

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF COLLEEN K. PHILLIPS UPON HER ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE OHIO AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 22, 2021*

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colleen K. Phillips of Hamler, Ohio, upon her election as President of the Ohio American Legion Auxiliary. Colleen Phillips's work has had a lasting influence on the American Legion Auxiliary and her community. She has proven herself as a leader and an advocate for countless veterans and their families across the state of Ohio.

Colleen has been a member of the Warren L. McIntire, Hamler American Legion Post 262 for forty-three years. Her hard work and dedication helped establish the junior auxiliary at Hamler. Over the course of her career, she has held almost every office for the Auxiliary at the local, county, district, and state levels. Prior to this position, Colleen served as the Auxiliary's First Vice President for the past two years.

The mission of the American Legion Auxiliary of Ohio is to "honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families". Members of the Auxiliary strive to advocate for veterans, educate citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism and peace. As President, Colleen will engage in monthly meetings, prepare newsletters, perform outreach for the community, and support the annual Buckeye Girls State program. Colleen has established challenging goals for the organization she plans to work towards during her year-long presidency.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Colleen Phillips on her assumption of duties as President of the Ohio American Legion Auxiliary and thanking her for service to our state. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I wish Colleen all the best as president and in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. THEODORE ROOSEVELT LILLY, JR.

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 22, 2021*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Theodore "Ted" Roosevelt Lilly, Jr. A beloved member of our community, Mr. Lilly's life was marked by an unwavering commitment to spreading kindness and goodwill in the town of Oakboro, North Carolina.

A lifelong resident of Oakboro, Mr. Lilly took a unique and selfless approach to serving his

community. Aside from his brief work with Stanly Knitting Mills, Mr. Lilly never maintained formal or paid employment. Instead, he chose to serve the members of his community by spreading joy and benevolence. Every day for at least the last 30 years, Mr. Lilly walked through town to visit every business and talk with customers and employees. If he happened to miss an employee, he would return to the same business later that day to speak with the individual. While walking, he made it a goal to extend a friendly welcome to any passersby he encountered. Such dedication earned Mr. Lilly the title "Ambassador of Oakboro" and made him a household name among residents.

Mr. Lilly's steadfast commitment to building relationships with those in his community was undeterred. He extended great personal sacrifice by risking his own health and safety to complete his daily rounds. His family members often had to prevent him from walking in inclement weather, and he consistently ignored any pain associated with his kidney failure or diabetes in the process of completing his walks.

Mr. Lilly passed away on October 19, 2021, and my thoughts and prayers are with his family and all who knew and loved him. I join our entire community in gratitude as we honor his extraordinary life.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring the life and legacy of Mr. Ted Lilly.

IN RECOGNITION OF TINA BALLARD

**HON. JENNIFER WEXTON**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 22, 2021*

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Ms. Tina Ballard on her retirement and thank her for 30 years of dedicated federal service. Most recently, she served as the Executive Director of the Commission, an independent federal agency responsible for directing and managing the AbilityOne® Program through which federal activities purchase products and services from nonprofit agencies associated with National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and SourceAmerica®. AbilityOne Program procurements provide high quality products and services needed for the operation of the Federal Government while providing employment and training opportunities for tens of thousands of people who are blind or have other significant disabilities.

She served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Policy and Procurement) as the Army's principal acquisition and procurement policy authority for all Army acquisition programs, responsible for the management and execution of the Army's contracting function worldwide.

As Functional Chiefs Representative for the Army Contracting and Acquisition Career Program, Ms. Ballard was responsible for the re-

cruitment, training, education, and professional development of the contracting professionals who are part of the Army's acquisition workforce and industrial base policy.

As Director of Combat Support Operations and the Deputy Executive Director of Contract Management Operations in the Defense Contract Management Agency, she managed agency policy in multiple theatres of military operations.

Ballard joined the Federal service as a Stay-in-School and continued her service as a college Cooperative (Co-op) Education student. Upon graduation, she began as Contract Specialist and Procuring Contracting Officer with the Aeronautical Systems Division, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. She later transferred to Air Force Plant Representative Office, Boeing Military Airplanes, Wichita, Kansas where she was the Principal Administrative Contracting Officer and the Director of Contract Operations.

In 1994, Tina Ballard became the Director of Pacific/Caribbean Contract Operations in DCMA International, where she served as a liaison to the Air Force Materiel Command for four years with responsibility for more than 200 personnel located in six countries. In January 1999, she accepted an assignment in the Office of the Secretary of Defense where she led several projects for the Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Ballard received her B.A. in English (1980), a M.S. in Management (1989), and a M.S. in National Resource Strategy (2001). She has completed the Industrial College of the Armed Forces Senior Acquisition Course and Leadership for a Democratic Society at the Federal Executive Institute. Ballard has received the Office of the Secretary of Defense Award for Excellence, two DLA Meritorious Civilian Service Awards, and Department of the Army Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service (2008), Department of the Army Outstanding Civilian Service Medal (2003) and named the Federal Executive Association Unsung Heroine.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions Ms. Tina Ballard has made over the course of her career to the military, the commonwealth, and the country. On behalf of a grateful Nation, we wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

STOP THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE MUSSELS ACT

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 22, 2021*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I reintroduced the "Stop the Spread of Invasive Mussels Act," along with my colleague, Congressman MARK AMODEI (R-NV). Our bipartisan bill would authorize federal land management agencies to take proven, commonsense

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

measures to prevent the proliferation of invasive species in our nation's waterways and surface water infrastructure like reservoirs.

Specifically, our bipartisan bill targets the inadvertent introduction by recreational boating of invasive species from one federal reservoir to another. I thank former Congressman Ben McAdams (D-UT) for sponsoring this bill last Congress, which I have now taken over and improved. I also want to thank the following organizations for endorsing our bill: Western Governors' Association, National Wildlife Federation, National Marine Manufacturers Association, American Sportfishing Association, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, and Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Invasive species not only crowd out native wildlife but also cause billions of dollars in avoidable damage to our nation's critical water infrastructure, particularly in western states like California. In the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, I have seen the damage caused by invasive water hyacinth so dense you can literally walk on water. Proliferate quagga and zebra mussels clog water pipelines, reduce the capacity of canals, and damage dam operations for hydropower, water storage, and flood control. In 2007, California's Department of Water Resources detected invasive quagga mussels in the State Water Project and the Colorado River Aqueduct, which supply water for communities in southern California. All it takes for these mussels to invade a new lake or waterway is a cup of contaminated water containing their microscopic larvae carried inadvertently by a motorboat or recreational watercraft that has not been decontaminated properly.

The best defense against spreading invasive aquatic species is simple: inspection and dry-docking or similarly effective treatment of contaminated watercraft for a few days until they are no longer a threat. Mandatory inspections by state wildlife agencies have proven effective at keeping these invasive mussels out of Lake Tahoe, one of the most popular recreational areas in the American West. Under current law, federal agencies lack a similar inspection authority to state wildlife agencies, which cannot conduct inspections on federal land such as National Parks and National Forests.

Our bipartisan "Stop the Spread of Invasive Mussels Act" would ensure that federal land management agencies like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service have the authority to conduct these inspections. In addition, our bill would establish a new U.S. Bureau of Reclamation grant program for inspection stations at federally managed reservoirs.

Madam Speaker, Congress can help to limit the spread of aquatic invasive species, protect our native wildlife, and reduce the need for more expensive remediation efforts. I urge all Members of the House to join us in cosponsoring the "Stop the Spread of Invasive Mussels Act."

## CELEBRATING TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE'S 95TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 22, 2021*

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Texas Southmost College (TSC) as they celebrate their 95th anniversary, making it the oldest institution of higher learning in the Rio Grande Valley.

Texas Southmost College is the first accredited community college in the State of Texas. Originally named The Junior College of the Rio Grande Valley, TSC was established on August 9, 1926, with 84 students attending classes. In 1931 it was renamed the Brownsville Junior College, before its final renaming to Texas Southmost College in 1949. After a 20-year partnership with University of Texas at Brownsville, TSC's Board of Trustees voted to reestablish the college as an independent institution in 2011 and it was operating independently by 2013. The campus, spanning over 48 acres, is located in Brownsville, Texas on the historic site of Fort Brown, the first United States military post in Texas.

TSC was selected as a "Bright Spot" by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics in 2015 for its efforts to bridge the achievement gap and expand access to quality higher education. In addition to offering high-quality programs that lead to careers that are in demand, TSC is the most affordable institution of higher learning in the Rio Grande Valley, thanks to TSC's Board of Trustees decision in 2013 to reduce tuition by 40 percent. TSC currently offers two-year academic credential progression in over 50 programs of study for students pursuing bachelor's degrees, and career and technical education leading to industry certifications and associate degrees. They also offer dual-credit academic, career, and technical courses at no cost to students, saving families in the Lower Grande Valley \$28 million in tuition and related fees since 2017.

With a growth rate of 72 percent in the past four years, TSC is the fastest-growing community college in the state of Texas, and their graduation rate outpaces the Texas state average by more than three percent. The Board of Trustees, along with TSC President Jesus Roberto Rodriguez, Ph.D., continue to set goals to ensure the long-term viability of the institution with a focus on fostering student success, leading regional workforce development, enriching student experiences, enhancing community connections, and investing in each other.

Texas Southmost College prides itself on fostering a welcoming environment and a sense of belonging for all. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating TSC on 95 years of invaluable service to the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Through education, community outreach and the promotion of individual success, Texas Southmost College continues to strengthen the state of Texas' prosperity and talent.

## HONORING STEVE KLINSKY'S LEADERSHIP

### HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 22, 2021*

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Steve Klinsky for his commitment to our Nation's prosperity and the education of our youth. Steve has served as Chairman of the Board of the American Investment Council for four years. Upon the conclusion of his term of leadership of the Council, we recognize Steve for his service, his philanthropy to his community, and his tremendous commitment to education reform.

Steve founded New Mountain Capital in 1999 and continues to lead the organization to help build better businesses, create jobs, and strengthen pensions. In fact, New Mountain's responsible management strategy has led to the creation of over 49,500 jobs.

Additionally, for nearly 30 years, Mr. Klinsky has served children in New York City and beyond by supporting afterschool programs and advocating for charter schools. Most notably, he founded the "Modern States" program which makes college educations accessible and free. Mr. Klinsky's understanding of the importance of education to achieve the American Dream fuels his commitment to ensuring enrollment in Modern States' courses are open to all people without regard to age, location, family income, nationality, prior education or other barriers. Thanks to Mr. Klinsky's passion for access to a college education, Modern States has helped more than 280,000 students take free courses and work toward college degrees.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking Steve Klinsky for his leadership.

## RECOGNIZING MRS. CAROL CHANDLER

### HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 22, 2021*

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Carol Chandler for her contributions to the agricultural community.

Carol Chandler was called to give back to her community from an early age. After receiving degrees from the University of California at Davis and California State University at Fresno, she began teaching in the Central Valley, including at Fresno City College. She continued her passion for agriculture and community as a partner of Chandler Farms, a fourth-generation family farming operation in Selma, California.

Chandler has continued her philanthropic work throughout her life. She belongs to the La Feliz Guild of Valley Children's Hospital and received the Tapestry Award by Common Threads for her outstanding achievements in agriculture.

Chandler has earned several awards and recognitions during her career. She was named Woman of the Year by the California State Legislature in 1992 and 2002, Agriculturist of the Year by the Fresno Chamber of Commerce in 2004, and Agriculturist of the

Year by the California State Fair Board of Directors in 2020.

This year, Chandler was recognized by Western Growers with the 2021 Award of Honor.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mrs. Carol Chandler on this award and recognizing her contributions to the Central Valley community.

RECOMMENDING THAT THE HOUSE  
FIND STEPHEN K. BANNON IN  
CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 21, 2021*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary, on Homeland Security, and on the Budget, I rise in support of the rule governing debate for H. Res. 730, "Resolution Recommending that the House of Representatives Find Stephen K. Bannon in Contempt of Congress for Refusal to Comply with a Subpoena Duly Issued by the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol."

On January 6th the domestic terrorists who beat law enforcement officers and breached the Citadel of democracy of the United States wore insignias of White supremacist groups, waved Confederate flags, hung a noose on the lawn, and they were shouting racial epithets.

According to published reports and his own public statements, Mr. Bannon had specific knowledge about the events planned for January 6th before they occurred: just before the day of the attack, Mr. Bannon told his listeners:

All hell is going to break loose tomorrow. . . . It's not going to happen like you think it's going to happen. OK, it's going to be quite extraordinarily different. All I can say is, strap in . . . You made this happen and tomorrow it's game day. So strap in. Let's get ready. So many people said, 'Man, if I was in a revolution, I would be in Washington.' Well this is your time in history.

At 12:15 p.m. on January 6th he said to the assembled multitude on the Ellipse: "You will never take back our country with weakness."

Less than an hour later, at 1:10 p.m., he admonished the crowd: "We fight like hell, and if you don't fight like hell you will not have a country anymore."

At 2:11 p.m. the Trump-incited mob breached police lines on the west side of the Capitol.

Madam Speaker, the assault on the U.S. Capitol by domestic terrorists and insurrectionists rightly takes its place as one of the darkest moments in our Nation's history since the Civil War.

Madam Speaker, the January 6th insurrection caused tragic loss of life and many injuries, while leaving behind widespread physical damage to the Capitol Complex and emotional trauma for Members, Congressional employees, and the Capitol Police.

It bears repeating often that the Congress and the Nation owe undying gratitude to the

men and women who answered the call of constitutional duty and heroically won the day on that bloody and deadly afternoon.

Madam Speaker, the domestic terrorists and seditionists who attacked the Capitol Building on January 6, 2021 were not, as some of their ardent defenders and apologists across the aisle have stated falsely, on a "normal tour visit"; nor was their effort to lay siege to the Capitol and disrupt the processes of government an act of persons who love their country.

And it is absurd to suggest that it was a celebration of the United States and what it stands for when the leading edge of terrorists desecrated the Capitol by offensively parading the treasonous Confederate flag through the building and when, because of their insurrection, several members of law enforcement made the supreme sacrifice and scores more were seriously injured.

Madam Speaker, we owe it not just to those who lost their lives during that day, but to all Americans to figure out exactly what happened and how that day came to be.

We must understand that day in order to prevent the intended purpose of the January 6th insurrection—to disrupt the Joint Meeting of Congress to tally the votes of presidential electors and announce the results to the Nation and the world—from ever occurring again, because it was the greatest threat to the American Experiment since the Civil War when the pro-slavery forces decided to make war rather than let the Nation survive and the pro-freedom forces would accept war rather than let the Nation perish.

The Select Committee has diligently continued in their duty to determine the causes and events that transpired during the insurrectionist attack.

Specifically, the Select Committee's purposes include:

To investigate and report upon the facts, circumstances, and causes "relating to the January 6, 2021 domestic terrorist attack upon the United States Capitol Complex;"

To investigate and report upon the facts, circumstances, and causes "relating to the interference with the peaceful transfer of power;" and

To investigate and report upon the facts, circumstances, and causes relating to "the influencing factors that fomented such an attack on American representative democracy while engaged in a constitutional process."

In line with these purposes, the Select Committee requested information from Mr. Bannon central to its legislative purpose:

On September 23, 2021, Chairman THOMPSON signed and transmitted a subpoena to Mr. Bannon, ordering the production of both documents and testimony relevant to the January 6th attack on the Capitol.

The subpoena required Mr. Bannon to produce the documents on October 7 and required his presence for deposition testimony on October 14.

Mr. Bannon simply defied the subpoena—failing to produce the documents on October 7 and failing to show up for the deposition on October 14.

In a letter to Mr. Bannon's counsel on October 15, Chairman THOMPSON noted that Mr. Bannon had not even attempted to provide the Select Committee any explanation for refusing to comply with the Select Committee's demand for documents and testimony on a range of subjects that do not involve communications with the former President.

An individual who fails or refuses to comply with a House subpoena may be cited for contempt of Congress, and in his October 8th letter to Mr. Bannon's counsel, Chairman THOMPSON warned Mr. Bannon that his continued non-compliance would put him in jeopardy of a vote to refer him to the House to consider a criminal contempt referral.

Mr. Bannon's failure to appear for deposition or produce responsive documents in the face of this clear advisement and warning by the Chairman constitutes willful failure to comply with the subpoena.

The purpose behind seeking this information is because Mr. Bannon played a central role in organizing the January 6th attack on the Capitol, and understanding this role is essential to understanding the context in which the January 6th attack occurred.

Mr. Bannon constructed and participated in the "stop the steal" public relations effort that motivated the January 6th attack.

Mr. Bannon planned political and other activities in advance of January 6th.

Mr. Bannon participated in a "war room" of promoters and prominent supporters of the "stop the steal" movement that met on January 5th.

Mr. Bannon communicated with President Trump several times in advance of the January 6th attack, urging him to take measures to interfere with the count of electoral votes and to make January 6th a day of reckoning.

In fact, according to published reports and his own public statements, Mr. Bannon had specific knowledge about the events planned for January 6th before they occurred: just before the day of the attack, Mr. Bannon urged his listeners:

All hell is going to break loose tomorrow. . . . It's not going to happen like you think it's going to happen. OK, it's going to be quite extraordinarily different. All I can say is, strap in . . . You made this happen and tomorrow it's game day. So strap in. Let's get ready. So many people said, 'Man, if I was in a revolution, I would be in Washington.' Well this is your time in history.

In sum, Mr. Bannon appears to have played a multi-faceted role in the events of the January 6th attack and the American people are entitled to hear his first-hand testimony regarding his actions.

As recognized by the Supreme Court, "The power of the Congress to conduct investigations is inherent in the legislative process," and that the subpoena power is a "public duty, which every person within the jurisdiction of the Government is bound to perform when properly summoned."

The contempt of Congress statute makes clear that a witness summoned before Congress must appear or be "deemed guilty of a misdemeanor" punishable by a fine of up to \$100,000 and imprisonment for up to one year.

Further, the Supreme Court has emphasized that the subpoena power is a "public duty, which every person within the jurisdiction of the Government is bound to perform when properly summoned."

The Supreme Court also recently reinforced this clear obligation by stating that "when Congress seeks information needed for intelligent legislative action, it unquestionably remains the duty of all citizens to cooperate."

Mr. Bannon has relied on no legal authority to support his refusal to comply in any fashion with the subpoena.

Mr. Bannon's refusal to comply with the subpoena is ostensibly based on his decision to "honor [former President Trump's] invocation of executive privilege."

However, not only has former President Trump had no direct communication with the Select Committee, but also the Select Committee has not received any formal invocation of executive privilege from former President Trump as to Mr. Bannon.

The Select Committee is seeking information from Mr. Bannon on a wide range of subjects that clearly cannot be covered by an assertion of executive privilege.

Mr. Bannon was a private citizen during the relevant period and the testimony and documents the Select Committee is demanding do not concern discussion of official government matters with the President and his immediate advisors.

In sum, there is no reasonable argument that Mr. Bannon's communications with the President regarding January 6th are the type of matters on which executive privilege can be asserted.

Finally, there is no conceivable assertion that executive privilege could apply to other information sought that does not constitute communications with Mr. Trump during his presidency.

Beyond communications between Mr. Bannon and Mr. Trump, the Select Committee seeks documents and testimony from Mr. Bannon regarding his own actions and interactions with other private citizens relating to the events of January 6th.

In light of this, rather than comply with Congress' inherent powers, and help heal the trauma this Nation witnessed on January 6th, Mr. Bannon has simply refused to comply with the Select Committee's subpoena.

Madam Speaker, this should not be a partisan issue; it is the very power of Congress to investigate matters of issue that is at stake.

For this reason, I rise in support of the rule governing debate for H. Res. 730, "Resolution Recommending that the House of Representatives Find Stephen K. Bannon in Contempt of Congress for Refusal to Comply with a Subpoena Duly Issued by the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol," and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

#### RECOGNIZING HOWARD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 22, 2021*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate the Howard University Medical Alumni Association (HUMAA) on its 150th anniversary.

Founded in 1871, HUMAA is one of the oldest medical alumni associations in the country and consists of more than 5,000 alumni.

In the 1957–58 school year, it granted its first scholarship, \$550. In recent years, HUMAA has been awarding \$200,000 annually in scholarships.

Today, HUMAA's mission is to promote the mutual professional interests of the graduates of the Howard University College of Medicine

(HUCM), assist in the development of HUCM's programs and support the welfare of HUCM's students.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing HUMAA for 150 years of providing education and networking opportunities for the alumni and students of HUCM. I wish them many more years of success.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. JODEY C. ARRINGTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 22, 2021*

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to be present for one of Wednesday's votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 319.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ANDREW G. URAM

##### HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 22, 2021*

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Andrew G. Uram, who passed away on October 3, 2021 at the age of 100.

Growing up during the Great Depression, Andrew displayed an incredible work ethic and selflessness at a young age. His widowed mother, despite the privation of the times, instilled in him the belief that it was better to give than to receive—a belief that would come to define Andrew's life. He graduated from Butler High School in 1937 and went to work for Armco Steel, clocking in as much as possible. Following America's entrance into World War II, Andrew put his career on hold and joined the U.S. Navy, serving as an Aviation Cadet.

After returning from service in 1945, Andrew went to work for Metropolitan Life as an agent. In just a few years, he was promoted to the company's field training division in New York City. In 1955, the company sent Andrew to Washington County, Pennsylvania to serve as a district manager in charge of 35 agents and 10 clerks. At the time, he was the company's youngest manager. In 1969, Andrew was hired as vice president at Mellon Bank's Washington branch. At 65, he retired from banking and transitioned to commercial real estate.

While he had a distinguished and successful professional life, Andrew would be the first to tell you his true passion was giving. Andrew became deeply involved with the Washington County Community Chest in 1956. By the mid-1960s, following their transition to the United Way, he was already bringing in \$1 million for the organization. Andrew was also Chairman of the Catawba District of the Boy Scouts of America, President and Paul Harris Fellow of the Washington Rotary Club, Director of the Greater Washington Area Chamber of Commerce, and District Governor of Rotary.

Andrew truly left his mark on southwestern Pennsylvania. He was instrumental in securing the donation of Heritage Reservation, where local Boy Scouts have camped for generations. Andrew also helped build the current home of the Citizen's Library in Washington.

The community consistently honored Andrew for his generosity and leadership. The Jaycees gave him and his late wife, Julie, the Distinguished Service Award. The Boy Scouts named Andrew a Silver Beaver, their highest local honor. The Rotary Club of Washington not only gave him an international service award, but it also named the award in his honor. Notably, Andrew was named Philanthropist of the Year in 2016.

Madam Speaker, Andrew Uram was an incredibly accomplished community leader, philanthropist, and one of the kindest people in Washington County. It was a privilege to have known him. Andrew is survived by his sons James, Paul, Thomas, and Matthew, as well as his grandchildren, Brooke and Andrew. Please join me and the Uram family in celebrating his life.

#### IN SUPPORT OF RULE GOVERNING DEBATE OF H.R. 3110, PUMP FOR NURSING MOTHERS ACT

##### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 22, 2021*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support H.R. 3110, the "Pump for Nursing Mothers Act," which will close an unintentional loophole in the 2010 Break Time for Nursing Mothers Act.

The 2010 law requires employers to provide break time and a place for hourly wage-earning and some salaried employees to express breast milk at work for one year after the birth of the employee's child.

Unfortunately, this law unintentionally excluded a quarter of all working women—nearly nine million employees—from protection.

H.R. 3110 closes this coverage gap by extending the law's protections to cover salaried employees as well as other categories of employees currently exempted from protections, such as teachers, nurses, and farmworkers.

H.R. 3110 would also provide employers clarity on paid and unpaid pumping time.

The bill leaves in place existing law protecting many salaried workers from having their pay docked and clarifies that employers must pay an hourly employee for any time spent pumping if the employee is also working.

Lastly, the bill would ensure that nursing mothers have access to remedies that are available for other violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, women with children are the fastest-growing segment of the workforce, and balancing work and family is an important priority for all employees.

More than 80 percent of new mothers in the United States begin breastfeeding, 1 and 6 in every 10 new mothers are in the workforce.

New parents face an incredible amount of increased difficulties while juggling work, family and mental and emotional tolls that are exacerbated as a new parent.

According to a study published in *Reviews in Obstetrics and Gynecology*, breastfeeding provides health benefits for not only infants, but also for mothers.

For mothers, abstaining from breastfeeding has been associated with an increase in developing various types of cancers, type 2 diabetes, heart attacks, retained gestational

weight gain and metabolic syndrome in adult women.

For infants, not being breastfed is associated with infectious illnesses such as pneumonia, ear infections, gastroenteritis, and can increase the risk of developing childhood-onset obesity, type 1 and 2 diabetes, leukemia and SIDS.

This bill will ensure that mothers will no longer be forced to choose between their own health, their infant's health, and their income.

This includes individuals like Melissa Hodgkins, who has had to bring suit against her employer simply to provide workers with a clean, private place and breaks to breast pump at work.

Her coworkers were often of losing their paychecks to ask the airline to accommodate them; in fact, when some of her coworkers did ask for breaks and a place to pump, her employer actually prohibited them from pumping at work, and even forced them off the job without a paycheck.

The PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act will stop such bad actions by employers and alleviate the disparities that currently exist between breastfeeding employees and their coworkers, sending a clear message that the workforce will protect and support women who opt to balance a career and motherhood.

For these reasons, I encourage all Members to support H.R. 3110, the "Pump for Nursing Mothers Act."

#### HONORING CHARLOTTE WINKKY IN CELEBRATION OF HER EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 22, 2021*

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Charlotte Winkky in celebration of her eightieth birthday.

Charlotte, daughter of Max and Gertrud Sommerfeld, was born on October 24, 1941 in Hamburg, Germany and came to the United States with her parents in 1949 as a "displaced person". Charlotte's father was a Holocaust survivor, and the family was given the opportunity to start a new life in America. Charlotte and her family arrived in Boston, Massachusetts in August of 1949 and then relocated to Newburgh, New York.

Charlotte graduated from Newburg Free Academy and received a Bachelor of Science Degree from New York State College at Cortland where she met her husband, Bill Winkky. Charlotte went on to earn her Master of Science Degree from Elmira College and thereafter, in 1960, Charlotte became a proud Naturalized Citizen.

On June 23, 1963, Charlotte and Bill were married in New Windsor, New York and have spent fifty-eight joyful years together. Bill and Charlotte have a son and daughter who have gifted them with six wonderful grandchildren.

Charlotte taught school for thirty-two years in Horseheads, New York and is active in numerous organizations including as a charter and sustaining member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. She was a Chemung County Election Inspector for fourteen years and volunteers for the Cancer Society and local nature center. She is also a

member of B'nai B'rith International and League of Women Voters.

In her eighty years of life, Charlotte has been a teacher, a friend, a volunteer, a loving and dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother who is deserving of recognition.

It has been my utmost pleasure to personally know Charlotte for decades and to see her dedication to her community, but even more importantly, the love and dedication she has for her family and friends.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to honor Charlotte Winkky on her eightieth birthday.

#### HONORING THE JEWISH WAR VETERANS (JWV) DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 22, 2021*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Jewish War Veterans (JWV) Department of Minnesota as members celebrate their 75th anniversary year. For three quarters of a century, the Minnesota JWV has been the premier voice for Jewish uniformed service members and veterans in Minnesota, upholding the national organization's mission to affirm the heroic and honorable service of Jewish veterans and fight against anti-Semitism.

The national organization, Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, was founded by a group of 63 Jewish veterans of the Civil War in 1896 in response to a series of anti-Semitic comments made about Jewish service in the war. JWV is the oldest congressionally chartered veterans' organization and has grown to include over 15,000 members across the country. Saint Paul Post 162 is led by Commander Jim Hassing and was founded in 1938 by World War I veterans as the first Jewish War Veteran Post in Minnesota. In the following years, the official Jewish War Veterans Department of Minnesota was created and today is home to two other posts; the Nilva-Dansky-Neff Post 331, led by Commander Ben Weisbuch, and the Abrahamson-Biglow-Spector Post 354, led by Commander Stewart Mednick.

Throughout its history, the JWV has gone above and beyond fighting anti-Semitism through their many avenues of service to veterans and their families. They helped to establish the Jewish chaplaincy within the military and fought for the inclusion of grave markers, including the Star of David, in veteran's cemeteries. They have stood up against the rise of Nazi Germany, campaigned for religious and racial protections in the 1944 GI Bill, and helped pass multiple bills that awarded Medals of Honor to Jewish service members. The JWV has also supported active duty servicemembers by sending care packages to troops during World War II, the Vietnam War, and after 9/11, during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. They also established the National Museum of American Jewish Military History in Washington, D.C. to serve as a tribute to the long and proud history of Jewish American military service. More recently, the JWV has been an active supporter for the Global War

on Terrorism Memorial Foundation which would honor the sacrifices made by all those who have served in the nation's longest conflict.

As a congressionally chartered veterans service organization, the Jewish War Veterans Department of Minnesota is one of nine organizations that make up the Minnesota Commanders' Task Force, a group created in 1988 that meets regularly to discuss issues affecting veterans and their families across the state. The Minnesota JWV provides an important voice to this group as they act as advisory board to the Minnesota Commissioner of Veterans Affairs and work to develop a unified Minnesota Veterans Legislative Agenda and establish Veterans programs throughout the state. It has been my distinct pleasure to work with this great organization over the years as a lifetime Auxiliary member of the VFW and the American Legion, and as a State Representative and now as a Member of Congress.

Led today by Commander Lou Michaels, the Jewish War Veterans Department of Minnesota continues to be a valuable advocate for Jewish servicemembers and their families in the state of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing all members of the Jewish War Veterans Department of Minnesota as they celebrate their 75th year of service to the community.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ROBERT JULIANO

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 22, 2021*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Robert Juliano. My heart breaks over the passing of Robert Juliano, my dear friend that many of us affectionately knew as Cool Bobby J. A longtime labor representative and an unmatched champion of workers, Bob's efforts in Washington, D.C., were guided by his work in the 1960s and 1970s as an elevator operator on the West Side of Chicago.

Bob believed deeply in the power of bipartisanship to protect workers. He came to Washington to serve as a legislative representative for the Hotel and Restaurant Employees International Union. He served as chairman and vice chairman of the U.S. Government's Travel and Tourism Advisory Board in the 1980s and 1990s.

A fierce advocate in the labor movement and a friend to all—Bob shook hands and became close with some of our nation's top leaders in the fight for labor equality. He worked with UNITE HERE to protect the health care benefits of retired miners and worked on nearly every major piece of labor legislation over the last four decades.

Bob loved telling the story of an event he hosted at his house—"a pizza competition." I brought the best pizza in the country from New Haven, CT, and he brought a deep-dish pizza from Chicago. The way he tells it, deep dish pizza won, but everyone in attendance knows New Haven pizza won by a landslide. Our pizza preferences may have differed, but as children of Italian immigrants, we created an unwavering bond.



I am praying for Bob and send my deepest condolences to his family. May the memory of his legacy and good humor live on, and may he rest in peace.

OPENING OF THE JOSEPH H.  
VICARI SENSORY SPACE

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 22, 2021*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, earlier this week in my district in Ocean County, New Jersey, family members, friends, and service providers for children with autism marked the official opening of the Joseph H. Vicari Sensory Space inside the Toms River Branch of the Ocean County Library system.

Like so many worthwhile endeavors across our country, this project had been slowed—but not stopped—by the impact of COVID-19. Originally due to open earlier this year, this Sensory Space is now fully operational and providing a new hub to boost learning experiences for children with autism.

Housed within the heart of the main branch of the county library system, the Joseph H. Vicari Sensory Space has been carefully designed and supplied with special learning tools to help develop the senses, encourage communication and social interactions, relieve stress and anxiety, and promote calmness and well-being in children with autism. The Sensory Space offers a comfortable place and sends a positive message to people with varying degrees of sensory processing abilities who might feel inhibited in social environments.

Having toured the new facility this spring with Ocean County Commissioner Joseph Vicari, Ocean County Library Director Susan Quinn and Ocean County Library Commission Chair Ruthanne Scaturro and several dedicated library officials, I am confident that this space will not only serve those who visit exceptionally well, but will also inspire and serve as a model of how a community can expand learning opportunities and accommodate children on the autism spectrum.

The Sensory Space includes such innovative features as:

A touching wall that uses musical sounds, shapes, numbers and colors for visual and auditory stimulation.

A sensory canopy of billowing, magnetic fabrics that create an impression of clouds overhead.

LED illuminators for aid in color recognition, sensory stimulation and visual attention.

An ocean wave ceiling projector, which combines ambient or customizable audio with colorful light effects to enhance relaxation.

A bubble tube calming device that cycles through hundreds of different shades of color.

An LED light table and colorful jigsaw play box, which illustrates the effects of colors and light on everyday objects and passively enhances creative ability.

A fiber optic color-changing light waterfall, providing tactile stimulation through touch and manipulation, and visual impressions of changing, bending lights.

A colorful mat with matching cubes to build color recognition, stimulate imagination, exercise gross motor skills and develop spatial reasoning.

In addition to County Commissioner Vicari, Library Director Quinn and Library Commission Chairwoman Scaturro, other key individuals who must be credited in the development and completion of the space include: Library Commissioner Susan Hutler; Assistant Library Director Sara Siegler; Facilities Manager Joe Cahill; Assistant Facilities Managers Michael Erickson and Barry DePaul; Toms River Branch Chief Librarian Rachel Lavoie-Dohn; Jackson Branch Librarian Wendi Smolowitz; Chair of the Library's Autism Resources Committee, and Administrative Clerk Kelly Nichols.

Nearly twenty-five years ago, Ocean County residents, Bobbie and Billy Gallagher, parents with two small children with autism, reached out to me looking for help and underscoring the fact that the federal government was doing next to nothing in providing support for research, early education intervention and treatments for children with autism. Armed with data and their own research, the Gallaghers helped me win approval of landmark federal legislation, the *ASSURE Act of 2000*—to create a comprehensive federal program to combat autism.

Since then, Congress has enacted three additional comprehensive laws I have written to provide significant federal resources for research, education, and early intervention for children with autism. My most recent law, known as the *Autism CARES Act of 2019*, authorized \$1.8 billion through 2024 for research grants, awareness programs, surveillance, early detection and intervention, parental support and training for health care professionals. And for the first time, my new law will expand federal support to adults with autism.

Over the last two decades, the support systems for children and families with autism has grown nationwide, with many community organizations leading the way.

I am deeply grateful for the innovative, local grassroots efforts here in Ocean County—especially and including the Joseph H. Vicari Sensory Space, with its pioneering, state-of-the-art facility that will attract and support individuals with autism and his or her caregivers for many years to come.

SECRETARY OF STATE MIKE  
POMPEO FREE IRAN SPEECH

**HON. DON BACON**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 22, 2021*

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD the following remarks by Michael R. Pompeo, former Secretary of State of the United States. Secretary Pompeo addressed the "Support Free Iran, U.S. To Hold Ebrahim Raisi Accountable for the 1988 Massacre" on Monday, September 20, 2021, in Washington, D.C. Below is Secretary Pompeo's speech.

"Thank you all so much. That's an amazing welcome I hope you are as happy after my remarks. I think you will.

Thank you, Amir, for that kind introduction. It is such a blessing for me to be with you all today. It is a special gathering that we can all be together to talk about an enormous threat to the world and to freedom loving people. It's truly an honor.

Since I last spoke to you Ebrahim Raisi was formally installed as Iran's latest so-

called President. You are rightly gathered at this conference with the theme of demanding that he be held accountable for what happened in 1988, the massacre of political prisoners inside of Iran. And I want each of you to know today that I join with you in your cause!

I came to know Raisi when I was the CIA Director. He should be prosecuted; not tomorrow; not next week; not next year. Prosecute him now.

And of course, I will talk more about this. But I support a free Iran! Bless you for staying in the fight.

Make no mistake, Make no mistake. Ebrahim Raisi, himself is personally responsible for the mass execution of thousands of Iranian political prisoners, names of over 5,000 have been published. The bodies of these brave men and women were dumped in unmarked graves. And Because Iran has never, and likely under this regime will never allow an investigation into these killings, we do not know the true number of Iranians who were murdered. But it is almost certainly more than the 5,000 list of names that we have.

Your actions, our actions supporting our love of the Iranian people must begin by holding Ebrahim Raisi accountable for his crimes against humanity. Remember he wasn't an advisor; he wasn't a foot soldier. He was an executioner.

I know there are those in the audience who have family that were killed in Raisi's massacre. Too, some of you have loved one and friends currently imprisoned, in Evin and elsewhere in Iran, and some, who have had loved ones simply disappeared or worse. We will never forget any of them and will pray for you and each of them.

You know this character Ebrahim Raisi is exactly who Khamenei wants as President—someone who will do his bidding. Someone willing to brutalize and slaughter the Iranian people at his command. This is not moving forward. It is moving backwards.

It is only those who are resisting, both inside and out, who provide the hope for Iran. That is why this gathering and the work you do today is so important.

The contrast between a government that serves its people rather than subjugates them is incredibly stark. We can see it. That should be all of our inspiration for freedom for the Iranian people.

It's has been almost eight months since I left office as the Secretary of State. When we left as Secretary of State, Iran was more isolated and the regime as weak than ever. However, I must say I've watched the events of the past weeks and months and I worry that events in Afghanistan and the posture of the current administration are allowing the regime to get "off the mat" and re-strengthen. I know the Iranian people do not want that. That is why we must keep pressure on our representatives to forgo renegotiating the nuclear deal and avoid paying Iran ransom to either re-enter that deal or because they believe it would be a show of "good will." Good will is not something a terrorist regime understands. We must also ensure that advancements in the Iranian nuclear program are strictly monitored, and action taken whether that's by the United States, other western nations or by the IAEA to ensure that they don't just run out the clock on the path not only to a nuclear weapon but to a full nuclear program.

I must say, over the last year or so of the pandemic the Iranian regime has used the coronavirus to continue crackdown on its own citizens. Its actions are not only ignorant but malevolent. They have used the pandemic to extinguish uprisings and subdue the Iranian people. This is totally unacceptable.

As Americans, we know supporting the general welfare of our citizens is the duty of the government, and to subjugate them is horrific.

And while we know that the Iranian regime does not value freedom, we should at least expect the United States to value that freedom. You have all watched these last few weeks. Our credibility was called into question in our disgraceful exit from Afghanistan and again questioned this past week when our own Secretary of State took down a tweet of support for the people of Hong Kong who were asking for freedom in their struggle against the Chinese Communist Party.

These demonstrations of the absence of resolve and lack of support for freedom-loving people are the welcome by terrorists and those oppressing the people of Iran.

And yet we know that the more the government attempts to strengthen its hold over the people of Iran, the weaker it will become. This is certainly the case today. Protests spurred by water shortages erupted in over half of the country's provinces and protests have taken place in Ahvaz, in Tabriz, in Tehran, and in Isfahan, and other cities all across Iran. These protestors, these amazing freedom-loving people have shown considerable resilience and bravery in resisting the regime. And I know that in the end the Iranian people will have a secular, democratic, and nonnuclear republic.

The actions in 1979 were of course a key turning point. To understand Iran and its rightful place in history we must unpack what happened in 1979. I think this is why Iran will never return to rule by a dictatorial Shah or theocratic regime. This fight is the real fight and it began in those frightful first moments of the so-called revolution in 1979.

The central fight is the one in the streets, and in the mosques and in the minds of the Iranian people—it is the divide between the people and the organized opposition seeking freedom and democracy on one side, and the entirety of the regime on the other.

Look I have been at this, but not as long as some of you. But I have been in this fight on the right side for over a decade now, my entire life of decade of public service.

Back in 2010 I spoke with many of you. I spoke of the Iranian people and their history, their kindness and their respect for reason, knowledge and respect for human life. The Iranian people are tolerant people—They have been a homeland for Arabs and Jews, Christians and Muslims right on Iranian soil. This is the loveliness of the Iranian people.

The Iranians want to prosper in their faith and protect their families—this is as true in Tehran as it is in any place here in the United States and don't ever forget that.

There is a new leader, there's a new elected. I say that word cautiously. The regime headed by the puppet Raisi and the IRGC is no less radical than the one left by the previous president. It continues to be revolutionary in its zeal. It is brutal. It is theocratic.

It is also craven and fearful of the Iranian people. It's kleptocratic. Its leaders will and have killed their own by the thousands and then choose those who committed these massive atrocities, like Raisi, to now lead their terror organization and their regime. Its leaders can shoot down a civilian airliner killing hundreds of civilians and think nothing of denying responsibility and hiding the black box that would unpack the clues and fingerprints of the regime's leaders who caused the death of civilians. The leaders in Iran seek not only to dominate their own country and their own people, but capitals from Baghdad to Tehran and from Damascus to Beirut and to Sanaa. All for the petty desire to maintain their grip on power.

When I last spoke to you, I noted that we must dismiss the Western conceit. I hear it even in this city which we are sitting today. It's this western conceit commonly accepted in Brussels, in Paris, in Bonn and in too many places here in the United States that there are moderates inside of the regime. I never met one, nor read of one. This is important. The lie, that there are moderates inside of this regime. There are too many countries that play footsie with this terrorist regime. The elections of last month should provide evidence that this claim of moderation is even possible within this regime. We cannot have them fool us. These are but tiny actors occupying roles in the same show of force.

We know the characters. The Ayatollah plays the father, keeper of the so-called revolutionary faith and is the elder statesman "protecting the revolution" from every threat—including the threats from the heathen secular inside and outside of Iran. Soleimani played the warrior-hero role. Deliverer of rights against made-up grievances from the near abroad and afar. The newly installed Foreign Minister, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, was molded by Soleimani. This man, despite of the fact that he is a diplomat, a Foreign Minister, make no mistake who he is. He is a staunch supporter of the "Axis of Resistance," the array of terrorists that Iran supports throughout the entire Middle East. He is a terrorist himself who would kill his own people to save the regime just as quickly as any other of the Ayatollah's henchmen. Don't let that title of diplomat fool anyone.

Ebrahim Raisi, a murderer of his own people, will now take on the role as heir apparent to the faith and determined negotiator who concurs America by getting the immoral sanctions placed upon the people lifted and improving life for all. This will be the theatre of Ebrahim Raisi. These actors—each of them, all of them will keep this show going despite the audience wanting their run to end and they are prepared to use every power, to use the IRGC, to use the Basij and any tool to keep their grip over the Iranian people.

There is nothing new about them. They are just the next generation of the regime, perhaps even more radical than their predecessors. Every one of them should be held accountable, all of them should be held accountable, for the tens of thousands of Iranians they have murdered.

And world leaders, I hope you are listening, should band together to reject Raisi; each of you, each of you should reject Raisi. You should refuse to engage with him, to acknowledge him as a democratically elected president by the people—since he was no such thing. A good place to start would be by this week at the United Nations General Assembly, not too far from where we are all sitting, holding Raisi accountable for his crimes against the people of Iran. It's possible to do.

Speaking of Raisi's actions, Kumi Naidoo, Secretary General of Amnesty International (2018–2020), said in his remarks to the Call for Justice: "I served as the Secretary-General of Amnesty International during which time a report was brought out on this terrible tragedy and the tragedy of 1988 that we saw took place in Iran. Let us be very clear, what happened in 1988 was a totally brutal massacre of political prisoners, which is a crime against humanity." This former leader of Amnesty closed with this. "And if you go with the definition, notwithstanding the technicalities, it amounts to genocide." We know a bit about this. We have to keep the Iranian regime in a box.

Contrast the current administration's posture toward the regime with the one that the

Trump administration had. Our mission was really very simple. We laid down 12 very simple demands, twelve requirements that made clear that if the Iranian regime failed to do that we would apply every American power and indeed we would build a coalition around the world to deny the regime the power to kill its own people and to foment terror around region and indeed around the world. This seemed so straight forward to me. We formed alliances to achieve these ends and supported Israel's efforts to enhance our pressure campaign as well.

This administration is returning to the roots of its past, It's the Obama Policy 2.0. They are seeking to walk away from the support we had provided to the Iranian people just as they did in 2009, when the Iranian people demanded freedom and the administration walked away from them.

But here is the good news. The resistance forces in Iran, these noble Iranian patriots, are as strong as they have ever been, and they provide optimism for everyone around them who supports them. You do that too.

You can actually see the effects of the last years of our work in their recent elections. Every more effort had to be made. The regime became more desperate, the fraud had to be increased and the Iranian people could see it as plain as day. Since 1979, every election in Iran has served only to give an appearance of republicanism to a corrupt, brutal theocracy. The 2021 presidential election, however, was different. It is vastly different from those before it, primarily because it is taking place when the theocratic regime is at its most precarious state since it took power in 1979, and the people of Iran know this. Its prospects of survival are openly questioned by regime insiders and challenged by a restive, freedom-seeking nation. In short, you all know the math. Very few actually voted FOR Raisi. Turnout was the lowest since 1979 marking a total rejection of the regime and its candidate.

Even the regime admitted for the first time in 40 years that the majority of Iranian people stayed away from the ballot box. It was, in fact, a boycott of the regime—and the regime leader fear and know it.

This boycott is evidence that the Iranian people pin no hope on elections as a conduit for substantive change.

The program that we implemented also served to lay bare the regime's economic incompetence, systemic corruption, and outright plunder of the country's wealth that have pushed 80% of the population below the poverty line. They see the corrupt ruling theocracy as their true enemy and the first and foremost cause of the economic crises. One of the most dominant slogans in the recent uprisings has been, "Our enemy is right here; they lie when they say it is America." History is replete with protest movements. As with all protest movements, flags were burned, right? This is what people do, but now, the most common flag being burned was not the Israeli or the American flag, but the flag of this evil regime.

So, what is ahead? So how do we all move forward together? What is the path that we move down to?

The regime is at its weakest point in its now 40 plus years of existence. Iranians from every corner of the nation are seeing with their own eyes, the failure of the regime to deliver on the very promises that it made. The epic incompetence in handling COVID-19 is on-going—vaccination in Iran is at among the lowest rates in the entire world not because the vaccine is not available, but because the regime refuses to accept vaccines from those prepared to give them to them. Indeed, they rejected it from the Trump administration. This epic incompetence and quest for nuclear power has made it pariah,

has made Iran, the regime, pariah, even to its fellow Muslim countries in the region.

It's epic incompetence in simply ruining the nation has resulted in has made food and gas and the most basic staples unaffordable and the nation's ability to respond to natural disasters like floods and earthquakes virtually nonexistent. The Iranian people are wise. They can see that Iran is not working. The people know it.

As for President Raisi, he is the not he President of the people of Iran. He is the President for the Ayatollah. His mission is clear. Inflict pain. Frighten, continue to loot and plunder. Protect the clerics and protect the Republican Guards. He was chosen by the Ayatollah now because he is only 60 years old and thus could lead for the next two to three decades. I don't believe that's the fate of the Iranian people. These years will give him the time he needs to get his own people into place and demonstrate that the Supreme Leader wants him to have time to prepare for the next phase of the of the so-called revolution. He will use the IRGC and his Qods Force to generate conflict externally to deflect attention and to maintain the narrative of the oppressed.

The path forward calls. This calls for a clear response—the United States must lead the world, starting today, on this occasion, to hold him accountable for crimes against humanity that he committed. Any dealings with Raisi, would he tantamount to dealing with a mass murderer. This is not only immoral but counterproductive. All of us should make this crystal clear to our allies in Europe and Asia as well and hold them accountable if they deal with this man that sent thousands of his country to execution in 1988.

It is worth noting that the apologists for the regime suggest that Raisi's election and the power now in the hands of "hardliners" is a result of the American pressure on the regime. This is nonsense. Utter nonsense. The latter notion that of hardliners versus reformers or moderates is not remotely reflective of the total control of the Ayatollah over everything that so that nothing moves without his blessing inside of that country. As for whether pressure drives Iran to continue it authoritarian ways, it is obvious that Iran's leadership has been static or trending right for two decades.

The world often overstates its influence on domestic politics. It is the people of Iran who have the power. The Ayatollah has been very intent. Raisi demonstrates that IRGC generation is replacing the Revolutionary generation. Moreover, while Raisi and others have criticized this nuclear deal, it touches none of their equities. Thus, they get to use the deal politically and reap the benefits from the resources received to protect the Ayatollah and his henchmen. So, he will complain about the deal, he will use it to gain more concessions from a deal-hungry U.S., but won't, in the end, block it.

I worry, too, that the situation on the Iranian border with Afghanistan will only strengthen the Iranian regime's hand. The Iranians watched as the United States pro-

jected weakness and chaos as it withdrew from Afghanistan. And we know that the Iranians thrive on weakness. We also know that it always emboldens our adversaries.

The truth is that the present administration inherited an orderly plan for a draw-down in Afghanistan based on firm conditions to keep our people safe. And the people of our allies who were fighting in Afghanistan and alongside of us as well.

The Administration ripped up that plan and turned it into a chaotic rush for exit. And thirteen brave Americans paid with their lives.

I worry that same weakness will enable a blood thirsty Iranian regime to be even more harsh on its own people who oppose the regime, and the American weakness will embolden the "Axis of Resistance" to spark increased terrorism in the Middle East and, indeed, all around the world.

In fact, in the wake of our Afghanistan withdrawal, here is what Raisi said, "America's military defeat and its withdrawal must become an opportunity to restore life, security and durable peace in Afghanistan. Iran backs efforts to restore stability in Afghanistan and, as a neighboring and brother nation, Iran invites all groups in Afghanistan to reach a national agreement." Let me translate that for you. Iran welcomes Afghanistan as another tool in the terrorist hub of the "Axis of Resistance."

They don't want good things for the Afghan people any more than they want good things for their own people. They want the very power that they have so dearly clutched onto for these decades at the expense of the Iranian people. It is worth us all remembering today that this is not the first connection to external terror. The Ayatollah already hosts the most senior Al Qaeda leadership in his country. Let me say that again: Al Qaeda international, the headquarters for Al Qaeda's operational leaders that builds up plots across the world is not in Afghanistan is NOT in Afghanistan, it is not in the Afghan border, it is not Pakistan—we know they are being hosted, protected, and operating today from Iran.

And don't forget this. The Ayatollah did not truly conduct a revolution, although he will claim that. No, revolutions move their people towards modernity and reason and to light, this was not a revolution, but a devolution of the basic standards of human rights that the rich of history of Iran had promoted for decades and decades.

There is not far from here, think tanks and salons and some of the nicer parties where there is this idea that there is no solution if the regime is overthrown. The Ayatollah—and many will tell you that you are better off with the devil you know. The Iranian people don't believe that for a second because it is fundamentally untrue. There are many paths forward and all of them are better for the Iranian people than the status quo.

And preparing, as we are doing, preparing the transition to a New Iran is a task for today. We should start by securing the humanitarian well-being of the Iranian people as they make this transition. Over the years,

it has been demonstrated that the Iranian culture makes toppling governments a part of the national spirit. You should know that nearly 100% of ordinary Iranians believe the regime's days are numbered. I believe that too.

I am also deeply heartened by the fact that the Iranian people have made it abundantly clear that they are increasingly unafraid of the regime. Rather than punish Iran for its continued aggression against us and our partners in the Middle East, sadly, the Biden Administration is trying to get back to the nuclear deal with a much weaker hand.

As was the case with the Trump Administration, human rights and counter terrorism should be at the forefront of our policy, not appeasing the Iranian regime.

We worked tirelessly to keep Iran from having a nuclear weapon and a nuclear program. We have to apply pressure until they change, or until reforms which move Iran toward a democratic form of government take place. We cannot shower the Ayatollah with money and economic benefits in the hopes that they won't be used to inflict terror and oppression. We have seen this sad story before. This thinking is foolish and backwards. The program of sanctions and pressure that was employed by the Trump Administration needs to remain the model if we want to ensure the security of the American people and the freedom of the people of Iran.

I pray that the United States will not increase the resources the Ayatollah has at his disposal to do empower the theocracy. Engagement with the regime will lengthen the time that Iran and the regime has to behave as it has for these past decades denying basic human dignity.

Remember, the Ayatollah's power grab was not so much a revolution but a devolution. It's important to remember that. It was a lesson for me that I learned. And I must say I am hopeful. I am hopeful that the world has learned much about the theocracy in Iran these past few years. And it's not that we didn't know it before; you have all seen it before. Around the world, you can see that even in Europe the tide of tolerance for the regime is slipping. This is a good thing.

We must continue to support the Iranian people as they fight for a freer and more democratic Iran in any way that they can. There is so much good work to do, and you all are doing today.

In the end the Iranian people will have a secular, democratic, non-nuclear Republic. I pray that this day will come soon. It is a such a joy to be with you all today. I pray that these days will come soon with the Iranian people with the support of Iranians living all around the world—and those who resist from within, they are noble people—that day will come sooner. I am committed to this cause; I know you everyone in this room is as well. May your mission be blessed, and the Iranian people protected and provided for always. It is a hopeful time, a deeply hopeful time, and a time to redouble our efforts.

Thank you for having me here today. God bless you, and may God bless the Iranian people."