

viewers, while Monday's men's championship had only 14,820,000 viewers.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, you heard that right. The women had 4-plus million more viewers than the guys.

As someone who knows a thing or two about the strides women have made in this country, I can't express how proud I am of these women of sport and of women's accomplishments both on the basketball court and as representatives for the United States of America off the court truly writing a more robust and complete American history.

HONORING USC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the University of South Carolina women's basketball team on winning the 2024 NCAA championship. In a tremendous demonstration of skill, teamwork, and depth, the Gamecocks clinched their third national title on April 7, 2024. It was the cherry on top of an undefeated season.

Coach Dawn Staley, whom I am proud to call a friend, deserves enormous praise. Despite losing all of last year's starters, Coach Staley built a remarkable and talented team of young recruits and transformed them into a cohesive unit.

Their dominance wasn't just about individual talent. A 37-point contribution from the bench in the championship game speaks volumes about their teamwork. Undoubtedly, this victory is a celebration of collective strength, sacrifice, and skillful leadership.

As the confetti settles and the celebrations continue, one thing is certain: The future of South Carolina women's basketball is bright, and we will all gather on Sunday to celebrate more.

Go Gamecocks.

VEGAS' WE THE PEOPLE STUDENT COMPETITORS

(Ms. LEE of Nevada asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate our team of very bright students from West Career and Technical Academy in southern Nevada who will be competing this weekend in the national finals of the "We the People" civics competition.

These students have been learning all they can about our Constitution in preparation to be tested by seasoned lawyers and politicians from all around the country, but these kids aren't all future lawyers themselves. Many of them aspire to have diverse careers across medicine, science, and the arts. What ties them together is a commitment to being educated citizens, dedicated to developing their own opinions and exemplifying the best of our democracy.

I think we can all learn a thing or two about their passion for respecting diverse perspectives and finding common ground.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate them.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CAROLYN WILLIAMS

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Carolyn Williams. She was a mother, wife, grandmother, working professional, and, most importantly, an inspiration to our community.

Carolyn spent her long and successful career at Pacific Bell, where she blazed her path from telephone operator to upper management.

Carolyn was blessed with a beautiful family, including 27 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren, and she made sure to attend every birthday, graduation, and family event.

Carolyn also dedicated time to her southern California community as an active member of her local union and a leader in her local PTA.

Carolyn leaves behind a beautiful legacy of service to her family and to the Orange County community. Her husband, Kenny, our community, and I will continue to celebrate her beautiful and long life for years to come.

LEADERSHIP ON UKRAINE AID

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, just hours ago in this Chamber, the Prime Minister of Japan asked this Congress: "Without U.S. support, how long before the hopes of Ukraine would collapse under the onslaught from Moscow?"

The answer is not long.

It has been 469 days since we last secured aid for Ukraine. That Ukrainians continue to mount a courageous and effective defense despite our inaction is a testament to their skill on the battlefield and their determination and courage to defend democracy.

They are running dangerously low on ammunition, however. They cannot prevail without our help.

I echo what Prime Minister Kishida said today: "The leadership of the United States is indispensable."

Let us not retreat from leadership. Let us not leave our Ukrainian allies without ammunition. America is the world's hope. Let us not fall short.

FUNDING BALTIMORE'S FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE

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

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to announce my introduction of

the Baltimore BRIDGE Relief Act. I thank the entire Maryland delegation for their united and unanimous cosponsorship of this bill.

As most know, on March 26, early in the morning, our Nation experienced a terrible tragedy when a large cargo ship collided into Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge, leading to the tragic loss of six lives and contributing to a major disruption of the Nation's supply chain.

With so much at stake, we must have a successful response to this American disaster. This bill is a step toward accomplishing everything we said we would do: 100 percent of the way, plain and simple.

We have a long path ahead of us, and I, along with my colleagues from every corner of America, remain committed to doing what we need to do to move us along the path of recovery and toward rebuilding this bridge.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members of this body to join me in voting to pass the Baltimore BRIDGE Relief Act.

SUPPORTING ISRAEL ASSISTANCE

(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, I wholeheartedly stand in full support of the \$14.3 billion aid package to our ally, Israel.

Let me be clear. I stand firmly with Israel, and we must take swift and decisive action against Hamas.

It is heartbreaking that innocent people are caught in the crossfire, but we must honor the laws of armed conflict. We must never waver.

It is essential that we continue our efforts to defeat Hamas extremists and get all hostages back with their loved ones, hostages like Keith Siegel from North Carolina, who was known as a quiet and kind man. We must bring him home to his wife, Aviva, and his family.

Bring them home now. We must never ever lose focus here.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, we need an immigration system that is safe, orderly, and fair. We have real challenges at the southern border. I have been there, and I have seen it.

There must be a fair process for those looking to come legally, and anyone who poses a danger to our country should be removed. The American people are counting on Congress to act.

Unfortunately, House Republicans prefer a problem to talk about rather than working together on a solution.

Last year, President Biden requested \$14 billion in funding for the border, including 1,300 new Border Patrol agents,

and the Senate came up with a bipartisan plan to secure the border and reform our immigration system. House Republicans refuse to even call a vote. Why? It is because Donald Trump doesn't want us to solve the problem. He wants to campaign on it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to get serious about working together on real immigration reform, securing the border, providing a path to citizenship to those who earn it, stopping the grandstanding, and getting to work for the American people.

LIBERAL BIAS FOUND AT NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, one of the problems we have in society that came to light is that people who influence public opinion are, particularly when funded by the government, too much, in my opinion, in favor of the left. Public universities certainly should be giving a very even distribution of information.

Recently, in an under-published story, a great guy, a liberal guy, Uri Berliner, a senior business editor at NPR, reviewed the party designation of 87 members in the local NPR office.

I asked people how many they think are registered Democrat and Republican. People laughed and said all 87, or they would bet 84 are Democrat and 3 are Republican. Actually, it is 87 and zero.

Now, I respect Uri Berliner, a liberal, for digging out this information.

Be that as it may, Mr. Speaker, can you imagine that, right now, there is such a complete lack of diversity in the type of people who disseminate how to deal with the issues today that the NPR local office is made up of 87 Democrats and zero Republicans?

I hope everybody in this Chamber, not only in the field of education but apparently also in the field of broadcast news, realizes we have a fundamental problem in this country and that we have no diversity in the newsroom or in the faculty lounge.

□ 1730

MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

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

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Speaker, we are facing a mental health crisis. Yesterday, I introduced the ACCESS in Mental Health Act to highlight an issue that is critical to our democracy and our collective mental health.

Everyone deserves access to diverse mental health professionals. That is why I introduced this legislation, which will invest in HBCUs, TCUs,

MSIs, and HSIs, to create and expand graduate programs in mental health fields and support students pursuing graduate degrees in mental health at these institutions.

I am grateful to have the partnership of Maria Alfaro from Que Paso Latinx in Westchester County, New York; the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities; and the American Psychological Association in moving this bill forward.

As an educator in the Bronx, I saw how powerful it was for students to have mentors that looked like them. Everyone deserves to turn to someone that they can trust who reflects their identities. We need to diversify and expand our mental health workforce to meet the needs of every American, especially our most marginalized communities.

CITADEL OF DEMOCRACY

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I first start by indicating that all of the hostages should be brought home in this heinous crisis that we are facing, and the innocent women and children and others in the Palestinian crisis should be fed and protected. Additionally, we must find peace, security, and democracy in the area.

At the same time, I want to come home to America and apprise the American people that we must be concerned about having a fair and equal election season. We must be afraid of election intrusion from Russia. We must be afraid of the attack on our technological systems of elections.

Additionally, I am calling on the FBI and other Federal law enforcement agencies to protect the Federal elections that are coming up in the near future. Those are congressional as well as the Presidential election.

We must recognize that we are the beacon of democracy. The citadel of democracy is this place where I stand. It will not have that name unless we call upon all of our resources to make sure that we are not attacked by forces that want to change democracy in front of our very eyes.

I close, Mr. Speaker, by saying to the Attorney General: It is imperative that we have voting rights now in this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I will talk more next week.

FAKE MESSAGING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OGLES). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. KIGGANS).

SUPPORTING U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship. I urge Congress to support our ally now more than ever, and stress the need to defeat Hamas and all Iranian proxies.

Israel is a strong and resilient country. Born in the aftermath of the horrors of the Holocaust and the Second World War, Israel's short history is full of successes. Israel has become one of the world's leading nations for innovation and technology. Its contributions to fields like cybersecurity, healthcare, and agriculture benefit Americans every day. Most importantly, Israel is and always will be our closest ally in the Middle East.

I recently returned from a trip to Israel last week with several of my House colleagues, where we saw with our own eyes the devastation of the October 7 terror attacks. We visited the Nir Oz Kibbutz miles outside of Gaza and also visited the site of the Nova music festival, where hundreds of young people were murdered or kidnapped.

We heard from the parents of an Israeli-American hostage who has been held captive by Hamas for 188 days. We saw burned homes with posters of hostages on the outside. We saw children's toys scattered throughout yards. We could almost feel and smell life there, the life that had been, that was no longer.

Everything I saw and everything I learned verified the brutality of Hamas' unprovoked attacks and reinforced the need to support our longtime ally. The message we all walked away with was the same: Hamas must be eliminated.

During our trip, we met with President Isaac Herzog and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who shared with us the importance of continuing a strategic partnership between our two nations.

The U.S.-Israel relationship is truly the embodiment of peace through strength. By standing together, we demonstrate to our adversaries that we will not be intimidated and that we will defend our shared values and interests.

As malicious regimes like Iran continue their quest for nuclear capabilities and ramp up their backing of radical terror organizations, it is essential that America remain committed to ensuring a strong and secure Israel. This starts with defending Israel's right to self-defense. Israel did not start this war, but they have a right to defend themselves from brutal terrorists.

Hamas' horrific October 7 attacks, as well as the more than 170 attacks against our own Armed Forces by Iranian proxies that have occurred since, are concrete evidence that our enemies are emboldened. Because of weak foreign policy choices made by this administration, starting with the chaotic Afghanistan withdrawal, I worry that