

We use the rhetoric of jobs an awful lot around here in Congress. Now is the time to take a powerful stand for U.S. jobs and U.S. workers. Actions speak louder than words. I urge my colleagues to support the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.

COMMEMORATING THE MEMORY AND HEROIC SACRIFICE OF STATEN ISLAND FIREMAN LIEUTENANT GORDON "MATT" AMBELAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GRIMM) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart but also with a swelling of pride that I rise before this House today to honor the memory and the heroic sacrifice of one of the FDNY's bravest—Lieutenant Gordon "Matt" Ambelas.

Lieutenant Ambelas, a veteran Staten Island fireman with 14 years of distinguished service, tragically gave his life this past Fourth of July weekend. He was attempting to rescue victims trapped in a horrific blaze in Brooklyn.

Lieutenant Ambelas leaves behind a devoted wife and two beautiful girls. He is New York's first firefighter to fall in the line of duty since 2012. While a family and a community mourn the excruciating loss of one of their finest native sons—one of their most dedicated protectors—Lieutenant Ambelas is a testament to the uncommon courage and sacrifice at the very core of the entire FDNY family and to the harrowing dangers they face in keeping America's greatest city safe every day.

Lieutenant Ambelas died after searching the 19th floor of a burning Brooklyn housing complex, determined to leave no innocent victim behind, as the flames spread rapidly from floor to floor. Undaunted by the danger that would have melted the courage of most any man, Matt faced it, undeterred, head on.

So I join all of my constituents in Brooklyn, on Staten Island, and all New Yorkers in acknowledging the immense debt of gratitude we all owe to Matt and his brothers in the FDNY, who put our safety above their own day in and day out.

While standing among those honoring Lieutenant Ambelas at his funeral on Staten Island last week, I was humbled by the incredible valor of Matt's actions. We watched as Matt's brothers in uniform, especially the Beach Boys of Ladder 81 on Staten Island and the Hooper Street Gang of Ladder 119 in Brooklyn, paid their final respects to the fallen hero. Seeing firsthand the mixture of strength and despair on their faces, I saw Matt's wife, Nanette, and their beautiful daughters, Giovanna and Gabriella. This was a very stark reminder that not only do we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to fallen heroes like Matt but also to the loving families that bear the immeasurable sacrifice right along with them.

When our Nation was viciously attacked on 9/11, 343 FDNY firefighters gave their lives. Since then, 18 more, including Matt, have fallen in the line of duty. Each loss, while a weight on our hearts, adds yet another angel to that storied brotherhood of heroes. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in the remembrance and commemoration of a true American hero in every sense of the word.

May God bless Lieutenant Ambelas. May He bring comfort to his young family. May He protect all of our brave FDNY firefighters, and may the noble sacrifice enshrined in Matt's memory never be forgotten.

To you, Nanette, please know that you, Gia, and Gabby are in my thoughts, in my prayers, and my heart is broken for your enormous loss.

□ 1030

PAWS FOR CELEBRATION

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, Harry Truman famously said that if you want a friend in Washington, get a dog, and I can tell you that many of our Nation's animal shelters and rescue groups would be more than happy to introduce you to a new friend.

Between 5 and 7 million companion animals enter animal shelters nationwide every year, and the hardworking individuals at these shelters and rescues try to make sure that each of these animals makes its way to a forever home.

I have been so fortunate that my entire life I have had rescue dogs as part of my family. As a girl, it was Scotty Daisy. As a newlywed, my husband and I adopted Samantha and Walter, and as a family, with my three sons, we welcomed Bison into our family.

I want to honor the hard work of volunteers and staff at animal shelters and rescue groups across the Nation, and I encourage my colleagues to join me today at this year's Paws for Celebration event on Capitol Hill.

This event, sponsored by the ASPCA and hosted by the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus, will feature adoptable dogs and cats from shelters and rescues from around the Washington, D.C., area.

It will be a great opportunity for Members of Congress to take a moment and thank the shelter and rescue community for their hard work and dedication to our Nation's homeless pets.

Who knows? You might even find that friend in Washington you have been looking for.

HAMAS AGGRESSION FORCES ISRAEL TO DEFEND ITSELF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, 400 rocket attacks from Gaza in the past 3 weeks—Israel has made several attempts to defuse the issue and the situation.

This is how Hamas responded: "We will not agree to quiet in exchange for quiet. If Israel does not agree to our demands, I expect we will continue this battle."

Can you imagine that? Demands from Hamas that Israel not respond to rocket attacks. That is the only way you will get quiet for quiet between Israel and Hamas.

Now, we all know where this recent exchange started. On June 12, the abduction and subsequent murder of three Israeli teenagers, suspected by Hamas members, inflamed the situation, and then it was pushed over the edge by a murder of a Palestinian boy by Jewish extremists, Mr. Speaker.

There is a difference between how both sides act. From the Israeli Prime Minister, "I unequivocally condemn the murder of a Palestinian youth in Jerusalem. Murder, riots, incitement, vigilantism—they have no place in our democracy."

Israel quickly tracked down and arrested the teens' suspected murderers—tracked them down and arrested them and is prosecuting them.

What is the response from Hamas? What is the like response? In response, they launched nearly 400 rockets at Israel since June 14. For a month, this has been going on—into their population centers, not into military targets, Mr. Speaker, but population centers.

Now, last week, I attended a briefing with Israeli Ambassador Ron Dermer to discuss the ongoing operation in Gaza, and one of the things I found interesting was all the members that were there from Israel had on their phones an application which sounded an air raid siren every time one sounded in Israel. We could scarcely get through the briefing because they were just continually going off all around the room.

I imagined myself in my hometown, hunkered down in my basement against a rocket attack. No civilization should live this way.

Interestingly enough, we viewed surveillance video of Hamas members using their own people as human shields. The Israelis actually send a warning shot—this is the building we are going to hit, this is where you are making rockets, and we are going to attack it next.

You would think that people would run from the building, knowing it is going to be blown up, but what does Hamas do? They send people, Mr. Speaker, to the building.

I would remind everybody the responsibility for civilian casualties, when those civilians are used as human shields, lies with the party that deliberately places them at risk, namely, Hamas.

Understand, they are placing their launch sites and their factories next to mosques, next to churches, next to hospitals, next to schools. The plan is—their intent is to make sure that, when Israel responds, responds to an attack, that there are maximum casualties of civilians, so that Americans will think that the Israelis are bad, that the narrative is that Israelis are using an unmeasured response—response.

Remember, it is a response, Mr. Speaker. No other country faces daily rocket attacks against its civilians, nor would any, nor should any other nation tolerate such violence, and we strongly condemn the continued rocket fire into Israel and the deliberate targeting, again, Mr. Speaker, of citizens.

Now, this can all end. President Mahmoud Abbas can renounce the Hamas-backed unity government. How are we ever going to get to peace when their unity government is unified with terrorists, Mr. Speaker?

Since the beginning of July, the Palestinian terrorists have fired hundreds of missiles and projectiles at the population centers in Israel and, just recently, rejected the cease-fire negotiated by Egypt.

What is it that they want? Well, we know what they want. They want Israel obliterated from the map, Mr. Speaker.

For our administration, who has at times been with Israel—but not enough times—I would urge them, instead of calling on restraint for Israel, asking Israel to restrain—they are responding, Mr. Speaker, to attacks on their civilian population.

Instead of asking them to restrain, demand the PA denounce, renounce Hamas and start supporting Israel and give them the necessary resources to meet this threat.

CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about children and to talk about children around the world, here at home, and I guess what is most on many Americans' minds because of the visuals that they have seen, unaccompanied children coming into my State, the State of Texas.

I was down at the border some weeks ago, maybe just 2 weeks ago, and I looked at the reality of what many people see on television, and what I looked at was impoverished, frightened children, 12 years and under, children with diapers, children who were frightened and without their parents.

In addition, I saw the lovingness of volunteers from Catholic Charities to save the children, to many residents in the border community reaching out and helping.

Now, we are about to engage in a debate based upon the President's recommendation of what they need to humanely treat these children. Frankly, I

believe that many in America have gotten the wrong information through various excerpts and commentaries that have been made by people who are uninformed.

I am very glad in Houston, on this past weekend, we had over 80 religious leaders from all denominations, communities, people who drove into Houston from counties way beyond Houston, all standing up and acknowledging their commitment to the humane treatment of children. They were from diverse backgrounds. They were ethnically diverse and racially diverse, as I said, religiously diverse.

Ministers like Dr. Terrance Grant Malone and Dr. Freddie Haynes, Dr. John Ogletree, Dr. D.Z. Cofield, pastors from Faith Temple, I believe, in Polk County—if I have it correct—and individuals from the United Methodist Church, Catholic Charities, Episcopal Church, people who are in the midst of Ramadan from the Islamic Muslim faith, all ready to help these children—that is the America that all of us know.

That is the America that the Statue of Liberty stands in the harbor of New York and has said, over the years, to bring me your forlorn.

That is the same America who can stand alongside of Jordan, who is taking thousands and thousands of Syrians; or Turkey, that is taking thousands upon thousands of Syrians—not the America who listens to the fears and wrong information about disease.

These children are medically checked, but if you will check the documents, you will find that, in spite of the poverty, El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala immunizes at least 90 to 95 percent of their children; but yet we doublecheck, and we immunize again.

So I think it is important to understand that this law that has, in actuality, been at the center point of my friends on the other side of the aisle wanting to change, with the introduction now of the humane law, is a law that should stay in place and that we should give children of any country, contiguous or noncontiguous, at least due process rights because these are children who in actuality have fled violence or human trafficking or sex trafficking and they are sometimes unable to articulate that in a short period of time.

They need counsel, and they need courts that understand. To rush through the decision, to have a court make a decision in 72 hours is absolutely absurd and impossible.

To only increase immigration judges by 40, I have introduced H.R. 4940 that increases immigration judges by 70. At this point, immigration judges have 1,660 per court versus a district court that has less than 500 cases, and they are overwhelmed. There is no way that you can process these children presently, and the expedited proceedings are not going to work.

Where is our claim to due process for these children? I look forward to work-

ing deliberatively, having these children in the process that they are in. By the way, they are in a deportation process. They are not just here to stay.

Putting them in a humane condition, debunking the myth of disease, and having these children go and find that these children will appear in court by having lawyers and enforcing the border with the border security bill, H.R. 1417, that this House and this House leadership refuses to put on the floor of the House, which passed over almost 2 years ago.

If you want border security, pass the border security bill that we have written.

Finally, Mr. Speaker I want to care about American children. The violence must stop. I want to work with those who are being shot by guns across America. Let's stop the gun violence.

We need a Marshall Plan for the children who are being shot by guns in our country. Care for children all over the world.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 42 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Steve Walker, Fairview Village Church, Eagleview, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, I pray for each Member of this body to be mindful of Your will. You have blessed us with great freedoms and given the Members of this House great responsibility. With this responsibility comes even greater challenges.

Therefore, I ask, Lord, bless our Representatives. May every man and woman have the courage to speak their mind, the stamina to stay the course, and the determination to stand their ground, for conviction is not bendable. Progress is not made when men are not bound on principle.

Lord, I ask that this body be not just a group of representatives but, rather, a collection of free men and free women with a desire to guide a free Nation.

May they be strong in faith, abounding in wisdom, and righteous in nature. Lord, grant the home of each Member peace.

I pray in the name of my Lord and Savior Christ Jesus.

Amen.