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The Honorable Mark Kelly
United States Senator, Arizona
Democratic National Convention
Thursday, August 22, 2024
Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

President Obama had to follow Michelle. I had to follow Gabby and Pink.

Gabby amazes me every single day. She was able to walk out and address you tonight because she's a fighter—and thanks to a team of doctors, nurses, and especially her speech therapist.

We all need a team. I've flown into space four times. I've flown into combat nearly forty times. Not once did I do that by myself. It took a team to accomplish a mission. It always does.

I flew in the Navy during the first Gulf War. America rallied our allies to kick out a tyrant who invaded a neighbor. Today, Vladimir Putin is testing whether we're still that strong. Iran, North Korea, and especially China—watch closely. What's Trump's answer? He invited Russia to do, in his words, "Whatever the hell they want."

Vice President Harris has always championed America's support for NATO, Ukraine, and her people. On the Senate Intelligence Committee, she investigated Russian interference in our election. She defends free and fair elections everywhere. You already know how Trump feels about those.

As president, Trump skipped his intelligence briefings. He was too busy sucking up to dictators and dreaming of becoming one himself. Trump thinks Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice are "suckers" and "losers." If we fall for it again and make him commander in chief, the only suckers would be us.

Kamala Harris knows that standing with our allies means standing up for Americans. She'll keep modernizing our military to support our troops—and our veterans like our next vice president, Tim Walz.

The world laughs at Trump. Literally. But, it's not funny. When he was president, that meant the world was laughing at us. The threats we face are too serious. The sacrifices our service members make are too sacred. The alliances we've spent decades building are too critical. That's what's at stake now. The choice isn't even close.

But, in Arizona and nationwide, this election will be. We'll win it the same way we launch rockets and land fighter jets: as one team on one mission. State by state, voter by voter, coming together. No country is better than ours at solving big problems. On November 5th, let's prove that America is still the leader the world needs—by electing the leader we need right now: Kamala Harris.

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