

designed to have the United States break that agreement. In a very dangerous world, that agreement has made us a little bit safer. This would be a mistake of tragic proportions to undermine it.

Last year, Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, on this House floor, as part of his campaign to scuttle a potential agreement, warned that Iran was on the verge of acquiring nuclear weapons as thousands of centrifuges were whirling to enrich uranium.

While today, 14,000 centrifuges have been removed from service and placed under international supervision. Iran has removed nuclear material from its once secret facility at Fordow. It has reduced its stockpile of enriched uranium from 12,000 kilograms, with a purity as high as 5 percent, to only 300 kilograms, with a purity of no more than 3-2/3 percent. The core of the heavy water reactor at Arak has been filled with concrete. These are not abstract numbers and mere technicalities. Iran has adhered to the agreement, making a nuclear breakout harder, and take longer.

Make no mistake, Iran has some unsavory hardline people in key positions of leadership, but not everyone. President Hassan Rouhani has been a voice of and a force for moderation. The Iran people voted for him as a repudiation of the hardliners.

The Iranian people are still the most pro-American in the region, where even some of our allies have large anti-American populations. The majority of the Iranian people still like us, despite the fact that America cooperated with Britain to overthrow their popularly elected government in 1953 and install the Shah as dictator, despite the fact that the United States backed Saddam Hussein in the bloody Iraq-Iran war where we would later send American troops to overthrow him. At that time, he used poison gas—and we did nothing to stop him—against Iranians and against some of his own people.

The relationship with Iran is important to not just controlling nuclear threats. Iran is going to play a key role in this troubled area as the major Shia power. Our war against Iraq created huge problems, not just in Iraq, but Syria and Afghanistan. Iran will always play an outsized role. The question is, can we work with them toward peace and reconciliation?

I, for one, will vote against efforts to undercut the agreement when, after a year, all the evidence that I have seen is that the agreement is working and that Iran is complying.

I am encouraged that there is a memorandum of understanding with American company Boeing and Iran to purchase 80 jet airplanes and lease another 29, supporting over 100,000 jobs in the United States over the next decade. Rather than unwinding this agreement, people should support and strengthen it.

Notably, our other partners in the agreement have already started to take

commercial advantage. I would rather have American jobs at Boeing than have Airbus sell even more planes to Iran or the French Bombardier manufacturer. The rest of the world has moved on and America should not move backward.

In a troubled world, an opportunity to strengthen ties with a former enemy through trade, job creation, and bringing us a bit closer together should not be a major cause for concern. It should be a cause for celebration.

REMEMBERING MIKE RHYNE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mike Rhyne, a great man and a friend from Rutherford County, North Carolina.

Mike served as an alderman for Ellenboro, the same town where his brother, Jim, serves as mayor.

Ellenboro is a small town, but they don't actually view themselves that way. In fact, Mike and his late wife, Pat, were instrumental in starting the town's yearly festival. When they decided to figure out a name on what to call it, they called it "Ellenboro's Big Day." That was sort of Mike's personality coming through in just the naming of that event. In fact, Mike gave me a T-shirt—and I still have it—"The Big Day" T-shirt that he gave me a few years ago.

Mike also really deserves a lot of credit for restoring the old Ellenboro train depot and transforming it into the town's history museum. In this history museum, they pay tribute to the countless veterans that grew up, were raised, and came home to Ellenboro and to those that gave their lives in the service of our country. That really pays a special tribute to the community.

To Mike's family, I extend my sympathies. Ellenboro and Rutherford County have lost a true public servant, and I have lost a good friend.

RETIREMENT OF CATAWBA COUNTY CHAMBER
PRESIDENT DANNY HEARN

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to honor a great man and a great friend, one of my constituents from Catawba County.

Dave Hearn has served as president of the Catawba County Chamber of Commerce and has done so for the last 12 years. He recently announced his retirement from 43 years of work with chambers of commerce throughout the southeast.

Danny is a graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne University. Shortly after graduation, he went to work at the local chamber of commerce as an intern, and that career would last him until actually just a few months from now.

He served local chambers, rising through the ranks from Norfolk, Virginia; Rockingham, North Carolina; Statesville, North Carolina; and he will finish his career in Hickory.

Danny is well known for a couple of different things in the community. Danny is most well known for his commitment to small business. He has fought tirelessly on behalf of the small business community and the business community generally.

In fact, one of the greatest accomplishments at the Catawba County Chamber of Commerce under Danny's leadership is the Edison project, a competitive contest that awards much-needed start-up capital to local entrepreneurs. He began this initiative in the midst of one of the worst economic downturns in western North Carolina history.

Danny knows that the backbone of our local economy and the backbone of our country is small business. He understands that small business development is the key to our region's economic development, growth, and recovery.

Danny's work with small businesses has truly paid off. Recent statistics show that wages in Catawba County are growing at a faster rate than most counties in the country, and this is a great success under Danny's leadership.

Danny is also extraordinarily well known for his love of golf. Danny's second-to-last day on the job in September will be hosting the chamber's annual golf tournament. What a fitting way and a truly poetic way for Danny to end his chamber career. He will be doing two of the great things that he is passionate about: working with small businesses leaders and playing golf.

So to Danny: You will truly be missed in Catawba County. Your leadership will be truly missed. However, your impact will be felt for generations to come. We thank you for your leadership, and I thank you for your friendship.

ADDRESSING SECURITY THREATS

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

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, we should not leave on the longest summer break in more than three decades while our Nation faces serious security threats.

There is no greater responsibility for this body than to keep our communities and our families safe. We face real threats from around the world, from the Zika virus, cyber threats, China, Russia, and North Korea. All of these demand attention, but we must act now to destroy ISIS.

The campaign of destruction waged by ISIS has created the worst crisis in the Middle East in a generation and is threatening American lives at home and abroad.

When I traveled to the Middle East 17 months ago, I came home and said that this must be our top priority. Congress must come together to develop a comprehensive strategy that attacks ISIS on all fronts, online and on the ground,

reducing and eliminating its territory and its ability to direct attacks around the globe. A commitment to this effort will allow our military to make long-term strategic decisions.

It is important for Republicans and Democrats alike to find a common vision for this effort. I do not believe that we cannot have and should not have a do-nothing summer while Americans are in jeopardy.

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REMEMBERING JACK RUBIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I come to the floor this morning to commemorate the life of a dear friend, Jack Rubin, who passed away last night at his home in south Florida.

Jack was a Holocaust survivor, the only member of his family to survive. He was liberated from Auschwitz in May of 1945, came to America, and served in our United States Army.

Over the course of his life, Jack dedicated his time to raising awareness about the horrors of the Holocaust and fighting for the needs of survivors. Jack was a regular on Capitol Hill, meeting with Members of Congress and testifying before Congress four times in 2007, 2008, and twice in 2014.

On September 18, 2014, Jack testified before a subcommittee hearing, which I chaired, about the struggles of recovering assets for Holocaust survivors, and the struggle continues. At this important hearing, Jack laid out all of the difficulties, all of the challenges that Holocaust survivors are facing in America today, the continued struggle to find the justice that has evaded most of them for over 70 years, and the poverty, the lack of medical care, dental care, mental health care for many survivors.

That is why my colleague, TED DEUTCH, and I authored a resolution, which already passed the House, urging the German Government to fully fulfill its moral responsibility to Holocaust survivors and urgently provide the financial resources necessary to ensure that survivors live in dignity and comfort in their remaining years.

I urge my colleagues in the Senate to pass this measure immediately because this is about survivors getting all of their needs addressed and getting them addressed immediately.

I offer my sincere condolences to Jack Rubin's widow, Shirley, and their three children—Michael, David, and Lynn—and many grandchildren.

In the 2014 hearing, Mr. Speaker, Jack stated: We are losing more and more survivors every day, and the ones remaining need our help now.

We will never forget you, Jack Rubin. We must honor Jack's legacy, Mr. Speaker, by continuing to pursue justice for all Holocaust survivors.

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE IRAN DEAL AND THE AMIA ATTACK

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this Thursday marks the 1-year anniversary since the administration and the rest of the P5+1 nations signed the weak and dangerous Iran nuclear deal. One year later, and Iran continues its push for ballistic missiles, and we are seeing reports from Germany's intelligence services that Iran's proliferation activities have not stopped, that the regime has increased its efforts to advance its chemical and biological warfare capabilities as well as its nuclear weapons program.

This week, the House will bring to the floor various bills that would amplify sanctions against Iran. We must ensure that Iran is held accountable for its terror activities and that individuals engaged in such activities are brought to justice.

Monday marks the 22nd anniversary of the attack against the Argentinian Jewish Community Center called AMIA in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Iran and its proxy Hezbollah, a designated foreign terrorist organization, were behind this heinous and cowardly attack which killed over 80 people and injured hundreds more.

Unfortunately, thanks to this weak nuclear deal, some of Iran's most notorious criminals will see sanctions against them lifted, including several individuals responsible for the AMIA bombings. One, General Vahidi, for example. He is a former Quds commander, a former Iranian defense minister, and he has been wanted by INTERPOL since 2007 for his direct role in the AMIA attack.

Guess what? His name was one of the ones included in this Iran deal for sanctions to be lifted.

Is that justice, Mr. Speaker?

Last year, the special prosecutor on the AMIA and my dear friend, Alberto Nisman, was killed in his home in Buenos Aires. I urge the Argentine authorities to do everything in their power to continue to properly and thoroughly investigate his death so that those responsible can be brought to justice.

The AMIA attack serves as just one reminder of the many threats from Iran and its nefarious proxies that endanger our national security, the Middle East, and our ally, the Democratic Jewish State of Israel.

As we mark the 1-year anniversary of this horrible nuclear deal and commemorate the 22nd anniversary of the AMIA attack, we must redouble our efforts and commitments to hold Iran and all of its cohorts fully accountable.

WE NEED TO STAND UP FOR THE LGBT COMMUNITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, today marks 1 month since the horrific attack on Pulse nightclub that took 49 lives.

Many of us have come here to this floor raising our voices to demand that this House take action to prevent the loss of life from guns in this country.

But one critical, tragic aspect of this crime that sometimes has gotten lost is exactly who was targeted in the shooting. Pulse was a mainstay of Orlando's LGBT community, and of the Latino community in particular. Now, more than ever, we need to unite against hatred, discrimination, and bigotry. We need to stand together in calling for justice, peace, and equality.

I am, frankly, appalled to see that today, today on the 1-month anniversary of the shootings at the Pulse nightclub, instead of standing with the LGBT community, instead of passing background checks, today the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform will be advancing legislation to undermine the existing and insufficient protections that the law provides for LGBT Americans.

I am proud that my home State of Connecticut is one of several States to pass legislation protecting the LGBT community from discrimination, whether folks are at work, at school, at the doctor's office or, yes, using a public bathroom. Our residents support these laws. We support these protections. LGBT folks are our brothers, our sisters, our friends, our neighbors. They are our kids' teachers, coaches, and their friends. They give back to our community. They volunteer at church. They serve in public office.

In Congress we should be focusing on legislation to prevent discrimination and prevent hatred. Our goal should be a country in which all Americans, in every State, can live their lives free from bigotry and harassment and free of the fear of being targeted with guns because of who people are. Quite simply, I can't imagine a worse way for Congress to respond to the massacre in Orlando than with legislation attacking LGBT Americans.

The American people overwhelmingly believe that discrimination targeting the LGBT community has no place in our society, and yet a bill to support that discrimination is getting a full hearing today. Meanwhile, legislation to keep guns out of the hands of terrorists that has broad, bipartisan support among the public cannot get so much as a vote in this House.

In the 3½ years since the Sandy Hook massacre in my State, in my district in Connecticut, this House has failed to take any action, any action whatsoever to prevent the deaths of Americans by guns. In that time, 100,000 Americans have died from guns, 49 of them in the largest mass shooting in American history 1 month ago, targeted because they are LGBT at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to get our priorities straight. It is time for us to do what the American people sent us here to do. Let us send a very clear message: We stand up against hatred and discrimination; we stand with our LGBT