

Iran, and much of that money has gone directly to Hamas and directly to Hezbollah.

You know, now everyone acknowledges the \$6 billion in ransom money that Joe Biden paid to get five Americans out of Iranian custody. I am glad that now Democrats have joined what I and many others said was a tragic mistake that put a bounty on Americans. It set a price: \$1.2 billion is what the Biden administration will pay you if you kidnap Americans. At the time, I said more Americans will be kidnapped, and Iran will kidnap more Americans. I am very sorry to say that prediction came true in just a matter of weeks.

My Democratic colleagues would not stand with us to cut off that \$6 billion when it was paid initially. Now we have Democrats willing to do so. That is a step in the right direction. But understand the \$6 billion is only the tip of the iceberg. It is only a tiny portion of the money that this administration, the Biden administration, has flooded Iran with.

A few weeks before the \$6 billion deal, Biden made available \$10 billion related to electricity that Iraq bought from Iran, and both of those—the \$16 billion—pales in comparison to the tens of billions of dollars—as much as \$80 billion—that Iran has made from illicit oil sales under Biden. Understand, when Joe Biden came into office, the Iranian regime was on its knees. The economy was in shambles. Why? Because the Ayatollah gets its principal revenue from selling oil.

When Donald Trump was President, I spent much of the Presidency urging President Trump to vigorously enforce the oil sanctions, to cripple their oil sales. Iran had been selling a million barrels a day of oil. President Trump agreed with me and vigorously enforced the sanctions. Those oil sales were crushed, and the Iranian economy collapsed. That is what President Biden inherited—an Iran in shambles economically.

And what did the Biden administration do immediately? It ceased enforcing oil sanctions. It said, in effect: Sell all of the oil you can. And do you know what? The Ayatollah heard him, because, right now, Iran is selling 2 million barrels a day of oil—the same level they were selling before the sanctions ever passed, more than double what they had been selling before the vigorous enforcement of the oil sanctions under President Trump.

Why is it that so many Democratic politicians hate oil and gas production in the United States and are willing to kill jobs here at home, but when it comes to theocratic, homicidal, genocidal maniacs, they are perfectly happy with letting them reap \$80 billion by selling 2 million barrels a day of oil primarily to communist China? That is madness.

So let me say, I am glad the President gives speeches saying: We are standing with Israel. That is great, but

actions speak louder than words. If the President wants to stand with Israel, stand up tomorrow and say: We are vigorously enforcing oil sanctions, and we are going to end these oil sales.

To the Democrats in this body who are giving speeches saying we stand with Israel, great. Then join me in saying: We are going to take away the billions of dollars that are flooding into Iran; that are funding Hamas; that are funding the death squads; that are funding the rockets; that are funding the murders of Israelis.

But it wasn't just money to Iran that went to Hamas. The Biden administration also poured money into Hamas areas directly. As soon as they came into office, the Biden administration began flooding money into the Gaza Strip. At the time, I led a coalition of 19 Senators in urging the Biden administration: Do not send money to Gaza. Why? Because Hamas controls Gaza, and if you send hundreds of millions of dollars to Gaza, Hamas will use it to commit acts of terrorism against Israelis and Americans.

At the same time that 19 of us urged the administration "don't fund Gaza because it will fund Hamas terrorism," 145 House Democrats sent a letter to the Biden administration, saying: Do fund Gaza even though it will fund Hamas terrorism.

And what did the Biden administration do with these dueling letters from Congress? We now know because the internal government documents of the Biden administration are now public; and the Biden Treasury Department determined there was a "high risk" that Hamas would potentially derive benefit from the money they were sending.

Now, ordinarily, that would end the matter because, in their existing U.S. anti-terrorism sanctions, the laws say, if you know there is a high risk it is going to terrorism, you can't send money to do it. Did the Biden administration take that step? No. Instead, they exempted themselves from American laws against funding terrorism. They wanted, as a political matter, to send the cash so much that they were willing to look the other way to, in their own words, the "high risk" that that money would go to Hamas to carry out acts of terrorism.

Here is the full quote from the Biden administration document:

Due to its overall strength and level of control over Gaza, we assess there is a high risk that Hamas could potentially derive indirect, unintentional benefit from U.S. assistance to Gaza.

These atrocities in Israel were the direct result of political decisions made by the White House to dismantle pressure and to pour money into Iran and into territories controlled by Iranian terrorists. When you send billions of dollars to people who hate us and want to murder us, we should not be surprised when they use those billions of dollars to murder us.

Not to support Israel in this time of need—not to support them fully for as

long as it takes—would be a grave moral failure. This fight is civilization against barbarism. It is good versus evil. The differences between the two sides are as stark as light and darkness. The light and goodness, I believe, will prevail if we stand with Israel.

I want to say something also.

In the last 2 weeks, I have spoken with many of my friends, in particular, many of my Jewish friends. It has been astonishing the number of my Jewish friends in Texas and all across America who have family members or who have close friends in Israel. It has been truly breathtaking the number of American Jews I know well who either lost a loved one in these terrorist attacks or who have relatives or close friends who have been called up to the IDF, who are facing the most significant war in Israel in the last 50 years.

I have spent much of the last 2 weeks reaching out to those friends and just telling them: Heidi and I are praying for you. We are lifting you up. We are lifting your family up. We are lifting the people of Israel up, encouraging them. This has been a frightening time for every Israeli and for a great many Americans.

I hope that, in the face of evil, we see the same solidarity we saw in the wake of September 11. Just as the world rallied to our side when radical Islamic terrorists committed a grotesque act of terror against the United States, now is the time for the world to rally to Israel's side, and now is the time for this body to come together.

There have been policy differences in the past, with some Members of this body and leaders of this administration believing that it is a good idea to send tens or even hundreds of billions of dollars to Iran. That policy has been proven catastrophically wrong.

So I hope that we come together and that we stand as one, united, to tell the people of Israel: America stands with Israel for as long as it takes.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions submitted earlier today: S. Res. 414, S. Res. 415, and S. Res. 416.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, in two criminal cases pending in Federal district court in the District of Columbia and arising out of the events of

January 6, 2021, the prosecution has requested testimony from a Senate witness.

In these cases, brought against Ryan Samsel and John Earle Sullivan, respectively, trials are expected to commence in late October, and the prosecution has requested testimony from Daniel Schwager, formerly counsel to the Secretary of the Senate, concerning his knowledge and observations of the process and constitutional and legal bases for Congress's counting of the electoral college votes. Senate Secretary Berry would like to cooperate with these requests by providing relevant testimony in these trials from Mr. Schwager.

In keeping with the rules and practices of the Senate, these resolutions would authorize the production of relevant testimony from Mr. Schwager, with representation by the Senate legal counsel.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions (S. Res. 414, S. Res. 415, and S. Res. 416) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

## MORNING BUSINESS

### S. 3041

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, on October 17, 2023, in a speech offered by Mr. COTTON on the Senate floor, Mr. COTTON erroneously indicated that I was not a cosponsor to S. 3041, a bill to reinstate certain sanctions imposed with respect to Iran. Prior to Mr. COTTON's speech on October 17, 2023, I requested to be added as a cosponsor to S. 3041 and was added on that same day. Please let the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect this.

## REMEMBERING JOYCE LEVITON

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, next week, on October 24, family and friends will gather to celebrate the life of Joyce Leviton, a beloved member of my staff who passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. I imagine it will be a rather large gathering because Joyce touched so many people. And while we grieve her death, the event will indeed be a celebration of her life, a life she lived brimming with contagious happiness and enthusiasm and kindness.

Joyce was born and raised in Baltimore and graduated from Forest Park High School and Towson University, earning her bachelor's degree in history in 1966. In 1970, she went to work for the Baltimore City Department of

Planning as a community planner for the Third District, a position she held until 1988, when she became chief of community planning. She excelled at her job because she loved it but, more importantly, because she loved people and she loved Baltimore. Joyce had a knack for bringing people together and giving them a voice in their communities and in the city. Everyone was Joyce's neighbor. As I said at the time of her death, "Joyce is Baltimore and she loved our community and wanted it to be the best it could possibly be, and always went the extra mile. When she spoke about Baltimore, it was from the heart. She was a person who made a difference."

I was fortunate to have Joyce work on my Senate campaign in 2006 and then join my staff as a trusted senior adviser and community liaison after the election. Joyce would organize groups of people from Baltimore and across the State and bring them to the Capitol for tours and luncheons and lectures. She met and worked with Maryland's arts and humanities and cultural organizations. She was my ambassador. Everyone I met—from all corners of Maryland, it seemed—already knew Joyce and was so fond of her.

The Baltimore Sun obituary referred to Joyce as a "political junkie." That is an understatement. Joyce started working on campaigns at an early age, and she never stopped. She was deeply involved from the national to the State to the local level. As the Sun noted, Joyce was one of the founders of the Second District New Democratic Club in the early 1970s "one of the first political groups that joined Black and white residents from across the city and resulted in integrated and progressive tickets for city and state elections."

Joyce was never content to rest on her laurels—or even rest at all. She was a member of the steering committee for the Baltimore City Fair and National Advisory Council of Neighborhood Reinvestment; a board member and vice president of the Citizens Planning and Housing Association; a founder of Women Employed in Baltimore and Live Baltimore, an organization that encouraged people to move to Baltimore; a member of the National Organization for Women; executive secretary of Young Democrats of Baltimore; and an active member of Beth Am Synagogue. She formed or joined book clubs, and she loved to attend cultural events. Joyce was the epitome of a civic activist and absolutely committed to social justice, what we members of the Jewish faith call "Tzedakah"—making the world a fair and more just place—and "Tikkun Olam"—repairing the world. We are closer to that ideal because of Joyce.

Another one of Joyce's lifelong passions was the Baltimore Orioles. She moved to Otterbein in 1981. When Oriole Park at Camden Yards opened in 1992, she could walk to the stadium to

attend games, which she did—often. She was no casual fan. The regular season wasn't enough for Joyce; she enjoyed going to Sarasota to watch the team during spring training.

Joyce loved people, but she especially loved her family: her sisters Susan and Audrey and their husbands Jeffrey Lauren and Peter Martin. She doted on her nephews and nieces and their spouses, Jake (Stephanie Martin), Liz (Shai Lauros), and Josh (Taieri McKenzie) and their children: Max, Lucy, and Emma Martin; Reuben and Micah Lauros; and Lola Lauren. Extended family includes her cousin Neil Tucker, who was more like a brother to her, his wife Laura, and their children Michael, Molly, and Will. She loved to spend weekends and vacations with her family in Rehoboth Beach, Maine, and Vermont.

Everyone who knew Joyce will miss her, but we are all so grateful for the opportunity we had to share her friendship and love. And we are all so grateful for the indelible mark she made on Baltimore and across Maryland.

The Baltimore Sun had a lovely obituary, and I would ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Baltimore Sun, Jul. 27, 2023]

JOYCE E. LEVITON, FORMER BALTIMORE COMMUNITY PLANNING CHIEF, ACTIVIST AND CIVIC BOOSTER, DIES

(By Frederick N. Rasmussen)

Joyce E. Leviton, a political activist and civic booster who was chief of community planning for the Baltimore Department of Planning and later became a member of Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin's staff, died of cancer July 19 at Gilchrist Center in Towson. The longtime Otterbein resident was 78.

"Joyce is Baltimore and she loved our community and wanted it to be the best it could possibly be, and always went the extra mile," Sen. Cardin said. "When she spoke about Baltimore, it was from the heart. She was a person who made a difference. She touched so many lives in a genuine and special way."

Former City Council President Mary Pat Clarke said: "She meant the world to me and was the center of life itself and in all of its dimensions. The loss of Joyce is the loss of the center of life that no one can replace. Everywhere and everyone, she loved all comers."

"Joyce was ebullient, colorful, kind, a great listener and dedicated to public service," said Phoebe Stein, director of the Federation of State Humanities Councils and former executive director of Maryland Humanities, who was a longtime friend.

"She was very vibrant and curious about the world and took joy in her work and connecting with people. She lived life to the fullest, her family was her joy, and she was interested in everything that was going on in Maryland and particularly Baltimore."

Joyce Ellen Leviton, daughter of Max Leviton, a bacteriologist and manager at the Joseph E. Seagram and Sons Inc. distillery in Relay, and Goldie Bernstein Leviton, an administrative assistant for the state Department of Human Resources, was born in Baltimore and raised in Pimlico neighborhood.