

She blamed that release because she said her department policy is that a judge has to keep him detained. I say to sanctuary Sheriff Kristin Graziano that it is her own policies that she wrote and signed her name to that she is blaming it on.

When we are up here in Congress, I demand truth, I demand honesty, and I demand integrity. So, too, do the residents of South Carolina. They deserve to be put first. They deserve to be safe in their homes, safe on the streets, and safe in their communities. Until that changes, Charleston County sanctuary Sheriff Kristin Graziano is to blame for what is happening in South Carolina today and her own county.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to share that if you go out onto sanctuary Sheriff Kristin Graziano's Twitter feed, you will see in her header, she is proudly standing with border czar KAMALA HARRIS. The Biden-Harris administration has allowed our borders wide open for the last 4 years, allowing over 10 million illegals to come into our country illegally. Every town has become a border town. Every county has become a border county. Every State has become a border State, and not on my watch at all, not one more day.

ICE even responded to Charleston County sanctuary Sheriff Kristin Graziano yesterday and commented on how problematic her policies are, freely releasing criminal illegal aliens out onto the streets of South Carolina.

I won't put up with her lies. In fact, this morning, at 10 a.m., she had a press conference for the local press. She spoke for barely 1 minute and refused to take any questions from any member of the press. That is cowardly, that is shameful, and that is disgusting.

She doesn't deserve the privilege of serving as sheriff of Charleston County. Her policies are damaging to our residents, and I will not allow one more day of this behavior on my watch.

CELEBRATING GRAND OPENING OF JOSEPH S.  
DANING AMPHITHEATER

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise my hometown of Goose Creek, South Carolina, which came together to celebrate the grand opening of the Joseph S. Daning Amphitheater.

Named after former South Carolina House Representative Joseph Daning, who worked hard to secure the funding for this nearly \$4 million project, this amphitheater can accommodate around 800 people—plenty of room for families and friends all at once.

I feel truly blessed to represent a district so dedicated to our community, and I certainly enjoyed working with former South Carolina House Representative Joe Daning when we served in the State Legislature together.

We appreciate all of his work and the town of Goose Creek's work to provide this amphitheater for residents of the Lowcountry.

COMMEMORATING POLISH  
CADETS' 125TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KENNEDY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Polish Cadets of Buffalo, New York, an organization dedicated to honoring and preserving Polish heritage and providing a welcoming community for intercultural peace and unity.

Founded in 1899, the Cadets emphasized athletics and physical and military training. Booming in popularity leading up to the First World War, the group, led by Anthony Schreiber, censor of the Polish National Alliance, laid the cornerstone for their clubhouse in September 1913.

A fixture of the Black Rock neighborhood in Buffalo, the community center would host speakers, hold celebrations, and organized fundraisers for Polish relief when the conflict started.

When the war came, 18 members left to fight in Europe. All returned home.

By the end of World War II, the Polish Cadets had over 1,200 members and formed their own credit union. During the postwar era, the Cadets opened their membership to individuals of non-Polish descent, fostering greater inclusivity.

Today, the Polish Cadets preserve their traditions and create new ones. It maintains the Polish library and Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble and hosts Dyngus Day and Oktoberfest.

For 125 years, the focus of the Polish Cadets has been to provide a welcoming space for coexistence, harmony, and community betterment.

I offer my congratulations and gratitude to the Polish Cadets on this significant milestone of preserving the Polish heritage for future generations and honoring those who began this important Buffalo institution.

REMEMBERING MARK MORTENSON

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mark Mortenson, who passed on September 14 and whose life's work brought beauty and wonder to so many lives in western New York.

After taking on his most recent role as president and CEO of the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens in 2022, Mark was ready to take on a multimillion-dollar expansion to fulfill its mission of delivering wow, wonder, and welcome to our region. In pursuit of doing so, he created an environment where people of all backgrounds felt this sense of welcoming and belonging.

Before coming to Buffalo, his tenure with The Walt Disney Company spanned 20 years, but it was in Buffalo, his home since 2006, where Mark and his family put down roots.

Throughout his career, his warmth, focus, and sense of humor cultivated partnerships and support for our cultural institutions, including as the CEO of Richardson Center Corporation,

the heart of Buffalo's cultural corridor; executive director of the Lipsey Architecture Center in Buffalo; and as president and CEO of the Buffalo Museum of Science and Tiff Nature Preserve.

His loving family is in our prayers, including his husband, Curt Maranto, and children Nicolas, Kiara, Mikey, Elliott, and Emily, and the late Clayton. He will be missed.

May my friend Mark Mortenson rest in peace.

CONDEMNING PROJECT 2025

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn Trump's Project 2025. The American people need to know what is in this extreme MAGA Republican agenda and what it is all about.

It would reject the power of the people. Trump's Project 2025 weaponizes the DOJ and FBI, imposes loyalty tests to purge our civil service, and undermines congressional oversight.

It would take away our rights and freedoms. Trump's Project 2025 goes after free speech, a woman's right to choose, LGBTQ protection, and the progress we have made toward racial equity.

It would hurt middle-class families. Trump's Project 2025 raises taxes on working people, increases the cost of prescription drugs, slashes funding for public schools, reduces benefits for our veterans with disabilities, and jeopardizes Social Security and Medicare that our seniors rely on.

It would be an un-American attack on each of us. Trump's Project 2025 erodes consumer protections, damages our election integrity, and harms our world standing.

This is a blueprint to deny the rights and privileges of many in pursuit of total power of a few.

We must reject Trump's Project 2025. We cannot allow this extreme MAGA Republican agenda to become our reality.

THE CHOICE BEFORE US

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge this will be the very last time I speak in this Chamber before the next Presidential election.

In the coming weeks, the American people will head to the polls, and we will have a choice before us. We can choose 4 more years of Vice President HARRIS chaos and madness, or we can choose 4 years of law and order and American strength.

When I came to Congress almost 4 years ago, America was strong, our streets were safe, and our border was more secure than at any time in recent history. Prior to the pandemic, the U.S. had one of the strongest economies we have had in the past 20 years.

Even in the face of adversity, President Trump led the Federal Government in empowering America's small businesses and families.

Just a few years before, House Republicans passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that put more money in the pockets of American families, put more food on their tables, and better positioned them to care for each other.

Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago, America's strength was well understood on the world stage. The Trump administration spearheaded the historic Abraham Accords, and the U.S. was tough on adversaries like Communist China, Iran, and their terrorist proxies. We saw an era of historic trade deals with the passage of USMCA, President Trump's trade deal with Japan, and his administration's work to hold China accountable for the deal it agreed to. It truly was an era of American greatness.

Unfortunately, much of that greatness has been undermined. I once looked at the Nation and felt optimistic about the future that awaited my children. I felt that when it was time for them to spread their wings and build their own lives, they would inherit a country that gave them the opportunity to pursue their American Dreams.

I was confident that when their time came for them to purchase a home, choose a college or university, or start their own small business, they would step into an economy that would empower them to successfully do these things.

On January 21, 2021, that started to change. Vice President HARRIS and President Biden have made America less safe, destroyed the American economy, and made America look weak on the world stage.

Since day one, Vice President HARRIS and President Biden have been laser focused on rolling back President Trump's policies that actually worked.

Their open-border policies have ushered 16 million illegal immigrants into the country without adequate background checks or vetting, making every State in this country a border State. Rather than fixing their open-border policies, they coddle radical activists and leave Americans at risk. Under their leadership, cartels and drug lords have been the winners, and the American people have been the losers.

Vice President HARRIS and President Biden's economic policies are the primary reason for the skyrocketing inflation that has haunted America over the past 3 years.

In the Big First District of Kansas, American families, small business owners, farmers, ranchers, and our agricultural producers have struggled to manage sky-high interest rates, higher input costs, and a crumbling economy. For young Americans, homeownership feels like a distant dream. Rather than reversing bad policies or coming up with solutions to these challenges, the Biden-Harris administration's proposal is more reckless government spending that got us here in the first place.

Vice President HARRIS and President Biden have failed to capitalize on the

strength of President Trump's trade deals and have formed zero new trade deals in the last 4 years. The country is facing the largest agricultural trade deficit that we have faced in years, hurting American farmers, ranchers, and ag producers, who desperately want access to new markets to help feed a hungry world.

Vice President HARRIS and President Biden's weak foreign policy gave Russia a green light to attack Ukraine while their appeasement to the Iranian regime emboldened Iran-backed Hamas to attack our strongest ally in the Middle East, Israel. As anti-Semitism rotted our own Nation, college campuses, and universities, the Biden-Harris administration turned a blind eye and instead held up congressionally approved arms for Israel to protect itself.

Mr. Speaker, is this the future that we want? Do we want to gift our children a nation with wide-open borders? Do we want them to grow up in a country with an economy that fails to work for the average family and fails to address our \$35 trillion debt? Do we want a nation that is unsafe or where the American Dream is no longer attainable?

In a few short weeks, we will head to the polls, and we have a choice. We can vote for a candidate who has told us what she wants to do to address her own failing policies, or we can vote for a candidate who has shown us what his policies can do to strengthen the Nation. I know the choice that I will make.

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#### MARKING OCTOBER 7TH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, on October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists launched a brutal invasion of our ally Israel, killing more Jews than on any single day since the Holocaust and taking hundreds of hostages.

Mr. Speaker, 1 year later, thousands of families continue to grieve the loss of their loved ones, and the families of the remaining hostages continue to long for their safe return, including the family of Keith Siegel from my home State of North Carolina.

The unspeakable horrors Hamas has inflicted on innocent civilians, including terrifying sexual violence and its ongoing torment of the hostages, should shock the conscience of the entire world.

Just last month, Hersh Goldberg-Polin, a 23-year-old American citizen, was brutally murdered along with five other hostages in the Hamas tunnels beneath Gaza as they were about to be rescued by the IDF.

Since October 7, more than 40 American citizens have been killed by Hamas terrorists, and at least 10 remain hostages.

As we mark the anniversary of Hamas' devastating attack, I am grateful to President Biden and Vice President HARRIS for their unwavering commitment to securing the return of all hostages and for their clear recognition that the onus is on Hamas to accept a proposed deal.

Just last month, Israel accepted the terms for a deal. The responsibility continues to lie with Hamas to release the hostages and accept the deal on the table.

The release of the hostages and the surrender of the terrorist group Hamas is absolutely necessary to allow the international community to assist with the reconstruction of Gaza and bring about a stable government that is willing to live in peace with Israel. The Arab countries willing to assist in the rebuilding of Gaza will not do so if Hamas remains.

Israel stands as our strongest, most dependable, and only democratic ally in the Middle East. The United States must continue to stand by Israel as it faces ongoing attacks from Iran and its proxies, including Hezbollah, which began its attacks on Israel on October 8 while Israel was still fighting the terrorists who had invaded their country and had not yet sent troops to Gaza.

Even today, thousands of Israelis are unable to return to their homes in southern Israel, and almost 100,000 Israelis are unable to return to their homes in northern Israel because of Hezbollah's relentless attacks on Israeli civilians.

Iran, Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis must not be allowed to continue to destabilize the region and threaten Israel's security. They must be held accountable by the international community, and the United States must continue to affirm the safety and security of our ally.

Let us be clear-eyed about what is at risk, not just the security of our only democratic ally in the Middle East, but the defeat of a terrorist ideology that abhors our western values.

As we reflect on the horrors of October 7, my heart goes out to all the loved ones of those affected by Hamas' brutal assault. The attack on October 7 continues to traumatize Israelis and Jews across our country.

I urge Congress to continue to provide Israel the support it needs to protect its citizens and to protect the values we Americans hold dear.

#### HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

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

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

Mr. LOPEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month to commemorate a people, my ethnicity, who are crucial to the prosperity of this Nation. I want to encourage all my brothers and sisters across