

Iran—who said they want to commit an attack on our own soil—and Russia and China. If we are going to send our allies money, which we should support our allies, we need to ensure that our own homeland is secure against these threats, as well.

Even the FBI Director is confirming that joint terrorism task forces in all 56 of FBI's field offices are occupied with threats coming across our border.

It is unconscionable to me that the President refuses to reverse any of his more than 60 border policies that he changed via executive order. It is also unconscionable to me that Senator SCHUMER refuses to work with us to force the President to reverse these policies, because the President has discretion and put these policies in place to begin with and can reverse them.

I believe our Speaker needs to go back to Joe Biden and CHUCK SCHUMER and say: If we are going to pass foreign aid, we must have at least a few commonsense border protection measures in there. I don't think it is that hard to ask from Republicans or Democrats to say at least let's prohibit individuals who are gang members, terrorists, or criminals from entering into this country.

AN EMBATTLED ISRAEL AND A BELEAGUERED UKRAINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCORMICK). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I would remind the previous speaker of the bipartisan bill from the Senate, which does, in fact, deal with the critical issue she raised. The leadership of the Republican Party has refused to take up that bill.

However, there is a more important issue that confronts this House that we should have acted on days, weeks, months ago. That is the security of the global community, the sanctity of international law, and the saving of the sovereignty of Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of an embattled Israel and a beleaguered Ukraine and apprehensive allies around the world.

A month ago, Speaker JOHNSON said: "No one wants Vladimir Putin to prevail. I am of the opinion that he wouldn't stop in Ukraine. If he was allowed, he'd go through all the way through Europe."

The Speaker said: "There is a right and wrong there—a good versus evil, in my view. And Ukraine is the victim here. They were invaded. We stand with good."

The Speaker went on to say: "I understand the timetable and I understand the necessity of the urgency of the funding."

Yet, we twiddle our thumbs without any paper on this floor as to how we are going to affect the urgent end of which the Speaker spoke.

Speaker JOHNSON then said on April 16: "We need steady leadership. We

need steady hands on the wheel. Look, I regard myself as a wartime Speaker."

If the Speaker regards himself as that, Speaker JOHNSON must act now. There is no time for delay. There is no time for political chaos to impede our aid to Ukraine.

Clearly, we are not acting urgently. If we did, we would have allowed us to pass the Senate national security bill a long time ago. Putin has to be happy with the failure to bring the Senate bill to the floor. It must look like "Gulliver's Travels" with the little people in America, the Lilliputians who are in our midst tying down America's ability to respond.

We have seen the consequences of House inaction. Over the weekend, Iran made an unprecedented attack on Israel, launching roughly 350 drones and missiles at targets across the country. They see an unresolved United States, although Israel shot down nearly all of them with the support of America.

God bless President Biden and our allies. The audacity and breadth of Iran's attack ought to concern us all as Americans and as global citizens.

In Ukraine, we have allowed our allies to run so low on ammunition that their air defenses cannot fend off similar air attacks. Shame on America. Shame on this House.

Indeed, Iran supplies Putin with the same drones and missiles to strike Ukrainian cities. Meanwhile, Ukraine's soldiers are so starved for ammunition that they wade into swamps in search of abandoned Russian artillery shells they can reuse. That is how committed they are to winning this war, and that is how desperate they are for our aid. This Congress has failed to provide it for them for 473 days.

The world watches us and wonders: Does America remain the defender of freedom, democracy, and its allies, or has the wellspring of democracy run dry? The free world expects more from the great arsenal of democracy, and so should we.

Most Members of this House agree. Over 300 Members of this House have voted for the proposition contained in the Senate bill. On seven occasions in the past year, over 300 Democrats and Republicans voted to aid Ukraine. Even more of us voted to aid Israel.

We are not a silent majority, but a silenced majority, silenced by a Speaker who refused to give us a vote. It will pass. He could put the Senate supplemental on the floor at any moment. It would pass with a large bipartisan majority.

Freedom is waiting upon us today. International law is waiting for us to redress the grievance that has occurred by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, let us act now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. HOYER. Ukraine's time has expired.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID PLANNING

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest hockey coaches of all time, Herb Brooks, once said: "Let me start with issuing you a challenge: Be better than you are. Set a goal that seems unattainable, and when you reach that goal, set another one even higher."

I can think of few people who have consistently risen to that challenge better than our floor director, David Planning.

As the head of our whip operation for the last 1½ years, David has played an integral part in making sure our House Republican majority delivers on our agenda for the American people, and with the slimmest majority in history, who only controls barely one-half of one-third of the government, making sure we get our priorities across the finish line is no easy feat.

However, in large part, thanks to David's grit, professionalism, and insatiable desire to win, House Republicans have been able to pass signature pieces of legislation that much larger majorities could not.

Nevertheless, it is not just David's fierce competitiveness that makes him great. It is the intentional relationships he has created with people across every sector of our Conference. It is the steadiness he exudes no matter how high the stakes, and it is his positivity that not only makes him a winner, but makes him an incredible teammate.

Competitor, winner, teammate—those are the words that come to mind when I think about David Planning. Although we are quite sad for him to leave us as he moves on to another career opportunity at the end of the month, I have no doubt that those characteristics will continue to carry him far.

David, thank you for your service, not just to our office, but for our entire House Republican Conference. Thank you for your steadfast commitment to our commonsense conservative agenda. Thank you for giving up so many nights, weekends, and holidays to make sure that our Conference is successful in our mission to counteract Joe Biden and the Democrats' failed agenda.

Mr. Speaker, most importantly, I thank him for his friendship and the incredible memories that we are going to have from the last 15 months. May he never stop setting and reaching his goals. We cannot wait to see how he excels outside the Halls of Congress, and we wish him nothing but the best in his next chapter.

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CALLING FOR CEASE-FIRE AND DE-ESCALATION IN MIDDLE EAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from

Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the massacre of the Palestinian people and the urgent need to de-escalate the Middle East.

For months now, after the brutal attack on October 7, the world has watched in horror as the crisis in Gaza has worsened daily. Today, less than 200 days later, nearly 34,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces.

Every day that goes by without a cease-fire is another day that Palestinians are subjected to violence, starvation, death, and destruction.

Every day that we do not de-escalate the region, more lives are put at risk.

Mr. Speaker, I condemn the Iranian military's attack on Israel, and I condemn the Israeli military's attack on the Iranian consulate in Syria.

These escalations are dangerous, and we now find ourselves at a critical inflection point. We can either leverage diplomacy to de-escalate tensions and push for peace, or we can stand idly by as this spirals into a broader regional conflict that will result in more loss of life—Palestinian, Israeli, and American.

We must de-escalate, and facilitating a lasting cease-fire in the region is the only path forward.

Some of my colleagues seem all too willing to rush into an endless war with Iran and continue providing a blank check to the Israeli military.

Right now, Palestinians in Gaza are being starved, bombed, tortured, and executed. Generations of Palestinian families have been wiped out. Over 2 million are displaced from homes that have been razed to the ground. Make no mistake: History will remember this moment as a genocide.

We cannot bomb our way to peace, and the U.S. must stop using our tax dollars to arm the Israeli military with more bombs and bullets. These are the same bombs and bullets that have been used to kill over 14,000 children in Gaza. It is shameful.

It is why we see momentum across the globe in support of a cease-fire. Millions are marching peacefully in the streets. A cease-fire is the mandate, a cease-fire to surge humanitarian aid, a cease-fire to bring all the hostages home, a cease-fire to save lives.

We will never be silent in the face of injustice. We need a cease-fire now.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LUKE
BAILEY SANTOS

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Luke Bailey Santos of Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Our community is devastated over the loss of Luke. He was a force for good and a bright light in politics and our world. Luke believed deeply in the power of community organizing and could build meaningful relationships with folks from any and every walk of life because he cared deeply.

He knew that our destinies were tied and our humanity connected. He had a

heart for storytelling, as well. He represented the best of us, a genuine person who loved his family, his friends, and the pursuit of justice.

Luke never had an agenda, only passion. He was ready to roll up his sleeves and play any role. Our team often described him as a wunderkind and the kid who would be President someday.

Mr. Speaker, I am devastated that Luke's time on this Earth was so short. His 20 years were filled with meaning and contribution and love. He made every day count, and every day, he made our world better. In his name, we will continue the work of building a more just world.

HONORING THE LIFE OF A TRUE COMMUNITY
BUILDER, PAUL PARRAVANO

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the passing of a true community builder, the unofficial "Mayor of MIT," Mr. PAUL Parravano.

Paul was compelled to work "so tell me about yourself" into every single conversation he had, and he meant it, so let me tell you a little bit about him.

Paul Parravano joined MIT's Office of Government and Community Affairs in 1990. He touched countless students, faculty, community leaders, and elected officials in his 33 years of service. He was committed to the full inclusion of disabled people in every aspect of life. He served as a board member of the National Braille Press, just one of his many contributions to the empowerment and upliftment of the broader disability community.

A Braille champion, his advocacy improved access to financial information for the blind across the United States. His contributions earned him the Cambridge NAACP's Lifetime Achievement Award and the Cambridge Community Center's Reverend Nichols Founder's Award, and he was the inaugural recipient of the MIT Staff Award for Distinction in Service—all well deserved.

His legacy was really forged in the intimate moments he shared so freely with any and everyone he met and how generously he shared his hard-fought wisdom.

He showed us how to lead with compassion, and although he was blind, Paul saw people. He saw the infinite possibilities within people and in our world more than any person I have ever known.

Mr. Speaker, to his wife, Martha, and his daughters, Emily and Ellie, I thank them for sharing Paul's light and love with us. We are a better Commonwealth because of him.

CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF ORO VALLEY

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the town of Oro Valley's 50th anniversary.

On April 15, 1974, Oro Valley started as a small town with only 1,200 people.

Today, it has grown into a booming community with a population of over 48,000 Arizonans.

The town recently celebrated its 50th anniversary with community performances from local bands, fireworks, and parades. This celebration was a testament to the sense of community and strong neighborly values my family and I have been fortunate enough to experience ourselves over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mayor Winfield and Vice Mayor Barrett for their leadership of the community.

I am so proud to represent Oro Valley and so many other wonderful communities like this in our district.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF LEAD POLICE
OFFICER ADAM R. BUCKNER

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Lead Police Officer Adam R. Buckner, one of Arizona's brave law enforcement officers who tragically passed away on Sunday, March 31, 2024.

At just 31 years old, Adam lost his life while serving our community so bravely in Tucson.

Officer Buckner started his law enforcement career with the New Orleans Police Department in 2017 and then joined the Tucson Police Department in November 2021.

Officer Buckner recently won the Midtown Division's Officer of the Month award for his dedication to the community. His commitment to community service shined bright during his time as a lead police officer at the Tucson Police Department.

Officer Buckner was committed to helping others in times of need and truly loved the Tucson community. He is remembered as a loyal, kind, and selfless friend and remains a true hero in the hearts of our Tucson community.

Officer Buckner is survived by his wife, mother, sister, and three brothers. We will never forget Officer Buckner's sacrifice or the ultimate sacrifice of any first responder. His death is a reminder that our police, fire, and medical personnel and all first responders risk their lives every time they put on the uniform. We extend our gratitude for his dedicated service and are eternally grateful for his contributions.

U.S.-ISRAEL FRIENDSHIP MORE CRUCIAL THAN
EVER

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, this past week, Iran has launched a direct, aggressive, unprovoked attack on our ally, Israel.

I was on the ground in Israel less than 2 weeks ago with a group of 18 of my colleagues to hear from Israeli police, soldiers, and officials about the importance of the United States' partnership.

As Israel defends itself in their war against Hamas, Iran, and other proxy terrorists, the U.S.-Israel friendship is more crucial than ever. I met with families of hostages and visited sites of the October 7 attacks, one of the most impactful parts of my visit.