

standalone legislation to fully fund the system, it should not have come to this to ensure the safety of our allies.

After a summer that saw 2 weeks of fighting between Israel and Palestine, it is beyond clear to me that we must support Israel. Israel has long been a U.S. ally in a region marked by decades of conflict and turmoil. They are a strong democracy and share our views on many issues.

I am proud to say what many in the majority will not, that I firmly stand in support of Israel and continuing to build our partnership for years to come.

#### AND STILL I RISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, a proud, liberated Democrat unbought and unbossed in the spirit of Shirley Chisholm.

And I rise today with a very simple message: Black lives still matter. It doesn't matter who is in power, Black lives matter. The circumstances haven't changed. Black lives matter wherever they happen to be. They matter in Haiti, and they matter at the southern border.

Mr. Speaker, what you see here is despicable and reprehensible. This is what is happening at the southern border, persons on horses lashing out apparently at persons who are from Haiti. Black lives still matter, and it is important to note that these persons, when they are rounded up apparently and sent back to Haiti, are given \$50, a phone card and some food. Many of these persons haven't been to Haiti in over a decade—over 10 years—and they are given \$50, a phone card, and some food.

Black lives matter. This has got to change. This is why I have introduced H. Res. 670. It condemns the actions that we have seen at the border; it condemns the actions. It doesn't condemn the people; it condemns the actions. I have some personal thoughts about the behavior of the people and the people themselves, but this resolution condemns these actions. I believe all people of goodwill should find these actions abhorrent and deplorable.

I also believe that those who tolerate injustice—this is an injustice—those who tolerate injustice perpetuate injustice.

I am asking that H. Res. 670 be brought to the floor of this House so that this House can go on record as opposing what we have seen at the border that is inhumane. We ought to go on record opposing this.

We have gone on record opposing things that have been said by people who are within the House and without the House. This House has gone on record when we have had these seminal moments in time. This is another seminal moment in time that requires some time on the floor of this House to

show the world that we stand for justice and that this injustice should not stand.

Finally, I indicated that when they are deported to Haiti they receive \$50, some food, and a phone card. But here is something that I find appalling as well: Haitians have been given temporary protected status in this country. Mr. Speaker, if you were here at a certain time prior to a certain time, you were given temporary protected status. Well, we are sending people who are Haitians back to Haiti who haven't been there in 10 years, but there are others who will stay because we are saying that the conditions are not acceptable to send people back to Haiti. That contradiction has to be reconciled. We shouldn't be sending people to Haiti when we said that Haiti is not safe for us to send Haitians to.

Mr. Speaker, Black lives still matter. It doesn't matter who is in power, Mr. Speaker. Circumstances don't change, and until they change, a liberated Democrat is going to continue to say that we must be a part of that change.

I pray that we will have H. Res. 670 brought to the floor so that we can show the world that we believe Black lives matter.

#### HONORING AND CELEBRATING RABBI MICAH GREENSTEIN'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and congratulate a great Memphian and friend, Rabbi Micah Greenstein, who is celebrating 30 years of service and commitment to Temple Israel in Memphis and the entire Jewish community.

Rabbi Greenstein is the eighth senior rabbi at Temple Israel, a synagogue founded in the 1850s. He has served as senior rabbi for over 20 years and is now celebrating his 30th anniversary at Temple Israel.

In 1991, after completing his undergraduate and graduate degrees at Cornell University, Harvard, and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Rabbi Greenstein came to Memphis, a place he and his family have called home for more than 30 years.

Over the years, Rabbi Greenstein has served as two-time president of the Memphis Ministers Association, was the first rabbi to speak at the Washington National Cathedral on a major state day and has been named by Newsweek magazine as one of the top American rabbis in 2012 and 2013.

Rabbi Greenstein has been honored with the Memphis City Council Humanitarian Award and the Memphis Theological Seminary's President's Humanitarian Award. As clearly demonstrated, Rabbi Greenstein has worked throughout his career to make his community, his home in Memphis, and his country a better place.

Mr. Speaker, when you speak with members of Temple Israel, they will tell you how extraordinary the congregation is, and that is due to the rabbi's dedication, his charisma, and his passion. I talked to Laurie Meskin, the current president of Temple Israel. She stated: "Rabbi Greenstein has made our synagogue, Temple Israel, what it is today. He is truly gifted at mobilizing people from near and afar, is a great communicator and orator, and believes in a vibrant Jewish future for all of us in Memphis."

From my good friend and former Temple Israel president, Billy Orgel: "Many families at Temple Israel are very intertwined with the Greenstein family, as everyone knows each other in Memphis. Our kids know each other very well and are all the same age. Rabbi Micah is a good friend who is there in sickness and in health."

He continues: "He is not just our rabbi, but to many in the Memphis community, no matter their religious background, he is a close friend as well. He is their rabbi too."

Rabbi Greenstein has forged bonds with numerous other religious leaders in Memphis and throughout the country. For example, he led Memphis' first interfaith religious leaders mission to Israel years ago.

Another friend of mine, Mark Halperin, also another former Temple Israel president, said: "Ultimately, the unique thing about Rabbi Micah is that he is the whole community's rabbi. Temple Israel is a special place, but it makes it more special to have someone like Rabbi Micah there with us."

In a 1999 profile of the rabbi in Memphis Magazine, the article cited a then young college-age Micah Greenstein finishing at Harvard's JFK School of Government and deciding to switch studies from what he said was public service to Jewish service. The rabbi went on to say: "I'm doing exactly what I think God intended for me to do, to touch people's lives in a Jewish way, to make the world more human, and to bring people together to share their differences."

Roberta and I congratulate Rabbi Micah, his loving wife, Sheril; and their three children, Cara, Jake, and Julia, on this incredible 30-year milestone.

We say mazel tov.

□ 1015

#### REDUCING PENTAGON BUDGET INCREASES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, today, we will vote on my amendment, Lee 41, to the FY22 National Defense Authorization Act to reduce from this year's bill egregious Pentagon budget increases that were added during the committee markup. Our amendment will reduce no less than \$25.5 billion

from the bill, trimming back the total level of FY22 NDAA to no more than the amount requested by the President.

I want to thank my cosponsors, starting with Congresswoman JACOBS, who was so kind to manage this amendment on the floor yesterday, for her tremendous leadership. I also thank my co-chair of the Defense Spending Reduction Caucus, Mr. POCAN, as well as Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ for working together to bring this amendment to the floor. I also thank Chairman SMITH and Mr. MCGOVERN for their support in helping to make this very important amendment in order.

The President's budget request is one of the largest in American history. For years now, the United States has been peerless in its military spending, exceeding the total spending of the next 11 countries combined. We have numerous glaring examples of waste, fraud, and abuse within our defense establishment. Our 20-year experience in Afghanistan is a stark example where the Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction identified billions of dollars—mind you, billions of dollars—wasted or outright stolen over our time there. The taxpayers deserve better.

Yet, Congress insists on piling more money into the Pentagon than our military leaders even ask for, despite DOD routinely returning unspent balances to the Treasury.

Enough is enough. Americans are demanding that Congress rebalance our priorities and invest in the biggest challenges America faces. We face imminent threats from the COVID pandemic, climate change, domestic terrorism, growing economic inequality, and systemic racial and ethnic inequities.

While I personally support a much larger reduction in Pentagon spending, we need to draw the line somewhere. This amendment is a good place to start. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, to send the message that Congress won't endorse constant inflation of the Pentagon budget.

Also, let me just cite amendment No. 40, offered again this year by Mr. POCAN and myself, for a 10 percent cut. I thank our colleague, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, for her bold leadership and for managing this amendment during the floor debate.

Mr. Speaker, the House stands again poised to pour three-quarters of a trillion dollars into a defense establishment that is unauditably, unaccountable, and does little to answer the biggest threats to the safety and welfare of our people.

The Pentagon is the only Federal department that has never passed an audit. I worked to get a requirement that DOD passes an audit written into permanent law a couple of years ago, with the help of Chairman SMITH and my colleague, Dr. BURGESS. Yet, still, the Pentagon says it won't be able to pass an audit for almost another decade.

It is not hard to find places to cut at the Pentagon. Earlier this year, a bi-

partisan group of organizations identified \$80 billion in savings that could be achieved just by implementing some efficiencies and eliminating obsolete weapons, weapons like Cold War-era bombs and missiles designed and built in the last century that are totally unsuited for the challenges of this century.

We see tremendous costs of this runaway spending, not only in the missing priorities, like public health, that are left unfunded, but in a way of thinking that militarizes every single problem in our society and turns peaceful protesters into targets for weapons of war.

Let me just say, this modest reduction that we are proposing, it won't compromise our national security, and it won't take a dollar from our troops. In fact, it will put more resources into enhancing the quality of life for our troops. It will also allow us to reinvest in healthcare, schools, and infrastructure.

This amendment will be a first step in rebalancing our priorities to build a safe, peaceful, prosperous world at home and abroad. I urge my colleagues to join me and to vote "yes" on this amendment. Let's start shifting our budget back to things that matter for most of our people.

#### AMERICANS FEEL BETRAYED BY BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the American people are outraged, and they have every right to be. I am outraged with them.

All they have seen thus far in this administration is the buck being passed and both a President and his administration that refuse to uphold the basic tenets of leadership. This administration has ruined, mishandled, and dissembled every issue it has touched.

Americans are fearful that the country that they love and respect is being run into the ground at an alarming speed. Americans deserve answers, and our allies across the world deserve them as well.

Mr. Speaker, Americans feel betrayed. They feel that they have been betrayed by their own government. That feeling of betrayal was extremely palpable when Americans were stranded in Afghanistan because of an arbitrary deadline from the Taliban that this administration caved to.

In the following days, there were no answers, only speculation as to how many Americans were still left in Afghanistan who wanted to leave. Even now, as this administration grapples with how to respond to the Taliban's takeover, you would be hard-pressed to find real answers.

In a so-called classified briefing yesterday, Members got no concrete answers. It was a pitiful—I am saying "pitiful"—display of willful ignorance and incompetence.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at the past 8 months of the Biden administration, that incompetence is everywhere: the fall of Afghanistan, our open borders, skyrocketing inflation, reckless spending, record levels of unemployment and unfilled jobs, growing national security threats.

Refusing to respect the rule of law may be the worst, Mr. Speaker. These are just a few of the crises that have grown exponentially as the days go by.

Mr. Speaker, there is a common thread that you find in each of these circumstances, and it is that acceptance of the situation and accountability are virtually nonexistent.

Mr. Speaker, it is downright shameful that America has been taken down this rocky and unsettling path, and I fear we may never be able to fully recover. President Biden and his administration cannot simply sweep every new crisis under the rug and move on, but based on what has happened thus far, I suspect we will see more of the same.

The American people deserve better than abdicated leadership and a consistent failure to uphold our values.

#### DO BETTER FOR HAITI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, as the Member of Congress who represents the Virgin Islands, the only congressional office within the English-speaking Caribbean, the plight of my Haitian brothers and sisters is very close—not just the ones presently enduring egregious and unfair treatment at the U.S.-Mexico border, but our brothers and sisters in the nation of Haiti itself.

The crisis unfolding before our eyes at the border is woefully symbolic of our Nation's inconsistent and superficial response to the reoccurring calamities in Haiti specifically and the Caribbean generally.

The nation of Haiti faces a tremendous, ongoing crisis: the recent natural disasters, including a major earthquake, tropical storms, and hurricanes; the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; health insecurity; the assassination of a Prime Minister and the accompanying political instability; gang violence; along with large-scale deterioration of infrastructure; and poverty.

As we watch our fellow human beings seeking a better life, we need to ask ourselves: Do they deserve the dignity of listening to their story, understanding their desperation, and working to find sustainable, long-term solutions to the problems that cause tens of thousands of people to leave their country, live in abject and hostile poverty in South America, and make the dangerous trek to try to come to America?

I believe, and I think some of you do as well, that our Haitian neighbors deserve that, and that, in some ways, we owe them that, and that it is even in our own self-interests.