

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.

We find ourselves facing a war on two fronts: one against the atrocities of Hamas, and another in the global arena of public opinion. Regrettably, we have noticed an alarming trend in which Israel, despite its right to self-defense, is mischaracterized as an oppressor. This is a false equivalence between the actions of a murderous terrorist organization and a sovereign state's right to defend its citizens, which unfortunately results in the loss of innocent Palestinian lives. Any attempt to justify or equivocate Hamas's brutal and grotesque actions is intellectually and morally indefensible.

It's unsettling to note that many college campuses have become breeding grounds for anti-Israel and anti-Semitic sentiments, largely fueled by a naive and biased understanding of the conflict. It is ironic that the very halls of enlightenment in America and Europe, ostensibly the bastions of intellectual and progressive thought that are your campuses, have adopted Hamas as the cause célèbre while Israel is demonized. Universities, as hubs of enlightenment and rational discourse, must take responsibility for the views they perpetuate.

There is no moral equivalency here. Let's be clear: Hamas shares no values with any Western academic institution. Hamas is an organization that has repeatedly pledged to annihilate Israel and its people.

Its ideology is antithetical to the values of human life and the liberal values we hold dear. Hamas funnels international aid into armament rather than to the welfare of its citizens. While Israel uses its weapons to shield its citizens, Hamas uses its citizens as shields for its weapons—which it hides in hospitals, schools, and mosques. It is crucial to distinguish between Hamas' terrorist objectives and the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people for statehood. The conflation of the two only serves to fuel hatred and ignorance.

Academic institutions stand as lighthouses in the intellectual landscape, and we ask you to illuminate them. Your roles as leaders of these institutions confer upon you an extraordinary responsibility: to guide the moral and ethical development of your students, to imbue them with the ability to think critically and to discern the nuances that separate right from wrong. Freedom of speech is a cornerstone of academic freedom, but it should not be manipulated to legitimize hate speech or to justify violence.

We urge you to delineate the boundaries between constructive discourse and destructive propaganda, and promote evidence-based, nuanced thinking that challenges simplistic narratives. Expose the falsity of justifications for acts of terror; expose and condemn disingenuous statements; and reject hypocritical voices that justify murder, rape, and destruction in the name of "resistance".

Moreover, we expect that Israeli and Jewish students and faculty on university and college campuses will be accorded the same respect and protections as any other minority. The principles of inclusivity and campus safety must unequivocally extend to include Israeli and Jewish members of your academic communities. Just as it would be unthinkable for an academic institution to extend free speech protections to groups targeting other protected classes, so too should demonstrations that call for our destruction and glorify violence against Jews be explicitly prohibited and condemned.

What the world witnessed on October 7 were not methods to help disadvantaged people build better futures for themselves. The events of this terrible day should be taken as a wake-up call to all of the dangers of nihilistic organizations like Hamas and ISIS that represent the very opposite of freedom and liberty.

As leaders of Israeli universities, we have been heartened by clear statements of solidarity and support for Israel, which are, at their heart, statements in solidarity with humanity, enlightenment, and progress. At the same time, we are calling for a sea change in clarity and truth in academia on the matter of Israel's war against Hamas, so that light will triumph over dark, now and always.

Signed,

Prof. Arie Zaban, President of Bar-Ilan University, Chairperson of Association of University Heads—VERA;

Prof. Daniel A. Chamovitz, President of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev;

Prof. Alon Chen, President of Weizmann Institute of Science;

Prof. Asher Cohen, President of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem;

Prof. Leo Corry, President of the Open University of Israel;

Prof. Ehud Grossman, President of Ariel University;

Prof. Ariel Porat, President of Tel-Aviv University;

Prof. Ron Robin, President of University of Haifa;

Prof. Uri Sivan, President of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WILLIAMS of New York) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made Heaven and Earth. We pause today to reflect on the enormity of that eternal truth.

In You, O Lord, the one who set the stars in the heavens, crafted breathtaking landscapes of mountains and valleys, who even now causes the oceans to rise and fall, and who sends rain to water the earth, in You do we live, and move, and have our being.

May this reality so strike us that we recommit ourselves this day to the pursuit of peace in every corner of Your magnificent creation. Help us to defend the innocents caught in the crossfire of Israel and Hamas and the blameless who are suffering in the war between Ukraine and Russia.

May we open our hearts and minds, changing the way we, in our own arrogance or ignorance, are working against the peaceable kingdom You have designed. Help us to set aside our inclination to use words to wound, insults to injure, and cruel digs to devastate. You have given us so many different relationships, and You have

called us to treat each one with dignity and respect, with tenderness and mercy.

We call on Your name today that we would receive the magnitude of the help You alone provide and which we so desperately need in the living of these days.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. HOULAHAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Deirdre Kelly, one of his secretaries.

PROVIDING TAX RELIEF FOR FIRE VICTIMS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, the House Committee on Ways and Means is marking up a comprehensive tax relief bill for disaster survivors. My bipartisan bill, H.R. 4970, the Protect Innocent Victims Of Taxation After Fire Act, is included as a provision.

H.R. 4970 will exempt all wildfire relief payments from Federal income taxes and is especially time-sensitive given the recent extension from the October 16 tax filing deadline in California until November 16.

It is essential that Congress get this done and every Fire Victim Trust beneficiary has this massive tax headache alleviated. Fire victims need this tax relief to help rebuild their lives, and they should not go through this tax season with this uncertainty about what they are going to have to pay this year.

The initiative has been a long time coming. Indeed, the fifth year anniversary of the Camp fire in Paradise, California, and surrounding communities is coming up in 1 week.

In the previous term, we had a similar bill included in the government funding package at the end of the year,