

first country to recognize the newly declared State of Israel nearly 76 years ago, merely 11 minutes after its creation.

I am also proud that, within 11 days of Hamas' barbaric attack on Israel that started this current war, President Joe Biden landed in Tel Aviv, sending two carrier strike groups and becoming the first U.S. President to ever visit Israel during a time of war.

On October 7, at approximately 6:30 a.m., Hamas launched thousands of rockets at cities across Israel, sending millions of Israelis into bomb shelters and safe rooms while providing cover for a swarming army of Hamas terrorists who invaded the country and launched a genocidal attack, brutally murdering more than 1,200 people, wounding more than 3,000 others, and taking more than 250 hostages back into Gaza.

In the 6 months since Hamas started this war, Israel has been fighting for its existence on many fronts, facing attacks and threats from Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, and Iran.

It is more than just the mortars, rockets, missiles, and drones threatening Israel. Israel's enemies have two key strategies in their campaign to destroy and delegitimize the Jewish state: One, distort the truth with canards and libelous accusations against Israel and the Jewish people; and two, isolate Israel in global forums and in the world of public opinion.

□ 1030

South Africa is perversely accusing Israel of genocide in the International Criminal Court of Justice. Of course, when you lift the veil of this grotesque distortion of the truth, you see that Iran is also behind South Africa's actions, just like Iran finances and fuels Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis.

Meanwhile, in cities around the world as well as here in the United States, anti-Israel protests are replete with calls for the elimination of the Jewish state, most clearly manifest in the chant "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free."

And look no further than the rally just last Friday in Dearborn, Michigan, where the crowd chanted not only "death to Israel," but "death to America."

I am grateful for the leadership and moral clarity of the Biden administration as well as the mayor of Dearborn when they roundly condemned this hateful rhetoric.

Israel's enemies, from Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iran, to groups here in the United States like SJP, AMP, and JVP are doing everything they can to demonize, delegitimize, and ultimately destroy the only Jewish state on Earth.

But let's be clear: The war Hamas started on October 7 is not just a war against Israel. Iran's vision is not just the destruction of Israel, but the conquest of the entire Muslim world and the defeat of the West. The Houthis are not launching rockets at just Israeli

ships in the Red Sea. They are targeting global commerce in general. In this war, Israel's allies must do everything we can to fight the lies and ensure Israel and the Israeli people know that they are not alone.

This is why I traveled to Israel with Jewish lay leaders from Chicago in February and last month traveled with several of my colleagues from here in Congress.

This is why I oppose the Republican resolution we are considering this week. The text of this resolution plays loose with the truth, and the intent is not to help Israel, but to win political points and further weaken the bipartisan support Israel has long enjoyed in this body.

Don't take my word for it. This is how Axios described the resolution: "It is the latest in a series of Israel-related wedge votes House Republicans have held since Hamas' October 7 attack."

If my Republican colleagues want to help our ally and protect our national security, we shouldn't be debating this partisan resolution. Instead, we should be voting on the essential funding bill to help Israel fight its war against our common enemies, as well as ensuring Ukraine defeats Russia, and Taiwan remains secure.

The Senate passed this bill 2 months ago. The House should have passed it in February as well. It is as shameful as it is dangerous that we still have not voted on this desperately needed assistance yet today.

Mr. Speaker, Iran understands that diminishing the bipartisan support for Israel in Congress only hurts our ally and advances our enemies' agenda.

Why are Republicans so willing to play into the hands of Iran and Israel's other enemies? The U.S.-Israel relationship is being tested. Congress is being tested. It is up to us here today to pass this test.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this resolution and instead vote for the essential funding bill coming over from the Senate.

HONORING AN AMERICAN HERO AND ORANGE COUNTY CITIZEN, DICK HIGGINS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. STEEL) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero and Orange County citizen, Dick Higgins.

Born in Magnum, Oklahoma, Dick served his Nation for 20 years in the Navy before settling in Orange County. Dick was stationed on Ford Island as a radioman during the Pearl Harbor attack, and his efforts that day helped sailors and marines get to land and out of the burning water.

His loved ones remember him for his humility and his love of country.

At 102, Dick was the last living member of the Orange County's Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.

On behalf of Orange County residents, I am honored to recognize Dick

Higgins' service and sacrifice on the floor of the House of Representatives. May we always cherish and honor his memory.

OBSERVING BLACK APRIL AND THE FALL OF SAIGON

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a very solemn occasion that has great significance for my constituents.

I am proud to represent Orange County's little Saigon, the largest population of Vietnamese anywhere outside Vietnam itself.

Each year, the community observes Black April, a time to reflect upon the tragic fall of Saigon, remember the lives lost to Communism, and recommit ourselves to the struggle for freedom.

As co-chairs of the Congressional Vietnam Caucus, I am proud to join Congressman LOU CORREA to introduce a resolution commemorating Black April and honoring the lives lost.

I am also introducing a resolution to ensure that those who fought for freedom in Vietnam are always remembered by proposing a bill to rename the U.S. Post Office in Westminster, where a large portion of my Vietnamese constituents reside, as the Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Post Office.

With these two actions, Congress will stand in solidarity with the Vietnamese community, showcase our resolve against Communism and tyranny, and reaffirm our commitment to freedom and democracy.

APRIL 15 IS TAX DAY

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, April 15 is tax day, and this year American taxpayers are getting one of the worst deals they have ever gotten.

Despite its promises not to increase taxes on those making less than \$400,000 a year, the Biden administration has undertaken an outright assault on taxpayers.

The \$400,000 pledge is detached from reality at best, with reports showing that 63 percent of new audits have been on those earning less than \$200,000 a year.

This shouldn't surprise us. After all, the administration rammed through its \$80 billion plan to hire 87,000 new IRS agents to target American taxpayers with the flood of new audits.

They also unveiled plans to jack up burdensome and confusing reporting requirements for people using digital payment platforms like Venmo. They have repeatedly delayed this plan, and I have legislation, the SNOOP Act to stop it permanently.

Mr. Speaker, as a lifelong tax fighter, I came to Congress to ensure low taxes and responsible government that works for Americans.

I urge the administration to join me in that work and end its war on American taxpayers.

REMEMBERING THE MASS SHOOTING AT OLD NATIONAL BANK IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Kentucky (Mr. MCGARVEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago today in Louisville, Kentucky, it was a crisp, bright Monday morning. The Easter sun had silently set the night before on blooming dogwoods and azaleas, and a new day had sounded in with only the squeaking of school brakes interrupting the birds chirping to signal the changing of the seasons. The perfect spring awakening to welcome families back to school from spring break, while ushering the rest of us into work with a sense of rebirth and renewal.

Louisville is lucky to be blessed with such scenes of beauty on an annual basis. The sounds, sights, and smells are familiar and wonderful. Instinctively, we know that antihistamines are coming out of our bathroom cabinets and the Derby is right around the corner. Spring is when Kentucky's natural beauty, pageantry, and home-grown hospitality are on display for the world to see. This is why it was so shocking. You never think it is going to happen in your community; that no one could do this, but this is why we truly did not think it was possible—not in Louisville, not now.

But on April 10, 2023, a lone gunman with an assault rifle walked into the Old National Bank on Main Street in Louisville, Kentucky, and opened fire on his colleagues. Spring's ritual beauty was shattered by the unfamiliar booms of an AR-15, the acrid smell of smoke, sirens, and screams.

Five people were killed—Josh Barrick, Deana Eckert, Jim Tutt, Juliana Farmer, and my friend, Tommy Elliott. These five innocent lives were taken from us far too soon.

Josh was a loving husband and young father; Juliana Farmer was expecting another grandchild; Deana Eckert was known for her generosity and her compassion; Jim Tutt was a community leader; and Tommy Elliott, who was a longtime friend of ours, loved life, people, jokes, and stories. All will be missed.

Eight others were wounded in the shooting, including LMPD Officer Nick Wilt, who took an AR-15 round to the head as he selflessly ran toward the gunman and saved lives. Miraculously, he survived.

On the same day, just blocks away at Jefferson Community and Technical College, Chea'von Moore lost his life at 24 years old, and another woman who was caught in the cross fire between classes miraculously survived. Our thoughts are with them, their family, and their loved ones, as well.

It has been 1 year since we lost Tommy, Josh, Juliana, Jim, Deana, and Chea'von. They have been missed at milestones such as birthdays, graduations, and holidays, and every moment in between.

We will never forget them. Their memories live on in all of us who remember and love them.

As we honor those we lost, our community remains so grateful to every

first responder who arrived on the scene that morning and leaped into action. They saved lives.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Louisville Metro Police Department, the Louisville Fire Department, the FBI, EMS, and the UofL Hospital trauma team. I thank them for their incredible service to our community on April 10, 2023, every day before, and every day since.

I stand here today not just as a Member of Congress, but as a lifelong Louisvillian whose community joined the long list of cities touched by senseless, preventable gun violence.

It is not just mass shootings that rock communities; everyday gun violence in Louisville and across our country has taken far too many lives too soon. Gun violence is now the leading cause of death in children. Children.

There is so much more we can and must do, like combating the root causes of crime and expanding mental health services as well as pushing commonsense gun reforms like universal background checks, extreme risk protection orders, and banning assault weapons.

Last year, days after the Old National Bank shooting, I stood on the steps of the Capitol with other members of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force and asked the majority to bring gun safety legislation to the floor. I am here today asking again for my colleagues across the aisle to work with us like they have before to make our communities safer.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MCGARVEY. Reflecting on what this day means to me and our community, I am reminded of how strong Louisvillians are.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MCGARVEY. Friends, neighbors, and loved ones came together to support one another through an unimaginably tough time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman is no longer recognized.

□ 1045

HOW MANY MORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask the question, how many more Americans must die before President Joe Biden reverses the 60-plus policies he put in place that led to our border being wide open?

We know that under sections 1182 and 1225 of title 8 of immigration law, the President has the authority to secure the border and use his discretion to implement policies. Sadly, the President has used his discretion instead to completely dismantle our southern border, allowing for dangerous gang members,

criminals, smugglers, and illegal immigrants to enter.

Right now, the President can end catch and release. He can reinstate remain in Mexico. He can make changes to asylum and parole. He can expedite removal of individuals. He can shut down the border altogether. He can cut off funding to nonprofit organizations, nongovernmental partners, that are basically allowing people to travel all around our country.

Again, sadly, President Biden used these authorities instead, to dismantle the policies of President Trump.

As a result, we have seen so many Americans being killed. Illegal immigrants have come over our border.

I will read some of the headlines. This is just from this year alone.

"Illegal immigrant from El Salvador charged with murder in shootout that killed 2-year-old boy, injured teen mom."

"Venezuelan illegal immigrant charged with sexual assault against 14-year-old in Virginia."

"ICE confirms Georgia student murder suspect entered U.S. illegally, was previously arrested in NYC."

"Five-time deported illegal alien accused of killing 10-year-old boy walking home from school."

"Honduran illegal migrant arrested for rape of girl, 14, stabbing man during knife-point robbery."

"Illegal migrant charged in Michigan woman's killing was deported under Trump but snuck back in: ICE."

"Illegal migrant deported 8 times with 11 arrests now charged with murder in Ohio."

These are just some of the victims of President Biden's open border policy.

If we go into last year, we can talk more about an illegal immigrant who had an outstanding warrant for attempted strangulation. He approached a car and shot a woman seven times because she wouldn't hang up the phone when he asked her to.

An illegal immigrant was charged with sadistically murdering a 16-year-old Texas high schooler, stabbing her to death and dumping her body in the bathtub. Her body was discovered by her mother.

An illegal alien released by the Biden administration was arrested for raping an 11-year-old girl, strangling her to death after knocking on the door of her home.

An illegal who entered our country under the Biden administration was charged with driving a minivan into a schoolbus full of children, flipping the bus and killing an 11-year-old boy.

An illegal alien repeatedly stabbed and mutilated individuals and then dumped them in a field in Daytona Beach, Florida.

An illegal immigrant was arrested for murdering a 57-year-old, a mother of three and a grandmother of four, in Texas.

This is a 5-minute speech, and I am only allowed 5 minutes, or else I could go on and on.