

# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1504

February 6, 2019

Madam Speaker,

On January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the House of Representatives considered H.Res. 41, a resolution rejecting white nationalism and white supremacy as hateful expressions of intolerance that are contradictory to the values that define the people of the United States. I voted for the resolution because it cited accurately the misquote of my words by The New York Times and because I wholeheartedly agree with the rejection of white nationalism and white supremacy.

I write today to emphatically correct the quote once again to align with what I actually stated to The New York Times reporter and on the floor of the House of Representatives. As I stated on the House floor, what I actually said was “‘White nationalist, white supremacist— (there is a dash here as a pause) Western civilization, how did that language become offensive? Why did I sit in classes teaching me about the merits of our history and civilization’—that is the end of the quote—just to watch ‘Western civilization’ become a derogatory term in political discourse today?”

According to my actual words, the question “how did that language become offensive?” clearly referred only to the term “Western Civilization”. I was not asking how the terms white nationalist and white supremacist have become offensive. If there is any doubt as to the accuracy of this accounting, I would direct you to the CSPAN video of my floor remarks from that day, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

As the descendant of abolitionists and Union soldiers who fought and died to purge this land of the crime of human slavery, I well know why certain terms—such as white nationalist and white supremacist—are offensive. And I always have and always will reject them completely.

I stipulate that the record reflect precisely my words, which are those of a man who loves his country and all its people and will continue to work for the betterment of our society for all Americans, who are all endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights and are equal under the law.

