

None of this makes sense. Tightening sanctions increases suffering, which drives people to our shores and to the border, but the administration won't even talk to Cubans about migration. How do they plan to return those they want to deport? Do they think they can hold Cubans in detention indefinitely?

Conditions in Cuba are far more desperate than during Trump's first term. To be frank, President Biden disappointed me. He didn't do enough to help. Food and medicine shortages and power blackouts are causing more suffering. Mr. Speaker, 1 million people, one-tenth of the population, have left the island. If the Trump administration wants to stop migration, it should not be contributing to its root cause.

The Cuban people are caught in a vise. They don't have a government that adequately responds to their needs, and they can't look to America to help them, either. A better approach to Cuba starts with seeing each other on a human level. We should promote exchange between artists, musicians, writers, filmmakers, scientists, and students. We can nurture understanding, build relationships, foster trust, and diplomacy will follow.

President Obama understood this. He knew that insanity was doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results, so he loosened restrictions, relieved tensions, and advanced cooperation. We were on the road to helping create a new future for Cuba.

However, Trump takes us backward. He unjustifiably added Cuba to the state sponsor of terrorism list, purely for political reasons. They ought to be removed from that list. He banned travel and blocked remittances. He has cut off our ability to negotiate for the release of political prisoners. He continues to insist on sanctions to economically starve the country. We should instead lift the embargo. By closing off American engagement, he has opened the door for greater Russian and Chinese influence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to consider a human-focused approach to Cuba. Our policy should not add to their suffering. We should hear their aspirations and never doubt the power of the people to create change.

Our Cuba policy is on the wrong track. It is a throwback to the Cold War. It is ineffective, and it makes us look petty and vindictive in the eyes of the world community. We need to do much better.

#### HONORING DINO DOMINIC FALASCHETTI

(Mr. HUIZENG of Michigan was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HUIZENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a former colleague and, more importantly, a friend. Dino Dominic Falaschetti, or Dr. Dino as he was known to many of us, was born in Chicago Heights, Illinois.

In high school, Dino was a standout golfer, and then in college he became a standout cyclist. That became a lifelong passion. To his friends, he was always the smartest and best dressed guy we knew.

To say the least, Dino's academic achievements were impressive. He received a bachelor of science in accounting from Indiana University, then an MBA in finance and economics from the University of Chicago. He then went on to earn his Ph.D. in economics from Washington University in St. Louis.

Dr. Dino went on to work for a Fortune 100 company. He also served as a senior economist on the Council of Economic Advisers under George W. Bush and taught economics and finance at not just one, but three distinguished universities. He accomplished all of this before our paths first crossed in the summer of 2015.

Dr. Dino, with his impeccable resume, had just been hired by former Chairman Jeb Hensarling to serve as the newly created position of chief economist to the House Committee on Financial Services.

The chairman and myself had many discussions about the economic impacts of what was going on, and at one point Chairman Hensarling said: I need an economist to help us do this.

Dino was the man that he hired. I was in my third term and had just been named chairman of the Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee. It turned out to be a match made in heaven.

Although we took very different paths to get to the Financial Services Committee, we found ourselves together thinking and developing and debating the economic impact of legislation and the regulators in that space, and then going toe to toe with then-Federal Reserve Chairwoman Janet Yellen.

Throughout all of it, Dino was a consummate professional, intense and focused, but always taking time to explain complicated monetary policy to anyone—and I mean anyone—who would listen, whether it be a Member of Congress or a junior staffer, but it was always done with a smile.

Dino was often known to say: "Economics is easy, but politics is hard." Boy, is he right.

Following his stint in the people's House, Dr. Dino's career path would make one final stop—this time at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. In 2019, Dino was nominated by President Trump to serve as the director of the Office of Financial Research. To no one's surprise, Dr. Dino was unanimously confirmed and served in that position until 2022.

Through it all, Dr. Dino never forgot where he came from. He was devoted to his wife of 30 years, Suzanne; his dogs; his adopted hometown of Belgrade, Montana; and to others, along with serving his country.

I will never forget and am deeply grateful for his work on my sub-

committee, highlighting much-needed reforms to our financial system that brought about real change and some things that we are still debating yet today.

His contributions to the Financial Services Committee and the House of Representatives will never be forgotten, not to mention the students and colleagues with whom he taught and worked who will always fondly remember Dr. Dino.

Suzanne should know that she has been in our prayers and thoughts. May she experience blessings and peace as she moves forward.

On behalf of his friends here in the U.S. House, we celebrate Dr. Dino's legacy and look forward to the day when we will meet him again.

Rest in peace, my friend. Rest in peace.

#### CANCELLATION OF IRAN CLASSIFIED BRIEFING

(Mr. SCHNEIDER of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, what are you and the President afraid of? What are you hiding? You and the administration are shirking your duty to provide Members of Congress a timely and complete classified briefing about Saturday's U.S. strike on Iran, on the intelligence that justified it, on the legal justification, on the objectives, and on the consequences.

Mr. Speaker, we should not have to remind you that the Constitution gives only Congress, not the President, the exclusive power to declare war. The War Powers Resolution of 1973 requires the President, after taking military action, to provide to Congress the information it needs "in the fulfillment of its constitutional responsibilities with respect to committing the Nation to war and to the use of United States Armed Forces abroad."

Yesterday, all Members of this House, Republicans and Democrats, were to receive an already overdue classified briefing from administration officials. However, moments before the briefing was scheduled to begin, you and the administration abruptly, without explanation, canceled it, leaving Members of Congress and the American people in the dark.

There are now reports of a leaked classified battle damage assessment from the Defense Intelligence Agency that disputes what the President and the Secretary of Defense have been telling us. The American people are left wondering: Are the President and the Secretary telling the truth?

Again, I ask you, Mr. Speaker, what are you and the President afraid of? What are you trying to hide?

We are proud of the extraordinary servicemembers who put their lives on the line and perfectly executed a complex battle plan, expertly hitting their intended targets at Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan.

We can see from the publicly available satellite imagery that the bombs at Fordow, for example, entered the fortified mountain location exactly where intended.

The Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant is buried 300 feet below ground. We can't see inside the mountain to know with certainty whether the GBU-57s "obliterated" the FFEP or not.

That is what makes the leaked report so concerning and why it is so important for the administration to give Members of Congress the full details in a classified setting.

Canceling or even delaying the briefing is completely unacceptable and a failure of your duties and responsibilities to this body.

Mr. Speaker, the stakes could not be higher.

For more than 40 years, Iran has threatened its neighbors, threatened Israel, the United States, and the world. Under the Ayatollahs, Iran has been the largest state sponsor of terror in the world. It has financed, trained, and directed Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic jihad, and the Houthis. For the last 30 years, Iran has marched forward in the pursuit of nuclear weapons, all while chanting: "Death to Israel, death to America."

Let me state the obvious: Iran must never be allowed to have nuclear weapons, ever.

President Trump's decision to unilaterally withdraw from the JCPOA in 2018 enabled Iran to advance forward in its nuclear program to the point that the regime was weeks, if not days, from having sufficient enriched uranium for multiple nuclear bombs.

Some have assessed that Iran could have built up to 10 nuclear bombs within a few months or even a few weeks. The worry, after the IAEA report issued 2 weeks ago declaring Iran was no longer in compliance with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, was that the regime may have decided to do exactly that.

I just returned from visiting Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates with colleagues, both Democrat and Republican. All these countries recognize that a nuclear-armed Iran poses an existential threat to their futures, and of course to Israel, as well as the United States and Europe, so I support the U.S. efforts to stop Iran's march to a nuclear weapon.

However, we cannot permanently end Iran's nuclear programs without a negotiated agreement, without inspectors on the ground, without Iran agreeing to reverse course. We must permanently block every path to a nuclear weapon that Iran might have.

The 12-day war over the skies of Iran and Israel has certainly weakened Iran's program, but we don't know without a classified briefing if it has obliterated it, if it has defeated it.

In fact, we don't know the full extent of the damage to the program. How much of the more than 600 kilograms of highly enriched uranium was Iran able

to hide? How many centrifuges remain intact and operational? How easily can Iran replace the nuclear scientists eliminated by Israel? Was Fordow, as claimed, obliterated, or slightly damaged and easily repaired?

Again, Mr. Speaker, we didn't get the briefing. This is unacceptable.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind the gentleman that it is unacceptable for a Member to attempt to involve the neutral presiding officer as part of the debate. Such conduct undermines this House, the goal of impartial, analytic consistency in presiding that is required of a Member serving as Chair.

#### RECOGNIZING LORI STEVERMER

(Mr. FINSTAD of Minnesota was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend and fellow Minnesota farmer, Lori Stevermer, who recently completed a successful term as president of the National Pork Producers Council.

Lori has dedicated her career to advocating for Minnesota's pork producers. In addition to raising pigs with her husband, Dale, on their farm near Easton, Minnesota, Lori served 9 years on the executive board of the Minnesota Pork Producers Association, including 2 years as president, and on various State and national committees.

The time and effort she invests on behalf of not only Minnesota pork producers but all American pork producers has helped shape a better business climate, expand American producers' market access, and promote the benefits of pork to a wide audience.

Lori often says: "The world is run by the people who show up." And show up she does. Lori has made countless trips to Washington, as well as all across the country and internationally, to advocate for her fellow pork producers.

I thank Lori for her years of relentless dedication and leadership, and congratulate her on a successful year as president of the National Pork Producers Council.

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#### CONGRATULATING VIRGINIA'S 10TH DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL AWARD MEDALISTS

(Mr. SUBRAMANYAM of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the winners of this year's Congressional Award medalists from Virginia's 10th District. These young men and women put in 400-plus hours of volunteer work and 200-plus hours of personal development, as well as 200-plus hours of personal fitness activities.

The winners of the Congressional Award's gold medal this year are

Sabrina Lu of Riverside High School, who designed handmade cards and spread cancer awareness; Jason Jayanth of Academies of Loudoun and John Champe High School, who tutored students and volunteered at animal shelters while also playing on the basketball team; and Caitlyn Murphy, a sophomore at James W. Robinson Secondary School, who swam, played violin, and created and delivered more than 800 cards for seniors in local retirement homes.

I congratulate these very accomplished young individuals on their Congressional Award gold medals, and I thank them for their service.

#### CELEBRATING GAINESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to recognize the Gainesville High School baseball team's historic State championship victory.

In just their fourth season—they have only been a high school for 4 years—the Cardinals won their first State title, capping off the season with a 23-5 record.

The championship game itself came down to the wire. With two outs and the tying run in scoring position, the Cardinals recorded the final out and sealed the win.

I congratulate Gainesville High School on its historic championship-winning season and on all the hard work and hustle along the way.

#### MAKING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COST-EFFICIENT

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, one of the things I get asked is why the Federal Government can't be as fast and cost-efficient as the private sector.

Take a pen like this. If you are trying to buy a lot of them in the private sector, you can just go to Staples and Amazon to purchase them right there, really quickly, and for a pretty good cost.

In the public sector, there are a lot of rules and regulations in place to buy things like pens or staples. It is even harder to do this with technology tools that can help people get their Social Security payments faster, renew passports, or help people access Medicare or Medicaid.

That is why I am introducing the bipartisan FIT Procurement Act today with my colleague Congressman BURLISON. The FIT Procurement Act would raise cost caps and allow the Federal Government to buy more innovative tools without going through the needless bureaucracy.

What we are trying to do is help agencies not have to jump through so many hoops to get innovative tools to help people and help them serve people. It will make it easier, as well, for small businesses to sell to the Federal Government.

Our bill makes commonsense fixes that we can all support on both sides of the aisle. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill that will save American taxpayers money, support small businesses, and spur economic innovation.