

ADVANCING AMERICA'S DIPLO-
MATIC RELATIONS WITH THE
ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to promote the strategic partnership between the United States and the Arab Republic of Egypt. I find it of the utmost importance to advance diplomatic relations with a nation that has proven many times to be a dedicated friend to the United States and our allies.

It's no secret that the Middle East is a complicated region with divisions deeply rooted in ancient conflict dating back thousands of years. Egypt has been a proven partner to the U.S. foreign policy goals in the region, with the hopes to end these conflicts and bring peace to a region that so desperately craves it. Without Egypt's partnership, the fight against terrorism and the strive for curbing proliferation would not be possible. I've always said that trust is a series of promises kept. The Arab Republic of Egypt has proven time and time again that they can be a trusted ally and friend to the people of the United States.

Egypt has been, and will continue to be, a beacon of hope for all nations across the Middle East and North Africa and a leader for prosperity, culture, and education for other nations to follow. Using this foundation to advance interfaith tolerance and freedoms, I have long been inspired by the Egyptian people, their freedoms, and their diligence to make the region and world a better place for their children. I am of the belief that the Egyptian government and the Egyptian people have played a vital role in the success of American foreign policy in the region over the recent decades.

Under the leadership of President Trump, the U.S. and Egypt became even closer allies in the fight against terrorism. I hope that the Biden administration will support the Egyptians as much as President Trump did during his time in office.

Regional peace is a goal of not only myself, but the people of the United States, Egypt, and many other nations across the globe. Therefore, it's critical that we recognize the sacrifices and efforts that Egypt has played in the regional peace agreements that have surfaced under recent years. Ever since the 1979 peace treaty with Israel, Egypt, and the United States, both nations have proven to be effective regional partners.

Madam Speaker, I'm thankful for the close friendship that the U.S. shares with Egypt. I hope that we can continue to advance this great relationship with our friends in the Middle East. I urge all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the strategic partnership between our nations and to continue to advance our shared goals going forward.

IN RECOGNITION OF VIRGINIA
HELSEL

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Virginia Helsel on re-

ceiving the Blair County Chamber of Commerce's George Award, which recognizes an individual's volunteer efforts that have improved life in Blair County. A nurse by trade, Virginia started God's Little Offerings in her garage to help Blair County families in need. Though the organization originally provided only holiday meals, it has expanded to assist with other necessities.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Virginia on this accomplishment and thank her for her service to the Blair County community.

RECOGNIZING LEONOR TOMERO
FOR HER SERVICE TO THE
UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND
APPOINTMENT TO THE OFFICE
OF THE SECRETARY OF DE-
FENSE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Ms. Leonor Tomero for her years of service to the United States Congress and congratulate her on her appointment to serve as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Leonor has committed her professional career to advancing dialogue on nuclear non-proliferation and arms control within the non-profit world, amongst our international allies and partners, and most notably, with the Departments of State and Defense. She has been a strong advocate for taking a common-sense approach to rethinking our reliance on nuclear weapons—one of the only true existential threats to humankind today. Though she started her congressional career as a Senate staffer, something we try not to hold against her, Leonor has spent the last 10 years as a valuable member of the House Armed Services Committee's professional staff.

From 2010 to 2021, Leonor supported the Strategic Forces Subcommittee's oversight of national security space, nuclear weapons, nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear clean-up, and missile defense issues. Leonor's work with committee members helped the committee conduct proper oversight of both programmatic and policy aspects of strategic deterrence and increased understanding regarding the delicate balance of strategic stability. Leonor's commitment to advancing space from a national security standpoint culminated in the establishment of the Space Force, which despite the previous administration's boasting, was truly a bi-partisan effort that emanated from the HASC Strategic Forces subcommittee.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the House Armed Services Committee, I extend our deepest appreciation to Leonor for her dedicated service to the committee, the Congress, and the military and civilian personnel of the Armed Forces. We wish her well as she continues her public service at the Pentagon with the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, on March 11, 2021, I missed the vote on the Motion to Recommit for H.R. 8. If present, I would have voted no.

CELEBRATING ELISA DE LA VARA

HON. RUBEN GALLEGO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the faithful service and hard work of Elisa de la Vara, who will retire this month after nearly fifty years of service to the people of Arizona. Born and raised in the small border community of Somerton, Arizona, Elisa has dedicated her life to following her father's example by giving back to her community.

Elisa most recently served as Chief Community Officer for the Arizona Community Foundation. In this role, she oversaw the investment of nearly half a billion dollars in grant funding to community organizations across Arizona and brought diverse voices and perspectives together through her work with the Latinos Unidos Initiative, the Black Philanthropy Initiative, the Asian Pacific American Women's Giving Circle, and the Native American Initiative. She also led the Foundation's affordable housing initiative and rural philanthropy work, where she developed innovative solutions to make sure more Arizona families had access to housing.

Elisa has also served in many other roles including as District Director for my distinguished predecessor, Congressman Ed Pastor, Special Assistant to Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt, Executive Vice President for Chicanos Por La Causa, and Assistant to the President of the League of United Latin American Citizens. Elisa's work often focused on housing. She opened and led Fannie Mae's Arizona Office and she developed and hosted Arizona's first Spanish language real estate television show on Univision entitled *Bienvenido a Mi Casa*, which was devoted to informing and educating viewers on the rights and responsibilities of home ownership, including the mortgage process.

Throughout her distinguished career, Elisa rightfully earned many awards and recognitions. I would like to share my deep appreciation to Elisa for her years of service to our Congressional District, to our community, and to all of Arizona, and I wish her all the best in her retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BYRON DONALDS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. DONALDS. Madam Speaker, I was meeting with National Guard personnel in my

office discussing their needs and dire dietary conditions while stationed here. Unfortunately that meeting ran into the end of rollcall No. 73. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 73.

IN RECOGNITION OF LINDSAY
BUMBARGER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Lindsay Bumbarger on receiving the Blair County Chamber of Commerce’s Judith A. Rossi Educator of the Year Award, which recognizes educators who have influenced educational systems in a manner that benefits Blair County’s economy.

As a 2nd grade teacher at Baker Elementary School in Altoona, Pennsylvania, Lindsay has overcome great educational challenges during the COVID–19 pandemic. In her career, Lindsay has taught students at several grade levels and has been recognized as a dedicated and innovative teacher. In her spare time, Lindsay also volunteers as an ESL teacher for Blair County families that do not speak English.

On behalf of Pennsylvania’s 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Lindsay on this accomplishment and thank her for her service to the Blair County community.

RECOGNIZING JAMIE JACKSON
FOR HER SERVICE TO THE
UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND
APPOINTMENT TO THE WHITE
HOUSE COUNSEL’S OFFICE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Ms. Jamie Jackson for her service to the United States Congress and congratulate her on her appointment to serve as a Senior Deputy Associate Counsel at the White House.

A two-time graduate of the University of Virginia and with a law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law, Jamie’s career has spanned a decade of public service. After working in various positions in the Legislative and Executive Branches of government, Jamie joined the House Armed Services Committee’s professional staff in 2018, where she served as the minority staff lead for the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation. She also advised Members of the full committee and the Subcommittee on Military Personnel on policy matters related to information technology, cybersecurity, and military justice.

More recently, Jamie served as the committee’s Deputy General Counsel from 2019 to 2021, where she played a critical role in the development and passage of two National Defense Authorization Acts (NDAA). Through her work with Members, outside committees, the

Office of Legislative Counsel, and the Office of the Parliamentarian, Jamie played a central role in advising Members and staff of the committee on legal and procedural matters related to the bill. I can say with certainty that the committee would not have been able to get the 59th and 60th consecutive NDAs done without the tireless work and support of Jamie Jackson.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the House Armed Services Committee, I extend our deepest appreciation to Jamie for her dedicated service to the committee, the Congress, and the military and civilian personnel of the Armed Forces. We wish her well as she continues her public service at the White House.

RECOGNIZING MONTAGUE WILDCATS
FOOTBALL STATE TITLE

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the Montague Wildcats on their incredible D–6 football state title at Ford Field in Detroit, MI.

This team has shown a great level of resilience and skill throughout this past year. Notably, the Wildcats put together a perfect season despite the challenges brought on by the coronavirus pandemic, boasting a 12–0 record, and winning their third state title in school history.

I would like to congratulate each player and coach of the Montague Wildcats who played an integral role in capturing the state title:

Players: Izac Jarka, Michael Moore, Zachery Nelson, Drew Collins, Rodney Brassfield, Andrew Kool, Ian Degen, Colton Blanksrom, Try Mikkelsen, Chase Gowell, Tugg Nichols, Dylan Everett, Sam Smith, Reece Taylor, Owen Petersen, Nick Moss, Kade Johnson, Alec Waruszewski, Joel Booth, Walker Martin, Aaron Rolf, Dakota Croff-Wiegand, Silas Jancek, David Dobson, John Greiner, Chris Kessler, Hayden McDonald, and Luke Booth.

Coaches: Pat Collins, Brock Myers, Cody Kater, Craig Smith, Denny Barnes, Dan French, Brian Jaekel, Randy Mikkelsen, Brad Francis, Matt McDonald, Evan Eilers, and Jeff Stark.

Team Support: Tim Stoudt, Eric Greiner, Ron Arnson, Jace Collins, and Kellen Francis.

Administrative Support: Jeffrey Johnson, Troy Moran, and Jay Mulder.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Montague Wildcats on their Division 6, football state title and for being a Michigan symbol of resilience in the face of this ongoing pandemic.

ENERGIZING AMERICAN
SHIPBUILDING ACT OF 2021

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I reintroduce the “Energizing American Ship-

building Act”, which I have sponsored since 2016 as part of my “Make it in America” agenda. I thank my bipartisan original cosponsors for their support, as well as U.S. Senators ROGER F. WICKER (R–MS) and ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr. (D–PA) for sponsoring the companion bill.

Our bipartisan legislation seeks to recapitalize America’s strategic domestic shipbuilding and maritime industries by requiring that increasing percentages of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and crude oil exports be transported on U.S.-built, flagged, and crewed vessels. In total, our bill would require that 15 percent of total seaborne LNG exports be exported on vessels built in the United States by 2043 and 10 percent of total seaborne crude oil exports by 2035.

In total, the “Energizing American Shipbuilding Act” is projected to result in the construction of more than 40 American ships: approximately 28 LNG carriers by 2043 and 12 oil tankers by 2035. This work will support thousands of new well-paying jobs in American shipyards, as well as the domestic vessel component manufacturing and maritime industries.

Unless Congress acts, all U.S. seaborne LNG and crude oil exports will be on foreign-flagged vessels, operated by foreign crews. American shipyards and mariners are ready for the job, and our bill ensures they are no longer expected to compete against heavily subsidized foreign shipyards in Korea, China, and elsewhere.

There is strong precedent for this policy. In 1995, Congress enacted the Alaska Power Administration Asset Sale and Termination Act (Public Law 104–58). This federal law allowed the export of crude oil from Alaska’s North Slope but required that those exports be transported on U.S.-flagged vessels to preserve the tanker fleet essential to our national defense. It was good policy then, and it is good policy now.

The “Energizing American Shipbuilding Act” would implement a similar requirement that fixed percentages of seaborne U.S. LNG and crude oil exports be on U.S.-built, flagged, and crewed vessels. These same vessels, once built under our bill, would be available to meet the U.S. military’s sealift and supply needs around the globe.

Like many members of Congress, I am deeply troubled that our military, namely the Defense Logistics Agency, relies on foreign-owned oil tankers, including state-owned enterprises closely linked to the Chinese government. Our bipartisan bill also counters other export countries’ similar requirements, including the Russian-flagged vessel requirement for arctic oil and natural gas exports announced by the Kremlin in December 2018.

The United States projected to become a net crude oil exporter and the top LNG exporting nation in the coming years. Exports of these two strategic national assets—LNG and crude oil—should be on American vessels, which is exactly what our bill would require.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of the House to join us in cosponsoring the “Energizing American Shipbuilding Act.” Lastly, I want to thank my former Chief of Staff, Ms. Emily Burns, for her instrumental role in developing this legislation during the 114th and 115th Congresses while on my staff.