when Jamie Raskin announced his campaign for congress in 2015 he said my ambition is not to be in the political Center it is to be in the moral Center throughout his career Congressman Raskin has led with his values from co-founding the Marshall Brennan constitutional literacy project to fighting for marriage equality and tirelessly advocating for civil liberties he safeguards our rights and stands up for a marginalized communities in the aftermath of the January 6th attack on Howard democracy outrageous in investigating the roots of that National tragedy for this we honor Congressman Jamie Raskin an extraordinary public servant and unrelenting defender of democracy [Music] [Applause] [Music]

please welcome back to the stage the president and CEO of the Truman Center for National policy Jenna Ben Yehuda

Jenna: how are we doing so [Music] you're still with us it's not a Truman conference without hundreds if not thousands of gallons of coffee we Supply it it's it's your obligation to drink it so thank you for sticking with us what a day huh

[Applause] and I learned some things about Geneva Wisconsin that I never knew and maybe wish I didn't but a cautionary tale to be sure and a good reminder that history is all around us um speaking of history that was a fantastic conversation between Ambassador Thomas Greenfield and jonquilin thank you so much again Jonathan

uh and a and the entire assistant uh the entire team at Vox for partnering with us uh this is year two together working with Vox uh and they've been tremendous um we are not done with Ambassador Thomas Greenfield yet uh because now we get to what is one of I think the most special uh and cherished parts of our true con tradition which is the presentation of our award for exceptional moral courage in public service every year at true con we give this award to
recognize a public servant whose values have led them to do what's right even when doing so might have been unpopular or posed personal risk we've been thrilled to present this award to Lieutenant Colonel now retired Alexander vinman Washington D.C mayor Muriel Bowser and last year to our very own United States ambassador to the United Nations Ambassador Linda Thomas Greenfield our tradition which makes for a very challenging scheduling as you might imagine is for the previous recipient to present the award to the newest honoree and we're very glad to continue that tradition this year so without further Ado let me welcome back again to the stage Ambassador Thomas Greenfield [Applause] thank you

LTG: I can't really see you all with all this light let me uh thank president Ben Yehuda for that re introduction you know I was honored last year to receive this prestigious uh award at the time from mayor Bowser it really was it was a true honor it is now my great honor to pass the Baton of the Truman award for exceptional moral courage in public service to representative Jamie Raskin representative Raskin Raskin has one of the most remarkable careers in public service in this country's history for more than 25 years he served as a constitutional law professor at American University there he taught some of our nation's brightest Minds The nitty-gritty details of the highest laws of our land he also co-founded co-founded the Marshall Brennan constitutional literacy project which now boasts 20 chapters around the country all working with high school to students to teach them about their constitutional rights and he served as state senator in Maryland for a decade where he took on issues of Statewide importance from the death penalty to the fight to legalize same-sex marriage representative Raskin was elected to congress in 2016 and his meteoric rise afterwards was born not from ambition but from a deep sense of service this personal and political trauma colada then personal and political trauma collided Jamie lost his remarkable 25 year old son Tommy to depression the day after Tommy's burial January 6. 2021 Jamie was in the Capitol with one of his daughters and his son-in-law when the interactionists attacked the title of raskin's book on the subject sum it up in one word unthinkable and yet raskin was armed with Tommy's Last Words his Specific Instructions to look after each other the animals and the global poor and that is exactly what the congressman has done in fact he has been one of our country's most prominent and Powerful Defenders of democracy and all the good it does in the world as the lead impeachment manager for the Senate trial of president Trump Rankin brought together a sober compelling and dutiful case he took the time to lay out the facts and not only ensured the public knew exactly what happened but gave us the gift of the truth so that we could process and heal for his Brave efforts to stand up for the Constitution and everything we hold dear the New Yorker declared him person of the year representative Raskin has continued that work on the United States House select committee on the January 6 attack bringing his deep constitutional expertise to bear on the role of far-rights extremists and incite the coup on our capital as if this were not enough late last year Jaime was diagnosed with lymphoma we would have understood if he had said enough was enough that he had served his country well and that he needed to focus on healing but Jamie kept serving after the
chemotherapy took his hair he kept showing up asking questions holding investigations writing legislation and serving his constituents all in his fashionable bandanas he has one on today and we were all relieved and grateful when last month he rang the bell and announced the cancer was in remission he's giving my hand Appliance [Applause]

last year during my own acceptance speech for this award I said that the greatest challenges inspired the greatest courage I can think of no one who has faced greater challenges or who has inspired greater courage than Jamie Rankin Raskin Jamie I admire you so much you are bravery in human form and it is truly a privilege to present you with this award

[Applause]

[Music]

[Applause] s

[Music]

[Applause] thank you guys

**Jamie Raskin:**

well Ambassador Thomas Greenfield thank you for those lovely remarks and I want to thank the Truman Center for this high honor um and um I am moved beyond measure and certainly Beyond justification to receive this award uh but I must confess that I'm filled with [Music] I didn't know if the hecklers of the music was going to get me first I've uh um but um I I'm filled with some dissenting thoughts that I just wanted to articulate uh by way of accepting this award and the the first is that in an existential and psychological sense um I didn't really experience myself as having any choice in doing the things that I did in the kind stories that the Ambassador told I felt much more a sense of um historical and political and psychological necessity and inevitability and the thought of courage didn't really come to mind and I suppose I walk around with the values that I was raised with and I was educated on as we all do and my dad used to say to us kids when we were growing up when everything looks hopeless you're the hope and so what you generously describe is courage might be better described as guilt or perhaps a certain kind of Civic self-respect or maybe even more extravagantly a certain kind of pride in our democracy and our Constitution and a sense of indignation that people would purport to trample them um but more fundamentally I I think that moral courage in political life is far better seen in Collective terms than individual terms and I do see extraordinary courage in the work of uh the January 6 committee and our amazing staff in the 232 Democratic and Republican members of the House of Representatives who assembled to vote to impeach Donald Trump for inciting a violent Insurrection against the union one week after our chamber was stormed and the nine members of the House impeachment team who went over to the Senate and worked through
the rights to deliver the evidence of that high crime and misdemeanor and then the 57 Democratic and Republican members of the Senate who delivered the most sweeping bipartisan vote in American history to convict a president for committee in crimes against the Republic and above all I see real moral and political courage in the civilizing movements of American history in the millions of people who fought for all of the moral progress that's codified and built into the fabric of our constitution if you read the Constitution the way that I do then the vast majority of the Amendments we've had since the original Bill of Rights were democratizing suffrage extending civilizing amendments to the Constitution so the 13th amendment abolished slavery in the 14th amendment gave us equal protection and due process and the 15th amendment banned race discrimination and voting in the 17th Amendment shifted the mode of election of our senators from the legislatures to the people and the 19th Amendment doubled the franchise in America by giving women the right to vote and the 23rd Amendment gave people here in Washington D.C the right to participate at least in presidential elections the 24th amendment banned poll taxes in our elections in the 26th amendment lowered the voting age to 18 in the country so the overwhelming trajectory of our national determination embodied in the Preamble of the Constitution to form a more perfect union has been

towards This Magnificent progress making us the world's greatest Multicultural multiracial multi-ethnic multi-religious constitutional democracy on the planet Earth that's who we are and you can read the record of it the chronicle of it in the Constitution itself and I would go further and I would follow Lincoln in saying that the nation began not really with the Constitution which was flawed in many ways because of the Fateful compromise at the beginning with slavery but rather with the Declaration of Independence which set forth the unalienable rights of the people the radical principle of the democratic consent of the governed and then the founding idea that all men and we would say today women are created equal and if we ask in what sense all of us are created equal when we know some are born wealthy and some are born impossible first and some are born in great mansions and some are born homeless and some are born tall and some are born short with all of these different social and natural endowments in what sense are we all born equal well we are all born equal in terms of our moral capacity all of us can choose to do good or to do evil all of us can choose to stand with the small D Democrats of the world or with the autocrats the kleptocrats the plutocrats and the theocrats all of us can choose to act with solidarity and compassion or with cruelty and snobbery and indifference all of us can choose whether to advance a public philosophy which says that government must be an instrument of the common good in every society or the government should be an instrument for private self-enrichment for the people who get into public office and for their families and for their friends and for their political self-entrenchment I know a story about Jimmy Hoffa which my dad once told me which really crystallizes this point about the necessity of moral choice and Hoffa you know was subpoenaed to go before the uh the Senate subcommittee on racketeering and organized crime and I think it was uh uh Bobby Kennedy Who was the uh one of the
councils on the committee who said to him something to the effect of well you know Mr Hoffa you know that as the the president of the International Brotherhood of teamsters and the Secretary General of the Mid-Atlantic Teamsters pension fund and all of these offices that a man of your great office and power is capable of doing both very great good and very great evil and Hoffa leaned into his microphone and he said I intend to live up to both of my responsibilities uh and um so it's up to us you know are we going to live up to our responsibilities to do good and evil or just our responsibility to do good and this is what matters and this is why we are all in fact in our great country created equal we get to choose [Music] um finally the talk of moral courage makes me a little uncomfortable as an elected official because everyone understands how the complexity of making political choices in a radically unjust and violent world and the structural necessity of making short-term legislative compromises and the long-term demands of active moral engagement and social progress Collide constantly every day in our public life none of us can get it right every time and it's often impossible even to fully understand the moral consequences and meanings of our actions until long after they've taken place to act in politics is by definition to take responsibility not only for advancing your ideals but also for trying to confront in different ways the many threads of Injustice and cruelty that make up the fabric of our world and I'll give you an example of this I'm a member of Congress who's been an art and champion of the people of Ukraine in their extra ordinary struggle to defend their National sovereignty and their democracy against the Lawless and bloody Imperial aggression of Vladimir Putin and I believe that the democratic nations and movements of the world and everyone supporting freedom and human rights in the rule of law have a deep interest in repelling and ending Russia's atrocity-filled aggression against the Ukrainian people Ukraine must win in its struggle for freedom and democracy today we are all invested in that and I've strongly advocated and voted for every form of assistance to Ukraine economic Financial military security strategic humanitarian diplomatic and most of it has been in the form of military and security assistance billions of dollars to fight a just and defensive war against Putin's bloody attack on the people of Ukraine and yet the fact that I'm a passionate Champion for president zielinski in Ukraine's side in Putin's War does not mean that I favor the unjust Wars that we have fought and initiated like the war in Iraq which was built on lies it caused hundreds of thousands of casualties it cost the American people more than a trillion dollars and it expanded the power of the tyrannical crafts of Iran not just in Iraq but throughout the region so the fact that I favor military and strategic assistance to Ukraine against Putin's Invasion does not mean I support a blank check for what President Eisenhower called the military industrial complex and I have repeatedly voted against military budgets that are bloated opaque filled with waste and fraud and are far removed from the defense of the land the people and the allies of the United States in this sense if you believe um
if you believe in just Wars of Defense as I do but you also understand as our Founders did the dangers to Liberty posed by bellicose militarism and Imperial aggression then intellectual honesty compels us to articulate the fact that war remains a dangerous threat to humanity and that war as I hope Vladimir Putin is coming to realize every single day doesn't really work anymore as an instrument of social domination of other people's much less as an instrument of effective policy making if it ever did but the difficulty of acting effectively and unjustly in a world still beset by frightful violence and militarism does not make our ethical imperatives and guideposts Irrelevant in politics or in the conduct of foreign and domestic policy and defense policy on the contrary it makes these principles absolutely Central when I first got into politics back in 2006 I was running for the state senate and I went out on my front porch in a sub-freezing January morning and I laid out everything that I wanted to do like past marriage equality abolished the death penalty in our state pass America's first national popular vote law decriminalize marijuana and enact tough anti-drunk driving laws and a woman came up to me afterwards and she said Jamie I loved your speech great speech but one thing take out everything you've got in there about gay marriage because it's not going to happen it's never going to happen even the gay candidates don't talk about it and it makes you sound like you're really extreme like you're not in the political Center and this was a an early Moment of Truth for me in my first campaign because um this kind woman had been standing for an hour in freezing cold weather and I certainly didn't want to offend her I didn't have that many attendees with me that day uh at my kickoff rally and my three kids were there and I remember my son Tommy looking at me to see how I would answer and I sort of had an epiphany at that moment I said you know I want to thank you for telling me that because it made me realize it's not my ambition to be in the political Center which blows around with the wind it's my ambition to be in the moral Center and that's why I call myself a progressive our job [Applause] our job is to find what's right the best that we can and then to bring the political Center to us and that's my vision of what politics is in that campaign um my favorite story is when I first announced one of the local political commentators from our local newspaper in Montgomery County said that raskin's chances of Victory are considered impossible because I was running against a 32-year incumbent who was the president pro tem of the Senate and the boss of our local political machine and he said the raskins chances of Victory are considered impossible and nine months later we got 67 percent of the vote and there was another article in the Washington Post quoting a pundit who said raskin’s victory was inevitable uh because the pundits are never wrong you know so we went from impossible to inevitable in nine months but I like to tell the young people in our democracy program a democracy summer program that in politics nothing's impossible nothing's inevitable everything is just possible through the Democratic Arts of education and organizing and mobilizing people for change and I was delighted that when I went to the state senate and I spent a decade there we were able to get done every single thing that I said I wanted to participate in uh in announcing my candidacy and then I ran for Congress and I was elected the same night Donald Trump was elected president of the United States and I came to Congress and I’m very proud of the things that our majority
accomplished in the 117th Congress like the bipartisan infrastructure Act and the inflation reduction act and dramatic reductions in the cost of prescription drugs and the Medicare program and a record historic investment in climate action and all of that but the truth is for most of my time since I've assumed federal office I've been involved in the work of Defending constitutional democracy defending the rule of law defending the freedoms contained in the Bill of Rights and so in politics sometimes you play offense and sometimes you play defense but the key thing is not to be shy about your convictions I once had a very brief conversation with Carl rusa Virginia who was the manager of the in Rwanda the subject of the movie Hotel Rwanda about the Hutu genocide against the Tutsis that took place back in 1994 and he was he and his family were responsible for saving more than a thousand people's lives and I got the chance to ask him a question and I said you know what was the difference between you and the people who didn't act to Shield people and protect people during the course of the genocide and he said the answer just astonished me I've never been able to forget it he said a lot of people walk around with guilt and shame about something that they've done in their past and that makes them feel that they can't do anything good in the present it paralyzes them but I realized although I had done some things I wasn't proud of in my life that I still had the power to act to help a lot of people now you don't have to be perfect in order to do good what a powerful lesson that is how many people do feel disabled by virtue of something that they've done in the past or something that's happened to them and what he was saying was you can't let that stand in the way of your doing the things that the world needs you to do now I came across a passage in Rousseau's confessions which Echoes this thought he said how often audacity and pride are on the side of the guilty and shame and embarrassment are on the side of the innocent so don't be overly ashamed and embarrassed just because you're one of the good people and you did something wrong once or something bad happened to you we need you out there fighting hard Ben Franklin said if you make yourself a sheep the Wolves will eat you know don't make yourself a sheep Fight Hard for the achievements of civilization fight hard for the achievements of constitutional and political Democracy in America it's not incumbent upon you to finish the work the Mishra says but neither are you free to evade it I'll close with the words of two great Americans one a marylander Frederick Douglass born about an hour away from here on a slave plantation at the Y River Plantation and he escaped from slavery to become one of America's great Freedom Fighters a leader through the Civil War and the Reconstruction and Douglas said if there's no struggle there's no progress the struggle may be moral or material or moral and material but there must be struggle power concedes nothing without a demand it never has and it never will so there's a message to you from a great marylander from the 19th century and I'll leave you with the words of the great Tom Payne a moral Visionary a globetrotting democratic Patriot who had some things in his background he wasn't proud of but he went on to write the pamphlet that would take America by storm and kick off the American Revolution he arrived in our country just two years before the Revolution and fell in love with the promise of America you know he said that America if it realized its Destiny he said would become an asylum to humanity not an insane asylum mind you uh but a place of Refuge for
people fleeing from political religious and economic oppression from all over the world but in 1776 when the Revolution was happening and you know people weren’t sure whether you could really make Democratic self-government work whether you could really found a nation based on the idea of the rights of the people instead of the divine right of kings and so pain in this pamphlet called the crisis wanted to write something that would give people heart that would encourage them so I'm just going to update the language a little bit at the instruction of former speaker Nancy Pelosi because she said that Tom Payne was a feminist in that he was and he wouldn't mind so but he wrote these words he said these are the times that try men and women Souls the summer Soldier and the Sunshine Patriot will shrink at this moment from the service of their cause in their country but everyone that stands with us now will win the love and favor and affection of every man and every woman for all time tyranny like hell is not easily conquered but we have this saving consolation the more difficult the struggle the more glorious in the end will be our Victory so let's make that Victory hours and thank you very much [Applause]

[Music] thank you

yes

Congressman Raskin thank you you have as the saying goes taken us to church and synagogue and maybe also to law school a little bit this afternoon with your remarks well they say you can take the law professor out of the classroom but you know and and I got here without the LSAT so thank you for that um and also for I mean this is constituent Services if I've ever seen it so as a Montgomery County resident uh also thank you for being here um we get to have a conversation here for a few minutes and we'll invite all of you to join in uh and

so you've got hopefully a really good question you've been thinking about today because we had an earlier panel on political polarization we have members in the Truman Community who themselves are fighting neo-nazis online and in person and bringing them to court and

there are a lot of nasty folks kicking around out there it turns out and extremism feels closer than it has for many of us in our lifetimes in just in Montgomery County we've talked about all the swastikas that appear constantly it seems and it feels like a part certainly of the day job of State local and National electives so you talked a little bit about some of the legacy of History what do you say to people about where to start when it feels so big so thank you for the question the first thing is that um you know when I went to college we were taught about American exceptionalism you know and um having lived through January 6th and seen what the plans were for staging a political coup against the election overturning the election and having seen the violent Insurrection and people chanting hang Mike Pence hang Mike Pence and where's Nancy and so on um I I came to believe that what I learned about American exceptionalism was wrong America is not exceptional because we’re immune to Fascism or we're immune to racism I think this is Rachel maddow's Point America's exceptional just
because we have ideals that were articulated even in the breach at the beginning and have been articulated through successive social and political movements insisting that this is a country that belongs to everybody that's what makes us so exceptional and you know I've been thinking about courage ever since you guys um you know sent me your letter and um I was checking out John F Kennedy's profiles of Courage and there's kind of a myth that runs through that book and the myth is that people only show conviction or courage when they're going against the grain of the majority so every case that he had of a senator or representative who was a paragon of Courage was somebody who went against their party and I agree that that can be one demonstration of Courage but I think it I think that we need to praise people who act with conviction uh and courage even when they go with the majority the vast majority of the American people reject Insurrection and treason and violent coups against the government and we need people standing up for the majority against the tyranny of the minority today and that's something um

you know because there there were lots of threats against different people a lot of my colleagues and that's not to take anything away from uh you know Liz Cheney or Adam kinsiger who showed extra conviction and uh extra courage in what they did but everybody who stands up for democracy and human rights and law you know should um should be should be embraced for doing that and so I you know I think that we have to uh use the word fascism because it's obviously a loose uh all over the world today um with all of its attendance ideological

um you know viruses racism and anti-Semitism and misogyny and all those things are are out there but that gives us all the opportunity to go and fight for the things that we believe in every single day and you know I tell the young people they're growing up in a much tougher time

than I grew up in much tougher but they also have the opportunity to prove their love for the things they believe in

just recently we started getting some convictions some sentencing big news um surrounding the January 6th Insurrection of course can you talk a little bit about especially in your role having served as impeachment manager what these convictions mean for the conversation and where it goes from here and why they're so important well um the convictions are remarkable hundreds and hundreds of convictions now more than a thousand cases brought they show that the American system of justice and the rule of law and the presumption of innocence and proof of guilt Beyond a reasonable doubt before of your jury of your peers Works our justice system works in America and you know there are people who would like to say that um and you know who they are I don't have to name them well it's all political it's whether it's my judge or your judge a Democrat judge a republican judge and all that all that stuff's out the window our justice system is working in these cases which is why people are so vehemently denouncing them
that's one thing it proves and the other thing I think it proves um is the the complete nonsense of claims being made about the Second Amendment now why do I say that because pretty much every day that we have any discussion about gun violence or the most recent gun Massacre or the Second Amendment I've got colleagues who get up and they say the purpose of the Second Amendment is to allow the people of the United States to overthrow the government and everybody knows that that's the purpose of the Second Amendment even though the Second Amendment doesn't say anything about Insurrection or Rebellion or revolution none of that stuff is in the Second Amendment all it says is a well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state comma the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed and oftentimes my colleagues will get up and say Raskin wants us to repeal the Second Amendment no I don't want them to repeal the Second Amendment I just want them to read the Second Amendment that's all I'm asking for but but that they will go on and say but that's the whole meaning of our constitution well you know I don't have time to get into all of it now but let me just give you a few counter examples that also support the fact that we have hundreds of these convictions and not a single one thrown out on the grounds that they had a right to overthrow the government they had a Second Amendment right to engage in Insurrection but look at article one section 8 Clause 15. the Congress has the power to call forth the militias from the states in order to repel invasions and suppress insurrections that's right there in the Constitution itself the Republican guarantee Clause the Congress shall guarantee to the people of the states a republican form of government and assist the states in suppressing domestic violence and repelling invasions the treason clause which says that treason show consist of levying war against the United States well what is in violent Insurrection where you come and attack our officers and put them in the hospital if not love anymore against us but if they have some counter example to that and the only one I get from them is well Patrick Henry said Give me liberty or give me death which was a nice slogan by a Virginian Anti-Federalist who voted against the Constitution but otherwise has nothing to do with constitutional interpretation um but if they've got some argument why is it that none of these people has had his or her indictment quashed or their conviction thrown out on the grounds that they've got a right to overthrow the government then they say well what about the Declaration which says you know when in the course of human events if a government turns tyrannical you can overthrow them absolutely right I agree completely with that as a matter of natural law it says Thomas Jefferson we did not cite the Magna Carta or the British constitution to say we have the right to overthrow you if you want to appeal to the decent opinions of mankind as Jefferson did you want to pledge your fortune and your uh your livelihood and your lives to other people in common cause and trying to overthrow a tyrant you can do it but you do it on your own time in your own time and if you attack our Constitution and our government and attack our police officers and we catch you and you don't win you're going to jail in the United States of America okay [Applause] well the lunchroom must be a really interesting place uh at the office no doubt um we have some questions in the audience and we have some mic runners uh who were going to do their Duty here
good afternoon thank you so much for being here and thank you for all you do my question is as we head towards 2024 and the rhetoric is already going up and it looks like we potentially could be heading towards a Biden versus Trump again what gives you hope that there's not going to be a January 6th again or that we don't have you know I come from Michigan where we've got very close to not having ballot certified even before getting to the Capitol so what gives you hope and then there's a whole room here of people that want to protect democracy so what can we do as we lead to 2024 to make sure that we do not allow that to happen well thank you um you know what gives me hope is the people in this room what gives me hope is every bit out in America who's fighting for democracy and the majority of the people absolutely favor democracy which is why the people who want to overthrow elections have to use things like gerrymandering of our state and federal districts uh you know illegitimate uh right-wing judicial activism voter suppression manipulation of the Antiquated Electoral College which I do think is Obsolete and by the way defending democracy doesn't mean defending uh democracy just as it is it means making sure that democracy is moving forward it's always an unfinished product it's always a work in progress and you know how about in the 21st century we elect the president the way we elect Governors Senators Mayors and everybody else whoever gets the most votes wins uh because the the electoral college today is not just in undemocratic institution which has given us five popular vote losers in our history as president twice in this Century alone in 2002 16 2016. it's dangerous and we saw that on January 6. so what gives me hope that we're not going to have it what gives me hope is our resolve and determination not to let it happen we learned a lot of lessons about fortifying the capital and we made some improvements in the Electoral count act but remember it's not going to repeat itself in exactly the same way that it happened last time there will be other efforts to suppress the vote to pull a fast one in the state legislatures to flip a result from one candidate to another and so we need to fortify American political democracy at every level local County state federal uh all of it and the the people who are fighting for that are would give me hope and I'm convinced that we are still in the thick of this struggle as you clearly imply I would like to think it was over I mean you know we had 57 votes in the Senate which sounds like a pretty resounding majority but he beat the Constitutional spread I mean it was 10 votes short of the two-thirds we needed the 67 so we're plunged back into it again and it's not it's not a pretty sight but um you know the more difficult the struggle the more glorious will be our Victory when we get through

I'll turn to our mic Runners here

good afternoon my name is Sean Cooper I'm over here with my with my hand um You cast an amazing vision for what you see America bring to to the citizens in in this country but I also lived in Alabama for four years and I met many people there who do not see that and don't see the benefit uh coming to them and those people probably aren't going to listen to the things that you have to say but if they did for 10 20 seconds what would you tell them so I'm sorry which people
are you referring to uh the ones who don't see the benefits of a Democratic Society who use terms like swamp and so on and so forth yeah well you know but what I liked about Rachel maddow's presentation was she was showing that we've made all of this extraordinary Democratic progress in America even though there have been those at every Point who have tried to stop us uh you know who've tried to violate civil liberties and prevent these expansions of the franchise and political participation so um you know I would talk to them uh about our magnificent history but if it doesn't work with them I'm not going to spend too much time on it I'll talk to their kids because I have a lot of faith in the Young Generation today which is you know Way Beyond the racism and anti-Semitism and the homophobia in the Immigrant bashing they're also a little bit beyond grammar too at this point that's a different problem you know uh that's a small price to pay for their values which are great and I and I I think that you know there's huge generational change Coming to America and I feel you know now my kids are in their 20s and uh uh you know I turned 60 I know you know that's that's young at least in some parts of Congress you know uh but uh but um uh but you know I I feel our job to speak for myself and my friends and our generation I mean our job is to defend what we've got and to get the Democracy moving again in the right direction um because uh you know while we're fighting over things that we thought had been settled in the last century about fascism and authoritarianism and repression um the fact is that really the world should be unifying in dealing with the nightmare of climate change and the young people understand that that's we've you know we've got to save democracy first so we can save the species and the climate in this century and we don't have a lot of time so we've got to act fast and you know we should not give up on anybody as you're suggesting we should reach out to everybody but if it's taking too much time we got to talk to other people because we just need majorities every place you know um and I'll tell you one funny story because I've got a friend who who I love uh who I was in Congress congress with the first term named Lamar Smith from Texas and he was chair of the committee on science and technology and so I spotted him as a republican I could be friends with because he was chair of the committee on science and you know that not everybody believes in science where I work and uh so uh but one day we were sitting on the floor uh we were in our committee and I said to him you know Lamar um like you know we can disagree about taxes and stuff but when we get down to it you guys have got to get serious about climate change because it's the whole future of our civilization and our species we're talking about he said well Jamie you got you've got your scientists and we got our scientists and I said well that's not really how science works you know it's not like rival party teams uh and um I said let's go to the we had a computer there I said let's go to all the websites of the great scientific installations and Maryland's beautiful eighth congressional district so we went to the NOAA website and FDA website and NIH and I said all of the professional scientists agree that climate change is real and it's this dagger appointed at the neck of humanity as well you know let me let me tell you about uh professionals professionals built the uh Titanic amateurs built Noah's Ark okay so I thought about that for a second and I was like um wait does that mean you know you want amateurs flying you back to
Texas this weekend or performing heart surgery on someone so um you know some of this at this point like is just rooted in ideology and Parties By the way um I think Lamar um has developed in his thinking about climate change a lot which is really good and he he sent me a campaign contribution when he left Congress too so um so and he knows where I am on climate so I do think that you know in the sweep of American History everybody's going to come most everybody I mean not the proud boys and The Oath Keepers and you know people convicted of um you know seditious conspiracy against the government we're not going to convince them but the vast majority of the people are coming along that's got to make us happy you know that's got to make you happy and well we're it's just a race between the very clear will of the majority and some Antiquated political institutions and practices that we've got well that's an excellent reminder and an inspiring note on which to close that there are people out there a lot of them in this room fighting for this work and that progress is our history and we have a lot of work to do thank you so much [Applause]

foreign

let's get another round of applause for Congressman Raskin

[Applause] truly a champion for Truman values and a congressional Mensch if there ever were one thank you so much for being here with us today um folks we've had a very full day here and I don't want to stand between you and freedom so I will be brief and really just say thank you for being here for the good questions for engaging uh for introducing yourselves to each other for connecting and let's give it up for our tremendous day that we've had today [Applause] I learned early in my career always be nice to the guys on the mics we've got a great team here with Scott Circle and our production team

Jasmine who has been a total star working backstage there are a lot of folks who you haven't seen because everything has worked so smoothly and we appreciate them our amazing trim and staff thank you