

has become the country's hazardous waste dumping ground.

Wayne County, the largest county in Michigan, is home to six of Michigan's eight hazardous waste dumps. Our laws must change, Madam Speaker. We must protect our residents.

I don't know if folks know, but it costs about \$13 to dispose of a ton of waste in a landfill in Wisconsin, but it only costs 36 cents in Michigan.

We have made ourselves the most attractive place in our Nation to dump hazardous waste while surrounded by 84 percent of our country's surface freshwater. It doesn't make sense.

The truth is our environmental protection laws aren't strong enough to protect our people. They certainly do not go far enough, again, to protect working families and communities of color.

I introduced the Cumulative Impacts Act that would require the EPA and EGLE to consider cumulative impacts of pollution on our communities when it considers permanent facilities like this one and reject those permits when they would put our health at risk.

We need to pass this bill and more. Our residents are getting sick every single day while we do nothing.

PALESTINIAN BABIES

Ms. TLAIIB. Madam Speaker, we are witnessing the Israel Government carry out a genocide in Gaza.

Recently, the Gaza ministry of health released a 649-page document with the name, age, and ID number of 34,344 Palestinians killed in Gaza who have been identified.

Most of them are women, children, and the elderly. These are just the identified individuals; many public health experts believe the death toll will climb. Every single day higher numbers will come out due to disease and starvation.

There are thousands more who are dismembered, unrecognizable, or buried beneath the rubble. However, behind these numbers are real people who have had their futures stolen. Their lives are forever changed.

The first 14 pages alone are the names of babies—I wish my colleagues would look at—who were under the age of 1 when they were killed. There are 14 pages of babies' names. That is 710 babies that the Israeli Government has murdered. This is not self-defense. This is genocide.

How can anyone justify this?

Madam Speaker, I include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the link for the list of the children: <https://d12t4t5x3vyizu.cloudfront.net/tlaib.house.gov/uploads/2024/09/Palestinian-Ministry-of-Health-Casualty-List-31-Aug-24.pdf>

We are living through one of, again, the most documented and horrific crimes against humanity in our history.

Again, these are children who did not live to see their first birthday. We cannot normalize this, Madam Speaker.

My colleagues continue to be silent. I wonder if it is because these babies are

Palestinian. They are children. That is it. They are children. I can't believe I have to consistently remind my colleagues that Palestinians are also human beings.

Our tax dollars paid for this. U.S. weapons are being used to commit war crimes in violation of our own U.S. Leahy Laws and international laws, but many of my colleagues in the Biden-Harris administration continue to send bombs to kill children.

This is not working tirelessly for a cease-fire. If the Biden-Harris administration wants a cease-fire, then they should stop sending the bombs and the weapons. We must stop arming and funding genocide.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF BROCK

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Tennessee hero who has dedicated his life to serving and protecting the members of his community: Van Buren County Sheriff Michael Brock.

Sheriff Brock has shown outstanding loyalty to and performed exemplary service for his community. He should be recognized for his selfless actions, which go beyond his duties as sheriff.

The people of Van Buren County, Tennessee, know their sheriff to be hardworking, compassionate, and sincere. Sheriff Brock does everything he can to protect his community under any and all conditions. For example, when Sheriff Brock learned that two of his townspeople were in danger due to knee-deep snow and subzero temperatures plaguing the Tennessee area of Van Buren County last January, he immediately set out to protect and assist them in any way possible.

The first was a gentleman with a medical condition who had wandered towards the woods away from his mother's home on the night of January 15.

He was reported missing on the 16th, and Sheriff Brock immediately organized a search from the residence, tracking footsteps and working late into the night, only calling off the search when it became too dangerous for the search team to continue their efforts.

Sheriff Brock demonstrated kindness and empathy as he personally updated the family through every effort, working closely with the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency and the nearby State park officials.

Devastatingly, the missing gentleman who was rescued from falling off a 700-foot drop in the forest, later succumbed to his injuries. Even after the search, Sheriff Brock was the first to console the family, moving from protecting them physically to fortifying their hearts.

As the winter storm raged on, Sheriff Brock soon learned that a citizen on the outskirts of town needed critical

medication. She had just undergone numerous back surgeries and spent over 1 month in the hospital.

However, icy roads near her home had stranded her nurse and prevented her from getting the needed medications. Sheriff Brock saw that she was taken care of, driving across multiple counties to retrieve the medication. The roads were so hazardous that the trip took four times the normal period to make that journey. Time was not a concern to Sheriff Brock, but her safety and health certainly were.

Sheriff Brock's actions and timely rescue meant she was safe from further medical complications and readmission to the hospital.

Madam Speaker, Sheriff Brock is a blessing and a credit to his department, community, and people. His actions and tireless protections of his community have left people with a sincere sense of security knowing that they have him and his department watching out for them.

He expects no praise, no credit, and no notice of his tireless selflessness.

However, today I rise to recognize him. His leadership and heroism serve as an example to us all.

□ 1030

IN RECOGNITION OF KEVIN WOLVERTON, SR.

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroics of Kevin Wolverton, Sr., who recently stepped up in harrowing circumstances to rescue a 3-year-old girl who had fallen into a quarry full of water.

Mr. Wolverton, a Nashville native who works at a nearby auto dealership in Lebanon, Tennessee, found the little girl floating on her side when he pulled her onto the rocks nearby and performed CPR.

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt he saved this young girl's life. She was later able to thank him for doing so after a full recovery just a few days later.

A grandfather himself, Kevin Wolverton, Sr., stepped up to save the day. We couldn't be prouder of his life-saving actions.

Madam Speaker, I hope all Members will join me in recognizing and thanking Mr. Wolverton for his tremendous display of bravery.

RUSSIAN DISINFORMATION

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, it is not surprising, but I disagree with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle on a myriad of issues, but that is okay. At times, disagreement is important.

Only speaking with those who agree with us insulates us from ideas that may challenge our views, instead reaffirming our own biases and avoiding new ideas. A two-party system is important.

Hearing different perspectives and different stories is valuable, especially in a body tasked with making decisions for a diverse set of people. Despite our various policy or personal disagreements, we should agree on this: It is dangerous to repeat Kremlin talking points. Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, we have only seen this disturbing trend grow.

An indictment filed this month alleges that Russian state media employees funneled \$10 million to a Tennessee-based media company, Tenant, for Russian friendly content. Tenant's media influencers have a collective 7 million subscribers on YouTube and more than 7 million followers on X.

While we are no stranger to Russian misinformation campaigns, they are clearly adapting and evolving in their efforts. This month, intelligence officials said that Russia's activities are more sophisticated than in previous cycles. They are using authentic U.S. voices to launder Russian Government propaganda and spread socially divisive narratives through major social media.

Their goal is simple: to convince millions of people that Russia's war against Ukraine is justified and influence them to support politicians who agree. It is simple, and, in today's on-line obsessed world, it is dangerously effective.

Once this type of content takes off, it is impossible to reverse its course. Russia's ability to penetrate American minds goes beyond social media. Yes, we have seen it take hold in this very body. When some across the aisle vocally opposed aid to Ukraine, Russia celebrated. The host of a Kremlin-run show said: "Well done, Republicans. That is good for us."

Earlier this year, a prominent Republican in leadership acknowledged this trend saying: "We see directly coming from Russia . . . communications that are anti-Ukraine and pro-Russia messages, some of which we even hear being uttered on the House floor."

Another Republican admitted Russian propaganda has "infected a good chunk" of this party's base.

Despite our differences, the quoted Members and I clearly see how alarming this is. As public servants, it is our duty to obtain information from reliable sources and speak on behalf of our constituents, not the Russian Federation. When American leaders parrot Russian talking points, we give Putin the upper hand, we undermine our national security, and we fail the American people.

Now, as Russia's tactics evolve, we have to be more vigilant than ever. Despite what some might suggest, Vladimir Putin is a vicious tyrant, and American voices repeating his lies is an affront to our values as a nation and a threat to global democracy.

I encourage commonsense leaders, especially those across the aisle, to choose truth. We may not have control of the misinformation that appears online or the influencers who knowingly

serve as Russia's "useful idiots," but we do have control over our own words.

When Members are spouting blatant lies from the Kremlin, my colleagues have a responsibility to this country to place the truth above all else. Members have a responsibility to tell the American people why we support Ukraine and not Russia, and why democracy must win against autocracy. To those afraid of name-calling or condemnation, I say this: Criticism is a small price to pay for the preservation of truth. Years from now, my colleagues and our country will thank us for our courage to stand up for the truth in the face of tyranny.

DOD DEFENSE ROUNDTABLE

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

Mr. SELF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my direct concern over the United States Department of Defense's lack of agility when it comes to warfare.

Recently, my office hosted our annual defense roundtable with defense companies both in and out of my district. The theme of this year's defense roundtable was how to increase the readiness, engagement, agility, and delivery of lethality to the Department of Defense.

It was quite telling that these companies reaffirmed the troubling RAND Defense report, which explained that the U.S. defense industrial base is not prepared to engage in all-out warfare. The modern-day axis of evil, China, Russia, and Iran, continue to work around the clock to advance their military capabilities and cause further chaos in the world, while the U.S. is woefully lagging behind.

China continues to take steps that threaten the democracy of Taiwan, Russia continues its offensive in Ukraine, and Iran has sent hundreds of missiles toward Israel through its use of proxies throughout the region.

Make no mistake: if America does not take monumental steps to reform, modernize, and expand our defense capabilities and in a rapid manner, then we will be in a difficult position of choosing which allies we can help around the world.

During our defense roundtable discussions, it was made clear that, as the U.S. military stands today, we are not ready. We must immediately take significant steps to become ready. World circumstances demand that we do.

A major point of discussion that was emphasized multiple times by the industry was the red tape and bureaucracy surrounding every government-funded project. Congress must get rid of unnecessary regulations and allow our American engineers, scientists, and great thinkers to innovate and streamline our defense programs. A key issue in the discussion was the fact that the foreign military sales process must obtain 18 different approvals, whereas in

other countries, such as Japan, it takes only one.

While extra oversight can, at times, be beneficial, given the state of the world, America must be willing to take on more levels of risk to keep pace with our adversaries.

It is well past time for Congress to take steps to eliminate these unnecessary provisions, encourage defense contractors to take on more risk, understanding that there may be failures along the way, and ultimately put ourselves in a strong position to combat the axis of evil that we face now and those we will face in the future.

In the words of former President Dwight Eisenhower: "A vital element in keeping the peace is our military establishment. Our arms must be mighty, ready for instant action, so that no potential aggressor may be tempted to risk his own destruction. . . . American makers of plowshares could, with time and as required, make swords as well. But now we can no longer risk emergency improvisation of national defense; we have been compelled to create a permanent armaments industry of vast proportions. . . ."

I would add: not only of vast proportions, but also agile and innovative.

Eisenhower's words still ring true today. It is imperative that Congress steps up to the plate to reduce these unnecessary regulations at the Federal level so our defense industry can be lethal, agile, and ready once more to accept the challenges of this increasingly dangerous world.

IN MEMORY OF JESSICA ALANA SANCHEZ

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

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jessica Alana Sanchez, who was born and raised in my community of El Paso, Texas. Jessica sadly passed away in July at the age of 38 after a courageous battle with cancer.

She leaves behind a 4-year-old daughter, her husband, a sister, parents, and extended family, many of whom are my constituents.

I met Jessica as a young woman when she and I were volunteering on a local campaign. From the first time I met her, it was clear that she was a brilliant individual who was guided by a strong sense of responsibility toward social justice.

When Jessica was enrolled in Mesita Elementary School, she participated in a rally to protest a plan to build a nuclear waste facility on the outskirts of our community in El Paso. She was a brave and outspoken girl and wanted to voice her classmates' worries about the negative effects on the environment if the facility were to come to fruition. After months of protests, the site was never built, and the community prevailed.