

impulses of our nature also protects the right of men and women of good will to confront them, expose them, and reject them. The only true way to expose them as wrong is to do exactly what Charlie Kirk did until his last breath and with his last breath.

When the left calls us Nazis, fascists, and murderers, this might be hateful and hurtful, but it is speech, nonetheless. It should be criticized in the strongest possible terms as irresponsible, inflammatory, outrageous, revolting, and wrong. It should be ridiculed and shamed.

Businesses have every right to protect their reputation, and schools have every right to protect their children, but we should defend their right to say what they will and trust that the vast majority of Americans will see it for what it is.

There are only two ways to resolve our differences: There is reason, and there is force. The American Founders gave us a Republic governed by reason and illuminated by freedom of speech.

That is the civilization that Charlie Kirk lived for and died for. He devoted his life and ultimately gave his life to restore, strengthen, and perpetuate a free society based on discourse and reason.

What a tragedy it would be if, in our outrage and grief, we were to throw it all away.

HONORING APRIL VERRETT

(Mrs. RAMIREZ of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor President April Verrett, a fighter for working people and a fierce advocate for worker power. She is at the forefront of building a labor movement that unapologetically fights for all workers, no matter where they live and no matter what they do.

President Verrett is deeply committed to justice, solidarity, and democracy. She has made her life's work to end poverty-wage work in America.

Growing up on the South Side of Chicago, she was raised by her grandmother, a proud union steward for SEIU Local 46. Rooted in her values, April carries on her family's commitment to community and collective action.

In May 2024, April was elected president of SEIU International, making history as the first Black person to serve in this role. As SEIU International president, April brings vision, courage, and authenticity to fight for and lift up workers whose voices are often ignored.

April's belief that change is possible when we build worker solidarity across perceived differences has led to transformative work to hold employers and government accountable to ensure that they pay their fair share and protect workers' wages. She works endlessly to ensure access to unions for all.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my

honor to be able to commend President April Verrett today for blazing trails, leading with intersectional solidarity, and building worker power.

I thank April for her hard work.

□ 1030

HONORING MARIA CORREA

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maria Correa, a constituent of the Illinois Third Congressional District, a "poderosa"; "powerful" Latina who remembers her roots, and a community leader in the fight for immigrant rights.

A resident of West Chicago, Maria's work in the community connects residents with vital resources such as food, housing, and medical support. She is a trusted source of information and counsel, ensuring her neighbors have access to their elected officials and government resources. She organizes and equips her community to engage civically, from helping people to register to vote to promoting participation in the census.

Maria makes sure each person she comes into contact with knows that they are seen, that they are loved, and they are valued, and that their voice is heard and recognized. Her dedication, courage, and compassion remind us what true leadership is, rooted in service and action.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I am proud to commend Maria Correa for all she does to build power in her community, especially with her Latino neighbors, and for fighting for a more welcoming and just society.

I congratulate Maria.

HONORING MARIA DEL CARMEN CASIMIRO

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maria del Carmen Casimiro, who exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit and the strength and resilience of immigrant communities.

Since 1993, Maria's small business in Illinois' Third Congressional District has been an anchor for Latino families in the changing communities of Logan Square and Avondale. In the face of gentrification, her commitment to keep her culture alive through the sale of traditional Mexican foods and home goods is, in itself, commendable.

For decades, Maria and her family have brought more than just food to our homes. They have brought cultural pride and a sense of belonging to our community. Maria reminds us that small businesses can make big contributions to strengthen us and unite us.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Illinois' mighty Third Congressional District, I am proud to commend Maria del Carmen Casimiro for her decades building community, sustaining cultural identities, and feeding the soul of our neighborhood.

"Gracias y felicitaciones"; "thank you and congratulations" to Maria.

RECOGNIZING THE FUNKY BUFFALO COFFEE HOUSE AND TRADING COMPANY

(Mr. ALFORD of Missouri was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I highlight a special place in Camdenton, Missouri, in the Fourth Congressional District of Missouri: The Funky Buffalo Coffee House and Trading Company, a weird name, but a great place. It is our September Small Business of the Month.

Now, this just isn't an ordinary coffee shop. It is where community happens, families gather, students study, friendships are built, and real conversations are had like we used to do back in the day.

We had the opportunity to stop by there and have some of their great coffee and see firsthand during one of our townhall tour stops in August. Yes, we actually did townhall tours. I know a lot of you are surprised by that. We got out there and listened to people.

From seasonal fall specialty coffees to strawberry lemonade smoothies, the Funky Buffalo is always offering new drink recipes.

The Funky Buffalo is run by Kendra. She is a wife, a mom of three, and now a bold small business owner. She and her husband, Chris, have poured their hearts into this place creating not just a business but a blessing for our district.

Their family is directly affected by "22 a day," the number of veterans who take their own lives each and every day. Uncle Ry, Kendra's husband's younger brother, was just 26 when he lost his battle to post-traumatic stress on U.S. soil. Ryan was a son, a brother, a best friend, and an uncle.

This is why 100 percent of their shop's net proceeds of coffee, awareness bracelets, and awareness shirts are donated to suicide prevention programs and other veteran organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I am more than proud to recognize the Funky Buffalo as our small business of the month, and I thank them for investing in people, investing in our community, our district, and in the American Dream.

SEPTEMBER VETERAN OF THE MONTH: DALE KARST

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, today, I am honored to recognize our September Veteran of the Month: Mr. Dale Karst.

Dale proudly served in the United States Air Force, entering service on September 16, 1966. After basic training, he was stationed at Whiteman Air Force Base with the Air Police Squadron before deploying to Vietnam with the 377th Combat Defense Unit.

He was stationed at Tan Son Nhut during the Tet Offensive, one of the most dangerous moments of that war. When he returned home, Dale was stationed at Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota.

Dale told me his most cherished memory of service was returning from

Vietnam to meet his newborn child and embracing his wife again, a moment he wasn't sure he would ever see.

Today, Dale and his wife, Patty, enjoy time with their grandchildren and working on projects together. He reminds us of three things we must always honor: God, family, and country.

Dale's got some health challenges right now, and I had the opportunity of visiting him at our VA Hospital in Kansas City a few weeks ago. Although, he is going through these challenges, he has a big smile on his face.

I will tell Dale that we are praying for him. We are going to make sure he gets through this and that he gets the best healthcare possible through the VA system.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Mr. Dale Karst, a true American hero, for his courage, his sacrifice, and his enduring love for the United States of America. I want Dale to know we love him.

GENOCIDE IN GAZA

(Ms. TLAIB of Michigan was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, as some of my colleagues continue to try to attempt to bully and silence me, I will remind all of them that I grew up in Detroit. The more you try to shut us up, the louder we get.

Mr. Speaker, as we speak right now, the Israeli Government is moving to exterminate Palestinians. The U.S.-backed and funded genocide in Gaza is reaching new levels of horror every single day that we do not take action to stop it.

There is no more denying it, Mr. Speaker. The International Association of Genocide Scholars, hundreds of the world's leading experts on genocide, has determined that the Israeli Government is committing genocide.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a link to the International Association of Genocide Scholars Resolution on Gaza. <https://genocidescholars.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/IAGS-Resolution-on-Gaza-FINAL.pdf>.

Mr. Speaker, this week, the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry has concluded that the Government of Israel is committing genocide in Gaza.

It calls on all countries to take immediate concrete actions to prevent and punish genocide, to stop sending weapons to the Israeli Government, and to bring individuals forward, again, to hold them accountable and to seek justice for the genocide.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a link to the U.N.'s Independent International Commission of Inquiry report on the crime of genocide in Gaza if my colleagues would like to read it. <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session60/advance-version/a-hrc-60-crp-3.pdf>.

Mr. Speaker, these new determinations only confirm what Palestinians,

eyewitnesses, journalists, and researchers have been saying for nearly 2 years: This is a genocide.

Journalists have been murdered in unprecedented numbers in human history, so there is no one left to show the world what is being done. There is forced starvation, Mr. Speaker, and destruction of entire cities. They are luring starving and desperate people to fake food distribution sites in order to kill them. They call them the killing fields. Multiple generations of families, entire blood lines, are wiped out. Newborns are left decomposing in the NICU as hospitals, doctors, and ambulances are systematically targeted and destroyed.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a link to the official report of the names and ages of Palestinians confirmed and killed in Gaza. <https://data.techforpalestine.org/list/>.

Mr. Speaker, look at this. I want the American people to see this. The first 21 pages are all infants who did not live long enough to see their first birthday.

There have been over 60,000 human lives confirmed dead so far. Children's smiles are extinguished every single day by bombs that say "Made in the United States of America."

Experts say, and we all know this, that the death toll is likely tens of thousands higher with countless bodies still trapped under the rubble.

This must end.

As we speak, the Israeli military is moving to wipe what remains of Gaza city off the map. Gaza is the largest city in Palestine, a vibrant city of 1 million people that has existed for thousands of years, and it is being erased before our eyes.

□ 1040

Mr. Speaker, this is not only the Israeli Government's genocide. This is our government's genocide. Our government provides the bombs, the diplomatic cover, and the complete and total impunity to kill, bulldoze, and exterminate.

Some of my colleagues cruelly cheer these war crimes on, while others quietly express their concerns while voting to send more bombs anyway, but the American people know the truth about this genocide. They know what their own eyes are seeing, and they are rising up to say: No more. No more bombs, no more weapons, no more genocide.

This will not stop until we act in this body. It is not too late to save lives. For humanity's sake, we must act now.

WELCOMING DETROIT TO CBC WEEK

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I take a moment to welcome all of my Black neighbors throughout the 12th Congressional District to the people's House for Congressional Black Caucus' Annual Legislative Conference Week.

Our city, the city of Detroit, the most beautiful, Blackest city, where I was born and raised, has strong roots with the Congressional Black Caucus. For me, it is no coincidence that the

very first chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Representative Charles Diggs, was born and raised also in Detroit, carrying forward our city's legacy of resilience and movements and so much, again, fights against oppression here and across the world.

It was also another son of Detroit, my predecessor and founder of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressman John Conyers, who stood with Dr. King and later became the driving force behind making Dr. King's birthday a national holiday.

I am so incredibly proud to welcome all of my neighbors, residents, and elected officials to the Nation's Capital. Welcome to Congressional Black Caucus Week.

CONGRATULATING LIEUTENANT GENERAL ROBERT A. RASCH, JR.

(Mr. STRONG of Alabama was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. STRONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lieutenant General Robert A. Rasch, Jr., as he concludes 36 years of exceptional and faithful service to the United States of America.

Throughout his tenure, General Rasch has embodied the spirit of a soldier, inspiring those who have served with and under his leadership.

Born in Germany, where his father was stationed with Army Special Forces, General Rasch's connection to the military began early in life. He graduated from the University of Georgia and followed his father's footsteps, joining the Army as a second lieutenant in 1989.

His military journey also led him to his wife, Shawndell Mann, a fellow soldier he met while in Alaska. Together, they have two accomplished children: Darby, an emergency physician, and Michael, who continues the family legacy as an infantry captain. Their family continues to grow with the expected arrival of their first grandchild in October.

Throughout his career, General Rasch served in various capacities, including key roles within the acquisition and systems automation corps. He led as the project manager for the Army's Integrated Battle Command System and later as the military deputy to the commanding general of the Army Aviation and Missile Command.

In 2017, he earned his first star as a deputy program executive officer at PEO Missiles and Space. His second star came in 2019 when he took over the PEO role. He is credited as a primary driver for the modernization and integration of fires within the Army.

He earned his third and final star in 2022, becoming the director of the Army's Rapid Capability and Critical Technologies Office, more affectionately known as RCCTO.

In this role, he has overseen the rapid prototyping and fielding of several key