

Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and other affiliates.

On October 7, the world watched Hamas terrorists invade Israel and brutally kidnap, behead, torture, rape, burn, and murder innocent babies, children, women, and the elderly, including dozens of Americans. This unprovoked war has underscored why I will always stand with Israel and support our partner's right to defend herself from those who seek her destruction.

This bipartisan legislation will ensure we isolate and punish these radical terrorist groups by cutting off their financial resources at the moment our ally in the Middle East needs it most.

We must do everything we can to get every hostage home, including all Americans, help our ally Israel defend herself and crush the terrorists, and provide much-needed humanitarian aid to innocent Palestinian civilians being used by Hamas as human shields.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the Senate to immediately pass the bipartisan Hamas International Financing Prevention Act.

REMEMBERING TOM DURDEN

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Tom Durden who passed away at the age of 66.

Durden was a famous district attorney for the Atlantic Judicial Circuit. In 1984, 2 years after earning a law degree from Mercer University, he joined the DA's office as an assistant prosecutor until he was elected DA in 1998.

He was a true public servant to the State of Georgia for almost 40 years and led the DA's office for 24 years before retiring in 2022.

During his career, Tom Durden worked on hundreds of criminal cases in the Atlantic Circuit, which includes six southeast Georgia counties outside Savannah.

He was best known for working on the Tomato Patch murder case and the 2020 Ahmaud Arbery murder.

Durden was a hard-working, determined, and endearing person with many great qualities. He also had artistic talents such as singing, playing guitar, and playing piano.

Durden will be remembered for being a good person and for his talents in and outside of the courtroom.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEIRUT BOMBING

(Ms. CRAIG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, on October 23, 1983, the United States of America suffered an unspeakable loss as 220 Marines, 18 Navy sailors, and 3 Army sol-

diers were killed in a horrific act of violence in the Marine barracks at the Beirut airport.

My heart is with every American grieving the loss of a loved one. Each of those 241 Americans represents the best of our country: brave, selfless, and dedicated.

We must recommit ourselves to working to defend democracy at home and around the world. That is how we rightfully honor the legacy of the 241 heroes we lost that day. That is what we owe all of the servicemembers, family members, and loved ones whose lives were changed forever those 40 years ago.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GARTH NEWEL MUSIC CENTER

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Garth Newel Music Center, which is in the heart of Virginia's Allegheny Mountains.

Garth Newel, the estate of celebrated artists and accomplished musicians Christine and William Sergeant Kendall, has been a home to the fine and performing arts since 1924.

In 1973, with the help of Rowe String Quartet members Luca and Arlene Di Cecco, Ms. Kendall established the Garth Newel Music Center.

When Ms. Kendall passed in 1981, her vision lived on through the leadership of the Di Ceccos and visiting artists.

Today, the Music Center offers world-class performances, including the Garth Newel Piano Quartet, and educational programs.

It has received several recognitions for its contributions to the cultural life of the Allegheny Highlands, such as the Chamber Music America's Acclaim Award, and Garth Newel is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Congratulations, again, to the Garth Newel Music Center on its 50th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING ELIZABETH AUSTIN-MACKENZIE

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the service of one of the most effective staffers this Chamber has ever known, Elizabeth Austin-Mackenzie. As staff director of the Health Subcommittee, she shepherded many of the most significant achievements of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs over the last 6 years.

Quiet and unassuming, Elizabeth has one of the sharpest minds I have worked with. She has spent the majority of her professional life advocating

for this Nation's veterans with an unflappable determination to doing right by them.

She has always advised me with a clear-eyed perspective and guided her staff with an endless capacity for kindness and a good laugh.

In 2020, when many offices struggled to find ways to work effectively from home, Elizabeth ensured the Health Subcommittee didn't miss a beat.

It is safe to say that no congressional staffer did more for veterans in 2020 than Elizabeth Mackenzie. The landmark legislation, the SAVE LIVES Act, which vaccinated tens of thousands of veterans, their spouses, and their caregivers, was made possible by her determination.

We are saddened to lose this brilliant, seemingly tireless advocate to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, but I know she will continue to do great things for veterans and this country.

CONGRATULATING JEREMY TARBET

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jeremy Tarbet, an automotive teacher in my district, who was awarded the Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence.

Mr. Tarbet has dedicated almost a decade of his life to teaching at his alma mater, Canyon del Oro High School in Arizona's Sixth District, just a few miles away from my home.

For the past 3 years, Mr. Tarbet has worked with SkillsUSA, a technical student organization, where he encourages his students to showcase their skills by participating in competitions.

Throughout the year, Mr. Tarbet offers three classic cars for restoration projects, giving his students the opportunity to see firsthand their education at work.

This award, given to only 25 teachers every year, is a testament to his dedication to his students.

I have no doubt that he will continue to shape the future of our students for years to come.

Congratulations, again, Jeremy, on receiving this well-deserved distinction.

I STAND WITH ISRAEL

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

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I cast a "no" vote for a highly partisan supplemental appropriations bill providing security aid to Israel.

Let me be clear: I stand with Israel. Israel isn't just any ally. It is a cornerstone of democracy in one of the most volatile regions in the world. Security

assistance should never be tethered to a hyperpartisan, domestic financial concession.

The offset in this bill, slashing IRS staff, actually adds to the deficit and would allow billionaires to get away with cheating on their taxes.

In matters of foreign policy, especially with crucial allies like Israel, we must rise above partisan politics.

When a bipartisan supplemental appropriations bill containing aid for Israel comes back from the Senate without poison pills, I will wholeheartedly support it. That is the clear path forward here and the best way to support our friend and ally, Israel.

CALIFORNIA WATER IS IMPORTANT FOR THE NATION'S FOOD SUPPLY

(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, I rise today to point out that, once again, our water situation in California is extremely important to the whole country for our food supply.

Like these products you see here, many, many crops that are grown in California supply 90 to 99 percent of what Americans will consume; otherwise, they would be imported.

Why is that important? Because if our water supply in California isn't allowed to go to agriculture, instead more and more environmental water, more and more water just allowed to flow down the streams without being captured in water storage, we don't get these crops, we don't have an economy, and the land turns into something much less productive.

What we need is to continue to focus on saving water in California and allowing it to flow to agriculture, more water storage projects, and updating the 1960s-1970s manuals that guide how government saves water.

Yes, we had an amazing amount of water last year, but still two of our large reservoirs only reached 50 percent and 80 percent full, even with all that. Water management is extremely important when we manage it for people.

□ 0915

FOCUS ON BOTH WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION

(Mr. Robert GARCIA of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. Robert GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about our country suffering from an epidemic that is devastating our communities and tearing apart families.

Last week, a lone gunman walked into a bowling alley and opened fire on children and parents who were there for a children's bowling league. He got into his car, drove to a nearby restaurant, and senselessly murdered eight more.

This is now a common occurrence in America, and it needs to stop.

Yesterday, I proudly introduced the AMMO Act with Senator ELIZABETH WARREN. Our country has more guns on the street than people. If we are going to truly solve gun violence, we must focus on not just weapons but also on ammunition. That means addressing how we license, sell, and regulate ammo.

In many parts of the country, it is easier to buy ammunition than it is to register to vote. In most of the country, you can walk into a convenience store or pharmacy and purchase as much ammunition as you want without ever showing any ID.

The AMMO Act requires licensing to sell ammo, enacts background checks, cracks down on straw purchasing, restricts bulk sales, and institutes recordkeeping and data sharing across the country.

Mr. Speaker, the AMMO Act will save lives. It is time to act.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CISCOMANI). Pursuant to House Resolution 838 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4821.

Will the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) kindly take the chair.

□ 0916

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4821) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, with Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on the legislative day of Thursday, November 2, 2023, amendment No. 125, printed in part A of House Report 118-261, offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE), had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 126 OFFERED BY MR. ROY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 126 printed in part A of House Report 118-261.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for environmental justice activities.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentleman

from Texas (Mr. ROY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chairman, the amendment that I am offering here on the legislation we are considering would prohibit any of the funds in this appropriations bill from being used to carry out so-called environmental justice activities.

This so-called environmental justice is nothing more, in the end, than a synthesis of divisive racial ideology and policies that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle like to promote with radical environmentalism.

Basically, they are taking the radical environmental policies perpetuated in the EPA and Interior through this administration, doubling down on them, injecting divisive race policies, and now creating a larger problem for the American people.

The entire ideology is based on the notion that Federal environmental funding should be allocated based on immutable characteristics. Let's think about that for a minute. Not only do we need to destroy the American economy with radical environmental policies, but we need to inject divisive race policies in the middle of it. That is where we are.

People are running around, going to the gas station to get gasoline. They are trying to power their homes. They are wondering why we are having massive instability around the world. They wonder why China is on the rise. They wonder why Iran is able to enrich itself by selling oil to China. They wonder why they can't afford to live their own lives while inflation is destroying their well-being. Now, we are injecting race into the middle of it all.

Biden's so-called Justice40 Initiative directs 40 percent of Federal clean energy and energy efficiency spending based on ethnicity, migrant status, and income status. You literally just can't make up this absurdity.

Here are some of the examples.

"Developing a roadmap to dismantle environmental racism" in Brunswick, Georgia.

Ecology Action in Bloomington, Illinois, "seeks to identify and develop mitigation strategies for disproportionate climate impacts . . . and increase tree equity." What in the hell is tree equity?

Supporting summer high school environmental internships in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, "to build climate resilience and connect mainly young people of color to life skills and environmental sector career pathways." However, a recent study conducted by President Obama's former Energy Secretary found, on average, solar workers make \$12,000 a year less than oil and gas workers.

The fact of the matter is that we are destroying the American economy by chasing the climate agenda, which my colleagues on the other side of the aisle fully acknowledge and admit is being