

I will always cherish the warmth of the people. I am grateful to partner with Israel and look forward to engaging with our ally under the valued leadership of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the charge ahead to prepare and confront the challenges of the next 75 years.

May the U.S.-Israel relationship continue to flourish. May we continue to promote our shared interests in supporting democracy, peace, and cooperation throughout the region.

Mr. Speaker, over the last week, I have had an extraordinary opportunity to truly appreciate the people of Jewish faith and what they have had to face. I visited Nuremberg in Germany, Courtroom 600, where the Nazi leadership anti-Semites were convicted of the Holocaust, murdering 6 million Jews. I was there to see the site of where these perpetrators, these Nazi murderers were ultimately executed.

Additionally, I had the opportunity over the weekend to visit Warsaw, Poland, the extraordinary people today of Poland, where I witnessed the Museum of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, where Jews heroically resisted the mass murder by the Nazis as the Soviets, sadly, were adjacent, shamefully stood by within sight of the city of Warsaw and did not help.

This really reminds us that the Russian people have been abused in the past by their leadership, whether it be Joseph Stalin or now-war criminal Putin. However, the people of Poland have resumed, they have the second fastest growing economy in the world, as they have escaped from Communist totalitarian oppression. So we know that ultimately good will prevail, as we see in the State of Israel today.

Mr. Speaker, as we proceed, it should always be remembered that the United States and Israel have a long experience of a strong mutual beneficial relationship based on shared values and security interests, while also promoting peace and regional stability.

The United States and Israel face many shared threats. It is critical that Israel and the United States are at the forefront of emerging technology.

I was grateful to introduce the bipartisan U.S.-Israel Future of Warfare Act of 2023, which provides for collaboration between the two countries in the areas of defense, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and directed energy. This is done in a bipartisan manner with Congressmen STEVE COHEN of Tennessee, DAVID CICILLINE of Rhode Island, and DEAN PHILLIPS of Minnesota. Over and over again, this is bipartisan, and I am grateful that we worked together to promote our shared mutual interests with the people of Israel.

Israel's experience in combating terrorism is an invaluable resource in developing strategies to protect American families. The U.S.-Israel partnership supports over 255,000 American jobs. Bilateral trade has grown to over \$49 billion annually.

Israel is the leader in healthcare development. From cancer development to emergency response, Israel is a trusted partner to improve quality of life around the world.

As we conclude, I would point out that my appreciation of the Jewish State of Israel is something that I was born with. I was very grateful to be born in the holy city of Charleston, South Carolina.

As we claim holy, it is not to disparage Jerusalem. We just have a significant number of

churches that legitimately it can be the holy city of Charleston.

Growing up in Charleston, a very important fact is that at the time of the American Revolution the largest Jewish population in the New World was in Charleston, South Carolina.

The first provincial constitution to recognize Judaism as a religion was the provincial constitution of the province of South Carolina.

The first Jewish elected official was in the provincial assembly of South Carolina.

Sadly, the first Jewish American patriot killed in the American Revolution was in Charleston, South Carolina.

The people of South Carolina just cherish our relationship with the people of Jewish faith, and we are strong supporters of the State of Israel.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF DYLAN
ROCKEY ON HIS OFFER OF AP-
POINTMENT TO ATTEND THE
UNITED STATES MILITARY
ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 15, 2023

Mr. Latta. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Dylan Rockey of Bryan, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Dylan's offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2027. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Dylan brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2027. While attending Hayfield Secondary School in Alexandria, Virginia, Dylan has participated in JROTC and was on the honor role. Throughout high school, Dylan was involved with lacrosse and football, becoming varsity captain of his football team. I am confident that Dylan will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dylan Rockey on his offer of appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available, and I am positive that Dylan will excel during his career at the Military Academy. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

SECURE THE BORDER ACT 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2023

Mr. Connolly. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose H.R. 2, the "Child Deportation Act."

I remind my colleagues that seeking asylum is not a privilege, it's a basic human right, enshrined in Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

I cannot support a bill that will deport unaccompanied children, end asylum, restart the disastrous "Remain in Mexico" policy, jail immigrant families, and impose restrictions on NGOs, including faith-based organizations that provide shelter, transportation, food or legal assistance to vulnerable immigrants and asylum seekers.

I have to tell you Mr. Speaker, I couldn't believe my eyes when I read that in the very first part of this bill, Section 102 of Division A, Republicans would actually seek to restart border wall construction with U.S. taxpayer dollars.

I don't know about my friends on the other side of the aisle, but I was under the impression that not only had Trump finished the wall, but that Mexico had paid for it.

The truth of the matter is that Trump only built 80 miles of his wall in places where no kind of barrier existed previously. That's not even 5 percent of the total southern border.

But that's not all. The Trump administration eviscerated our asylum and refugee admission program, and effectively denied those fleeing violence the right to seek asylum.

Mr. Speaker, no one chooses to be a refugee, and in the face of nearly 100 million people forcibly displaced worldwide, the highest level ever recorded, America must reclaim its status as a safe haven for the downtrodden and once again open its door to refugees.

But opening our doors to refugees and immigrants is not just about our compassion and humanity.

It is estimated that draconian Trump-era restrictions on asylum seekers, many of which are included in H.R. 2, permanently shrank the United States economy by \$9.1 billion each year of his administration.

The Trump party claims they want to grow the economy, but not at the expense of their own xenophobia.

Mr. Speaker, it's difficult to imagine that this Republican conference could offer a serious bill that would address the situation at the border.

This is the same Republican conference who had prominent members calling for defunding the Department of Homeland Security just months ago.

This is the same Republican party that voted against \$7.2 billion for Border Patrol operations, which included the hiring of 300 more border patrol agents.

Mr. Speaker, Emma Lazarus's poem, "the new colossus," written just 18 years after Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse, cast into bronze at the turn of the 20th century inside the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor, provides the instructive message that Lady Liberty herself represents. "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

The only thing Republicans have forgotten to do in this bill is amend Emma Lazarus' poem to say, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free and send them back to face the violence they are fleeing."

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this inhumane, wasteful, dogmatic legislation. The priorities of this body must include passing comprehensive immigration reform, protecting dreamers, rebuilding the asylum

system, and meeting our labor shortage needs. This bill falls remarkably short.

HONORING DR. SUNGBAE JU

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 15, 2023

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Sungbae Ju in commendation of his time as the President and Founder of Bel Canto Opera, Inc., a United Nations non-profit that aspires to achieve international unity through music.

On December 17, 1963, Dr. Ju was born in Busan, South Korea to Mr. Chang Ho Ju and Mrs. Hyo Won Park. While Ju and his four brothers grew up in Korea, Sungbae immigrated to the United States of America on January 17, 1990, pursuing an educational opportunity fitting for his musical aptitude.

Dr. Sungbae Ju first attended the Manhattan School of Music and received a Master of Music. His educational journey, however, quickly combined with his international interests. Upon graduation, Dr. Ju pursued a higher level of education and received a Doctor of Literature from Canada Christian College and an Honorable Doctor of Music from the Universidad Cristiana de Bolivia.

Dr. Ju quickly rose to prominence in the music community, both nationally and internationally. As a Classical Opera Singer, he performed in several renowned venues including Carnegie Hall and the Lincoln Center. While his career started in the Northeastern region of the United States of America, marked by performances with the New York Harmonic Orchestra and KBS String, Dr. Ju's talent warranted recognition from some of the industry's most famous judges. He was awarded 1st Prize at the Glenn Music Festival by legendary MET judges such as Virginia Zeani and Madam Licia Albanese.

He later began performing for the public sector, winning not only an appreciation letter from the White House, but also the Presidential Lifetime Award for his achievements in both musical performances and the public sector.

This unprecedented success served as a segway for Dr. Sungbae Ju's work on an international level. With over 200 performances for both state governments and the United Nations, Dr. Ju's international musical experience and outstanding public service record, he formed the Bel Canto International Society (also known as Bel Canto Opera, Inc.).

Through his non-profit, Dr. Ju blended his musical talent with both his international pursuits and his public service record to aid individuals across the globe. Using music as his tool, he unified countless communities who lived without many of the luxuries that are often taken for granted. His work as the President of the Bel Canto International Society singlehandedly changed the lives of so many in under-privileged regions.

Since 2019, Dr. Sungbae Ju stepped away from his non-profit and formed his own consulting agency, hoping to inspire and equip others with the means of making a global difference.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing

compares to working with and recognizing the efforts of individuals like Dr. Ju, who never fail to make the world a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, friends, family, and the residents of New Jersey in recognizing Dr. Sungbae Ju for his outstanding work, as we celebrate his decades of distinguished service to the State of New Jersey. May Sungbae, his wife Hyo Im, and three daughters, Hannah, Sarah and Victoria stand proud.

RECOGNIZING MAY 14TH AS
IMMUNOGLOBULIN A
NEPHROPATHY (LGAN) AWARE-
NESS DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 15, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to families living with immunoglobulin A nephropathy, also known as IgA nephropathy (IgAN), or Berger's disease, a rare kidney disease that affects approximately 150,000 people in the United States. Earlier this month, my home state of Illinois issued a proclamation signed by the governor proclaiming May 14th as IgA Nephropathy Awareness Day.

IgA nephropathy occurs when IgA, a protein made by the immune system, builds up in the kidneys, causing inflammation that damages kidney tissue, negatively impacting the normal filtering mechanisms of the kidneys. Currently there is no cure for IgAN and 20 percent to 40 percent of IgAN patients will develop end-stage renal disease and need dialysis or a kidney transplant to survive. However, help for these patients is on the way.

In September 2020, several bipartisan Members of Congress, including the Kidney Caucus, the Rare Disease Caucus, the Congressional Black Caucus, and patient advocacy organizations like NephCure Kidney International as well as 40 other stakeholders participated in the first ever Rare Kidney Disease Policy Roundtable to identify policy recommendations to advance ideas to treat rare kidney disease.

At the American Society of Nephrology's October 2020 Kidney Week, the roundtable released its recommendations in a paper titled, "We Deserve Better: Revolutionizing Rare Kidney Disease," which outlined essential policy recommendations to catalyze and marshal developments in the rare kidney disease space. It was a seminal document for people living with IgA nephropathy and Focal Segmental Glomerular Sclerosis (FSGS) rare kidney diseases that particularly affect Asian Americans and African Americans respectively. The paper had five key policy findings: 1) increased rare kidney disease awareness is essential and should be part of our national strategy to reduce kidney failure, 2) significant reductions in time to diagnosis for rare kidney disease patients would yield dramatic improvements in health outcomes, 3) identifying and meeting the needs of communities of color living with rare kidney disease is a necessity, 4) healthcare providers, including nephrologists, need ore education on treating and serving patients with rare kidney disease and 5) access to specialists and patient advocates will help preserve kidney function. People in Illi-

nois living with IgAN or FSGS know how important it is to address all these critical areas.

For decades, there was only a single FDA-approved treatment for IgA nephropathy. However, in the last decade, a more efficient regulatory path has paved the way for the development of pioneering therapies, ushering in a new era of innovation in rare kidney diseases, resulting in over 30 clinical trials currently underway with some therapies already approved and many showing promising results. In an August 2022 article, STAT, a health-oriented website published by Boston Globe Media, quoted an IgAN researcher characterizing this moment as "a golden age of IgA nephropathy." Clearly, the research and development in this space is encouraging and the future for IgA nephropathy patients is bright.

Mr. Speaker, I hope everyone will take a moment to recognize IgAN Awareness Day on May 14th, and I want to acknowledge the families in my district and throughout Illinois who are living with IgAN and other rare kidney diseases, and to let them know that help is on the way.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF COLTON
KEEFE ON HIS OFFER OF AP-
POINTMENT TO ATTEND THE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 15, 2023

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Colton Keefe of Bowling Green, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Colton's offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2027. Attending one of our nation's military academies offers the opportunity to serve our country and receive a world-class education. At the same time, these young men and women undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Colton brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2027. While attending Bowling Green High School, Colton participated in numerous extracurricular activities and was a member of the National Honor Society. Throughout high school, Colton participated in football and wrestling, earning his varsity letter in both. I am confident that Colton will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Colton Keefe on his offer of appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available, and I am positive that Colton will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.