

infrastructure used by the Revolutionary Guard, and then we want to get out.

Now, there has been a lot of speculation by some of my Democratic friends that, well, the President is going to put boots on the ground. I don't believe that. I don't believe that. If the President puts boots on the ground, the thud you hear will be me face-planting from surprise. I will faint. How long will this take? I think a few more weeks, and then we will be out.

Was our intelligence right? You had better believe it was. What is the very first thing that the Iranian leadership did? They started attacking all of the other countries in the Middle East. They even fired a missile at Turkey. They even fired a missile at the United Kingdom, one of its bases in Cyprus.

Now, I give you this background so you will know why the President did what he did. Everything I just told you, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom knew. He had the same intelligence we had. When it came time for us to intervene, he said: You cannot use any United Kingdom air force bases or military bases—none, zero, nada. He specifically said you can't use Diego Garcia, the joint United States-United Kingdom military base in the Indian Ocean that Keir Starmer is trying to give away to Mauritius. You have heard me talk about it on the Senate floor. And Mauritius, of course, will welcome the Chinese.

Now, once the war started going the way of people who believe in freedom, Prime Minister Starmer changed his mind. Now, he says: You can use our bases.

Thank you very much. It is a little late. We don't need you.

He also is trying to give President Trump advice about how to conduct war. That is a little bit like seeking the advice of a nun about sex. So Keir Starmer is the last person you would want to go to, to advise you about how to have a military confrontation. He is the kind of guy that, if you are in the middle of a bar fight, he will want to stop and quote Socrates. That is what this is, a bar fight.

And so I decided after watching this circus without a tent, this goat rodeo that the Prime Minister has thrust upon the world, I said, you know, let me take a look at what the Prime Minister's plans are in terms of defense because, if you remember about a year ago January, the Prime Minister produced this report—that is all it was, was a report—but he called it a root-and-branch strategic defense review, and its purpose was to settle the United Kingdom's military path for years to come.

It was ready last—not this past January, but the January before. He didn't produce it until this past summer.

The Prime Minister makes a big deal in his report. He says: We have changed our ways. We have been born again. We are now going to spend 2.6 of our GDP on defense by 2027.

I am thinking: Good for you. It is about time.

He said: This is going to be in line with all of our NATO allies—2.6 of our GDP on defense by 2027.

He said: By God, by 2035, we are going to be spending 3.5 percent.

I am thinking: Man, that is great.

And then I read the report. The cash is backloaded. He didn't bother to tell the people of the United Kingdom or NATO or the President. The cash is backloaded. He is not going to even start spending the money—the real money—until the 2030s. That is 4 years from now. He is going to make it somebody else's problem. I can assure you the Prime Minister will not be the Prime Minister in 2030 and beyond. Talk about sleight of hand.

If you run the numbers, there is a great deal of inflation in defense production because so many countries now are starting to actually spend more money on defense—not promising to do so by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. So you have to factor in inflation.

Under the Prime Minister's plan to not even start spending the real money until 2030, the defense inflation is going to eat away at the amount of money that he has promised to spend. If you factor in reasonable defense production, the numbers come out to him actually spending £24 billion—\$32 billion—less than he promised. Do you think he couldn't figure that out? His numbers guys know all about it. This is nothing but sleight of hand. In fact, one commentator in the United Kingdom has said it is even—it is worse. According to his computations, there is going to be a £28 billion gap over 4 years—over 4 years.

Now, the United Kingdom has also promised to work with us and Australia on building an Australian—a new attack submarine. Is the Prime Minister going to wait until 2030 to do that? We can't wait until 2030.

Now, look, these are the facts: The United Kingdom has about 140,000 soldiers, members of the military. And God bless every one of them. God bless every one of them. They are down 20 percent since 2012—and declining. To give you a frame of reference, the United States has 2.1 million members of the military. They have 140,000. It is 2.8 million if you include civilian support staff for our military.

So when we first heard that the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom was going to start spending 2.6 percent, up to 3.5 percent of GDP on defense, of course we got excited. It is about time that the people in Europe embrace adulthood and stop sending us the bill for their defense. So we were excited. I was excited. I was ready to come down here and congratulate the Prime Minister, and then I read the fine print. Sleight of hand. It is all sleight of hand.

Now, if I am wrong, I hope the Prime Minister will respond, but if I am right, shame on him. Shame on him for look-

ing the good people of the United Kingdom in the eye and the good people of the world in the eye and lying and saying that the United Kingdom would do its part when the Prime Minister has no intention whatsoever.

The final point I will make—you have heard me: The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom wants to give away a military base, a joint military base that we own with the United Kingdom called Diego Garcia. It is in the middle of the Indian Ocean. The Prime Minister has decided he has to give it to Mauritius.

Mauritius never owned the Chagos Islands, one of which houses our military base. Mauritius has no connection to the Islands. But the United Nations told the Prime Minister that he should be ashamed and that the good people of the United Kingdom should be ashamed because of the United Kingdom's colonial past.

So Mr. Starmer, woke that he is, said: We have got to give it away, we want to give it away to Mauritius—who is just like this with China. You might as well just hand the keys to China.

To do that, Mr. Starmer has to get President Trump's permission, and I have been round and round with the President. I don't know how many times I have been on this floor talking about: Please stop it, Mr. President.

One day—I am not criticizing the President because he has to listen to his advisers. I get that. First, he was against it. Then, he was for it. Then, he was against it. Then, he was for it.

His last comment—I think he has figured Mr. Starmer, the Prime Minister, out. He said: No way, no how.

He said: No sir, no, ma'am, no way. I am not giving you permission.

Please stick, Mr. President. Please don't do it.

For us to give away that military base, which will end up in the hands of China, for us to give away one of the few places in the Indian Ocean that we can actually refuel our submarines, for us to give away what—this isn't hyperbole. It is one of the most important military bases in defense of the American people. For us to give it away would be unconscionable.

Tell Mr. Starmer no, Mr. President.

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## MORNING BUSINESS

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### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

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#### TRIBUTE TO PENROSE HOLLINS

• Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. President, today I rise to congratulate New Castle County Councilman Penrose Hollins for receiving the Order of the First State, the highest civilian honor awarded by the Governor of Delaware.

Throughout his over 35 years of service representing District 4 of the New Castle County Council, Councilman Hollins has served the people of Wilmington, DE, with wisdom, intellect,

grace, and deep moral clarity. A tireless champion for justice and opportunity, Councilman Hollins is a trailblazer for racial equality as the first African-American to serve as president pro tempore of the New Castle County Council. Throughout his time as a councilman, he has remained a central figure advocating for housing opportunities, including leading the establishment of the New Castle County Council Housing Committee. Widely known as a voice of reason and for his collaborative leadership, he has remained resolute in his march toward a healthier and safer New Castle County.

Councilman Hollins is a pillar of his local community. He has dedicated his time and leadership to local organizations, including the Wilmington Hope Commission, Habitat for Humanity, the YMCA, and the Wilmington NAACP. A former Wilmington City councilman, he also served as the chair of the First District Democratic City Committee. Councilman Hollins has been a cornerstone of local political leadership for decades. Professionally, he enjoyed a successful 30-year career as a research technician at the DuPont Experimental Station. As a founding member of Canaan Baptist Church, current member of St. Paul's Baptist Church, and through attendance at Cornerstone Fellowship Baptist Church, he has remained committed to his faith and guided by a spirit of charity and service.

A Vietnam-era veteran of the U.S. Army, Councilman Hollins served his country honorably during two tours as a medic in Korea. He is a distinguished alumnus of Delaware Technical Community College and a member of the college's Hall of Fame. Councilman Hollins has been repeatedly recognized by the people of Delaware as the recipient of numerous community and civic awards, including Delaware State University's Outstanding Black Delawarean, the NAACP's Life Membership Appreciation Award, and Delaware State Education Association's Outstanding Achievements in Human and Civil Rights Award.

Councilman Hollins' profound, lasting impact on the State of Delaware and its people exemplifies the spirit of the Order of the First State. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Councilman Hollins on receiving Delaware's highest civilian honor.●

#### REMEMBERING DR. JOE S. GREEN

● Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I would like to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Joe S. Green—the “Bayou Bishop”—a devoted minister and veteran who helped teach, train, and care for his community in Rapides Parish, the State of Louisiana, and around the world. Born on May 20, 1940 in Pineville, LA, Dr. Green grew up as a farm boy on Bayou Rapides. From his youth, Dr. Green demonstrated his immense commitment to service by participating in many activities and min-

istries in First Evening Star Baptist church and his local community.

On October 1, 1958, high school sweethearts reunited. Dr. Green and Josephine Reed Green said, “I do.” Together, they had three beautiful children and built a family rooted in love and faith for over 62 years.

Dr. Green was drafted into the military while attending Southern University. His participation in the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps paved the way for him to join the Special Forces in the 82nd Airborne Division. Here, Dr. Green taught, trained, and cared for people, allowing him to work in his God-given purpose. After 26 years of service, Dr. Green retired from the military and worked as a recruiter and trainer for the U.S. Department of Labor before answering the call to the ministry.

Dr. Green held bachelor of theology, master of religion, master of theology, and doctor of divinity degrees. He began his ministry at Second Evening Star Baptist Church in Rapides Station, LA. Later, the Lord called Dr. Green to shepherd St. Matthew Baptist Church. It was here where he utilized his unique, down-to-earth style of preaching and helped grow membership from 50 members to more than 1,200 members, including the addition of over 40 ministries. In addition to serving as a pastor, Dr. Green founded Rapides Station Community Ministries, a faith-based nonprofit organization, providing affordable housing to Louisiana families. Dr. Green led outreach initiatives across the United States and into Africa.

Dr. Green's thoughts are memorialized in part in the book “Bayou Bishop: Life and Lessons from Dr. Joe S. Green.” As we acknowledge his distinguished legacy and service, his essence is summarized in this: “Making disciples, winning the unchurched and empowering them to become fully functioning followers of Jesus Christ.”●

#### RECOGNIZING GRANT RANCH GRUB & PUB

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to honor Grant Ranch Grub & Pub of Keokuk County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Originally founded in the late 1960s in Marengo by Duane and Mary Grant, the Grant Ranch is known for remaining true to local traditions and as a community gathering spot. After changing locations over the decades, Grant Ranch was revived in Sigourney in 2003 by their daughter Sherry Fisher. Today, the Grant Ranch legacy lives on through the Grant family's first-born grandchild Danette Meyer, who restored and reopened the establishment as Grant Ranch Grub & Pub

on Sigourney Square. With its full-service dining experience, the restaurant quickly became a local favorite, carrying forward a family legacy rooted in Iowa hospitality.

Danette Meyer brings more than 30 years of hands-on experience in the hospitality industry after working in nearly every role in the restaurant industry before reopening Grant Ranch Grub & Pub. When she relaunched it during the COVID-19 pandemic while raising five children, Danette demonstrated extraordinary resilience and commitment to her community. With a team of four employees, the business supports local jobs while contributing to the vibrancy of Sigourney and the broader Keokuk County community. Backed by the support of her family and the local community, Danette led an extensive renovation of the property, transforming it into a welcoming space offering full-service dining, catering, and private event rentals. The restaurant hosts themed events throughout each month and offers a popular “Try It Tuesday,” showcasing a new sandwich each week. Menu favorites include the haystacks, their signature take on onion rings, the Frisco Melt, and a variety of all-beef hot dogs.

Beyond its role as a local gathering place, Grant Ranch Grub & Pub plays an active role in supporting the Sigourney community. Danette regularly gives back by mentoring youth and individuals with disabilities to help prepare them for future employment, as well as providing meals for local schools and community organizations. Her dedication to service and leadership has earned recognition across Iowa, including being named one of the Iowa Restaurant Association's 2025 “40 Women to Watch” in the hospitality industry. Grant Ranch was also awarded Best Pub & Bar on Restaurant Guru in 2025 and is a proud member of the Keokuk County Economic Development Group and the Iowa Restaurant Association. Through its emphasis on family tradition and community involvement, Grant Ranch Grub & Pub exemplifies the spirit of small business in Iowa.

I am pleased to recognize Danette Meyer, along with the entire team at Grant Grub & Pub, for their dedication to Sigourney and Keokuk County. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years ahead.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE COUNCIL GROVE REPUBLICAN

● Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the Council Grove Republican, a remarkable smalltown newspaper serving the people of Council Grove, KS. With a population of roughly 2,200, Council Grove has been recognized as the smallest American town with its own daily newspaper.

Since 1872, residents of Council Grove have relied on this publication to keep