

believe it or not, for that to be our point of view.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IRAN

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, America's attention is rightfully drawn to supporting Ukraine's defense against Russia's illegal and unjustified war. At the same time, we are contending with China, which is undergoing the largest peacetime expansion of military power in history.

This morning, Congress and the American people heard from Israeli President Isaac Herzog, and I rise today to remind my colleagues of the ongoing threat posed by Iran to peace in the Middle East and beyond.

Iran is exporting more oil today than it has since 2019 despite the sanctions that were overwhelmingly passed by this Congress and that remain as current law.

Recently, the Navy's Fifth Fleet intervened to prevent two commercial oil tankers from being seized by Iran in the Gulf of Oman. Iran was recently granted membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, which fosters deeper political and economic cooperation with Russia, China, India, and other members.

All of this has taken place while Iran continues to enhance its nuclear program, provides Russia with weaponry to use in Ukraine, funds proxy fighters throughout the Middle East, holds U.S. citizens hostage, and vows to kill former American officials in revenge for the death of Soleimani.

Despite Tehran's reestablishment of diplomatic ties with Saudi Arabia and holding indirect talks with the United States, it appears that we are far from the "deescalation" that the Biden administration says it seeks. Instead, all evidence points to an Iranian regime intent on aggressively pursuing its aggressive objectives.

I agree that we should avoid a crisis that would be triggered by Iran enriching uranium weapons beyond a 90-percent grade or by Iran-backed militias killing U.S. servicemembers in an attack, but my concern is what behavior the President is willing to accept short of these redlines.

While I can only speculate on the content of the Biden administration's reported talks with Iran, press reports suggest a possible agreement would permit Iran to maintain nuclear enrichment at 60 percent. This level cannot be justified for peaceable purposes, and agreeing to it can have serious consequences.

In addition, the Biden administration's persistent outreach to Iran un-

dermines its stated goal to degrade the Russian military.

Henry Rome and Eric Brewer, two scholars who follow Iran's nuclear program closely, recently wrote:

Instead of laying the groundwork for a deal that reverses Tehran's nuclear program, this strategy risks cementing Iran's status as a nuclear threshold state [all] while shaking off its economic and political isolation.

In other words, it gets a lot of what it wants without any price to pay.

Normalizing the 60 percent enrichment level may threaten more nuclear proliferation, particularly in the Middle East. Other countries contemplating nuclear programs will take note and demand the same treatment.

Another element of a reported deal is Iran's pledging not to harm American servicemembers in the region. Ensuring the protection of Americans abroad is the President's first responsibility, and it is to be commended; however, turning a blind eye to havoc wrought against our partners in the region only sows greater instability.

At the same time Iran's oil exports were revealed earlier this month, Israel was waging a military operation against Iranian-backed Palestinian militia groups— Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

In Iraq, in addition to Tehran-backed militias that remain beyond government control, Iran is gaining ground in the Iraqi Government.

Scholar Michael Knights observed last month:

Iran's allies have achieved unprecedented control of Iraq's parliament, judiciary, and executive branch. . . . Washington's complacent attitude toward these events is only setting it up for costly involvement later.

The regime's ability, through the IRGC, to fund such efforts comes directly from the failure to enforce sanctions. The Wall Street Journal reports that oil exports are double what they were a year ago—the highest, as I said, since 2018. Oil revenue is the regime's lifeblood, and reducing its cash stream is a critical component to getting Iran to negotiate.

I call on this administration to strictly enforce sanctions on Iran's oil exports and pressure countries that help to facilitate the sale of Iranian oil.

In a bipartisan letter I joined with 25 of my colleagues just recently, we wrote the President last month:

It is crucial for your administration to remain aligned with Congressional efforts related to Iran's nuclear program and not agree to a pact that fails to achieve our nation's critical interests.

In the face of a regime in which hardliners have solidified power, President Biden's narrowly focused approach merely kicks the can down the road. But this may be to Iran's advantage. In fact, it most likely is. Current trends indicate that Iran will use the time to refill its coffers and deepen its diplomatic ties, better positioning itself to withstand pressure to make any significant concessions.

The administration must pursue more than the bare minimum in its diplomacy. Keeping a problem from developing into a crisis is good, but solving the problem is much better. I recognize the obstacles that must be overcome and that we will have to provide some concessions. To believe otherwise would ignore the history of diplomacy. But in accord with the will of Congress, an acceptable agreement can be reached. President Biden has the tools we have provided through that legislation, and he must use them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). The Senator from Colorado.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO GRACE STEENBERGEN

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Grace Steenbergen for her hard work as an intern in my office in Cheyenne, WY. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Grace is a native of Pine Bluffs. She is a sophomore at Baylor University, where she studies political science with a minor in legal reasoning and analysis. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Grace for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JAMES A. WADE

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Mr. James "Jim" Wade, an expert trial attorney, towering figure in Connecticut politics, and dear friend to so many, including myself.

Born in Staten Island, NY, and raised in Simsbury, CT, Mr. Wade received his undergraduate degree from Yale University in 1959 and his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1962. Upon graduating from law school, Jim served honorably as a lawyer for the Navy's Judge Advocate General's Corps, a testament to his dedication to public service.

Following his service with the Navy, Jim returned to Connecticut and began a distinguished career as an attorney at Robinson+Cole. He became known for his willingness to take on diverse legal cases, including unpopular clients, but Jim's strong legal principles ensured they all received zealous representation. Jim was well-known for his mentorship of countless young attorneys. Throughout his long career, he was honored with numerous awards, including induction to the American College of Trial Lawyers in 1980 and the Hennessey award, given by the Connecticut Bar Association to an attorney whose career has manifested a dedication to the highest ideals and standard of the legal profession.

In addition to his love for the law, Jim had a passion for politics and was very actively involved for decades. A lifelong Democrat, he started his political career as a selectman in the town of Simsbury. Jim later became a trusted counselor to the Democratic Party in Connecticut, representing it before the U.S. Supreme Court in a reapportionment case. He was also a longtime trusted advisor to Governors, legislators, and others in public service. Jim's commitment left an indelible mark on Connecticut politics, and our State and Nation are better because of Jim's many contributions and dedication to the law.

Jim was truly a remarkable person, who upheld the rule of law with energy and intellect and epitomized a dedication to public service. I deeply valued my friendship with Jim and always appreciated his insight and perspective. My wife Cynthia and I extend our deepest sympathies to his family during this difficult time, particularly to his wife Helene, his two children, and his grandchildren. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Jim's life and legacy, both large and lasting.●

REMEMBERING ROBERT LEVI JONES

● Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, with my fellow Members of Idaho's congressional delegation Senator JIM RISCH and Representatives MIKE SIMPSON and RUSS FULCHER, we pay tribute to veteran and tireless veterans' advocate, Robert "Bob" Jones. Bob passed away on July 8, 2023, after a long battle with cancer and heart disease. Bob's service in the U.S. Air Force, as a leader of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW, and as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has left an indelible mark.

Bob dedicated his life to God, country, and community. He served in the U.S. Air Force for 20 years, retiring as a lieutenant colonel; his service included commanding logistics squadrons supporting combat units in the Vietnam war, serving as chief of supply for the Presidential Wing at Andrews Air Force Base, and serving at the Pentagon as a senior staff officer with the U.S. Air Force. Bob earned 24 medals

for his distinguished service that include the Vietnam Service Medal with three oakleaf clusters, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, the Korean Defense Service Medal, and the Bronze Star.

After his military service, Bob's civilian career included working as vice president of a defense firm in Saudi Arabia, where he met the love of his life, his wife of 40 years, Carmelita. They made their home in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, for 13 years before moving to Rexburg in 1995. Bob and Carmelita owned the Arctic Circle Franchise in Rexburg and an independent family restaurant called Timber's Edge in Island Park for several years.

Bob translated his immense experience to support and advocate for his fellow veterans. He served in many VFW leadership positions that included his service as a VFW All-American past state commander and national legislative committee member for Idaho. He and Carmelita have been so dedicated to helping improve the lives of servicemembers, veterans, and their families that they traveled to Capitol Hill twice per year to advocate on their behalf, and Bob stayed involved despite his battle with cancer. We have always valued the time spent with Bob and Carmelita as they thoughtfully explained the need for Federal policy changes to better support military families. The Major Richard Star Act, to provide combat-injured veterans with less than 20 years of military service their full benefits, is just one example of the legislation they worked to advance as they helped make clear the personal costs of war. Bob said, "It is our duty and obligation to see that they are cared for and not forgotten."

Bob was also a precinct committeeman and a member of the Madison County Republican Central Committee and military liaison board member of the Rexburg Area Chamber of Commerce among his many efforts to serve the community. He understandably received numerous honors for this local and statewide service. Governor Brad Little presented Bob with the 2019 Idaho's Brightest Star Award for exemplary volunteer service to the State of Idaho and fostering an ethic of service in others. He was also a recipient of the 2020 Spirit of Freedom award for his extensive, extraordinary career of service to our country and his fellow veterans. He was recognized with the 2022-2023 VFW National Legislative Service Award at the VFW Legislative Conference on March 14, 2023, for his tireless efforts on behalf of our Nation's veterans, and he was honored with the 2022 Presidential Award by the Chamber of Commerce at the 84th Annual Farmer Merchant Banquet on April 17, 2023, for his outstanding achievements and contributions to the success of Rexburg, to name just a few of his many honors.

Bob's obituary aptly describes his service-focused mindset: "He wanted to

leave this world a better place than he had found it and pay forward for all the many blessings and opportunities with which he was blessed with." We offer our sincerest condolences to Carmelita and his many friends and loved ones, including their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchild. Bob is deeply missed and leaves a lasting legacy of admirable service to our country, State, community, fellow veterans, and so many others. We are fortunate to have known him and benefited from his vision, dedication and advocacy.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOS ANGELES MEMORIAL COLISEUM

● Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise as a proud Angeleno to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

Few stadiums in the world have such a storied history and such a lasting cultural impact, as the LA Coliseum. Since opening in 1923, it has served as a living memorial to those who bravely fought in World War I, and it has endured as a landmark for generations of Angelenos.

The Coliseum remains the only stadium in the world to have hosted two Summer Olympics. The first games, held in 1932, helped revolutionize the format for the modern Olympic Games and displayed America's resolve through the Great Depression. The second, held in 1984, was highly regarded as a financial success and a masterclass in hosting and showcasing the Olympic Games. As a boy, I remember watching in awe as Olympic legend and California icon, Rafer Johnson, ran up the steps of the Coliseum and lit the Olympic cauldron. With plans to once again welcome athletes from around the world and showcase Los Angeles as a world-class city in 2028, the Coliseum will soon break its own record as a third-time host for the Olympic Games. The Coliseum also hosted the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games to showcase the skills and accomplishments of athletes with intellectual disabilities.

Many iconic sports teams have called the Coliseum home over the years. The USC Trojans' and the UCLA Bruins' athletic programs shared the stadium for over 50 years. Today, the Coliseum's timeless white arches provide the backdrop for thousands of loyal USC fans waiting to erupt each time their team plays a home game. In the National Football League, the Rams, the Raiders, and the Chargers have all called the Coliseum home at one point, and the stadium hosted three NFL championship games in 1949, 1951, and 1955, as well as the very first Super Bowl in 1967 and Super Bowl VII in 1973.

As a point of personal privilege, my Los Angeles Dodgers called the Coliseum home for several years when they first moved out west, and they would host the first World Series played on