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## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2024, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

### PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday night, the Israeli people were deliberately and brutally attacked when the Iranian regime launched over 300 missiles and drones meant to terrorize and kill civilians.

If it were not for the defensive technologies that were developed here in the United States and the heroism of Israeli, British, French, and Jordanian pilots who took to the air to shoot down Iranian drones, these attacks could have resulted in far greater devastation and loss of life.

It was President Ronald Reagan who said that we must secure peace through strength and that weakness only invites aggression.

Through his long history of appeasement, Joe Biden has failed to deter Iranian threats and ultimately has jeopardized our safety. It is time to send a clear message to Iran and its terrorist proxies that the United States stands firmly with Israel, our greatest ally and the only democracy in the Middle East.

### SECURE OUR BORDER

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in March, Customs and Border Patrol encountered more than 240,000 illegal immigrants attempting to enter the United States, and more than 50,000 of those were at ports of entry and on our northern border.

In 2023, the Swanton border sector in Vermont saw a surge in illegal crossings, surpassing the combined total of the past 11 years.

The truth is in the data. Right now, every State is a border State.

President Biden cannot afford to wait any longer to take action. It is time for President Biden to address this crisis that has allowed more than 5,000 illegal immigrants a day to enter these great United States. This surge is a result of President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas' open-border policies.

The fact is ending the remain in Mexico policy and returning to a catch and release program that allows illegal immigrants to wander our country freely, the Biden administration has put all Americans in danger.

It is time to secure our border, and it is time for the President to put American communities ahead of illegal immigrants.

### IN RECOGNITION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALFORD). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, a couple days ago, on Saturday, in the city of Hartford, Connecticut, the capital city of the State of Connecticut, 60,000 people gathered to celebrate the parade that was held in honor of the UConn men's college basketball team, which, again, just a mere week ago, on Monday, swept over Purdue University, a very good team, and secured back-to-back United States titles.

Mr. Speaker, that is the first time that has happened since 2007, when Florida University was able to do back-to-back titles.

College basketball has changed a lot since then. The new rules allow players to transfer from one university to another with no loss of eligibility. The NBA continues to recruit even freshmen who play in the ranks of college basketball.

The ability of a university to repeat, because of all these factors that undermine continuity, was really, I think, extraordinary that the UConn men, after losing three players from last year's team to the NBA and losing other players to the portal, were still able to reload and, under the amazing leadership of Coach Danny Hurley, were able to dominate both the Big East regular season tournament and then, obviously, the Final Four out in Phoenix, Arizona.

Again, there was a great collection of players, some of whom are going to be leaving soon, such as Donovan Clingan from Bristol, Connecticut—a 7-foot-2 sophomore—and Tristen Newton, who won Big East Player of the Year, who is an amazing guard and is going to do great things when he moves up to the next level.

Mr. Speaker, the women, at the same time, overperformed in their side of NCAA basketball. Again, this is a program that has been to the Final Four 23 times. This is a program that has won the national title 11 times.

Coach Geno Auriemma, who is a genius, was able to cobble together a team when they had six players, some of their top players, who suffered year-ending injuries and somehow made it to the Final Four again, and they battled a great team from University of Iowa, led by Caitlin Clark, to the final seconds, showing, again, what an incredible competitive spirit they have.

Mr. Speaker, there is still some debate that is seen with the sports pundits about who are the real blue bloods

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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of college basketball and which is the capital of the world for college basketball. There is no question Storrs, Connecticut, the home of the UConn Huskies, which I have the honor to represent, is clearly the college basketball capital of the world.

Again, the two programs have been to the Final Four in the same year five times. The men have won their sixth title. Combined with 11 from the women, that is 17 titles. There hasn't been a single program anywhere close all across the country to achieve that greatness.

It was a wonderful day on Saturday. The players deserved all of the cheering and praise that they received. I have no doubt, when Coach Hurley got up there and said his goal right now is to do a three-peat, people better keep their eye on the UConn Huskies.

#### ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, the country of Israel was struck by Iran with missiles that were launched from the territory of Iran into Israel.

An amazing international coalition came together to strike down that drone and missile attack. Our U.S. pilots and reconnaissance crews were essential parts of making that happen. The equipment that they used in terms of Iron Dome, Arrow, David's Sling, which are defensive missiles that assisted in terms of knocking down almost all of them, was a great achievement.

Mr. Speaker, there is a bill pending that came out of the Senate 2 months ago, a supplemental funding bill to reload for countries like Israel; to reload for countries like Ukraine, who are under relentless attack by Vladimir Putin; and to help Taiwan in terms of the coercion and pressure that they are feeling from the People's Republic of China.

We need to pass that bill. It passed 70-28 in the Senate, a huge, lopsided majority. We can do the same here in the House tonight, and we can make sure that these attacks that are happening to countries, sovereign democracies, are going to have the adequate tools to defend themselves.

That is the role that U.S. has played in the past. We were the arsenal of democracy in World War II. Today, we can help defend our friends. It is time for Speaker JOHNSON to bring this measure to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, let the House work its will. Send this bill to the President, who said he will sign it tonight, and make sure that our allies and friends get the help they need.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF VETERAN OF THE MONTH CRAIG ALDERMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our April Veteran of the

Month, Craig Alderman, a Vietnam-era veteran.

Craig and his family have dedicated their lives to this country. Their call to serve America has made a lasting impact, and we are so proud of all he does to help fellow veterans thrive in Missouri's Fourth Congressional District.

His father and four uncles served in World War II, while both of his sons are currently serving our Nation.

Craig grew up on a farm until he left for college at the University of Massachusetts, where he enlisted in the Air Force as an ROTC cadet. After completion of ground school, he attained the rank of private pilot through the ROTC program and was further commissioned as a lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

He then attended flight school and was pinned the silver wings of an Air Force pilot. Craig diligently worked his way through rankings and has earned positions as an instructor for the new B-1 aircraft, attained the rank of captain, and built over 2,800 hours of flight time in the B-52. He is qualified to fly in any multiengine jet and was selected for promotion to major.

Though he continued to earn multiple medals and awards in the Air Force as a pilot, Craig is most proud of the initial silver wings that he earned.

Since retirement, Craig has founded Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation, the only veteran-founded conservation in the United States that works with all aspects of wildlife and allows local chapters to retain the largest revenue of any conservation organization.

He continues to teach, mentor, and assist all aspiring students and veterans in the great State of Missouri. His sacrifice and ongoing commitment to our country's values exemplifies what it means to truly be an American.

I thank Craig for all he does.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF KLEINSCHMIDT'S WESTERN STORE, APRIL'S SMALL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our April Small Business of the Month, Kleinschmidt's Western Store. Providing the Midwest with western apparel and accessories of the highest quality, this household name has been family owned and operated since 1969.

Over 54 years ago, the founders, Irvin and Katherine Kleinschmidt, established a mission supporting our local community while providing unparalleled inventory and exceptional customer service.

This mission is carried out daily now by new owner, Sarah Montgomery, and her family.

This 30,000-square-foot building holds more than 30,000 boots and 200 name brands. Customers are drawn to the extensive stock of inventory that suits any occasion.

Higginsville, Missouri, is proud to be home to this incredible family-owned and -operated business. Their incredible inventory, 250-plus mounted animals and unique accessories, make it

an exceptional western supply stop in mid-Missouri.

We are so excited, Mr. Speaker, to recognize their hard work and incredible efforts to supply Missouri's Fourth Congressional District and visitors from all over America. I congratulate Sarah Montgomery and Kleinschmidt's on being our Small Business of the Month.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. KIM of California) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Immortal and invisible God, we yearn to see You. Open our eyes that we would know how You reveal Yourself to us through the love You have created in us, redeemed in us, and sustain in us this day.

Help us to realize that though we have never seen You, You have taught us that when we love one another, You live in us and Your love is made complete in us. This is knowledge that far exceeds what we can see with our eyes.

So let us look beyond the things we see, look past the differences and the difficulties, and look into the heart of even our adversary.

In them may we see You, then know and rely on the love You so desire to share with us through others. As You have so loved us, may we accept our responsibility to love one another, and may we discover within them the love You reveal to us when we love those around us.

God, You are love. Let us live in that love that Your love would live in us and that we would live in You.

We pray these prayers in Your revealed name.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-