

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.

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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

America to participate in this celebration from September 15 through October 15.

America thrives on the cumulative efforts of all ethnicities working for the collective good, beginning with the annexation of Florida, Louisiana, and the northern part of Mexico. More than 100,000 Hispanic people became U.S. citizens in the 1800s to be followed by millions more over the next 200 years.

Today, the American-Latino population amounts to over 65 million people and roughly 20 percent of the total U.S. population. The name of my home State of Colorado comes from the Spanish phrase “coloreado rojo,” “colored red.” This name originates from the 16th century conquistadors who explored the area in search of gold over 400 years ago. Their journey paved the way for exchanges that continue to shape our society today.

In the late 1800s, following the end of the Civil War, 25 percent of New Mexico’s Hispanic population moved to Colorado and established towns throughout. One of the most notable was the trading post of El Pueblo, which at the time was the border between the United States and Mexico. This area became a hub of commerce and culture, illustrating the vital role of Hispanic communities in our Nation’s development.

San Luis, the oldest town in Colorado, was founded by Hispanic settlers who came to farm and raise livestock. These pioneers laid the groundwork for agricultural practices that are still necessary to our economy today. Then, in the early 1900s, Hispanic families moved to Greeley, Colorado, to work for the Great Western Sugar Company, which offered workers the chance to own a small home.

This opportunity allowed families to build a foundation for future generations, demonstrating the enduring spirit of resilience and hard work.

Some individuals in the Hispanic community have stood tall as leaders in Colorado, including Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales, a boxer and poet who led the crusade for justice during the Chicano movement in the 1960s and 1970s fighting for the rights of the Hispanic community nationwide. His dedication to social justice continues to inspire community activists today.

Joe Trujillo, a good friend of mine that for years lived in Colorado, was an instrumental mentor not only to myself but to others to always be proud of our heritage, to always be proud of what we came from, and never forget our humble beginning.

You see, I come from humble beginnings. My mom and dad grew up working in the fields. My dad had a sixth-grade education and never learned to read and write. My mom has a tenth-grade education, and yet, I stand before you here in Congress as a true representation of what America offers the Hispanic community, and it is an honor to be an American.

Just 6 years ago, Kendrick Castillo, a young Hispanic boy attending a STEM

school in Highlands Ranch, sacrificed himself for his classmates, when a shooter entered his school, saving their lives. His bravery serves as a reminder that any of us can have the courage to stand up for our communities.

These individuals exemplify the resilience, character, integrity, and passion that is the lifeblood of the Hispanic community. Moreover, the arts, the culture of the Hispanic community have enriched American life, influencing music, literature, politics, and businesses across the Nation.

Many of the Christian beliefs of our Founding Fathers constitute the pillars of the Hispanic community. Core values like family, faith, and freedom are instrumental to my culture and are essential to the success of a nation. These values unite us and provide a path for future generations to thrive as well.

For centuries, members of the Hispanic community have legally migrated into the U.S. for the opportunity to achieve the American Dream. The influx of illegal immigrants and criminals is damaging this crucial process and is unfair to those who have legally immigrated to America. It is imperative that we differentiate between those seeking refuge and opportunity and those who seek to undermine our laws.

The term “Latinx” is a derogatory term and when utilized is an insult to Hispanic Americans and should never be used. This term was invented to erase the male and female gender of the Hispanic community and culture. It is a perversion of the Spanish language and an insult to Hispanic heritage.

It is vital that we continue to uphold our values of justice and fairness, ensuring that the pathways to citizenship remain open for those who seek a better life. We must support comprehensive immigration reform that honors the contributions of immigrants while addressing security concerns.

In closing, let us celebrate the rich history and achievements of the Hispanic community, recognizing together we can create a future where all individuals, regardless of their backgrounds, can contribute to the American story.

For my Anglo brothers and sisters, I leave you with this: If you like tacos, you are one of us.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF HAMAS’ ATTACK ON ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the approaching, somber, first anniversary of Hamas’ horrific attack on Israel on October 7, 2023.

This past year, we have experienced continued heartbreak and mourning with fresh pain rearing its ugly head

each time we learn the tragic fate of hostages who were captured that fateful day and subsequently murdered by their captors.

Just a few weeks ago, on the eve of a rescue operation, Hamas executed six hostages in cold blood, including an American, Hersh Goldberg-Polin. It was a gut punch.

After surviving absolutely horrific conditions for nearly a year, they were brutally murdered by Hamas in the tunnels below Gaza all because their rescue was imminent and because of Hamas’ hatred of Jews and their commitment to destroy Israel.

As a Jewish mother of three, meeting with so many parents of the hostages, including Hersh’s parents, Rachel and Jon, has felt deeply personal. Their fortitude and strength in advocating for the return of their children is nothing less than heroic.

I have met with Rachel and Jon countless times this past year, and something that always sticks with me is when Rachel shared her last embrace with Hersh before he left for the Nova music festival for his 23rd birthday.

No mother should ever have to think that when they kiss their child goodbye before a concert, it will be for the last time because they will be murdered by terrorists.

This senseless evil compels us to hold our own children tighter and strengthens our resolve to end the terrorist threat that lives on Israel’s doorstep, which no people should have to endure.

I was in the region with a congressional delegation on October 7 and in Israel on October 10. Since October 7, I have traveled to Israel twice more. During a visit in March, the most searing moment for me was when our delegation paid our respects at the site of the Nova festival.

The Nova festival was a celebration of peace. Thousands of young people joined together in the desert to celebrate life.

At sunrise, terrorists invaded the site, including flying in on motorized paragliders with the sole objective of murdering, maiming, sexually assaulting, and kidnapping festivalgoers and hundreds of Israelis in their homes.

No parent should fear getting the text that so many received that morning from their children that the worst has happened.

When you go to the Nova site today, you see memorials and photos of the beautiful, vibrant faces of the hundreds of young people marked where they were murdered.

As a mother, a Jew, and a Zionist, the experience was overwhelming.

Despite the horror and ongoing tragedy of the almost 100 hostages that still remain in Gaza, ripped away from their loved ones for almost 365 days, the people of Israel are strong and will never stop fighting for their future.

I am inspired by those Israelis who have dedicated themselves to bringing the hostages home and seeking a just peace.