

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

STANDING WITH ISRAEL AS IT DEFENDS ITSELF AGAINST THE BARBARIC WAR LAUNCHED BY HAMAS AND OTHER TERRORISTS

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in condemning the horrific and heartbreaking terror attacks by Hamas as articulated in H. Res. 771.

I have been horrified by and strongly condemn the terrorist attack that has unleashed another cycle of violence that has millions of innocent civilians in the region under threat.

Let me be clear: Hamas is a terrorist organization that has shown time and again its disregard for innocent human life and does not represent the aspirations or speak for the Palestinians. Hamas—which has long been designated a foreign terrorist organization by the U.S. and subject to sanctions—has no regard for the lives it puts in danger, Israeli or Palestinian.

My heart continues to be heavy as I mourn the innocent Israeli lives lost and those kidnapped and taken hostage, including Americans and other foreign nationals.

I agree with many of my colleagues who have pointed out a glaring omission in this resolution: the lack of any real acknowledgment of the hardships, suffering, and loss being imposed on innocent civilians in Gaza, including the children who have died, who hate Hamas as much as anyone in this chamber and simply want to live their lives in peace. We have to be clear that this body deplores the loss of all innocent lives.

I refuse the narrative that you cannot condemn Hamas while also expressing concerns for the fate of innocent Palestinians whose lives, livelihoods, and homes are now in turmoil and under threat.

I reiterate the call from the Biden Administration, and others, that Israel's right to defend itself and its people, brings with it the responsibility to do so in accordance with international law, including the protection of civilian life. And this must include working to restore a supply of basic needs (food, water, medicines) to the civilians trapped in Gaza.

Hamas' inhumanity and acts of terrorism should not induce the rest of us to abandon our principles and international law.

You wouldn't know it from this resolution but there is an urgent humanitarian crisis that is being made worse every minute in Gaza. The longer the fighting goes, the worse I fear the impact will be for these civilians who did nothing to start this fight and have nowhere safe to go.

How does another massive humanitarian crisis help Israel's security or the ability of civilians to live in peace? I was pleased to join a number of my colleagues on a recent letter urging President Biden to make humanitarian

needs of innocent civilians in Gaza a priority. This must remain a priority for U.S. diplomatic efforts in the region, including directly by President Biden himself. I hope this chamber would have joined us in sharing that sense of urgency and decency.

And lastly, even as Israeli forces are gathering for a devastating ground war in Gaza that will increase the suffering of innocent Palestinians, we all have to recognize that, at some point, the fighting will end.

I hope it is much sooner rather than later for the sake of innocent civilians.

The resolution is however conspicuously silent on what happens when the violence ends or on the two-state solution that I and others have pressed for over the years and which sadly, continues to be sidelined which is the goal of groups like Hamas.

Let's be clear—to permanently end this cycle, we don't need more nonbinding resolutions and condemnations. Tough choices, Tough decision, Tough compromises have to be made. And those decisions will not be made here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

What happens when the rocket fire stops is going to be the most important indicator of, if and when, we can break this cycle of violence or how soon we will once again have sirens going off in Israel and Palestinians in Gaza told to flee without any actual ability to flee.

The need for greater political and diplomatic engagement will not end with the fighting. In fact, its need increases exponentially if you really want to protect innocent civilians.

I can tell you there are Palestinian moms and dads huddling with their children in some awful place begging for peace right now.

I also hear cries for peace from families, relatives, and friends of Israeli's who died or were wounded or who are being held hostages. I don't need thousands more innocent Israeli's and/or Palestinians under threat to know that they are hungry for anything that brings them closer to peace and farther from fearing for their lives at every moment.

Security for Palestinians and Israelis are linked. So is prosperity and hope for a better future.

I want this fighting to come to an end as soon as possible. Military means have never brought peace to this region.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4394, Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024. This bill makes devastating cuts that will harm consumers, take

us backwards in the green energy transition, and threaten good-paying, clean energy jobs.

Just as the heat is being turned on for the winter, House Republicans are putting forth H.R. 4394 which will raise energy costs for more than 250,000 American households. Additionally, H.R. 4394 includes provisions that limit the Department of Energy's ability to set energy efficiency standards for home appliances. Mr. Speaker, why wouldn't we want more efficient appliances? Contrary to Republican talking points, the Biden administration is not coming to take your gas stove. That is simply untrue. The Department of Energy does not have the authority to ban gas stoves or other appliances based on fuel sources, nor should it have the authority.

The growing threat of climate change is real, and in order to protect our planet, we must reduce carbon emissions and embrace a green energy future. Congressional Republicans have long been hostile to investments in clean energy and they are using H.R. 4394 as an opportunity to slow down the transition to green energy and rescind the historic investments in clean energy made in the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. H.R. 4394 includes a 42 percent cut to the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy account. This office is critical to developing manufacturing, building efficiency, clean energy like hydrogen and solar, and weatherization technologies that are essential to our nation's growth and resilience in the face of climate change.

As we make the transition to green energy, opportunities for clean energy jobs are growing. In 2022, clean energy companies employed nearly 60,000 Minnesotans—and jobs in clean energy grew 50 percent faster than the state's overall economy. In fact, the biggest sector in Minnesota's clean energy industry is energy efficiency. Over 43,000 Minnesotans work to manufacture and install energy efficient appliances, lighting, heating, ventilation, HVAC systems, and advanced building materials in commercial buildings and homes. The drastic cuts in this bill and the attack on energy efficiency incentives will threaten the vibrancy of Minnesota's clean energy economy.

Mr. Chair, instead of reevaluating their extreme 2024 funding bills and working to find a bipartisan path forward to fund the government beyond November 17th, House Republicans are moving forward with passing bills that have no chance of ever becoming law. With this bill, House Republicans are harming consumers, threatening our clean energy economy, and failing to address the existential threat of climate change. For all of these reasons, I must vote against H.R. 4394.

• 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.

HONORING ANA IBARRA AS 2023
VALLEY LUCHADORA FOR HIS-
PANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. TONY CÁRDENAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ana Ibarra, also known as “Doña Ana”, as a Valley Luchadora. Doña Ana is the founder and owner of Pozoleria Doña Ana.

Ana was born and raised in Nayarit, Mexico, and came to the United States 44 years ago at the age of 18. With only a middle school education, Ana began her business in her living room in Panorama City, selling a popular Mexican dish, pozole.

Despite struggling with depression, Doña Ana found motivation to pursue the American dream and open her own small business.

Despite three localities denying her the license to open her restaurant, she persevered and is now located in the heart of Panorama City. Today, she has brought people from all over the United States to try her meals and bring people together through her food.

Doña Ana is the embodiment of the American dream and our community’s ‘si se puede’ mantra.

Since her one-year anniversary she shared through her restaurant funds, she has been able to send donations to over 300 children in Mexico because she remembers her humble beginnings.

It is this same spirit of generosity that she has taught to her family-owned restaurant and customers. Today, Doña Ana feeds any homeless person that enters her restaurant because she believes “a nadie se le niega un taco,” which loosely translates to “you don’t deny anyone food.”

I thank Ana. It is my honor to recognize her as a distinguished leader and luchador during Hispanic Heritage Month.

RECOGNIZING LIFE DIRECTIONS

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today I want to honor Life Directions, a community-based organization whose mission is to motivate young adults, to mature into responsible, productive adults through self-direction, as they celebrate fifty years of service.

Life Directions was founded in Detroit in 1973 when five like-minded individuals, Alexander and Judith MacDonald, Reverend John Phelps, Sister Rosalie Esquerra, and Reverend Alex Steinmiller, came together in search of community-based solution to combat increasing rates of violence in impoverished areas of the city that was impacting and taking the lives of young people. From these initial meetings, Life Directions peer mentorship programming was born. Eventually Life Directions’ programs such as Peer Motivation, Peer Mentor and other enrichment programs were offered in schools to help teens and young adults navigate better solutions and become peace builders in their communities.

The Life Directions Programs were established in Detroit, Tucson, New Orleans, Chi-

cago, and San Antonio. To date, Life Directions combined programs, Peer Motivation, Peer Mentor, Neighborhood Enrichment, focus: Life Retreats, Focus Family, Enfoque la familia, Women Bridging Change and Men Bridging Change has reached over 180,000 youth and young adults.

Please join me in recognizing Life Directions’ commitment to building a brighter future for young people, as they celebrate fifty years.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKISH REPUBLIC DAY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today I stand to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Turkish Republic Day, a significant milestone that encapsulates a century of the Turkish people’s dedication to resilience, progress, and liberty. This is not just a celebration of Turkey’s freedom but also a testament to the enduring friendship between the United States and Turkey, allies whose shared values lay the foundation for a bright future.

Central to our relationship is the substantial economic partnership that we have cultivated. This bilateral relationship extends across critical sectors including defense, energy, and commerce. It is within this sphere of trade and investment that both nations encounter vast untapped potential, promising mutual prosperity.

We engage in a strong trade relationship, exchanging billions of dollars annually worth of essential goods. Turkey ranks as a key market for American enterprises, while Turkish investments on American soil continue to spur job creation and innovation, enriching our local communities.

We recognize that our commercial relationship, albeit robust, has room for growth. Turkey’s strategic location, bordering countries across the Eurasian region, positions it as a pivotal ally for U.S. interests now more than ever. Turkey is an attractive destination for foreign direct investment and economic collaboration, particularly in emerging sectors like technology, renewable energy, and healthcare.

As we mark Turkey’s centennial Republic Day, it is incumbent upon us to recommit to nurturing this partnership. By emboldening our economic ties and exploring collaborative ventures, we can co-create a pathway towards sustained economic vitality and security. This celebration is not just about reflecting on Turkey’s admirable past; it’s about forging ahead, side by side, towards a prosperous and peaceful future.

I extend heartfelt Republic Day greetings to the Turkish people. Here’s to a friendship that, built on mutual respect and common aspirations, will continue to flourish for generations.

HONORING JULIETA GARCIA AS
2023 VALLEY LUCHADORA FOR
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. TONY CÁRDENAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Julieta Garcia as a Valley Luchadora. Julieta is a compassionate woman who saw a need in her community and decided to act. Born in Sinaloa Mexico, Julieta migrated to Los Angeles, California in 1968 where she decided to pursue the American Dream.

She worked hard to make it in this country, overcoming many obstacles to initiate a long career in post-secondary education.

In 1981, she opened a vocational school that provided injured workers with career focused training.

To many, that is a summation of a life’s work—but not for Julieta. After retiring, she decided to give even more to her community.

In 2015, she founded Plaza Comunitaria Sinaloa (PCS), a non-profit dedicated to empowering the immigrant community through adult education. Her belief in the power of education is the driving force to empower a whole community.

Julieta and her family, Julie and Jaqueline, help people just like my parents, Andres and Maria Cardenas, who emigrated from Mexico with a first and second grade level education, to learn English, learn to use computers, get their GED, pass their citizenship exam, and provide mental health and domestic violence prevention workshops.

Plaza Comunitaria Sinaloa grew by word of mouth from the comadres network.

As many of us know, a comadres network is an informal group of mothers in the community connecting others with vital information and resources.

Julieta has partnered with various neighborhood councils, businesses, and foundations.

With the support of the community, PCS has grown tremendously since 2021 and continues to expand programs and services based on community needs, priorities, and values.

I thank Julieta. It is my honor to recognize her as a distinguished community leader and luchadora during this Hispanic Heritage Month.

RECOGNIZING JANICE MCDONALD

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Janice McDonald for her decades of service to the Cherry Creek School District, City of Aurora, and surrounding communities.

A Colorado native, Janice graduated from East High School in Denver before moving with her husband to Aurora in 1957. All five of their children and fourteen of their grandchildren attended Cherry Creek Schools.

Over the years, Janice dedicated much of her time and energy to giving back to children and her community. At Ponderosa High School, she served as the Vice President and