

Israelis, viciously assaulting and raping women, and taking hundreds of men, women, babies, and elderly victims as hostages.

On this day of pure evil, Omer Neutra lost his life commanding his tank platoon in defense of Israel against these barbaric Hamas terrorists. Omer was an incredibly brave 21-year-old American Israeli and New York native who grew up on Long Island, loved the Knicks, and was the captain of his high school basketball team.

After spending a gap year in Israel, Omer joined the IDF in 2020, putting off his plans to attend SUNY Binghamton. In the IDF, Omer served as a tank platoon commander on the Gaza border.

As the catastrophic events of Hamas' barbaric October 7 attacks were unfolding, Omer's parents, Ronen and Orna, immediately began their advocacy to find their beloved son.

For over 420 days, Ronen and Orna shared Omer's story and brought attention to the hostages being held by Hamas in Gaza. They bravely kept their hope and light through dozens of meetings with U.S. and Israeli government officials advocating on behalf of Omer and the other hostages.

Ronen and Orna's strength and resilience for over 400 days truly embodies the light that Israel stands for and that Hamas tried and failed to extinguish. It has never been more important to support our most precious ally in its fight for survival and let the world know that this is not Israel's fight alone, and that the 45th and 47th President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, has made crystal clear: If the hostages are not released, there will be all hell to pay.

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), the ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, my heart goes out to Omer's family. October 7, 2023, was a beautiful, clear day. Omer, a 21-year-old, who decided that he was going to make a difference and have peace in the Middle East, was just there on duty and then being called because of the horrific attack across the border of Gaza into Israel.

At 21 years old, he put everything aside, never thought on that morning when he woke up that he would have to go into battle to try to save lives because a vicious attack of pure hate was taking place.

He lost his life, an American-Israeli citizen killed, a tank platoon commander in the IDF. I can't even imagine the strength and the pain that his family, his mother and his father, Ronen and Orna, have felt and continue to feel.

We stand here united today, Democrats and Republicans, Members and people of the United States of America saying that we will stand together. We will be with you. We will continue to pray, for we must make sure that his life was not given and taken in vain.

Together, we must make sure that his name is forever, as well as all who

lost their lives and those who need to be returned home, because all hostages should be returned home immediately, and strive and move for peace in the Middle East.

We cannot stop. We cannot forget. We have got to lock arms hand in hand until there is peace, and a 21-year-old who had a dream is not deferred, a 21-year-old who just wanted peace is not stopped.

We will stand together as American citizens to say we will stop evil that is happening and that happened on that day of October 7.

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI), my colleague who represents the Neutra family as a Member of Congress.

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. LAWLER, and I thank all of my colleagues for standing here together today.

Mr. Speaker, 8 years ago, I met a 14-year-old Solomon Schechter School freshman at the local Salute to Israel event at the Sid Jacobson JCC on Long Island. His name was Omer Neutra.

When I met Omer's parents, Ronen and Orna Neutra, in December of 2023, they described Omer as a likable, big, goofy kid who excelled in sports and who other kids liked to be around.

After graduating from the Solomon Schechter School, Omer, whose grandparents were Holocaust survivors, decided before going to Binghamton University, he would join the Israel Defense Forces. Instead of staying for just a year, he worked his way up to become a tank commander.

On October 7, 2023, Omer was the victim of the surprise attack by the Hamas terrorists. For over 420 days, Omer's parents and his brother, Daniel, have done everything they can with the love and support of hundreds of thousands of others to free their son from captivity. Every day, they soldiered on through alternating deep sorrow and brief bursts of hopefulness.

They went from crushing anxiety to steely determination. Just a few days ago we learned that this young man, this bright light, this courageous idealist, made the ultimate sacrifice. Omer had not been alive for the past 423 days. He was murdered on October 7.

Now all of his family's alternating emotions have been replaced with deep grief. We who know them grieve with them. We thank God for the gift of his life. We pray for the Neutras, and tonight we rededicate ourselves to Omer's just cause.

We resolve to move forward, guided by his example, his courage, and his memory, and may his memory be a blessing.

"The People of Israel Live," "Am Yisrael Chai."

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members join me for a brief moment of silence in honor of Omer Neutra.

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PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 4261

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 4261, a bill originally introduced by Representative PAYNE of New Jersey, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JAMES). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Special Education Day.

Special education is about more than academics. It is about opening doors, tearing down barriers, and empowering every child to reach their fullest potential.

It is about recognizing that our differences are strengths and that diversity in learning enriches us all.

In the 1970s, Congress made a commitment to provide a free and appropriate education to students with disabilities. Through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, we made strides in inclusion in education.

While we have made tremendous progress, more work remains to be done.

Congress promised to cover 40 percent of the extra cost of special education, but we have never come close to fulfilling that promise. In fact, the current funding remains at only 14 percent of the targeted amount.

This means our students and schools suffer, and students with disabilities will not be able to succeed—not without the appropriate, high-quality services that they deserve.

For many years I have been proud to help introduce the IDEA Full Funding Act, which would gradually increase IDEA funding to reach that full commitment.

Mr. Speaker, National Special Education Day is not just a moment to reflect on how far we have come. It is a call to action for how far we still need to go.

ETHICS REPORT ON REPRESENTATIVE GAETZ

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today I filed a bill to require the Ethics Committee to release the ethics report on former Representative Matt Gaetz, and I will give notice shortly.

I don't do this to give the salacious parts of the report to the public for any purposes, such as they might have for people, and there certainly are alleged parts in there concerning sex with a minor and drug use. I do it because it is important because Mr. Gaetz said that the report was a witch hunt, and it put the House on the defensive, and it should have, by saying it was a witch hunt.

The House Ethics Committee members spent a lot of time and the staff spent a lot of time, and it cost a lot of money.

The House needs to defend itself, and the best way to do that is to release the report and show that it was not a witch hunt but that it was important.

It also said that they would determine that he misused his office, that he converted campaign funds for personal use, and that he engaged in bribery, improper gratuities, or impermissible gifts.

There are other matters in here that I don't really understand, but I think the public should know.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intention to raise a question of privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Directing the Committee on Ethics to preserve and release the records of the Committee's review of the alleged misconduct of Matthew Louis Gaetz II of Florida while serving as a Member of this honorable body of the House of Representatives.

Whereas, Matthew Louis Gaetz II of Florida served in the House of Representatives from January 3, 2017, through November 13, 2024;

Whereas, Clause 2 of Section 5 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States establishes that "each House may determine the rules of its proceedings" and "punish its Members for disorderly behavior";

Whereas, clause 3(a)(2) of rule XI of the rules of the House of Representatives provides the Committee on Ethics the authority to investigate alleged violations by a Member, Delegate, or a Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House of the Code of Official Conduct or rule of law rule or rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the conduct of such Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee in the performance of the duties or the discharge of responsibilities of such individual;

Whereas, on April 9, 2021, the Committee on Ethics initiated a review of allegations that Representative Gaetz may have "engaged in sexual misconduct and/or illicit drug use, shared inappropriate images or videos on the House floor, misused State identifica-

tion records, converted campaign funds to personal use, and/or accepted a bribe, improperly gratuity, or impermissible gift in violation of the House rules, laws, or other standards of conduct" in violation of the Federal law and the rules of the House;

Whereas, on June 18, 2024, the Committee on Ethics released a statement acknowledging the committee's continued review of allegations that Representative Gaetz may have "engaged in sexual misconduct and illicit drug use, accepted improper gifts, dispensed special privileges and favors to individuals with whom he had a personal relationship, and sought to obstruct government investigations of his conduct";

Whereas, if Representative Gaetz engaged in the alleged violations while serving as a Member of the House, such conduct would affect the rights of the House of Representatives and the integrity of the legislative process:

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Committee on Ethics shall—

(1) preserve all documents and investigative materials related to any review of Matthew Louis Gaetz II's conduct while serving as a Member of the House of Representatives;

(2) publicly release the committee's report, including any associated findings, recommendations, and proposed disciplinary actions, as discussed by the committee on November 20, 2024, regarding the alleged violations of the Code of Official Conduct of the House or of a law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct by Matthew Louis Gaetz II while serving as a Member of the House of Representatives; and

(3) in accordance with the committee's practice for releasing public documents, they should hide witnesses' identities and redact any personally identifiable information of minors and victims from any House documents associated with this matter before publicly releasing them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Tennessee will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

HONORING SHERIFF JOHN T. WILCHER

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Sheriff John T. Wilcher.

Sheriff Wilcher was a veteran law enforcement officer and a lifelong servant of Chatham County.

Sheriff Wilcher rose through the ranks, holding nearly every position within the sheriff's office. He retired from the rank of colonel in 2014 and continued his service to Chatham County when he was elected sheriff in 2016. He was then reelected in 2020 without opposition, further establishing his legacy as a trusted public servant.

Sheriff Wilcher's excellence extends far beyond his duties as a sheriff. Throughout his career, he won the Georgia Sheriffs' Association Excellence Award, Trial Lawyers Award, the MLK award for elected officials in 2020, and rightfully secured several other incredible honors.

Notably, he founded the annual Chatham County Sheriff's Office Poker Run, raising over \$350,000 for Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes over the course of 17 years.

Sheriff Wilcher is not only an incredible public servant but a dedicated family man. He celebrates his life achievements alongside his wife, Dorothy, and their two children. His honor and dedication to Chatham County will be cherished forever and leave a lasting mark on future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Sheriff Wilcher on his retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAVID WEHRMEISTER

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to an extraordinary leader and advocate for our Nation's youth, David Wehrmeister of Toledo, Ohio. David passed away recently after a courageous battle with cancer.

For over 50 years, a half a century and more, David devoted his life to empowering children and enriching our community through his work with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Toledo. He was phenomenal.

His journey began at the South Toledo Boys Club at just 10 years old and blossomed into a career of unmatched fatherly dedication.

Later, as executive director for two decades, David championed countless initiatives, including partnerships of the clubs with Toledo Public Schools, ensuring all students had access to vital resources and joyful opportunities.

He also played a key role in forging creative partnerships with local organizations like the YMCA, the Toledo Museum of Art, MetroParks, and the Toledo Zoo.

Above all, David was a devoted family man, a loving husband to Lisa, and