

throughout their marriage. She was first-lady to John's political career, first as Texas Secretary of State and then as Attorney General. When the family moved to Odessa, Maime got involved with many cultural, philanthropic, and political organizations. She served on the board for the West Texas Rehabilitation Center and founded the Crystal Ball, an annual benefit event. She was also involved as a board member for the Midland-Odessa Symphony, and was tapped by the New York Metropolitan Opera to serve as their West Texas representative.

During Lyndon Johnson's campaign for president in 1964, Maime served as the Chairwoman of the Ladies for Lyndon West Texas committee. She also joined Lady Bird Johnson on the whistle-stop Lady Bird Special train as it toured eight southern states.

Maime's legacy also extends to the University of Texas Permian Basin's library. As the Odessa chairman of the book drive which founded the library in the early 1970s, she helped obtain over 300,000 books to start the collection that students at the University of Texas Permian Basin still use to this day.

Maime's dedication to her many cultural and philanthropic pursuits were admirable, as was the stable and loving home she provided for her family. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Alfred and Honey Shepperd, her daughter and son-in-law, Suzanne and Gary McIntosh, nine grandchildren, and twenty great-grandchildren. Please join me in remembering the extraordinary life of Maime Shepperd.

THE BATTLE WAGES ON: SECURING EQUAL VOTING RIGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 16, 2015*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY for hosting this important Special Order. I appreciate your leadership in organizing today's important discussion.

Last weekend, I had the honor of joining more than one hundred members of Congress, faith leaders and activists, to honor Bloody Sunday and the march from Selma to Montgomery.

We gathered in Selma to celebrate and honor the courage of ordinary Americans willing to face tear gas, billy clubs, and risk their lives to ensure equal treatment under the law.

The march from Selma to Montgomery helped change the course of history. They faced extreme opposition and their actions that day on Edmund Pettus bridge proved that non-violent change is possible.

Ten days after the march from Selma to Montgomery, President Lyndon Johnson sent to Congress the Voting Rights Act of 1965, a cornerstone of our democracy.

In the 50 years since Bloody Sunday, our nation has made significant progress. To deny this progress, as the President mentioned in his speech in Selma, is to rob us of our own agency, our own capacity, and what we can do to make America better.

As we pause to mark this important anniversary and reflect on its effect on history, we

know that the battle for full voting rights wages on.

When the Supreme Court struck down the pre-clearance formula, states can change their election laws without prior federal approval—the ruling gutted the heart of the Voting Rights Act.

The Voting Rights Act pre-clearance requirement afforded millions of voters confidence that roadblocks will not be thrown in their way as they try to exercise their fundamental right to vote.

It provided voters with the knowledge that the federal government can be a backstop against oppressive laws and prevent voter discrimination before it happened.

Now voter suppression is once again rearing its ugly head in the form of registration restrictions, voter ID laws, decreased access to early voting and racially-motivated redistricting that is stopping people from their right to vote.

Now, I was born and raised in Texas and I vividly remember the days of Jim Crow, segregation, and poll taxes.

The tactics being used today may be more subtle; but they serve the same purpose: to prevent Americans from exercising their fundamental right to vote.

Mr. Speaker—Enough is enough.

As the heirs of the civil rights movement, we cannot allow these assaults to stand.

We must be defiant.

We must stand up to those that want to turn back the clock and restrict our right to vote. We have come too far to go back now.

Sadly, voting rights is not the only place that inequality exists.

More than 45 million Americans are still living in poverty. African Americans have a poverty rate that is nearly three times the poverty rate of white Americans.

The 10.4 percent unemployment rate among African Americans is nearly twice the national average.

Discrimination and racial bias remains endemic in our justice system.

We can start to address these issues this year—by working to restore the Voting Rights Act. One hundred members of Congress visited Selma to commemorate Bloody Sunday and as President Obama eloquently stated, we must go back to Washington and gather four hundred more.

We can restore this law by passing a bipartisan bill, H.R. 855, The Voting Rights Amendment Act, which I am a proud cosponsor.

This bill will help undo some of the damage done by the Supreme Court's decision.

Just as Congress acted 50 years ago after the stirring events in Selma, Congress must act today to address the issues facing our nation.

Mr. Speaker—We cannot afford to backslide on the progress we have made.

We cannot afford to lose the prize that our forefathers and mothers fought, bled and died to obtain and preserve.

We must stand together—stronger than ever—to raise our voices, march in the streets, and cast our ballots to demand change.

I am reminded of Dr. King's "Two Americas" speech on April 14th, 1967 at Stanford University, when he said:

We must come to see that social progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and the persistent work of dedicated individuals.

We must rededicate ourselves to persistently working for progress, equality and justice.

The American dream of equality, freedom, liberty, justice and life for all can and should be more than just words.

It should be a promise to all Americans, regardless of the color of their skin or where they were born.

SECRET SCIENCE REFORM ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 18, 2015*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1030) to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible:

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chair, I would like to submit the following quotes and excerpts:

Representative PETE WELCH in a press release dated February 14th, 2008 stated "President Bush needs to dust off this copy of the Constitution. Congress has a constitutional obligation to conduct oversight of the executive branch and we will not shrink from this responsibility" in regards to his yes vote of contempt against George W. Bush's administration officials, Harriet Miers and Josh Bolten.

Representative JOHN CONYERS (D-MI), then chairman of the Judiciary Committee, after announcing the committee vote on contempt on February 13th, 2008 stated "if the executive branch can disregard Congressional subpoenas in this way, we no longer have a system of checks." He goes on further to pose a question during an oversight hearing with Mr. Gonzales, the senior Senator from Pennsylvania on July 24th, 2007, "Do you think the constitutional government in the United States can survive if the president has the unilateral authority to reject Congressional inquiries?"

In a letter dated June 13th, 2008, Henry A. Waxman, then chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee informed the Honorable Susan E. Dudley, then the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, "I regret that your failure to produce responsive documents has created this impasse, but Congress has a constitutional duty to conduct oversight of the executive branch. Therefore, unless the documents are provided to the Committee or a valid assertion of executive privilege is made, the Committee will meet on June 20 to consider a resolution citing you in contempt. I strongly urge you to reconsider your position and comply with the duly issued subpoena."

Henry A. Waxman further goes on to state in a letter dated June 13th, 2008, on behalf of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to the Honorable Stephen L. Johnson that "the documents reviewed by the Committee also indicate that the rulemaking was drafted through an insufficiently open process, that regional technical staff were given only the briefest opportunity to comment, and that even the strongest objections of the staff were disregarded." Furthermore, Representative