

Israel, and Taiwan, with critical security and military needs to defend their freedom and, therefore, our freedom. It will provide humanitarian aid for the Palestinians, who have been horrifically punished and suffered in Gaza, and Armenians refugees removed from their historical home in Nagorno-Karabakh, along with investments in border security to help alleviate the challenges we have here.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues, would you stand with freedom-loving democracies and help bring this bill to the floor and support Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan, or will you stand with Putin and embolden his mafia of dictators to further attack our allies? That is the question.

Your actions will show not only the American people but history where you stood in protecting the future of democracies. The world is watching.

This is our Churchill-Chamberlain moment. Will we be like Churchill and continue to be the beacon of light for freedom around the world, or will we try to appease, as Chamberlain did with the Nazi dictator Hitler that resulted in the cause of over 100 million deaths during World War II? That is the question. This is the moment.

We must stand for freedom. We must pass this security package this week for Ukraine, Israel, Taiwan, and freedom-loving people around the world.

Mr. Speaker, that is the challenge we face this week. I hope we are successful.

#### RECOGNIZING MOUNT SIDNEY, NEW HOPE, AND WEYERS CAVE RURITAN CLUBS' 85TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ruritan Clubs in Mount Sidney, New Hope, and Weyers Cave for their 85-year commitment to serving their local communities.

As a fellow Ruritan, I know how well these clubs embody the spirit of service and community that is the backbone of rural America.

Through volunteer work and donations, these Ruritan clubs keep our district beautifully maintained and bolster communal ties. They also hold annual events, like barbecues, to raise the funds they need to positively impact our local communities.

On April 13, a special celebration was held at the Weyer Cave Community Center to honor the past, present, and future generations of Ruritans who have made and continue to make significant contributions to their communities.

This event was not just a recognition of these long-lived charters. It is a testament to the enduring spirit of community service and unity.

Therefore, it is with immense pride and gratitude that I stand here today to congratulate Mount Sidney, New

Hope, and Weyers Cave Ruritan Clubs on their 85th anniversary. Their ongoing work to instill a commitment to public service reflects the best of what it means to be a part of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I thank these Ruritan clubs for their 85 years of service. Here is to many more years of success and community support.

#### HONORING THE VIRGINIAN REVIEW

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Virginian Review newspaper.

For 110 years, The Virginian Review has been a guiding light for past generations, the present generation, and those yet to come.

The Virginian Review was born out of the consolidation of two local newspapers in Alleghany County/Covington region, the Covington Virginian, founded in 1914, and the Daily Review, founded 9 years before.

After 74 years, the newspapers talked of merging, and on January 3, 1989, the newly created The Virginian Review published its very first edition.

Today, The Virginian Review, under the direction of Scot Refsland, continues to uphold its impressive reputation as an incredible source to keep our communities informed by their essential news coverage and thoughtful, incisive reporting.

Since its beginning, The Virginian Review has been a consistent and reliable news source, delivering local, State, and national updates to folks across Virginia's Sixth District.

It is a privilege to celebrate The Virginian Review, and I wish the entire team all the best as they celebrate 110 years of outstanding journalism.

#### CONGRATULATING CHRISTENDOM COLLEGE'S WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Christendom College women's basketball team on winning the United States Collegiate Athletic Association Division II National Championship in Petersburg, Virginia.

The Christendom Crusaders won the trophy by a score of 76-65 in the championship game against Johnson and Wales Charlotte, bringing home the first women's basketball national title in school history.

Their victory was an entire team effort led by junior Miranda Keller, who led the Crusaders with 22 points; junior Catherine Thomas, who had 19 points; and freshman Mary Pennefather, who also had 19 points.

Miranda Keller was also named Player of the Game for the National Championship for her efforts, and Catherine Thomas was named Tournament MVP for her outstanding play.

Led by Head Coach Mary Minick and Assistant Coach Annie Heisler, this victory is a testament to the hard work and perseverance of everyone on Christendom's women's basketball team.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate these athletes, parents, coaches, and staff on an incredible season and a well-deserved victory.

#### CONGRATULATING BLUE RIDGE CHRISTIAN'S GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Blue Ridge Christian girls' basketball team on winning the Virginia Association of Christian Athletics, VACA, State championship.

After being down 21-7 at one point in the game, the Bears fought their way back into contention, winning their second VACA title in 3 years.

The team had a tremendous performance throughout the season, finishing 18-2 and going on to win the championship. Despite the countless challenges of working through illnesses and other obstacles, the perseverance and commitment to success demonstrated throughout the year led their team to victory.

Winning the State championship title is a testament to the unwavering dedication and hard work that the coaches and players display each and every day throughout the season.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincerest congratulations to the entire Bears coaching staff and team for their incredible season. It is my honor to recognize their well-deserved victory, and I wish them nothing but the best for seasons to come.

#### STANDING WITH ISRAEL

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reaffirm my unwavering support for Israel, our foremost ally in the Middle East and the beacon of democracy in that region.

Over the weekend, Iran launched a direct attack on Israel from Iranian soil, firing over 300 missiles and drones at the nation. This is the first time Iran has ever directly attacked the Nation of Israel.

These direct attacks also follow the brutal war launched by Iran-backed Hamas terrorists on October 7 of this last year. This vicious attack claimed the lives of over 1,200 innocent Israeli citizens and took more than 240 hostages, some of whom were Americans.

While some on the other side of the aisle and in the media attempt to draw a moral parallel between Hamas and Israel, there is simply no comparison to be made.

As Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu once said: "You cannot equate a democracy that values life with a terror organization that glorifies death."

Israel has an absolute right to defend itself, and while they continue to fight for their country's survival, Hamas continues to intentionally target population centers, seeking death and destruction.

Let me be clear: Hamas has no interest in peace or a solution. Their only objective is to eliminate the Jewish State. I cannot fathom why people choose to back Hamas despite its atrocious human rights record.

We must stand with Israel, and I remain steadfast in my support of America's closest ally.

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## CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. McCLELLAN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Earth Day, which will be on Monday, a day to honor and celebrate our remarkable planet.

Earth Day is an important opportunity to renew our commitment to combating climate change, transitioning to a clean-energy future, promoting conservation and sustainability, and advancing environmental justice.

We face serious environmental challenges across the globe, from preventing sea level rise on the coasts to combating the destruction of natural habitats in the Arctic and everything in between.

Under the leadership of the Biden-Harris administration, Congressional Democrats made historic climate progress over the past few years, including the largest investment in climate action and clean energy in our Nation's history.

The Inflation Reduction Act is creating hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs of the future, and as we continue to transition to cleaner, more sustainable technologies, we are working to ensure that everyone can benefit from these investments and that no one is left behind.

The Biden-Harris administration is complementing our efforts with transformative executive actions that include finalizing strong standards that cut greenhouse gas emissions and safeguard our communities.

Thanks to the administration, we have taken historic action to reduce methane emissions; strengthen standards for soot; limit emissions from cars, trucks, and buses; and curb PFAS, or forever chemical, contamination.

In the coming weeks, we look forward to a strong final rule for Mercury and Air Toxics Standards for power plants. Last year, I led over 50 Members of Congress in urging the administration to finalize strong standards that will protect the health and well-being of the American people, and we eagerly await that final rule.

I commend the administration for their commitment to ensuring that 40 percent of the overall benefits of Federal investments in climate, clean energy, affordable and sustainable housing, and other key areas flow to historically disadvantaged communities that have been disproportionately impacted by climate change and pollution.

For too long, low-income communities, communities of color, our Tribal and indigenous communities, have borne the brunt of environmental degradation and our worsening climate. The climate crisis exacerbates longstanding inequities and contributes to

worse public health outcomes for vulnerable populations.

My predecessor, the late Donald McEachin, was a true environmental justice champion who always stood up for these vulnerable populations. Each year, he would lead a resolution to recognize Earth Day and call for action to protect our planet. This week, I look forward to building on his legacy and helping to reintroduce that resolution to honor Earth Day.

As a mother to two young children, I am fighting to ensure a healthy, more sustainable future for my children and yours. Earth Day is a reminder that we have no planet B. We must continue fighting to protect our Earth and protect our next generation.

## RECOGNIZING COACH KEVIN KIERNAN

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the career of Mater Dei High School Coach Kevin Kiernan. After 17 years at Mater Dei coaching the girls basketball team, this will be his last season coaching the Monarchs.

Coach Kiernan recently celebrated his 900th win after a decisive victory in the southern California regional playoffs. It was a bittersweet moment for the coach as he and his players reflected on the legacy that he is leaving behind. He wraps up his coaching career with 12 CIF Southern Section titles, six State crowns, and two national championships. That is a record.

Coach Kiernan is an Orange County native, and Mater Dei High School will keep him as athletic director.

We wish him the best. I am glad he is staying around. Let's keep the good work going.

## HONORING RICHARD "DICK" HIGGINS

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the heroic life and legacy of Richard "Dick" Higgins.

Dick was a husband, longtime Orange County resident, and a national hero. He served in the Navy during World War II after surviving the horrific attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

His service to our community continued after he left the Navy, visiting schools and doing interviews and making sure that history stayed alive with young people and others in Orange County.

Dick lived to be 102 years old, and he is survived by two children, two grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. In his words, he now goes to be with his beloved Winnie Ruth, his wife of 60 years.

I thank Dick for his service to our country and thank him for his sacrifice.

## HONORING ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOL COUNSELORS OF THE YEAR

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor this year's Orange County School Counselors of the Year.

I am so proud that two of these counselors are from my hometown. Mr. Gernux is from Santa Ana Unified School District, and Ms. Rodriguez is from Anaheim Union School District, both of whom represent the best in our local public schools.

Like myself, Ms. Rodriguez and Mr. Gernux were grown in our local hometowns. They are products of Orange County public schools, and now they are giving back to the public school system that gave them so much.

Ms. Rodriguez, Mr. Gernux, and the rest of these fine educators will continue to shape the future leaders of tomorrow. All of us in Orange County and in Congress appreciate their commitment to our community, our youth, and our future.

## RECOGNIZING BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, for women looking to start or grow their families, motherhood should be one of the greatest, most joyful times in their lives. For far too many Black women in Ohio's 13th Congressional District and across this country, this experience is often overshadowed by trauma, heartache, and loss.

It is no secret that Ohio, my home State, has one of the highest Black maternal death rates in the entire Nation, with Black women two to three times more likely than White women to die from pregnancy or birth-related causes.

We rightfully talk about the social determinants of health that Black women face in accessing quality, affordable prenatal and postnatal healthcare in our communities, which contributes to these completely unacceptable maternal mortality rates.

Today, I would like to focus our attention on another contributing factor to Black maternal mortality that is often overlooked: intimate partner violence. Homicide is the leading cause of death among pregnant women in the United States. It is higher than the three leading health causes of maternal mortality, those being hypertension, hemorrhaging, and sepsis.

Addressing the violence that plagues women during pregnancy and shortly thereafter is why I introduced the Safer Homes and Families Act. This comprehensive legislative package would provide vital support to keep moms and families safe, including prohibiting the use of electronic devices for stalking, providing training for healthcare providers to better identify and treat individuals experiencing abuse, and allowing survivors to break a lease without adverse costs.

Statistics have indicated that nearly 20 percent of women experience violence during their pregnancies, and for one in six women, abuse first begins during their pregnancy. This violence substantially increases the likelihood