

across the world, particularly in the Indo-Pacific with China's increase in its navy.

I have a picture next to me which shows the next submarine that is in the queue. That is the USS *Iowa* SSN 797, which went through a christening recently and is going to be commissioned and deployed in the near future. There are about 13 more *Virginia*-class submarines that are in the production queue, again, to meet this demand signal.

That has actually been even more amplified with the AUKUS agreement, the new security agreement between Australia and the United Kingdom, which is going to allow us to help Australia recapitalize its own submarine fleet, which is diesel-electric today, into nuclear-powered submarines.

Australian shipyard workers and policymakers are going to be coming to my district in terms of what I think is going to be one of the smartest strategic moves our country has made in recent years, bringing in a great ally that has been with us in every conflict going back to World War I, is part of Five Eyes, and can definitely be trusted in terms of critical information like nuclear propulsion technology. This is something which we have not shared with another country since 1958 when we did it with the British Navy.

I congratulate Peter Baker, who is the head of the Metal Trades Council, who led the way in terms of negotiating this agreement, as well as Shawn Coyne from the H.R. department at Electric Boat. This is going to create an attractive signal to young people, who are being hiring by leaps and bounds. Just this year alone they have hired 4,400. In terms of coming into the yard, they are not entering just a job but actually a career with a very strong, secure economic future for themselves and their families.

That is good news not only for them and for the region, but also for our Nation because of the incredibly important work that they do every day for which we are so grateful.

PROTECTING WOMEN'S SPORTS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, a year and a half ago, Riley Gaines bravely spoke out when she was forced to compete against a biological male, Lia Thomas, at the 2022 NCAA swimming championships.

It is still an issue. Riley and Lia at the time tied for fifth place in the 200-yard freestyle after Lia had won the 500-yard freestyle the previous night.

On the podium, the NCAA handed Lia the fifth place trophy for the tie that Lia and Riley had and gave Riley the sixth place trophy, telling Riley she would receive her correct trophy in the mail later, not even deciding by a coin flip or some other tiebreaker.

I remember hearing this story and being completely appalled. I was sympathetic for Riley and for the heart-break and disrespect she and all of the other women and girls had who worked their whole lives to compete at the highest level in collegiate swimming or even in high school and lower levels.

I also remember hearing calls and rebuttals from those who sympathized with Lia Thomas and transgender kids across the country: Just let Lia compete. She deserves it. Transgender kids have the highest rates of suicide. Let them play sports and they will be happy. It is not happening often. Don't worry about it. This is just a one-time thing. This won't open the floodgates.

Unfortunately, this is not a one-time thing. This is happening often, and the floodgates have been opened at all age ranges. In the last year and a half, we have seen countless stories of opportunities being taken away from young women by biological males competing in their sports, whether it is being bumped from first place to second place or top two or males in running events where the girls are losing out on Olympic spots, endorsement deals, college scholarships, or even whether they are going to make the varsity team or not. All of these tragedies for women and girls in sports deserve outrage from all Americans.

In addition, the left has silenced young women who have stated that they feel uncomfortable sharing locker rooms with biological males. Instead, for the case of Lia Thomas' teammates, these young women have been outrageously—get this—told to get counseling.

Just a few years ago, we had the #MeToo movement in which we were told to believe all women, yet a few years later we are being told not to believe women or even see what their feelings and thoughts are but rather believe the biological male who believes he is a woman.

Speaking of believe all women, last week, up in Canada, a 50-year-old biological male was allowed to participate in a swim meet with 13- to 14-year old girls because he identified as a 13-year-old girl. You cannot make this stuff up. This 50-year-old man was able to use the girls' locker room to change with underage young women. I cannot express how angry this makes me and many sensible Americans and Canadians.

Where are the adults in the room? How can any responsible adults allow this to happen, to just blindly stand by and say: Oh, this is no big deal?

The safety, fair competition, and happiness of these young girls should be prioritized over this deranged 50-year-old man who somehow believes he has the right to violate everyone else's rights for his pathetic interest in competing against girls.

We see this other sports as well, in ring fighting and others, where a biological male can actually do very devastating damage to a woman.

What can we do about all this? In the House, we passed H.R. 734, the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, back in April. It passed, unfortunately, on a party-line vote. Sadly, not one Democrat could find the way to support and vote in keeping girls' sports for biological females.

I am proud of the Republican Conference for making the safety, privacy, and opportunity of women and girls in sports, and in general, a top priority.

I strongly urge my colleagues in the Senate to bring this bill up for a vote, to put your name on the line as to what you think about the sanctity of women's sports and women's and girls' place in society in general.

In addition, many State legislatures have since passed bills to protect women's sports in their State. Some of their Governors even felt the need to pass a bill titled: the Women's Bill of Rights, which defines the word "woman" because of increasing numbers of challenges as to what the words "man" and "woman" mean. Unfortunately, this is necessary because if we do not codify the definition of sex-based terms, laws that prohibit sex discrimination don't mean anything.

It is amazing that the media figure Matt Walsh has a film titled: "What is a Woman?" that many on the left cannot even answer the question, or they give such contorted answers in their nonanswer that it is just pathetic. Even a Supreme Court Justice nominee had to avoid the language. Lord, help us.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES MONTH

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Veterans and Military Families Month.

National Veterans and Military Families Month honors the service and sacrifices of veterans and the crucial role of their families in fostering community support and awareness of their unique challenges.

As a 24-year Army veteran, and also the daughter of a career military man, I will continue to work tirelessly to support legislation that supports our VA healthcare system, reduces the barriers to healthcare for our veterans, and provides support for our military spouses and families.

This month is an opportunity for individuals and communities to come together and show their appreciation for the service and sacrifices made by veterans and military families and to support their successful reentry into civilian life.

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RECOGNIZING IOWA PBS FOR RECEIVING PUBLIC MEDIA AWARDS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowa PBS,

which received two prestigious Public Media Awards presented by the National Educational Telecommunications Association. These accolades were given during the 55th Annual Public Media Awards ceremony in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Iowa was recognized for Military Chronicles in the Content category for the documentary “USS *Iowa*,” retelling stories from World War II. They also won the Short Form Content category for their feature “Iowa Miss Amazing,” about the Iowa Miss Amazing organization that is dedicated to empowering girls and women with disabilities.

These awards highlight the dedication and hard work of the whole Iowa PBS team, showcasing their commitment to capturing the spirit of Iowa in these remarkable productions.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate their team and thank them for sharing Iowa’s story.

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING ADAM
ZEITHAMEL

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate a young man, Adam Zeithamel, and the remarkable participants of the 2023 National Youth Orchestra program.

Adam completed the rigorous selection process and represented Iowa City as a cellist in the National Youth Orchestra-USA program. The National Youth Orchestra program unites the most gifted musicians from across the Nation and provides them with an opportunity to debut their talents at the renowned and historic Carnegie Hall.

Adam and his cohort underwent an intensive training during their residency in New York and were guided by an exceptional faculty of professional musicians. Following their residency, the ensemble embarked on a tour of the great music capitals of the world while serving as music ambassadors.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Adam Zeithamel on this significant achievement, and I thank him for making Iowa proud.

RECOGNIZING IOWA WOMEN’S BASKETBALL AND
HEAD COACH LISA BLUDER

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a shining moment in Iowa women’s basketball history. At the charity game hosted at Iowa City’s University of Iowa football stadium, Kinnick Stadium, 55,646 passionate fans shattered the NCAA single-game record for the largest attendance in women’s basketball history—and it was outdoors.

The exhibition game between Iowa and DePaul directed all the profits toward the Iowa Children’s Hospital, showcasing sportsmanship and the spirit of giving back.

The idea for the Kinnick Stadium outdoor game was spearheaded by Head Coach Lisa Bluder.

Caitlin Clark, the reigning Naismith National Player of the Year, delivered a remarkable performance by recording a 34-point triple-double and leading Iowa to a 94–71 victory over DePaul.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Coach Bluder for her inspiring leadership behind this event, and I congratulate the entire University of Iowa women’s basketball team on this incredible milestone. Go Hawks.

CONGRATULATING DENNIS LAUVER

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Dennis Lauver with Coldwell Banker Howes & Jefferies in Clinton, Iowa, for his 1-year appointment to the National Association of Realtors Federal Taxation Committee. Congratulations, Dennis.

CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, the scenes from Gaza are horrendous, and people want the fighting to end. Some call for a cease-fire. Hamas needs to hear those calls and agree to free the hostages and turn over its rockets, and then we can have that cease-fire.

There was a cease-fire on October 6. Hamas broke it and killed 1,400 Israelis.

What would happen if we had a cease-fire leaving the rockets and arms in Hamas’ hands?

Today, Ghazi Hamad, a high-ranking Hamas official, said exactly what would happen. He said: We will repeat October 7 one, two, three, four, five times, as many times as it takes, until Israel is annihilated.

We need a true cease-fire, and we can achieve it only if Hamas is disarmed.

I have been a pro-Israel activist for 60 years and a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee for nearly 30. Israel has one friend in the world. Hamas knows that. America is divided and partisan. Hamas knows that. The terrible scenes in Gaza show that Hamas is willing to die for one thing, and that is to put those scenes on American television to undercut support for Israel to make sure that that support is not bipartisan.

Last week, we showed bipartisan support, with 97 percent of the Democrats and 99 percent of the Republicans voting for a strong resolution. Unfortunately, our Speaker has decided to undercut that and, in doing so, help Hamas achieve its most important geopolitical objective.

For 60 years, when an Israel resolution comes to this floor, it passes overwhelmingly with support on both sides of the aisle. Tomorrow, that changes because the Speaker is bringing a nakedly partisan version of the support for Israel bill to this floor.

Mr. Speaker, you have only been in office for a week and already you are achieving Hamas’ geopolitical objectives. Why? Supposedly, to pay for the cost of aiding Israel, they are going to slash the IRS budget. CBO today just indicated that that will cost us over \$26 billion in revenue and will increase the cost of aiding Israel.

I am here to say, as the co-chair of the Bipartisan CPA Caucus, as someone who has taught tax law at Harvard Law School, and as someone who headed the second largest tax agency in this country, that that CBO number is way too low. The long-term effects will be devastating on our ability to collect taxes.

We need a bipartisan bill before this floor, not a bill that supposedly is going to help Israel but actually is designed to hurt Israel, help Hamas, and die in the Senate.

Now, the numbers coming from Gaza about casualties are something that a CPA should look at. We know what happened at Al Ahli Arab hospital. They dramatically overstated the casualties. Then, America said, with a high degree of confidence from our intel community, that that was a rocket fired by Hamas or Islamic jihad that failed to reach its target and instead fell on a Palestinian hospital.

Even if you accept Hamas’ statistics, our press goes further and exaggerates their number.

First, Hamas will tell you that they include in their statistics dead Palestinian combatants, and so our press reports the number as if that somehow is Israel’s fault.

Hamas will tell you that they include in those statistics those who die from the one-third of Hamas rockets that crash into Gaza, yet our press will report that statistic as if that is a number Israel is responsible for.

As to those who die from Israeli ordinance, keep in mind that is because of Hamas’ use of human shields. They were in Israel and could have stood and fought the Israeli Defense Forces. Instead, they quickly retreated behind their human shields.

Finally, those who say that we have more deaths in Gaza than in other terrible events happening in the world, this is clearly false. We have had over 600,000 deaths in Ethiopia. The press didn’t report it, but it still matters.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an open letter dated November 1, 2023, from the Association of University Heads, Israel, to accompany my speech on the floor today.

Dear Colleagues:

We, the leaders of Israeli universities and research institutions, write to express deep concern over the discourse emanating from academia following the devastating Hamas attack on Israel on October 7 and the inadequate response, in many cases, by academic leadership.

On that darkest of days, in a tragedy unprecedented in Israel’s 75-year history, the Hamas terrorists infiltrated into the country and murdered more than 1,400 people, including infants, children, students, and senior citizens—Jewish, Muslim, and Christian alike. The attack also included the abduction of 240 civilians of all ages into Gaza; additional missing persons have not yet been identified and accounted for. In the aftermath of these horrific events, we find it disturbing that certain narratives from academic institutions misrepresent the situation, or, in the worst cases, actively target Israelis and Jews.