

I commend FFA for all it does to support our Nation's young people and the many ways it has helped produce some of our Nation's best and brightest.

For countless elected officials, including me, FFA is where it all started. It is where we began honing leadership skills, learning ways to meet challenges, big and small, and seeing the value of hard work.

□ 1015

The experiences FFA students are afforded in those few short years will continue to matter to them throughout their lives.

Serving in an officer role can be transformative. I know because I had the chance to be one myself. I was elected FFA president of my local chapter in Cookeville, Tennessee, in 1982. The following year, I was fortunate enough to be elected Middle Tennessee State vice president.

My time as an FFA State officer taught me tremendous lessons I am proud to hold on to until this very day. I still keep two of my FFA blue corduroy jackets in framed cases on my office wall as a reminder of the lessons learned from that experience.

I say all of this to send a message to FFA students everywhere: Living to serve isn't just part of the FFA motto; it is a lifestyle.

I congratulate the newly elected Tennessee FFA State officers: T. Wayne Williams, State president; Emily Whitehead, East Tennessee State vice president; Skylar Baird, Middle Tennessee State vice president; Sarah Ault, West Tennessee State vice president; Shelbi Wallace, State secretary; Eli Julian, treasurer; Paige Pardue, reporter; and Lexi Rush, sentinel.

FFA chapters across Tennessee are preparing student leaders for big things. In fact, it is those chapter officers and this slate of State officers that give me so much hope for the future of our State.

Madam Speaker and Members of Congress, please join me in recognizing the newly elected Tennessee FFA State officers. I congratulate each of them.

AMERICA STANDS WITH ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to make it crystal clear: America stands with Israel.

On October 7, 2023, Iranian-backed Hamas terrorists invaded Israel, killing and kidnapping both Israelis and Americans, resulting in the deadliest day for the Jewish people since World War II.

In the aftermath of the October 7 attacks, House Republicans made it clear that we always have been and always will be staunch supporters of Israel. Unfortunately, the Biden administration and some radical Washington Democrats have taken a different approach.

Since day one, President Biden's mission has been to appease the Iranian re-

gime in Tehran as if it would be effective in discouraging bad behavior. President Biden took a sledgehammer to President Trump's policies, which actually worked and deterred terrorism, by reversing permanent sanctions on Iranian drones and missiles, allowing them to expire in October 2023.

In September of last year, President Biden unfroze \$6 billion in Iranian funds for the release of five American hostages. While we are grateful that those Americans are free, exchanging \$6 billion in assets sets an alarming precedent that only further incentivizes hostage-taking by Iran and other bad actors. America does not negotiate with terrorists.

The President's appeasement in dealing with the terrorist regime in Tehran backfired and put American and Israeli lives at risk. After 4 years of peace in the Middle East under President Trump, President Biden has empowered Iranian proxies and put the entire region at risk.

If it isn't clear enough to the Biden administration, here is a wake-up call: The President's policies aren't working. They are failing. In fact, President Biden's policies are so disastrous that for the first time in history, Iran has launched a direct military assault on Israel.

Some people are claiming that Israel should not respond to Iran's attack based on the punches thrown but rather on the punches that landed. Of the more than 300 drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles that Iran launched at Israel, fortunately, the Iron Dome and other defense mechanisms protected Israel from much of the damage that Iran intended to cause.

In no other country would we spew such a nuanced foreign affairs strategy. America would not tolerate this behavior from any neighboring country, and neither should Israel.

Since October 7, House Republicans have passed legislation to support our ally. We supported Israel's right to self-defense, condemned Hamas terrorism, rejected anti-Semitism, reaffirmed America's commitment to Israel's security, pushed the Biden administration to reinstate and refreeze the Iranian assets and further prevent Iran from funding terrorism. We have fully funded U.S.-Israel cooperative missile defense programs and supported the expansion of the Abraham Accords to encourage peace in the Middle East.

This week, Congress will again vote on legislation to condemn the behavior of the Iranian regime and show our unequivocal support for our ally, Israel. For House Republicans and for me, there is no question: America stands with Israel.

Now, Mr. President, the choice is yours. Abandon our strongest ally in the Middle East or join House Republicans in standing with our ally and sole democratic partner in the Middle East, Israel.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF KEVIN "CATFISH" JACKSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, as you know, I come down here quite often. I consider this to be one of the great privileges that we have in Congress—to recognize people in our districts for the lives that they lived, for the achievements that they achieved.

Some of them I know, and some of them I don't. All of them deserve to be recognized because all of them have done great things.

Today, I come down to honor someone who was a dear friend.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of my dear friend, Kevin "Catfish" Jackson.

Kevin grew up in Cartersville, Georgia. Those who knew him recognized his talent and motivated him to pursue a future in athletics and academics. He actually wanted to quit high school. He wanted to become a lineman for Georgia Power. His coaches saw his athletic ability and encouraged him to continue on, and he did. He will be remembered for, among many things, being a member of the 1980 University of Georgia National Championship football team. He played under Coach Vince Dooley and Coach Erk Russell.

In fact, Coach Russell told the story about how he got his nickname, "Catfish." Some people say it was because the coach said he fought like a cat and drank like a fish. The coach also said that it might have been because, one day in practice, he was waddling around in the mud and looked like a catfish.

Due to his dedication, teamwork, and love for the sport, he was voted by his teammates as co-captain for the Georgia Bulldogs in 1983. Later, he was selected by his coaches for the Coach Wally Butts award for "the player who pays the price," a title that recognized his willingness to sacrifice for others without any ends.

After graduating with a degree in business education, Kevin moved to the city of Savannah, my hometown, and he became a very prominent businessman and a very important member of our community. He applied what he learned both in the classroom and on the field to his business ventures and earned a reputation for treating staff with the respect that he hoped to receive in return.

His sales career started in 1985. He first worked as a salesman for the Georgia Fastener and Safety Company in Savannah. Then, he went on to serve as vice president of marketing at Scapa Group.

In 1999, he founded his own business, EnviroVac Holdings, a company committed to environmental and industrial cleaning services. As president and CEO, he successfully expanded his company across the southeastern region of the Nation.

Kevin was a man of many passions. He lived life like he was. He lived life big. He was known for giving his all in everything he worked on.

He served as chairman of the Savannah Economic Development Authority. He served on the boards of directors for the Georgia Ports Authority, the Georgia Economic Development Authority, the lottery, and so much more.

Despite his many obligations, he always looked out for his community, and his strong faith guided him to tirelessly serve others. He lent his talents to many wonderful organizations, including the Alzheimer's Association, Bethesda Academy, CASA, Leukemia Society, Cure for Cancer, Feed the Hungry, United Way, YMCA, and Savannah Christian Prep School.

I would be remiss if I did not mention his involvement in the organization Band of Brothers. In fact, for a while, we met at his business. The Band of Brothers is a prayer group, a Bible study that meets every week on Friday mornings at 6:30. Kevin was a big part of getting that started.

He was always there when you needed him, both in his career and his personal endeavors. His heart was always filled with gratitude, and his personality brought joy to all he met.

More than anything, he loved his family. I loved following him on Instagram, seeing all the different posts that he would have enjoying his grandchildren. He even built them a zoo, practically a zoo, a farm with all the farm animals.

Words cannot express the profound impact that Catfish has left on his community. He will be missed, but his career and service have created a legacy that will never be forgotten.

The Savannah and broader Georgia community are praying for Kevin's family. His memory will live on in our hearts forever. We suffered a great void in our community with the loss of Kevin "Catfish" Jackson, but his memory will live on forever.

RECOGNIZING DEDICATION AND SERVICE OF NICK SELIMOS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to be on this House floor and recognize people who have done great things for the community and for other people.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Nick Selimos, whose service and dedication to his work continue to unite and uplift Washington, D.C., where over 589,000 government employees work and live.

Nick has served as the maitre d' of The Monocle Restaurant for over 50 years this month. He is not an elected leader. He is not a lobbyist. He is not a congressional staffer. Yet, his impact and influence reaches as far as anyone with political power in this town would have.

Nick knows about the lives of individuals who have walked into The Monocle every day. Not only does he know political affiliations, not only does he know committee positions or the bills they are working on, but he also knows how their spouses are doing, where their kids just got accepted to school, and when their next grandkid is on the way.

It is his incredible memory paired with a genuine care for people that has made him a success in this town. When Nick started at The Monocle in 1974, Washington was a much smaller town, and the nature of politics and the entire political arena was much different. Nick has grown alongside it, matching the needs and changes in this town stride for stride.

Nick's deep knowledge and understanding of the needs of his guests exemplifies why people continue to return to The Monocle, along with the great food that they provide daily. It is why I take my staff, my friends, and my family time and time again to The Monocle. He is truly an outstanding leader. His demeanor and dedication to service guide the atmosphere of the entire restaurant.

As we recognize Mr. Nick Selimos, let us be inspired by his example so that we may do our work and that we may do it well for the betterment of the people we serve. He has set the gold standard for over 50 years, and his commitment and service will long be remembered.

Madam Speaker, I hope we will all join in giving Nick a big thank-you.

□ 1030

RECOGNIZING MAYOR ERNEST CHARGUALAF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOYLAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Mayor Ernest Chargualaf, who is retiring this year after over a decade of public service. Having been elected in 2008, Mayor Chargualaf holds the distinction of being the mayor of the southernmost village of Guam, the village of Malesso.

Mayor Chargualaf's history of service dates back to his time working for the Government of Guam. A lifelong public servant, Mayor Chargualaf was previously the Youth Center Supervisor with the Department of Parks and Recreation and held several positions at the Public Defender Corporation.

A few of his accomplishments during his tenure include: securing over 200 new crypts at the cemetery, completing the long-awaited land exchange for 32 families in the Land for the Landless program, repairing the community center, dedicating and renaming the pier park as the Malesso Veterans Sons & Daughters Pier Park, and the placement of four government lots behind the mayor's office.

Present day, Mayor Chargualaf is known for his leadership abilities, gen-

erosity, and his tenacity in advocating for the people of Malesso. He and his team continue to commit their time to ensuring there are programs for the elderly and sports activities for the youth.

I will certainly remember him as a gifted public servant who could make a village a family and carry out the spirit of "harmony," "inafa' maolek."

I would like to personally thank Mayor Chargualaf for his unwavering dedication and commitment to Malesso and its residents. I wish him the best in his retirement and thank him for his many years of service. I am confident his legacy will inspire future leaders to come. "Hooray," "Biba," Mayor Chargualaf. "Hooray," "Biba," Malesso.

SENDING A CLEAR MESSAGE TO TEHRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. TIMMONS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIMMONS. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today to speak on the unbreakable bond between the United States and Israel, a partnership rooted not just in strategic interests, but in our shared values of democracy, freedom, and justice. This critical alliance not only shapes the destiny of our nations but also upholds the very principles that define our civilization.

When Iran launched an unprecedented attack on Israel this past weekend, we saw the forces of tyranny emboldened against beacons of freedom. We saw the importance of U.S. leadership and alliances in chaotic regions, but ultimately, we saw the result of inaction.

For 6 months, Israel, our greatest ally in the Middle East, has been at war for its very survival. We have supported them and prayed for their safety from the very beginning. In November, when they needed us, this House, the Republican majority, passed a bill to aid our friends. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle didn't want to take \$14 billion out of the \$80 billion they handed over to the IRS to pay for it.

The result of this was weakness. We showed weakness to our allies and to the world. This cannot stand. The United States has a moral obligation to support our allies in democracy and regional security against the forces of tyranny and terrorism. We have a moral obligation to bring another bill to the floor to support this alliance.

Let us send a clear message to Tehran and to the world: The United States stands unequivocally with Israel. We will not waver in our commitment to defend our ally from the threats of Iran and its proxies. We must do this to free the Palestinians in Gaza from the tyranny of Hamas. We must do this for Israel. We must do this to send a message to the world.