will of the people.

This past November, the people of the United States decisively and overwhelmingly rejected the policies of Barack Obama and the Democrat Party. President Obama said: I am not on the ballot, but my policies are. And the country spoke decisively and with one voice from coast to coast and said:

We are done. We want our elected officials to enforce the law. We want our borders secure. We want to ensure that America maintains its supremacy around the world. We want our American economy to continue to grow. We want the government out of our lives, out of our way, out of our pocket, and off our backs.

We have done this in Texas so successfully over the years. Because of the strength and the diversity of our economy in Texas, the economy in Texas has continued to grow, and the people of Texas have elected a Republican Governor, a Republican Lieutenant Governor, a Republican senate, and a Republican house, and they embody the will of the people of Texas.

The minority party in Texas, the Democrats in the senate, continued to block the will of the people of Texas, and the new Lieutenant Governor, Dan Patrick, changed the rules because the people of Texas insisted they wanted to see a government that reflected their will, that would enforce the law, secure the border, and preserve peace and prosperity because we all understand that without law enforcement you can't have good schools, safe streets, and a strong economy. This is just common sense.

The people who live along the Rio Grande River understand better than anybody in Texas that if you don't have a secure border and if you don't enforce the law, then the streets aren't safe, you can't have good schools, and you can't have a strong economy. Laredo is the largest inland port in the United States. They depend more than anyone else on a secure border, safe streets, and good schools.

So the people of Texas decisively rejected the policies of Barack Obama and the Democratic Party, yet the Democrat minority in the senate continued to block the will of the people so our Lieutenant Governor changed the rules.

Mr. Speaker, I would call on Leader MCCONNELL to reflect the will of the people of America and change the rules of the United States Senate just as we did in Texas. The people of America have spoken decisively. They rejected the policies of Barack Obama and the