

It is not just my story. It is the American story. It is the story of what is possible in this extraordinary country when opportunity is paired with sacrifice, when freedom is protected, and when institutions like this one work to preserve that dream for those yet to come.

This Chamber, at its best, exists to ensure that the ladder my family climbed remains sturdy and strong for future generations. I am confident that, in the 119th Congress, we will take up that charge, improving our economy, securing our border, making our streets safer, and showing true American leadership on the world stage.

I humbly offer two parting suggestions.

When I first arrived here, I visited then-dean of the House, Don Young. He told me that when he arrived in 1973, it was customary for freshman Members to wait 6 months before speaking on the House floor. To his surprise, I adopted this tradition.

I did so partly out of deference to the dean, but mostly because it showed respect for this institution, an institution and a system of government that our Founders painstakingly designed to safeguard against human nature. It is all of our responsibility to protect and preserve it.

My second suggestion concerns our role on the world stage. We must be thrifty, strategic, and we must never outsource our sovereignty, but we still have a critical role.

One small but impactful example is preventing children from dying of starvation. Ready-to-use therapeutic food, or RUTF, is an American-made, nutrient-dense paste that has saved millions of lives across the globe. The State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee increased funding by \$300 million while reducing overall spending by over 10 percent, and this body passed it. That increase should be realized. It is the right thing to do.

I thank Tim Shallenburger; Mark Dugan; Sam Brownback; Lynn Jenkins; Jake Conard; and Braden Dreiling, my chief; and all of my staff, past and present, for serving both our district and this institution so ably.

I thank the people of Kansas from the bottom of my heart for trusting me to represent them in the State senate as State treasurer and in Congress.

Most importantly, I thank my friends, both at home and my colleagues here. They are my supporters who helped me get here.

I also thank my family. I especially thank my grandparents who helped raise me; my dad; my brother; my sister; my wife, Suzanne; and our four children, Ava, Joe, Maggie, and Gus, who are here with me today, for joining me on this journey and for their incredible sacrifices.

To my kids, the best title I have ever had is "Dad," and that title is about to get my full attention.

Above all, I thank God for his blessings on my life, my family, and this Nation.

Madam Speaker, the future is bright, and for the last time I yield back.

RECOGNIZING FERNANDO "FREDDIE" SANCHEZ

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Fernando "Freddie" Sanchez, born on October 9, 1946, in Mexico, D.F.

Freddie was raised in Mexico's border state of Baja, California, spending most of his early years in the cities of Mexicali, Ensenada, and Tijuana, before he made his way to the United States.

Freddie Sanchez is like many of the thousands of brave young Latino men and women who have answered the call when our country has needed them the most. Freddie Sanchez's military service spanned from 1968 to 1970. He spent 5 months training in the old U.S. Army post at Fort Ord, California.

Freddie saw military action in Vietnam, spending a year in the Army's Long Binh Post near Saigon. He served the remaining 7 months in Fort Carson, Colorado.

Freddie Sanchez was designated military occupational specialty 88. He was part of the transportation specialists. Freddie drove 10-ton Army trucks and had the honor of driving the company commander.

As Freddie often reminds us that nothing good comes easy, but thanks to the Army, he was well trained and was able to succeed.

Following his military service, Freddie worked 50 years for Lockheed Martin, first as a mechanic and machinist, and then as a foreman. Freddie enjoyed going to work every day. He felt his job was more like a hobby.

One of the impressive things he got to accomplish was working on the Pathfinder, where his name, along with his colleagues, is recorded forever on a tiny disc.

His career at Lockheed allowed him to buy a home in Panama City, California. In 1972, Freddie married his soulmate, Lerina, and they are celebrating 52 years of marriage.

Freddie and Lerina are blessed with three children, Fernando Jr., Nancy, and Sergio. Today, their family has grown to include 8 grandchildren, 12 stepgrandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.

Norma and I have enjoyed the counsel of Freddie and his support throughout the years. It is now in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that I thank Freddie Sanchez for his service and love of country and for being an honorable family man and an upstanding citizen.

HONORING STEPHEN "STEVE" BOTSFORD

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a successful businessman, philanthropist, and a good friend, Stephen "Steve" Botsford.

A midwesterner through and through, Steve Botsford was born in Des Moines, Iowa, and raised in Plymouth, Indiana.

Steve grew up just 29 miles from South Bend, Indiana, and he always dreamed of attending the University of Notre Dame. However, his father told him that school was for rich, smart, Catholic kids, and he was none of those things.

Steve never let that deter him. Steve believed in himself. His perseverance and hard work paid off. In 1972, Steve graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a B.A. in business management. He received his juris doctorate 3 years later from the University of Notre Dame Law School.

After his days in South Bend, Steve spent 2 years working for one of the Big 5 accounting firms of that time before realizing he wasn't meant to have a boss.

He then went out on his own, spending most of his early career helping small businesses finance equipment purchases after their local banks had denied them.

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After a successful career as a CPA, Steve delved into real estate development and founded Laurel Canyon Holdings. Steve developed a project in the San Fernando Valley and that is where our paths would cross.

I have gotten to know Steve Botsford since my days on the Los Angeles City Council, and I have seen Steve's commitment to his business, philanthropy, and his beautiful, wonderful family.

In 1985, Steve Botsford married Kathleen Dickerson, and they are celebrating 39 years of marriage. They are blessed with three beautiful children: Alexandria, Steve, and Victoria.

Madam Speaker, I thank Steve Botsford for his integrity, love, and generosity. We all know the saying, "to know you is to love you," and many blessings have come to many of us because we have gotten to know Steve Botsford, and we do love him. I thank him for everything that he has done for our country and for what he has done for our communities.

I will also point out that, although Steve Botsford has raised his family in Chicago and that has been his home for decades, Steve Botsford has adopted many, many programs around the country and has been a tremendous philanthropist.

I will mention one of them in particular. The Cardenas Foundation was founded after my mother and father, two humble people, came from Mexico and raised 11 children to go on to college and many other successful things. Steve Botsford has contributed over half a million dollars to give scholarships to mostly first-generation college students. That is just one example of Steve's generosity.

SMALL BUSINESSES ARE THE HEARTBEAT OF AMERICA'S ECONOMY

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

Mr. LOPEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to champion the heartbeat of America's economy, our small businesses.

These are not just storefronts or individuals who are looking to open a business for their own satisfaction; these are individuals who risk their daily lives trying to be successful. When you look at a small business owner, I would urge you to realize that they are on the front lines of our economy.

There are servicemen and -women in uniform, and we should always salute them because they are in harm's way in order for us to live the American Dream. I am here to tell you that there is a second army, and that is the small business community. Every day they get up not knowing whether they are going to have a successful day, not knowing whether they are going to be able to achieve those dreams, but they have families and friends and employees that they must provide for.

Madam Speaker, I am here to urge everyone to remember that small business is big business. Small business is the heart and soul of our Nation. Without small business, there would be no communities. There would be no quality of life.

Every single day, every American, when you walk around in your daily lives, you will touch anywhere from seven to eight small business owners. You will touch them and you will help them because that is the fabric of America.

Every major corporation started small. No one begins as a large company. I am here to remind you that you must always recognize that when small business is suffering, our communities are suffering.

I previously served as the mayor of Parker, Colorado, and I used to be the former director of the United States Small Business Administration in Colorado. I would remind people that when corporate America sneezes, small business catches pneumonia because they are the ones that are struggling the most.

I am also here to tell you that our farmers and our ranchers are small business owners. A lot of people forget that most of our farms are family owned. I have 21 counties in Colorado that I represent and it is rural Colorado. I have hundreds of families that are farmers and ranchers, and these are small businesses. We must protect them.

We are going to be talking about the continuing resolution and how we are going to fund government for the rest of the year going into the year 2025. I am glad to know that we are going to look at how we are going to support the small business community, specifically our farmers and ranchers.

One of the things that I always remind people is that in America you can live that American Dream by being that small business owner, by understanding that you can create your own destiny.

For those of you who believe a small business owner is rich, that for some reason, somehow they have hit the lottery, I am here to tell you that small business owners work long hours. They work 14, 16 hours a day just to be able to be successful.

At the end of the day, they will pay their employees before they will pay themselves. That is what America is all about. It is creating that strong foundation in every single community.

For those entrepreneurs out there, know that there is a voice in the Small Business Administration that will always champion your cause and know that there are people that understand the contributions that you make to this Nation.

Most importantly, you are the future. You are the entrepreneurs. You are what makes America great. You are the individuals who bring hope and prosperity to Main Street in every community.

Madam Speaker, I salute them, and I wish them the best. Let us all remember: Small business is big business.

GRAVE CONCERNS ABOUT THE RISING TREND OF ANTI-SEMITISM AROUND THE WORLD

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

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, today, I rise with grave concerns about the disturbing rise of anti-Semitism, both here at home and around the world.

Since Hamas' brutal attack on our democratic ally, Israel, on October 7, 2023, the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust, anti-Semitism has soared to dangerous new heights.

We have witnessed it online, in our schools, at hospitals, at professional associations, at art exhibits, and in communities across the country where Jewish individuals and institutions have been targeted with hate and violence.

This recent surge, while shocking, should not blind us to the fact that anti-Semitic sentiments have been festering and intensifying for years. We have seen this hatred manifest in alarming ways from the neo-Nazi chants on the streets of Charlottesville to the horrific attack at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, where 11 American Jews were murdered during Shabbat services.

Just this morning, a synagogue in Minneapolis was defaced with swastikas. These incidents are a stark reminder that the Jewish community is facing a relentless wave of anti-Semitic vitriol. We know anti-Semitism is not new. It is an ancient, shape-

shifting conspiracy theory that has endured throughout history, adapting and taking on new forms across the centuries and blaming the Jews for whatever ills a society experiences.

It is a deep-seated prejudice that has caused unimaginable suffering, whether during the Crusades, the Spanish Inquisition, the expulsion of Jews from England and France, or the violent pogroms in Russia, which brought my family here.

Of course, there is the Holocaust, a tragic and incomprehensible period in which 6 million Jews, including over 1 million children, were systematically murdered.

Despite the unspeakable horrors committed during the Holocaust, this hatred has not disappeared. It has adapted, it has spread, and it continues to poison societies to this very day.

History has shown us a painful truth. When we allow anti-Semitism and Jew hatred to spread unchecked, it becomes a profound threat, not only to the Jewish community, but to the very foundations of democracy itself.

Anti-Semitism is a poison that corrodes societies from within. It is not merely a threat to the Jewish people; it is a threat to all minority groups, to the vulnerable, to the values of tolerance, equality, and justice that underpin our democratic institutions.

However, unlike in the past when governments themselves promoted, sponsored, and weaponized anti-Semitism to fuel discrimination and violence against the Jews, that is not the case today. Today, our government is engaged in the fight against anti-Semitism.

Indeed, in the United States, we understand that we have the power, the responsibility, and the moral obligation to take a stand against anti-Semitism.

That is why in response to this rising tide of hatred, I have introduced the Countering Antisemitism Act, the most comprehensive anti-Semitism legislation in the history of our country.

This bipartisan, bicameral legislation with more than 60 cosponsors would codify portions of President Biden's national strategy to counter anti-Semitism. It would establish the first-ever national coordinator to counter anti-Semitism. It would also require law enforcement to ensure robust threat assessment reporting, enhance education about the history of anti-Semitism, and appoint a senior official within the Department of Education to counter anti-Semitism on college campuses and in K-12 schools.

Come January, we will have a new administration and a new Congress, yet this issue is not going away. That is why I am calling on my colleagues to join me in taking a firm stand against rising anti-Semitism. Each of us in this body has a responsibility to ensure that the horrors of the past are never repeated.

This Congress must send a powerful message that there is no room in this