

recently in 2015, she has not seen her children for 8 years.

Ms. Mohammadi's advocacy is desperately needed in Iran, where the law views women as subhuman in every sense. If a car hits a pedestrian, the punishment for the driver and compensation to the victim are halved if the victim is a woman.

If Iranian women are caught in public without their headscarves, they face up to 10 years imprisonment. Let us applaud Ms. Mohammadi for her astounding courage.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD, on another freedom front, the Hungarian American Coalition's resolution, recognizing on March 12, 1989, 25 years ago, when Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic were officially admitted to NATO.

Today, more than 25 years has passed as we look at a strong NATO to promote Western democratic values and help us forge a more secure and united future for all who love liberty most.

[From Hungarian American Coalition, Mar. 12, 2024]

#### HUNGARIAN AMERICAN COALITION ISSUES STATEMENT ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUNGARY'S NATO ACCESSION

WASHINGTON, DC.—On March 12, 1999, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic were officially welcomed as members of NATO at the Harry S. Truman Library in Independence, Missouri, the same location where Truman created the NATO Alliance in 1949. U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright referred to Hungary stating, "the lands of King St. Stephen and Cardinal Mindszenty . . . reside fully and irrevocably in the Western community of nations . . .". Today, more than ever, a strong NATO is needed to promote Western democratic values and help us forge a more secure and united future for all.

The Hungarian American Coalition was founded as a response to the fall of communism in Central and Eastern Europe. During the critical years of 1994–1999, Coalition leaders, along with their Polish and Czech counterparts, were proud to play an active role in the development of U.S. policy to expand NATO's security umbrella to Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. Coalition leaders actively participated in policy meetings at the White House, testified at Congressional hearings, and organized three conferences across Hungary to educate the public on the benefits of NATO Membership prior to the national public referendum in 1997.

It is impossible to overstate the impact of NATO membership on Hungary's security, peace and prosperity over the past 25 years. The Coalition, through its membership in the Central East European Coalition (CEEC), has remained a committed advocate for the continued expansion of NATO to include countries that are committed to freedom, democracy, and the rule of law, including new members on six different occasions.

Today, NATO remains a vital institution for promoting transatlantic security and liberty throughout Europe and beyond. Long-term peace and security in Europe will only be ensured by NATO's collective strength and resolve against Russian aggression. Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine reminds the world, once again, of the fragility of peace.

As we commemorate the 25th anniversary of Hungary's accession, we look back with great pride on the role Coalition leaders played during this historic time. This year,

the world also celebrates the 75th anniversary of the founding of NATO itself. This presents an opportunity to recommit ourselves to the values we share, where Hungary and the United States remain strong allies dedicated to the ideals of Western democracy and a Europe whole and free.

#### CONGRATULATING NATHAN KEANE

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

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nathan Keane, a remarkable Montanan, who has dedicated his life to serving and advocating for grain growers throughout the Treasure State and across our country.

From farming with his father-in-law on their fourth generation family farm in Loma, Montana, to advocating for policies that benefit Montana farmers, Nathan has had the ability to truly represent and protect our way of life.

As past President of the Montana Grain Growers Association, Nathan has served as a board member, chair of the Domestic Policy Committee, and chair of the 2022 Annual Convention and Trade Show.

Nathan was elected to serve as secretary to the National Association of Wheat Growers, expanding his reach and amplifying his voice.

He proved himself to be an effective leader in shaping policy here on Capitol Hill and advocating for Montana grain growers.

I have had the unique opportunity to get to know Nathan and his passion for agriculture, and I have no doubt the National Association of Wheat Growers will thrive with Nathan as their new secretary.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF ITAY CHEN

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of 19-year-old Itay Chen, an American-Israeli and citizen soldier who died in service to his country.

I was absolutely devastated yesterday to learn that Itay was not, as we thought, held hostage, but was killed on October 7 defending Israel's border from Hamas' brutal invasion.

I sat with Itay's father, Ruby, many times over these last 6 months. In fact, he gave me this very tag that reads, Bring Them Home, in both English and Hebrew.

We held out hope for 157 days that Itay would return home. This whole time Hamas has had his corpse as this war has raged on and as his parents have sat in darkness, and as we on the international stage and in this very Chamber have called for a return to the hostages.

Mr. Speaker, I am furious. I will not stop fighting.

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#### HONORING SUSAN GILLINGHAM

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

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate our Texas-24 Home-town Hero, Susan Gillingham, and her 50 years of service saving lives as a nurse.

Beginning her career as a secretary, Susan never imagined she would become a nurse, but after volunteering as a candy striper in a hospital, her passion for healthcare became evident. Turning that passion into a long and remarkable career at Baylor Scott & White-Grapevine, Susan says that just taking care of patients and hearing them say they had the "most wonderful care they could possibly have" makes her day.

To celebrate her incredible and ongoing legacy, the Baylor Scott & White hospital staff threw Susan a surprise party to thank her, demonstrating the enormous impact she has had in the lives of all those around her—though she said she doesn't need a tiara or a cake because nothing compares to the impact of taking care of her patients.

In the words of hospital president Naman Mahajan, Susan is "a testament," and, "It is all who we all aspire to be."

I am inspired by Susan's dedication to our community, and I thank her for the amazing care she has provided and continues to provide north Texans after five decades.

#### POSSIBLE CHANGES AT SEYMOUR JOHNSON AIR FORCE BASE

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base is a vital part of our national security and a major economic engine for eastern North Carolina, with an economic impact of over \$700 million annually.

As a United States Air Force veteran and House Armed Services Committee member, I visited the base in November to better understand its challenges, including possibly losing F-15E Strike Eagles without any replacement.

Since then, the Air Force has announced plans to eliminate at least one of four squadrons at Seymour Johnson as early as October.

Many in the community have expressed deep concerns about this, and I share their concerns as well. I look forward to meeting with the Air Force to explore alternatives.

#### STATE OF DELUSION SPEECH

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, last week, President Biden claimed here in this House that the state of our Union is strong, but the American people disagree.

From soaring inflation, the national debt, a catastrophe at our southern border, an assault on American energy, rising crime, and geopolitical chaos, the state of our Union, sadly, is not strong. It has been in decline for 3 years, 1 month, and 22 days.

Americans feel the cost of inflation whenever they check out at the grocery store. They feel the anti-American energy agenda whenever they fill up their gas tanks as they remember the prices of January 2020.

They see this administration's failure as they watch millions of migrants illegally cross our border and watch the world thrown into global conflict as a result of the policies of appeasement.

The President has claimed that crime is improving. Not only is crime not down, but it is out of control. Americans, unfortunately, feel it and see it in our streets almost every day.

What is needed is a recognition of the realities our Nation faces and a real plan to correct course. Rather than the state of the Union, President Biden's address was a state of delusion.

#### REMEMBERING ROBERT RAMIREZ

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

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, today, we remember Robert "Bob" Ramirez, a devoted Angeleno and founding member of the El Rio Veterans Collaborative, who passed away at 78.

Graduating from Cathedral High School, Bob served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam war, earning the Air Force Commendation Medal.

Following his military service, he dedicated over 30 years to the IBEW as general chairman.

He earned a degree from the California State University, Los Angeles and taught at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College.

Bob's impact extended beyond his professional and academic endeavors. He played a crucial role in the El Rio Veterans Collaborative, changing the lives of people across our district.

Bob is survived by his wife, Caroline, and their two children. Let us honor his life of service and leadership and remember his impact on our community and the United States of America.

#### REMEMBERING ROBERTA "BERT" MCCARTHY

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of a very special woman from Bakersfield, California,

Roberta "Bert" McCarthy, who recently passed away at the age of 83 years old.

Bert left this world peacefully on March 3 while surrounded by her loving family, including her proud son, Speaker Kevin McCarthy.

Bert resided in Kern County since she was 6 years old. While attending East Bakersfield High School, she fell in love and eventually married her high school sweetheart, Owen McCarthy, who passed away in 2000.

Outside of being the matriarch to the McCarthy family, Bert devoted her energy to many charitable organizations. She concentrated on alleviating the financial burdens of families paying for cancer treatments. Bert also sponsored Kern County's Anti-Graffiti Program, which helped keep her hometown of Bakersfield clean from vandalism and preserved the city's historic charm.

Mr. Speaker, there was no such thing as a stranger to Bert. When people entered her life, she forged profound connections and created lasting friendships.

Bert's passing strikes a chord in the hearts of all who understand the pain of losing someone close to them, especially a mother. She is survived by her three children, including Speaker Kevin McCarthy, her four grandchildren, and a great number of other family members who carry on her spirit and cherish the loving memories that they had with her.

Mr. Speaker, I wish the McCarthy family nothing but love, friendship, and support as they grieve this terrible loss.

#### HONORING FREEDOM FIGHTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

#### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the graciousness of Ms. KAPTUR for this time.

I honor, in this month, Women's History Month, and salute the many women who have invested in the lives of so many.

I honor the teachers who have taught young people. I honor Ivalita Jackson and Valerie Bennett, who came from Florida, my aunt and my mother, as two young women and made their way and provided opportunities for me.

I salute the first person who was nominated as a Presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton. I salute Rosa Parks, who opened the doors for opportunity and integration and who refused to back down. I honor those in my own community, like Maxine Seales.

I honor those who are yet to be recognized, the young girls who question whether or not they can be the very

best. My commitment to them and my message to them is that there is no limit to the opportunities that you can have. As this month honors women who have created history, you have a pathway for history as well.

I will continue, as a Member of the United States Congress, to invest in opportunities for girls so they can see there is no limit and to make sure that, as we move forward, our young men will understand there are no limits for them equally.

This is Women's History Month, and I stand here today and salute these women.

Might I finish by saying I honor those women who have stood up against human trafficking and fought against the scourge of mistreatment of women around the world and who have looked for the equality of girls around the world.

Since I just met with her just a few weeks ago, I honor Malala, a strong fighter for education in Pakistan, a young woman who should be honored during Women's History Month.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for her words.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to share some history.

Two of the greatest freedom fighters I have ever had the privilege to know were two Polish Americans, a husband and wife.

The husband, who escaped capture from a Soviet work camp during World War II, lived to age 97. He also survived three Nazi death camps.

Each of them lived by the motto: Freedom means never surrender.

A 30-minute film about their valiant lives can be viewed online at PBS or YouTube at no cost under the title "Freedom Means Never Surrender."

I ask all Americans to learn something about Colonel Marian Wojciechowski and Wladyslawa Poniecka-Wojciechowski.

These great Americans were born in Poland after World War I. Separately, they endured horrific torture as their homeland of Poland was invaded and obliterated by Nazi Germany on the west and Stalinist Russia to the east. Their lives were changed forever.

Then Poland, as a nation, was squeezed out of existence as 6 million of its citizens were slaughtered into submission by two tyrannies. No nation on Earth lost a higher percentage of its citizens during World War II than did Poland.

Here in America, our land of comforts and possibilities, the blessings of liberty to date have shielded us from the harsh reality of dictatorship. Most people could not possibly imagine the torture and cruelty that bore down on the lives of this particular couple.

What a high privilege to be afforded the deep honor of representing human beings of such noble bearing. I bow low to their dignity and resolve, having borne such enormous suffering.

They went on to lead constructive lives and become citizens of the United States of America.