

Kirk Ferentz and the entire crew at the University of Iowa have worked tirelessly in support of these players and in their journeys to the premier league in football.

Coach Ferentz and his team deserve the utmost credit for developing a first-class program that makes good players into great players and winners into champions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating these four drafted players and all of the Hawkeyes making their way to the NFL. By the way, it wasn't a fair catch.

As always, Go Hawkeyes.

□ 1015

WE ARE PAYING ATTENTION

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to affirm that we are paying attention.

We were paying attention when 35,000 Palestinians were killed. We were paying attention when over 14,500 children were robbed of their future. We were paying attention as 404 doctors and aid workers were killed, 100 journalists and media workers were killed. Finally, we are paying attention as over 1.1 million people are on the verge of starving to death.

Yesterday, we were paying attention when Israel began its invasion into Rafah and seized control of the Rafah crossing.

We were paying attention on February 8 when President Biden said that providing periodic congressional reports to Congress enables meaningful oversight.

We were paying attention last month when a nonpartisan task force issued an independent, credible report outlining the Israeli Government's violations of international humanitarian law. In 76 pages of details, they provide example after example of what they call a systematic disregard for international humanitarian law and military best practice regarding civilian harm mitigation by the Israel Defense Forces, including with U.S.-provided arms.

Today, we are paying attention as President Biden's National Security Memorandum 20, what we call the NSM-20, congressional reporting deadline on Israel's use of U.S. arms comes due. We know that Netanyahu's administration has been and is continuing to assure the U.S. Government that it is using U.S. weapons in line with international laws and is not interfering with the delivery of humanitarian aid.

However, given what we have witnessed over the last 214 days, how can we trust Netanyahu's official assurances that they are complying with international law?

How can we be expected to ignore the violations of international law and interference with the delivery of humani-

tarian assistance we have witnessed in real time?

What are we to say to the constituents whose families are starving, whose loved ones cannot receive medical care, or who never received the promised evacuation from Gaza?

What do we say to the brave and courageous students across campuses, our children, who are defending other children in Gaza who are being murdered with U.S. bombs?

What do we say to the children who are still looking for their mothers under the rubble, as we approach Mother's Day?

The administration's willingness to make exceptions for Israel has got to stop. The actions of the Netanyahu government are exceptional—exceptionally noncompliant with international law and exceptionally unconcerned with human rights. The Biden administration must consider other credible sources of information beyond the Israeli Government as it fulfills its NSM-20 reporting obligations, and the administration must fulfill those obligations today.

I expect that this country will demonstrate our commitment to international law, to human rights, and congressional oversight because we are paying attention. The time has come for the administration to follow through on its warning about Israeli conduct and take meaningful action because if the administration is paying attention, they will enforce both our laws through NSM-20 and section 620I of the Foreign Assistance Act and also international law. Anything less undermines our credibility and is a stain on the legacy of our country's leadership.

WE WERE PAYING ATTENTION ON OCTOBER 7

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, we were paying attention. We were paying attention on October 7. We were paying attention when Hamas, the terrorist organization, slaughtered innocent women and children, elderly citizens of the Nation of Israel. We were paying attention.

Now the world is paying attention as Israel seeks to eliminate Hamas. We stand with Israel. We stand with the citizens of Israel, and we are paying attention not only to Israel as it seeks to destroy Hamas and rid the world of this terrorist organization, but we are paying attention to those in Congress and across the country who are siding with Hamas, who are siding with terrorists, who are siding with murderers.

Remember October 7. We stand with Israel.

JOHN HANDLEY SENIORS HONOR VETERANS

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of John Handley High School seniors. These remarkable students have taken on a significant project to honor alumni from

the Douglas School who valiantly served in World War II.

The project involves adding their names to the Patsy Cline Theater at John Handley High School, acknowledging the contributions and service of those veterans alongside those already honored from John Handley.

Douglas School served African-American students in Winchester until its closure in 1966, so the students want to make sure all of the community's World War II veterans are given the recognition they rightly deserve.

The students' work involves a great deal of researching and documenting the names of Douglas School veterans, a crucial step in preserving our history and ensuring the bravery and sacrifices of all of our World War II veterans are honored. So far, they have collected 300 names of World War II veterans and are working to verify that they attended Douglas High School.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in applauding these students and their efforts to ensure that the contributions of our veterans are never forgotten.

CONGRATULATING SALEM HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Salem High School debate team for winning the 2024 Virginia High School League championship, the first in their history.

This historic win came after an impressive performance at James Madison University, where Salem's team showcased their unparalleled skill and determination against the Rock Ridge team, winning with a score of 21-13.

The team was led by Claire Rawlins and Kaylee Christley, whose unmatched skills in policy debate steered Salem to victory. Claire Rawlins has also etched her name in VHSL history by winning titles in both forensics, impromptu speaking, and a debate event in a single year.

In the VHSL competition, Rawlins and Christley went a combined 10 wins and 1 loss while winning the region, super region, and State championships. Their achievements, along with those of their teammates, propelled Salem to this prestigious State title.

I congratulate Salem High School on their State championship in debate and to the students, coaches, and everyone involved in this monumental achievement.

HONORING WWII VETERAN GEORGE BAILEY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize George Bailey, a valiant World War II veteran who joined the Capital Wing Warbird Showcase at Shenandoah Valley Airport as part of his 99th birthday celebration.

George Bailey, who faithfully served in the Army's 283rd Field Artillery Battalion, represents the best of American courage and resolve. His dedication to our country, followed by his distinguished career at Pratt & Whitney showcases the enduring American spirit of innovation and excellence.

At the showcase, George Bailey was given the honor to take to the skies on

a flight aboard the historic Stinson OY-1.

George's enthusiasm for aviation serves as a powerful reminder of the gratitude we owe to our veterans. Their commitment and sacrifices have paved the way for the freedoms and opportunities we enjoy.

As we look forward to celebrating George's 100th birthday next year, with hopes of another flight, I thank George. To all those who joined in this memorable showcase, your dedication ensures that the legacy of our Nation's heroes continues to be celebrated and remembered for generations to come.

APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival's 100th birthday. This year marked the 100th anniversary of the festival's establishment in 1924, despite having hosted only 97 festivals to date because of the profound impacts of World War II and, more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic.

The festival includes 10 days of events, including a carnival, dances, parades, band concerts, and parties. It attracts crowds of more than 250,000 people.

Last week, 500 people joined a celebration at James R. Wilkins, Jr. Athletics & Events Center at Shenandoah University to honor a century of tradition, resilience, and community spirit at the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival.

Mr. Speaker, this achievement is an incredible milestone. I extend my utmost gratitude to all those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the Apple Blossom Festival one of the best celebrations in Virginia's Sixth District and nationwide. Year after year, their dedication has created a celebration for our community to recognize and enjoy the rich agricultural heritage of the Shenandoah Valley.

CELEBRATING OPAL LEE

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an amazing Fort Worth, Texas, and now U.S. hero, Ms. Opal Lee, better known as the grandmother of Juneteenth. She is an incredible gift to not just Fort Worth but, again, the entire Nation.

This past Friday, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her efforts in establishing Juneteenth as a national holiday. When I say effort, I mean effort. Ms. Opal Lee, literally, at 90-plus years of age, walked across the country and took many steps, literally, to make this happen.

At 97, not only did she receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, but she will also be receiving an honorary doctorate from Southern Methodist University at their upcoming commencement. I am so glad to see all this work that Ms. Opal Lee is doing be rewarded and recognized.

I also want to touch on a few of the other things that she is doing. She has an amazing community garden that feeds people all over Tarrant County and Fort Worth. She also has an incredible food bank that is doing similar work.

I know that everyone is watching what Ms. Lee is doing and proud of her accomplishments and just all of the fame that she has brought to Fort Worth. The United Riverside community is also proud of her, as they get to call her a neighbor.

Keep up the good work. We are proud of Ms. Lee and cannot wait until we get that museum done.

CELEBRATING CHAMPION TRACK ATHLETES ACROSS FORT WORTH

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of some of our young people in Fort Worth.

In 2024, at the Texas Relays, we had three State champions. You may have heard these names before, and it is because they were also State champions in previous meets.

First, I want to highlight Kalani Lawson from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, who defended her State championship in the girls 4A 100-meter hurdles. She is only a junior. Not only that, she broke last year's record that had been on the books since the 1990s, and she broke her own record again this year in taking home the gold running the 100-meter hurdles in 13.89 seconds.

I also want to take the time to highlight another back-to-back champion, Fort Worth's O.D. Wyatt's Malik Franklin, who won the State championship in the class 5A boys' 400-meter, with a winning time of 47.23. Again, Malik won back-to-back championships. He is also a great student and star of the football team. You should check out some of his videos on MaxPreps. Malik is going to take his talents and continue his track career at Arizona State University. Again, we are very proud of his accomplishments.

I also want to give a shout-out to A.P. Ranch and Greg Sholars, and the coaches out there that are just bringing home those championships for north Texas and working with so many of our kids, really making north Texas one of the great areas for sprinters and distance runners.

Last but not least, I want to recognize Angel Sanchez of Diamond Hill-Jarvis High School. He had an injury last year, but he won the State championship his sophomore year. He claimed the boys 4A 3200-meter and also the mile championship.

During the 3200 meters, he posted a time of 9:14.44, which was nearly five seconds faster than the second-place finisher. In the 1600, he posted a 4:13.08, which is a new class 4A record. Angel has literally raced all around the country. He has been highlighted running in Oregon and running in many other high school meets. Upon his graduation here in a couple weeks, he is going to

be headed to Oklahoma State to continue to run. Go Pokes.

We will continue to watch Angel run while he is at Oklahoma State. I really want to congratulate him for everything that he has done for Diamond Hill-Jarvis. That entire community on the north side of Diamond Hill is just extremely proud of Mr. Sanchez and what he is doing and can't wait to continue to see him run.

□ 1030

FARM BILL PRIORITIES

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue calling attention to the need for Congress to pass a comprehensive 5-year farm bill that provides certainty to our agriculture producers while responding to market changes and strengthening the ag safety net.

My priorities for the next farm bill have not changed. It is in the best interests of our American farmers, ranchers, and agriculture producers to authorize a farm bill that protects and strengthens crop insurance, incentivizes agriculture trade programs that help Americans remain competitive on the global stage, and conducts rigorous oversight and rolls back overly restrictive regulation and supports agriculture research and development.

Investing in agriculture research, and, particularly, animal health research, supports our Nation's food security and ultimately our national security.

This is especially true today as the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza virus spreads across wildlife, poultry, and dairy cattle around the country.

My staff and I remain in close contact with USDA regarding the spread, and we are grateful for USDA's efforts to control the outbreak. However, it emphasizes the reality that animal health often does not get the attention that it deserves.

Luckily, HPAI has no proven impact on our country's food supply, but we are starting to see the economic impact of this virus.

Last week, Colombia became the first country to restrict US beef imports coming from States where HPAI is present.

As of yesterday, at least 22 States had issued some restrictions on the importation of dairy cattle from affected States.

By actively investing in research of animal disease, we have the opportunity to allocate resources to the prevention rather than outbreak control.

These investments serve as a more cost-effective approach to protecting our Nation's food supply by limiting animal disease and outbreaks before they spread.

For years, Kansas has led the United States in supporting global food security initiatives. Just last year, the U.S.