

“Medicare,” “SNAP,” or “Social Security” in this document that passed last night.

Any claim to the contrary is actually fear-mongering, plain and simple, or I guess in my neighborhood it would be known as a lie that is being perpetuated to put fear in people and to drive anger at the majority party and have unruly townhalls because people are being fed lies.

It needs to come to a stop. We need to have an honest debate, an honest conversation, around here about how we are going to get our government back on a track that doesn't lead us to endless, massive deficits in our budget each year. We are still on track for \$2 trillion, upside down, following COVID spending.

COVID is over with. We need to get back to at least pre-COVID levels of spending with an opportunity to actually balance our budget, where it might be only \$700 billion, \$800 billion, or \$900 billion upside down.

The only way we are going to take a bite out of the national debt is to actually bring the lines together and have our budget balanced. We can do that with limited spending and a strong economy. My understanding from years ago is that if the growth of spending was only 1 percent, these two lines would meet.

We need to have a little bit of discipline around here. That is what was being sought in the budget resolution.

This budget resolution is not the final say. It actually is a roadmap for moving forward on the fiscal year '25 budget. It does not make final spending decisions. Those are still to be debated and heard in committee on TV in front of the people on C-SPAN and in the committee process that folks can attend.

It includes instructions for committees to review and adjust spending and revenue priorities, but it does not dictate specific program cuts, unlike the lies that are being spread all over in this Chamber, in committees, and in the media.

Reconciliation is indeed a standard budget process that will be taken up. The resolution instructs 11 committees to find ways to either reduce wasteful spending or invest in key priorities.

These committees have until March 27 to develop their proposals, so nothing is set in stone yet. No lies are needed. This is how budgeting has always worked. Democrats know that. Republicans know it. Unfortunately, on the other side of the aisle, they would rather scare people than be honest about this process, and indeed, honesty is very much needed in order to get a harness back on the profligate spending that has happened in this place over the last few years.

We need to have honest conversations about these programs. My good colleague, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT), speaks about this frequently. Social Security will be on the rocks by 2031, 2032, 2033, when that

trust fund actually goes empty. Are we going to do something about it, or are we going to have lies and distortions about what is actually happening with that? Do we want to fix it as much as we can ahead of time while we still have some runway to do so, or do we want to just have lies about this and not try to do anything about it?

I think we were instructed by the voters to do something about it and try to have these programs be salvaged so they aren't on the rocks in just 5, 6, or 7 years.

We need to have the allocations of taxpayer dollars that come from the hardworking taxpayers. Frequently these are called “contributions.” These are not contributions. They are compelled. Otherwise, people come take your stuff, and maybe you go to jail.

These tax dollars need to be respected as the work of the people. When we make these allocations, whether it is for national defense, border security, or tax relief for hardworking Americans, let's be honest about it and get it done.

This legislation is indeed focused on that and is an ongoing effort with budget reconciliation and the work of DOGE. We are hearing all this bad stuff about DOGE. It has had a few fits and starts, but doggone it, it is getting to the bottom of a lot of wasteful spending.

Each time they flip over the rocks, more cockroaches run out, and we find more things with bad contracts or spending that is not even a priority that any normal American can even think up.

In my home State of California, they are still seeking more money for that high-speed rail system that started out in 2008 for a price of \$33 billion. The price has quadrupled now to \$130 billion. Is that a bargain for Americans? Is that a bargain for Californians?

They have already tapped all the money they can at the local level, \$9 billion of State money and about \$3.5 billion of that ARRA money. Remember that shovel-ready so-called stimulus money back in 2009? They already tapped that.

They have what is called the cap-and-trade tax in California, which raises about a billion dollars per year. It is like a new currency now. It taps into the producers of carbon dioxide in the State and makes them pay a ransom to continue to produce whatever manufacturing they do.

This budget resolution is a good start, but it is not the final document. We will be working on that in the light of day in front of the people.

RECOGNIZING RESILIENCE, RESISTANCE, AND RELENTLESS STRUGGLE, LESSONS OF BLACK HISTORY

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

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Black History Month.

Black History Month means a lot to me, and it means a lot to my constituents in northeast Ohio.

Just in the last few days, we have been reminded of how the past and present are connected. Last week, in Cleveland, we celebrated the 90th birthday of the Reverend Dr. Otis Moss, Jr., and his wife, Edwina Moss, two local civil rights icons who have fought for justice, fairness, and opportunity for Black people in Cleveland for decades.

Sunday was also the 100th birthday of Congressman Louis Stokes, the first Black American to represent Ohio in Congress. Congressman Stokes was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and represented northeast Ohio for 30 years. He also established a legacy of leadership that carried on to Stephanie Tubbs Jones and Marcia Fudge. They are three strong Black leaders who represented the district I now represent.

Black History Month isn't just about trailblazers, icons, and famous names. It is also about Black culture, community, and excellence, and the history and experience that binds us all. It is often a time of joy and celebration.

Black History Month feels a little different this year. President Trump and his MAGA allies have frozen funding for programs that address inequality and support equal opportunity, rolled back decades of civil rights and discrimination protections, and tried to erase Black history in our schools. He jumps at every opportunity he gets to attack Black America, using DEI as a racist dog whistle and pushing false and offensive ideas that Black Americans haven't earned or deserved their success.

Let's call this what it is: Trump's re-segregation agenda.

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We know what happens when prejudice prevails. Opportunity is obstructed, and red lines are drawn with Federal funds. We have seen this story before.

Yet despite the dark clouds gathering above 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Black Americans have long battled bigotry, broken barriers, and built a brighter future despite the odds.

The fight is familiar. Black history teaches us the power of resilience, resistance, and relentless struggle. That is what I owe my constituents, and that is what we owe each other.

ELON MUSK MUST JUSTIFY HIS JOB

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, unelected, unaccountable, unvetted, and unconfirmed billionaire, Elon Musk, demanded every Federal worker justify their job. He demanded five reasons they deserve to keep it.

Let's turn that around. Here are five things the world's richest man did just last week:

One, DOGE deleted the five biggest spending cuts it bragged about just last week, because nearly one-half of those savings don't exist. The receipts didn't add up.

Two, more than 20 employees resigned from DOGE, refusing to “jeopardize Americans’ sensitive data, or dismantle critical public services.”

Three, one of Musk’s companies secured a lucrative FAA contract, laying bare his blatant conflicts of interest. Somehow, I doubt that one will be canceled.

Number four, he fired 6,000 veterans serving the American people.

Why? Apparently, it is because a disabled vet’s salary is wasteful, but \$4.5 trillion in billionaire tax breaks are necessary.

Five, he axed bird flu experts, nuclear safety officers, and IRS workers, right in the middle of tax season.

So before Elon Musk demands five justifications from a VA nurse in Cleveland, maybe he should justify his own job. Instead of asking nurses, firefighters, air traffic controllers, and Federal scientists to justify their jobs, let’s ask the billionaire to justify his.

Mr. Speaker, I promise you, the American people won’t need more than five reasons to fire him.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF KURT KREUTZ

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the well-deserved retirement and to honor Kurt Kreutz’s lifetime of service as a law enforcement officer.

Born and raised on the northwest side of Tucson, Kurt’s life had been defined by his dedication to his family, his community, and his decades-long career in law enforcement.

He began his journey in law enforcement at just 19 years old, starting as a community service officer in the Tucson Police Department in 1977. A year later, he became a commissioned officer, launching a distinguished career spanning over 45 years.

He served in various critical roles, including uniform patrol, metro narcotics, undercover, SWAT, and the DEA task force. In 1991, he was promoted to sergeant where he played a pivotal role in the department’s first Bravo unit and the neighborhood crimes detective unit.

After retirement from the Tucson Police Department, Kurt transitioned to working for the Pima County attorney’s office as a law enforcement investigator. His expertise and commitment made a lasting impact, particularly during his 18-year assignment to the juvenile office.

Kurt’s contributions to law enforcement have been recognized with numerous awards, including the 88-CRIME TPD Officer of the Year in 1995. That same year, he was honored as Father of the Year by Tucson Lifestyle Magazine, a testament of his devotion not only to his career but also to his family.

Kurt has been married to his wife, Angie, for 40 years, and together they

have built a loving family, including 3 daughters, 10 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandson.

With a lifetime dedicated to service, leadership, and family, Kurt Kreutz’s legacy stands as a shining example of the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Kurt for all he has done and all he will continue to do for our community. We wish him all the best in his retirement. God bless Kurt Kreutz.

CELEBRATING TUCSON RODEO’S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 100 years of the Tucson Rodeo, a cherished tradition that showcases the rich history and culture of the American West.

Better known as “The Celebration of the Cowboys,” “La Fiesta de los Vaqueros,” this iconic tradition is a testament to our community’s frontier spirit and deep-rooted heritage.

From the heart-pounding bull rides to steer wrestling, barrel racing, and many, many more things, every event showcases the skill, determination, and grit that define this historic rodeo.

Last weekend, the stands were filled with families, fans, and first-time visitors alike, all coming together to celebrate a century of this rich tradition.

Mr. Speaker, whether you come for the thrill of the competition or simply to take part in this iconic event, the Tucson Rodeo has something to offer to everyone.

Here is to another century of keeping the Western spirit alive and thriving.

While we celebrate, let us also recognize and give thanks to the hard-working cowboys and cowgirls, the dedicated organizers as well, and the countless volunteers who make this event possible year after year after year. Their commitment ensures that this tradition can be enjoyed by generations to come.

I grew up enjoying it myself. My kids now enjoy it, and I am hoping that my grandkids also will enjoy it one day. It is an amazing festivity in our district and in our State. I hope it continues for many, many more years.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SAMUEL LEON RADFORD, JR.

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

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Samuel Leon Radford, Jr., whose contributions to our community will be felt for generations to come.

Born in Niagara Falls, New York, and raised in Buffalo, New York, Samuel dedicated his life to service, faith, and family. He attended Bennett High School before continuing his education at the University of Buffalo where he learned a strong sense of discipline and a love of knowledge.

Throughout his successful career at General Motors American Axle and

Manufacturing facility in Buffalo, he took pride in a job well done. Of course, his guiding light was his family, his faith, and his community. He was baptized at Linwood Church of Christ.

Samuel was a man who led by example. He was steadfast in his values, generous in spirit, and had a heart filled with humility and kindness.

On February 16, 2025, Samuel passed away peacefully, leaving behind a legacy of resilience, faith, and love.

A devoted father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Samuel’s greatest legacy is the love he poured into his family, including his wife, Lorraine Davis Radford; his five children, Samuel L. Radford III; Desiree Radford; Tracy Radford; Tana-Nile Coleman; and Shirley Radford. He was immensely blessed with 38 grandchildren and more than 100 great-grandchildren.

His legacy will endure in the hearts of his family and his community, who loved him deeply.

May Samuel’s spirit continue to inspire and uplift all who had the privilege of knowing him, and may Samuel Leon Radford, Jr., rest in peace.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GERALD KAMINSKI, SR.

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Gerald Kaminski, Sr., a dedicated public servant, prominent leader in the business community, beloved family man, and my dear friend.

Jerry was a lifelong Cheektowaga resident and a proud veteran of the National Guard.

In 1971, Jerry founded Kaminski Refrigeration with his beloved wife, Kathy, in Buffalo, New York. In 1990 his son Jerry, Jr., and in 1993 his son Jamie joined the growing business, and it began operating under the name Kaminski & Sons.

Since then Kaminski & Sons has provided high-quality trucking equipment across western New York as a locally owned, family operated business with Jerry at the helm.

In 2011, Jerry chose to run for office and was elected to the Cheektowaga town board where he served for over a decade, most recently as deputy supervisor. He demonstrated that fun and good humor could be paired with a serious focus on delivering for our community. His mentorship of fellow board members, leadership, and commitment to his neighbors made an enduring impact on our community.

Above all else, Jerry was a devoted husband, father, and friend. He celebrated more than 50 years of marriage with his wife, Kathy, and leaves behind his sons, Jerry, Jr., and Jamie; and seven grandchildren, each of whom held a special place in his heart.

His passing is a tremendous loss, but his legacy of service and kindness will live on. My deepest condolences to his family and the Cheektowaga community.

Gerald Kaminski, Sr., rest in peace.