

Today, as we recognize this historic man, this giant of a man, his legacy of resilience and courage and service without ego will continue.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Alvin Brooks.

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN IS THE WORLD'S LEADING STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.

(Mr. BAUMGARTNER of Washington was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, for nearly half a century, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, has brutally targeted and killed Americans.

Through its own forces and its network of proxy militias, Iran has killed and injured thousands of Americans: diplomats, servicemembers, and civilians alike. No other terrorist regime has claimed more American lives. When the Ayatollahs of Iran chant "death to America," they mean it. President Trump's bold and decisive actions have helped protect American lives and defended our national interests.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind this body of the Iranian regime's ongoing and bloody campaign against the American people.

The following is only a partial record.

November 1979: Iranian students, backed by the regime, seized our embassy in Tehran and took 66 Americans for 44 days.

April 1983: an Iran-backed terrorist group bombed the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, killing 77 Americans.

October 1983: Iran-backed Hezbollah terrorists bombed the marine barracks in Beirut, killing 241 U.S. military personnel, including 220 Marines.

March 1984: Iran-backed terrorists kidnapped CIA Station Chief William Buckley in Beirut. He later died in captivity.

July 1989: Iran-backed Hezbollah terrorists murdered U.S. Marine Colonel William Higgins after kidnapping him while he was serving on a U.N. peace-keeping mission.

Throughout the 1990s, Iran-backed terrorists repeatedly targeted Americans in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

April 1995: a car bomb in the Gaza strip killed eight people, including one American citizen.

1995 through 1997: a series of suicide bombings on buses and shopping districts and public places in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv killed and wounded American citizens and dual nationals.

June 1996: Hezbollah terrorists directed by Iran bombed the Khobar Towers housing complex in Saudi Arabia, killing 19 U.S. airmen and wounding hundreds more.

August 1998: al-Qaida suicide bombers, facilitated by Iran-backed Hezbollah, bombed our embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, killing 224 people, including dozens of Americans.

In the 2000s, Iran and its proxies continued targeting Americans, including multiple bombings in Jerusalem and at Hebrew University that killed and wounded American citizens.

October 2003: Iran-backed terrorists killed three U.S. diplomatic personnel in a bombing in Gaza.

Between 2003 and 2011, Iran-backed militias killed at least 603 U.S. troops in Iraq, roughly one in six of every Americans killed in combat and fatalities in that war, including some of my friends.

March 2007: former FBI agent Robert Levinson disappeared in Iran and is believed to have died in an Iranian prison, becoming one of the longest held American captives in history.

In the last decade, the pattern has continued.

December 2019: Iran-backed Kataib Hezbollah terrorists killed an American contractor and wounded U.S. servicemembers in a rocket attack in Iraq.

January 2020: Iranian ballistic missile attack on Ain al-Asad airbase in Iraq left 109 U.S. troops with traumatic brain injuries.

February 2021 and July 2021: Iran-backed militias launched rocket and drone attacks that wounded U.S. servicemembers and American contractors in Iraq and Syria.

September 2022 and November 2022: Iran and IRGC-linked operatives killed American citizens in Iraqi Kurdistan and Baghdad.

March 2023: an Iranian drone strike on a coalition base in Syria killed an American contractor and wounded five U.S. servicemembers and another contractor.

October 7, 2023: Iran-backed Hamas terrorists murdered 46 Americans and kidnapped at least a dozen more in the October 7 massacre.

Between 2023 and November 2024: Iran and its proxies conducted more than 180 attacks on U.S. Forces in the Middle East, wounding over 180 American servicemembers and killing three.

January 2024: Iran-backed Kataib Hezbollah terrorists killed three U.S. servicemembers and wounded more than 40 in a drone attack on a U.S. base in Jordan.

November 2024: an Iranian national and IRGC asset was charged in a plot to assassinate President Trump on behalf of the Iranian regime.

June 2025: Iran-backed militias attacked multiple U.S. bases in Syria and Iraq, again targeting American troops.

Mr. Speaker, this is only a partial list of Iran's bloody war on American citizens. For decades, administrations of both parties have understood this threat. President Trump's actions are part of a necessary effort to defend American lives. I spent a lot of time in the Middle East in a lot of places, and there has been one constant: Iranian-backed terrorist groups have always been trying to kill Americans. That ends now.

DEATH OF NURUL AMIN SHAH ALAM

(Mr. KENNEDY of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart as our community and our Nation mourn a death that should have never happened.

Nurul Amin Shah Alam was 56 years old. He was a Rohingya refugee who came to the U.S. legally after fleeing persecution and violence in Burma, searching for safety for himself and his family.

He made his way to Buffalo, the city of Good Neighbors.

He was nearly blind. He spoke very little English. He could not read, write, or navigate on his own. On February 19, DHS gave Mr. Shah Alam what they called a courtesy ride. That so-called courtesy ride resulted in him being left alone at a closed coffee shop miles from his family's home in the dead of winter.

It would also be the last time Mr. Shah Alam was seen alive. His family was not notified. His attorney was not notified. There was no coordinated handoff, no protection for a man that was a vulnerable individual with disabilities.

For 5 days, his loved ones checked hospitals and shelters. They walked the streets in search of Mr. Shah Alam, and they waited for answers that would never come.

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Mr. Shah Alam was tragically found dead. His last known interaction was with Kristi Noem's Department of Homeland Security. That fact alone demands a full and independent investigation. When someone in government custody is abandoned and then found dead, the American people deserve answers.

Under Trump and Kristi Noem, we have seen a disgusting pattern of cruelty, inhumanity, and injustice from their Department of Homeland Security. It is a pattern rooted in hate, division, and intolerance, with a willful and complete disregard for human life.

Leadership matters. Accountability matters. The Department of Homeland Security under Kristi Noem has neither.

Our communities deserve a government that protects the vulnerable, not one that drops them in the cold in the dark of night.

The death of Nurul Amin Shah Alam is a failure of our entire system. Those at the top must answer for it, starting with Kristi Noem.

Mr. Shah Alam should be alive today. He came to our country seeking refuge. Instead, his family laid him to rest last week.

This should not be just another headline or more background noise to be forgotten. A man is dead after being abandoned by our government. His

family and the American people deserve the truth. We must have accountability and justice for the family of Mr. Shah Alam. May he rest in peace.

CELEBRATING CAROLINA RISING

(Mr. NORMAN of South Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the completion of the Carolina Rising project in Gaffney, South Carolina, along with those dedicated individuals who have worked tirelessly to bring this project to fruition and to preserve, promote, and shape the deep-rooted history of Cherokee County. We thank them for their dedication to this cause.

The Carolina Rising initiative is a historic undertaking for South Carolina. It came about through the efforts of Gaffney's tourism administrator, LeighAnn Moon. For nearly three decades, LeighAnn has worked tirelessly to strengthen the community identity and to expand rural tourism in Gaffney, South Carolina.

From conversations with visitors, LeighAnn quickly discovered many were drawn to Cherokee County because of its historic background, its Revolutionary War landmarks, and its extensive resources.

This reality helped her shape Carolina Rising, a strategic effort to research, document, and interpret the county's contributions to America's independence in a way that is accessible to the public. It is now an innovative museum in the heart of Gaffney, South Carolina.

This region was the site of numerous historic battles, including both the Battle of Kings Mountain and the Battle of Cowpens. Monumental American victories here weakened British control in the backcountry and strengthened the patriot position at a decisive moment in the war.

The Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail also passes through the area where the museum now sits, marking the route taken by the United States militia forces. These historic efforts proved critical to the outcome of the revolution in South Carolina.

The museum's construction came about through the restoration and reuse of the historic Carnegie Free Library in downtown Gaffney. Constructed in 1913, the Carnegie Free Library is one of only 14 libraries built in South Carolina. For generations, it was the center of literacy, research, and civic engagement.

This project successfully transformed the landmark into a modern museum experience dedicated to the Revolutionary War in the region. It incorporates interactive exhibits, curated artifacts, digital interpretation, and educational programming. The facility has space for lectures, student tours, and historic research.

Carolina Rising simultaneously pays tribute to Gaffney's past while serving

as a resource for future South Carolinians.

Its launch is a tremendous success. It has been over a decade in the making. Yet, Carolina Rising represents more than 14 years of planning and investment. It reflects constant collaboration among local leaders, State officials, preservation advocates, historians, and private supporters who all share that commitment to honoring our Nation's past while strengthening our local economy.

By expanding heritage tourism, supporting small businesses, and increasing downtown visitations, Carolina Rising will contribute to sustained economic development in Gaffney and, overall, Cherokee County.

I am very proud to say that Carolina Rising demonstrates the planning, deep respect for history, and stalwart confidence in the future of all South Carolinians, but particularly those in Gaffney.

Mr. Speaker, I commend those who have brought this initiative forward and thank them for their continued service to the people of South Carolina. Their efforts have successfully seen this project come together for our children, grandchildren, and generations to come.

CHOOSING WAR IS NOT PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

(Mr. DOGGETT of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, as Baghdad was first bombed 23 years ago, Americans were bombarded with lies. When that giant statue of Saddam Hussein was pulled down, the lies were paired with attacks on all of us who opposed what was ultimately recognized by almost all as a colossal American blunder.

Though later President Bush announced "mission accomplished," the killing continued. Ultimately, over 4,400 American lives were lost and \$2 trillion spent on this unwarranted invasion that, unfortunately, only benefited Iran.

Now, as Tehran is bombed, we are once again being bombarded with lies. Our trigger-happy President issued his personal declaration of war without approval of Congress, without exhausting nonviolent alternatives, and without any real plan after the bombs stopped falling.

Just months ago, Trump told the Nation that he had obliterated the Iranian nuclear capability. With no imminent threat to our country, he declared war just because he likes issuing decrees.

He loves issuing imperial decrees, whether it is imposing new tariff taxes, obstructing our voting rights, or declaring himself the acting President of Venezuela. It is the American people who will pay the price in blood and treasure for his military adventurism.

Trump callously has responded already "that's the way it is" to the

deaths of American servicemembers and so many innocent civilians. With his war spreading across the Middle East, Trump is not ruling out ground troops, since airpower alone will not be sufficient to accomplish the regime change that he is obviously seeking.

While certainly not mourning the death of Iranian tyrants, despicable people, rarely has assassination of such foreign leaders produced a peaceful result. Two decades of experience in Afghanistan and Iraq tell us that even boots on the ground are insufficient to accomplish a peaceful democratic society. Only the Iranian people can do that.

Of course, Trump is also sending a message to fellow authoritarians Xi and Putin that might makes right. Use war if it is helpful.

Ironically, we learned that President Trump's action does not demonstrate strength, but rather weakness. Secretary Rubio has confirmed that Trump was just yielding to Netanyahu's planned attack by saying, essentially, "me, too." He was too weak to tell Netanyahu no, as President Bush had wisely done. Trump talks tough and brandishes a very powerful military, but he cannot stand up to powerful leaders like Netanyahu and Putin.

Choosing war is not "peace through strength." It is a means of diverting attention from multiple Trump failures here at home. Coming just after revelations from the Justice Department of hiding documents accusing Trump of sexually abusing a minor, this war of choice may even be useful as a distraction from the Epstein files that have not been fully disclosed.

In Trump's own words, this is a war that could go on "as long as it takes," perhaps as long as it takes for him to interfere in the November elections and secure a Congress that will continue to be little more than a doormat for him.

With war so much easier to get into than to get out of, it is imperative that this Congress act swiftly this week to approve the War Powers Resolution to save American lives and stop another destabilizing, bloody conflict that will have repercussions for generations to come.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NORMAN). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

HONORING MARCEY PHILLIPS

(Mr. LUTTRELL of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary American. I am proud to recognize Ms. Marcey Phillips, a fourth-generation U.S. Army veteran, for her courageous service to our Nation and her continued dedication to the men and women who have worn the uniform.

Marcey comes from a family with a strong tradition of military service. In