

Russians who are deprived of the truth, fed by their government's fake news.

Let us contemplate that Hitler could have been stopped early on if democratic nations had the common sense and necessary guts to confront him early. Jewish leaders appealed to Franklin D. Roosevelt, their sainted New Deal president, only to be turned away dismissively and misleadingly with false promises that all would be well, but first Nazi Germany had to be defeated. By the time the United States got involved it was too late for 6 million Jews—two-thirds of European Jewry and one-third of the total Jewish people, including a million and a half children, along with millions of others. Delayed response to fateful danger by democracies that tend to be slow and uncertain in decision-making and extra cautious about bloodletting of their own and others, turns ever costly with a commensurate rising price. It is humanity's tragic pitfall that dictators possess the nerve and verve to launch unprovoked attacks even as democracies become impotent at critical crossroads rather than calling for determined and quick action to avert monumental destruction.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who ironically and instructively happens to be Jewish and lost relatives in the Holocaust, is pleading for his country's independent existence and survival through more aid and we should fully assist him. To claim that the United States and NATO members have limitations in doing so because the victim does not belong to NATO is immoral and short-sighted. I suggest that Ukraine's defeat would serve to hasten another colossal disaster for Europe and the democratic world, with Putin further emboldened to continue violating others more vulnerable than Ukraine, whose resistance to the onslaught is an exemplary response we can all be inspired by. Zelenskyy has emerged, despite being laughed at given his comedian's background, as a world statesman with Winston Churchill's heroic aura. The Jewish War Veterans of the United States designated Zelenskyy as Honorary Patron. The International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for Putin. Let justice prevail with our indispensable help!

Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is founder of Temple Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach.

### HALT ALL LETHAL TRAFFICKING OF FENTANYL ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. VAL T. HOYLE**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 24, 2023*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 467) to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes:

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Chair, today I will vote in support of H.R. 467, the Halt All Lethal Trafficking of (HALT) Fentanyl Act. This legislation permanently classifies all fentanyl-related substances as Schedule I drugs under the Controlled Substances Act, and it allows for expedited research into these substances.

While H.R. 467 is not perfect, it takes needed steps to help save lives and reduce the supply and availability of illicitly manufactured fentanyl-related substances.

As President Biden has stated, placing fentanyl-related substances into Schedule I

will provide law enforcement with the resources they need to tackle the manufacturing and trafficking of fentanyl-related substances. It will also close loopholes that allow drug traffickers to evade the law by altering the chemical makeup of fentanyl.

In addition, H.R. 467's provisions to expand research into fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances will improve our understanding of these substances, including increasing the potential of finding more effective treatments for overdose victims.

But let me be clear: H.R. 467 is a blunt instrument—it does not do enough to comprehensively address the fentanyl crisis. Instead of working with congressional Democrats to put together a bipartisan bill to comprehensively tackle this crisis, the House Republican majority chose to write this bill in a partisan fashion.

As a result, H.R. 467 leaves out important solutions for addressing the fentanyl crisis, including expanding access to treatment, testing, and education. That's why I'm a cosponsor of H.R. 3375, the STOP Fentanyl Overdoses Act, a bipartisan bill to expand access to overdose reversal medications, like Narcan, and offer medication treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD) to incarcerated individuals to prevent relapses.

Most people who die from a fentanyl overdose don't know that what they're consuming could be life-threatening. That's why I'm a cosponsor of the bipartisan H.R. 3563, the Secure Testing Resources Instead of Prosecuting (STRIP) Act, which would allow for wider access to fentanyl test strips to help avoid preventable overdoses and deaths.

Tragically, fentanyl-related overdose deaths have impacted far too many families in my congressional district and across the country. Youth drug overdose deaths have more than doubled nationwide since 2019, and they have more than tripled in Oregon during that same time period. This is mainly due to the rapid spread of illicitly manufactured fentanyl.

One death by overdose is one too many.

We must be proactive in educating youth in our communities about the dangers of fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances. That's why I was proud to join Oregon's Congressional delegation in sending a letter urging the Department of Education to increase fentanyl awareness and drug-prevention education in schools.

If the Senate takes up H.R. 467, I encourage Senators to work in a bipartisan fashion to improve this bill and add more comprehensive solutions to address the fentanyl crisis.

Fentanyl overdoses do not fall on party lines. Neither should legislation to stop it. We must pass a bill into law as soon as possible in order to prevent more deaths from fentanyl overdose.

### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF THOSE WHO GAVE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE MEMORIAL DAY 2023

**HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2023*

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize those who paid

the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the United States of America. On behalf of the United States Congress, and the constituents of the 23rd Congressional District, I am proud to recognize our brave soldiers' courage, sacrifice, and valor as we come together this Memorial Day.

All gave some, and some gave all. Memorial Day is not a 3-day weekend. Instead, it is the duty of a grateful Nation to pause and remember those who laid down their life so that we may live free. This is the greatest country on earth, and we are the only Nation that guarantees the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as the cornerstone of our foundation.

The Flag of the United States of America shows red, white, and blue. Blue symbolizes vigilance, perseverance, and justice—a reminder that we must remain watchful and strong. White reminds us to stay true to our values and ideals. Red represents valor in honor of the blood shed by those who have fought to protect our freedoms.

On Memorial Day we remember those we lost and honor the veterans who are with us today. America is the land of the free because it is the home of the brave. I am so humbled by the bravery and honor displayed by our men and women in uniform. Whether it be Memorial Day or any other day, please know that we as a Nation are grateful.

### WELCOMING THE LSU LADY TIGERS

**HON. TROY A. CARTER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2023*

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to welcome the LSU Lady Tigers to our Nation's Capital.

They had an all-star season, which included bringing LSU's first basketball national title home to Louisiana and achieving the highest scoring championship game in women's NCAA history. This LSU women's basketball team exemplifies the true Louisiana spirit of resilience. They never counted themselves out or listened to naysayers, they worked hard, and they triumphed. Their teamwork, unity, and drive are remarkable.

I thank LaDazhia Williams, Jasmine Carson, Flau'jae Johnson, Sa'Myah Smith, Angel Reese, Emily Ward, Last-Tear Poa, Izzy Besselman, Alisa Williams, Amani Bartlett, Alexis Morris, Kateri Poole, Coach Mulkey, Coach Starkey, Coach Mitchell, Coach Redus, and the entire LSU Women's Basketball staff for bringing their team spirit, Louisiana's spirit, to the whole country.

I'm glad they are being exclusively honored in Washington, D.C. this week and receiving the recognition they deserve.

### CONGRATULATING CARMEN ANA AND FELIX VEGA ON THEIR 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2023*

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate my constituents, Mrs.

Carmen Ana Fournier Figueroa and Dr. Felix Rafael Vega Sala on their 60th wedding anniversary.

Carmen Ana and Felix Vega met in 1959 when they were 15 and 17 years old. She was born in Bayamón and he was born in Hatillo, Puerto Rico. Within a few years of meeting one another, they married in 1963 and moved to Seville, Spain, where Felix continued his medical education with the help and support of his devoted wife Carmen Ana. After four years in Spain, they returned to Puerto Rico where Felix completed his medical degree and obtained his license as a psychiatrist.

In 1982, the family traveled again to Fort Smith, Arkansas, where Dr. Vega served as a lead psychiatrist for the Cuban refugees who had fled oppression in the Mariel boatlift. In 1984, the family moved back to Puerto Rico, and Dr. Vega continued his long-standing professional career with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in the San Juan Regional Office. After 28 years, Dr. Vega retired as a distinguished medical professional for the VA in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Their devotion and love for one another has been witnessed by many and, has embodied one of the most important vows in marriage; "in sickness and in health." When Carmen Ana was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2010, it was not only her faith, bravery, and courageous attitude that got her through this life-threatening disease, but it was the loving care of her husband, and support of her doctors, friends, and family, that helped her defeat this devastating disease.

Dr. Felix Vega and Carmen Ana have two children, Felix, and Carmen, as well as four young grandchildren, Fabiana, Carlos Enrique, Felix Sebastian and Carmen Sofia. The entire family lives happily in Puerto Rico.

Please join me in giving Carmen Ana and Felix warmhearted congratulations on their 60th wedding anniversary. I commend them and wish them many more happy years together.

CONGRATULATING AUGUSTIN TELLEZ ON RECEIVING SONS OF ITALY FOUNDATION HUMANITARIAN AWARD

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2023*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my friend Augustin 'Augie' Tellez, who is this year's recipient of the Sons of Italy Foundation's Humanitarian Award. From his leadership in organized labor to his pride in his Italian heritage, Augie truly deserves this honor—as well as the gratitude of many people across Maryland and America.

Serving as the Executive Vice President of the Seafarers International Union (SIU) since 2005, Augie has been an important voice for mariners, boatmen, and fishermen across North America. He has a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities that people face in his industry. Augie's tenure with SIU began when he graduated from the Paul Hall Center's Lundberg School of Seamanship down in Piney Point, Maryland, in 1975. After five years of serving the union in several posts across the country, he rose through the

ranks to become port agent of SIU's headquarters port and later special assistant to the union's president. Trusting Augie's good judgement and inspiring leadership, the SIU executive board appointed him to serve as the union's vice president of contracts and contracts enforcement in 1991—a position that union membership reelected him to the following year. He served in that role until 2005, overseeing all the union's collective bargaining efforts. From helping develop the SIU's training record book to overseeing contract implementation for the union, he has made invaluable contributions to the SIU and continues to do so as Executive Vice President. His work isn't limited to the SIU, however.

Many government and industry leaders have sought out Augie's expertise and insight. He has served on the U.S. Transportation Command's Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement Executive Working Group (EWG) for over two decades, fostering closer cooperation between the federal government and his industry to ensure that the U.S. military has access to vital commercial shipping resources in the event of an emergency deployment. Similarly, between 2011 and 2022, Augie served on the U.S. Transportation Department's Marine Transportation National Advisory Council. As chair of the council's U.S. Maritime Workforce Working Group Subcommittee, he helped assess how the nation's mariner workforce could support the American merchant fleet during national emergencies. Indeed, the recent COVID-19 pandemic reminded us of the vital importance of maintaining strong supply chains, and Augie has played an important role in that effort.

I've also been grateful for all that Augie has done for our community in Southern Maryland. He has served as a trustee for the Paul Hall Center and as chair of its advisory board for years. He was instrumental in securing key expansions to the school. That includes the Joseph Sacco Fire Fighting and Safety School, which provides maritime firefighting training, and a cutting-edge facility with a variety of simulators that help seafarers develop important shiphandling skills and learn industry procedures. Thanks in part to Augie's efforts, Paul Hall Center now offers more U.S. Coast Guard-approved training courses than any other school in America, providing a first-rate education to its students and graduating some of the world's best merchant mariners year after year. We are so lucky to have this esteemed institution in Southern Maryland and to have leaders like Augie who help run it.

It's been a pleasure to know Augie all these years. From preserving America's maritime traditions to protecting workers' rights, he continues to do crucial work on behalf of our state and Nation. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Augie on this award and in thanking him for all that he has done for our country and its mariners.

RECOGNIZING GENE OVERHOLT'S SERVICE TO THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH AND TO THE NATION

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2023*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Gene Overholt, a veteran of the

Second World War and a longtime resident of Plymouth, Michigan, on the occasion of his passing. His service to the nation and dedication to his community over 99 years of life is worthy of commendation.

Gene was born in the small town of Bippus, Indiana in 1924, before moving to Huntington, Indiana. He and his wife, Jane, were childhood sweethearts and began dating at the age of 13. He joined the armed forces as soon as he was of age, where he was trained as a "telephone man". On the battlefield, Gene served by running communication channels, culminating in his participation in the Battle of the Bulge in the winter of 1944/45.

He came home and began work at Michigan Bell, where he would spend the rest of his career. He and his wife Jane raised their three daughters in Plymouth, Michigan, and though he was done with his military service, his service to his community was just beginning. Gene was one of the founding members of the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth, and eventually was elected as the President of Kiwanis International in 1988–89. In 1962, Gene assisted in the creation of the Plymouth Salvation Army, where he served on the Board until his passing earlier this year. He also spent a decade on the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees and was eventually inducted into the Plymouth Hall of Fame. In honor of his three daughters, all of whom taught in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Gene founded the Gene and Jane Overholt Educational Scholarship Foundation. This foundation, which gives scholarships to students going into the field of education or other service professions, will carry on Gene's legacy for decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Gene Overholt's life of service to our country and to his community. Though he is no longer with us, his legacy of service will live on through his daughters, his foundation, and the indelible impression he has left upon his city. I thank Gene.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT-ELECT SANTIAGO PEÑA PALACIOS

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2023*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the American people extend congratulations to the Honorable Santiago Peña Palacios on being elected to the Presidency of Paraguay on May 2nd. His success as a former member of the Board of Directors of the Central Bank of Paraguay and former Minister of Finance of Paraguay demonstrates his ability to be a great leader. I am grateful for his dedicated work on anti-corruption, equal application of law, and advancing security, and economic growth for the benefit of both our countries creating jobs.

The United States established diplomatic relations with Paraguay in 1861, 50 years after Paraguay declared independence from Spain. The longstanding relationship of our nations is characterized by cooperation, shared interests, and a strong bilateral trade relationship. The history of Paraguay as an independent nation has been marked by political upheavals, but in 1989, it underwent a transition to civilian leadership and democratic elections, which the United States supported.