

to create a new level of joint deterrence by these longtime allies to address a security environment that has been deteriorating for the last two decades in the Indo-Pacific region.

Its goal is simple: to preserve an open and free Indo-Pacific and a rules-based order at sea, in the air, and in the cyber domain. It is not a policy of aggression. It is, rather, one of maintaining the integrity and sovereignty of all nations in the region to achieve peace and prosperity.

Madam Speaker, this is a big undertaking for the country of Australia. The centerpiece is recapitalizing their submarine fleet, which today are diesel, electric submarines that have to surface to recharge their batteries and replace them with conventionally armed nuclear-powered submarines.

Over the last 2 years, our three Navies' leadership have been meeting to try to come up with a plan to execute this undertaking. Last March, in San Diego, California, at Naval Base Point Loma, the three heads of government—President Biden, Prime Minister Albanese from Australia, and Prime Minister Sunak—came together and stacked hands to make a commitment, and particularly our country, to do something that we have not done since 1958, which is to share the crown jewels of our national security technology; namely, nuclear propulsion.

This program, which again was announced last March, calls for the U.S. to sell three Virginia-class attack submarines in the early 2030s, again, as a way of allowing Australia to replace their fleet with a more capable set of vessels that have longer reach and more capacity in terms of executing deterrence. For the U.S. Navy and for our industrial base here in the U.S., it will call for a much greater capacity for submarine construction than exists today.

Madam Speaker, I represent Groton, Connecticut, which is the home of General Dynamics Electric Boat, the general contractor for the Virginia-class submarine program and also for the Columbia-class program, which today are both working hard to address our own Navy's needs. With AUKUS, this is going to add another level of production targets that again will strain and call for more capacity.

The Biden administration last year saw this coming. They have laid out a \$2.4 billion plan over the next 5 years to increase the workforce, supply chain, and facility to achieve this goal. We saw it happening in real time during my break in August.

If you go back 3 years ago, the shipyard's workforce was about 17,000 people. As of last Friday, it is 21,700 strong. The investments in supply chains that are going all over the country to 48 different States is standing up to meet this demand signal so that this alliance, which, again, is about preserving peace and protecting freedom, will succeed.

The development of the workforce is very exciting to see. This last spring,

trade school graduates and comprehensive high school graduates were going right into the shipyard. The U.S. Department of Labor workforce investment training program, the manufacturing pipeline, reached 4,000 graduates in the metal trades, electricians, welders, machinists.

This is a level of job training and investment that we have not seen for a long time. The 2023 hiring goal for Electric Boat is the largest in the 120-year history of the company—5,750 people. As I said, last week they hit the 21,700 mark, and they will be on target to complete that goal by the end of December.

It is going to require more commitment. We now have people in the Senate who are talking about increasing the Biden budget for investment in the industrial base. Again, this will provide benefit not just for southeastern Connecticut or southern New England, but for States all across the country: manufacturers and small businesses that provide the parts and pieces that go into these amazing vessels, the amazing technology that makes these vessels go.

For the three countries of Australia, the U.K., and the U.S., this Friday will be a proud moment in terms of advancing a goal which all of the neighbors in the region—smaller countries and larger countries—are supporting, which, again, is to push back against some of the encroachment and coercive behavior that now exists in the Indo-Pacific region.

SPEAKER MCCARTHY MUST KEEP HIS WORD

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

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, on this very floor in January, the whole world witnessed a historic contest for House Speaker.

I rise today to serve notice: Mr. Speaker, you are out of compliance with the agreement that allowed you to assume this role. The path forward for the House of Representatives is to either bring you into immediate, total compliance or remove you pursuant to a motion to vacate the chair.

We have had no vote on term limits or on balanced budgets, as the agreement demanded and required. There has been no full release of the January 6 tapes, as you promised. There has been insufficient accountability for the Biden crime family. Instead of cutting spending to raise the debt limit, you relied on budgetary gimmicks and rescissions so that you ultimately ended up serving as the valet to underwrite Biden's debt and expand his spending agenda.

Mr. Speaker, you boasted in January that we would use the power of the subpoena and the power of the purse, but here we are 8 months later, and we haven't even sent the first subpoena to Hunter Biden. That is how you know

that the rushed and somewhat rattled performance you just saw from the Speaker isn't real.

At this point during Democrat control over the House of Representatives, they had already brought in Don Jr. three times, and we haven't even sent the first subpoena to Hunter Biden. Power of the subpoena.

Power of the purse. The only thing the 118th Congress is known for at this point is electing KEVIN MCCARTHY Speaker and underwriting Biden's debt. Unfortunately, there is only one of those things we can remediate at this time. Power of the purse.

Our leadership right now is asking us to vote for a continuing resolution. A vote for a continuing resolution is a vote to continue the Green New Deal and inflationary spending. In the most troubling of fashions, a vote for a continuing resolution is a vote to continue the election interference of Jack Smith.

Mr. Speaker, we told you how to use the power of the purse: individual, single-subject spending bills that would allow us to have specific review, programmatic analysis, and that would allow us to zero out the salaries of the bureaucrats who have broken bad, targeted President Trump, or cut sweetheart deals for Hunter Biden.

September 30 is rapidly approaching, and you have not put us in a position to succeed. There is no way to pass all the individual appropriations bills now, and it is not like we didn't know when September 30 was going to show up on the calendar. I must be better, you must be better, and this House must be better, for it is the last best hope for tens of millions of Republicans.

We demand real oversight against this weaponized government. Just look at the bribery. If tens of millions of dollars flowing from foreign corrupt people into the bank accounts of the Biden family wasn't enough for actual impeachment, why were we even looking? Joe Biden deserves impeachment for converting the Vice-Presidency into an ATM machine for virtually his entire family. We all see it. We all know it.

Moments ago, Speaker MCCARTHY endorsed an impeachment inquiry. This is a baby step following weeks of pressure from House conservatives to do more. We must move faster.

Now, I will concede that the votes I have called for will likely fail—term limits, balanced budgets, maybe even impeachment. I am prepared for that eventuality. At least if we take votes, the American people get to see who is fighting for them and who is willing to tolerate more corruption and business as usual.

Mr. Speaker, dust off our written January agreement. You have a copy. Reflect on the spirit of that agreement and build on the start that we had moments ago and begin to comply:

No continuing resolutions; individual spending bills or bust.

Votes on balanced budgets and term limits.

Subpoenas for Hunter Biden and the members of the Biden family who have been grifting off this country and the impeachment for Joe Biden that he so richly deserves.

Do these things or face a motion to vacate the chair.

Let me alert the country, a motion to vacate might not pass at first, but it might before the 15th vote. If Democrats bail out MCCARTHY, as they may do, then I will lead the resistance to this uniparty and the Biden-McCarthy-Jeffries government that they are attempting to build.

I know that Washington isn't a town where people are known for keeping their word. Well, Speaker MCCARTHY, I am here to hold you to yours.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DE LA CRUZ). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

Members are further reminded not to engage in personalities toward the President.

HERKY THE HAWK CELEBRATES 75 YEARS AS UNIVERSITY OF IOWA MASCOT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Herky the Hawk, who this August celebrated 75 years as the beloved mascot of the University of Iowa.

Herky embodies the spirit of the University of Iowa, representing the determination, resilience, and unwavering commitment of its students, alumni, and supporters. With his distinctive black and gold feathers, imposing stature, and fierce countenance, Herky exudes an unmistakable aura of Hawkeye pride. His presence at sporting events, campus gatherings, and community outreach activities has created countless memories and fostered a sense of camaraderie among Hawkeye fans young and old.

As we celebrate Herky's 75th year as the University of Iowa's mascot, we not only honor a beloved icon but also recognize the enduring values, unity, and pride that make the University of Iowa a special place.

Here is to Herky, a symbol of excellence and Hawkeye spirit for generations to come.

CONGRATULATING KALAYNA DURR, 2023 IOWA STATE FAIR QUEEN

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kalayna Durr of New London in Henry County, Iowa, for being crowned the 2023 Iowa State Fair Queen this past August.

The annual Iowa State Fair Queen competition takes place during the Iowa State Fair as county queens from across the State compete for the coveted crown. Judging is based on personality, leadership, attitude, citizenship, contribution to the community, as well

as overall appearance, demeanor, and poise. After 5 days of workshops, evaluations, and interviews, Kalayna was able to beat out 103 other contestants for the title.

In addition to the well-deserved crown, Kalayna Durr's triumph comes with substantial awards, including \$8,000 in scholarships, a \$600 gift card, a pair of cowboy boots, exquisite diamond earrings, an Iowa State Fair brick, and, of course, a sash that signifies her role as the State's ambassador of agriculture and community.

Her reign promises to be a symbol of grace, intelligence, and leadership as she represents Iowa and its cherished traditions throughout her term as the Iowa State Fair Queen.

Congratulations to Kalayna Durr on this outstanding accomplishment.

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REST IN PEACE K9 OFFICER KURLY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize retired K9 Officer Kurly who passed away at the age of 12 due to natural causes in August. Kurly served alongside Corporal Brian Schertz for 9 years in the Davenport Police Department.

Kurly was more than just a dedicated member of the department. She was a beloved member of the community who worked tirelessly in the patrol division and contributed to countless cases on both sides of the river. In retirement, Kurly enjoyed long walks, playing, and spending time with the Schertz family.

As we bid farewell to this loyal and valiant K9 officer, we express our gratitude for her years of service to the community. Kurly's memory will live on in the hearts of those she protected and the lives of those she touched.

May Kurly rest in peace. She will be deeply missed.

IOWA FOOTBALL KID CAPTAINS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2023 Hawkeye football kid captains. Each season, the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital designates current or former patients as kid captains for each game of the football season.

These kid captains, who have faced challenges that most of us can only imagine, will spend their game day immersed in the world of Iowa football, experiencing the excitement and camaraderie that comes with it. The highlight of their day, however, is the heartwarming wave they initiate, sending love and encouragement to the children at the hospital across the street. It is a simple gesture that carries immeasurable meaning, symbolizing their triumph over adversity and their enduring spirit of hope.

This year's kid captains are Gracelyn Springer, Nile Kron, Maggie Larson, Gabby Ford, Wyatt Rannals, Max Schlee, Madi Ramirez, Bentley Erickson, Lincoln Veach, Chloe Dinkla, Cooper Estenson, and Nathan McDonald.

As we cheer the Hawkeyes on the field this season, let us also take a mo-

ment to salute these kid captains. They are true champions.

TWO IOWANS RETURNING HOME AFTER CIRCUMNAVIGATION TO ERADICATE POLIO

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary efforts of two Iowans, Peter Teahan and John Ockenfels, who returned home in August after circumnavigating the globe as part of Rotary International's End Polio Now initiative.

Their journey started at the Eastern Iowa Airport, taking them through 19 countries on four continents. Along the way, they engaged with local leaders, sparking crucial discussions about their mission. Their unwavering dedication to eradicating polio and the impact of their journey led to over \$1 million raised for Rotary's Polio Plus Program, which provides vital vaccines to those in need globally.

This self-funded expedition, costing approximately \$100,000, served as a poignant reminder that the fight against polio is ongoing, and their efforts have brought it one step closer to its end. With ongoing donations matched by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, their mission continues to inspire and uplift, emphasizing that hope knows no bounds when dedicated individuals join forces to make a difference.

HONORING GINA SPAGNOLA

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize the president and CEO of the Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce, a fighter for small businesses, an advocate for our youth, and a dear friend of mine, Mrs. Gina Spagnola.

I am very proud to stand here on the House floor and celebrate the remarkable Gina Spagnola for her 20 years of unwavering service to the Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce. Under her guidance, the chamber has thrived.

For over 178 years, the Galveston Regional Chamber's mission has been to foster business and community development, and Gina's leadership has elevated this historic institution to unprecedented heights.

Gina has not only embraced this mission, she has embodied it. Her unwavering commitment to Galveston Island and the broader Texas Gulf Coast region has been a driving force behind the chamber's success.

I could go on about the great work and things Gina has accomplished, but we could be here for hours. Instead, Madam Speaker, I will highlight a few things to give you a little picture of how lucky Galveston is to have her advocacy and passion for the businesses in our community.

One of Gina's proudest accomplishments has been the inauguration of this very Galveston Women's Conference she started 16 years ago. After