

these things out instead of lying about it?

We are trying to achieve better budgets and get closer to balancing the budget than what we have had the last 4 years. Why don't we be truthful in this process instead of the nonsense?

#### PROVIDING FAIRNESS IN SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. LANDSMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Social Security Fairness Act, which we passed a few months ago, is now in effect, and 3.2 million Americans will see a big increase in their monthly Social Security checks.

We are talking about retired public schoolteachers, retired police officers, retired firefighters, and retired letter carriers. They paid into Social Security for years but weren't getting their full benefits. They were missing out on hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars a month.

The bill was introduced in every Congress for the last 25 years. It had the most bipartisan support of any bill in the last Congress.

We had to force a vote on the bill with a discharge petition, and within 2 days, we got 218 signatures. We fought very hard to get this done, and now, our public retirees will finally start to see the benefits they were owed each month.

We could not have done this without the advocacy of thousands of public servants and retirees. I hope it can help restore some faith in our government that this institution does still get things done.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Ms. Deirdre Kelly, one of his secretaries.

#### HONORING CHARLES "CHUCK" HAEFLINGER

(Mrs. KIM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles "Chuck" Haefflinger of Chino Hills, who passed away on February 3 at the age of 77.

Chuck had a distinguished 32-year career in the Army, serving as a helicopter pilot in the Vietnam war and retiring as a lieutenant colonel. He earned a Bronze Star and five Meritorious Service Medals.

Chuck's service to our Chino Hills community continued after his retirement. He helped fellow veterans transition back to civilian life, became a mentor emeritus for the Reaching New Heights Foundation, and was an active

member of the Chino Hills 55 Plus Club Veterans Group, playing a key role in raising funds for the military service monument at the community center. He was also a valued member of my Veterans Advisory Group.

I thank Chuck for his contributions to our community and extend my heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

#### DISMANTLING SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, in January, a largely unknown midlevel career employee at the Social Security Administration, Leland Dudek, was caught sharing unauthorized data with Elon Musk's team at DOGE. Senior officials were so alarmed they put him on leave and launched an investigation. He may have violated privacy and tax laws.

Here is the stuff you can't make up. President Trump just promoted him to be the Acting Commissioner of Social Security.

DOGE, which I think stands for destruction of government by Elon, is reportedly demanding plans to gut the Social Security Administration, firing up to 50 percent of workers and closing field offices across the country, potentially including one in my district.

This isn't about efficiency. It is a back-door attack on Social Security itself. If they succeed, tens of millions of Americans will face delays, disruptions, and denials of benefits they have earned.

This is nothing more than an attempt to dismantle Social Security from the inside. We cannot allow it. We need answers. We need oversight. We need to stop this now.

□ 1045

#### RECOGNIZING HUNTER THOMAS

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic actions of Deputy Hunter Thomas of the Ware County Sheriff's Office, who recently saved a life through his quick thinking and decisive actions.

On January 29, Deputy Thomas responded to a severe accident on U.S. 1/Georgia 4 near mile marker 8. A semitruck had collided with a Ford F-150, leaving several people injured.

Upon his arrival, Deputy Thomas found the semitruck driver severely wounded, suffering from a deep bleeding cut on his elbow. Without hesitation, he used his training and experience to apply a tourniquet, effectively stopping the excessive blood loss. His immediate response undoubtedly saved the driver's life.

Deputy Thomas' professionalism, dedication, and courage exemplify the

best of law enforcement. His actions not only protected a life that day but also set a standard of excellence for his department and colleagues.

He was rightfully honored with the lifesaving ribbon commendation bar by Sheriff Carl James. We are beyond grateful for his bravery and service to the Ware County community.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RENE LICHTMAN

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend, Rene Lichtman, a Holocaust survivor and activist in our community who was deeply committed to justice in southeastern Michigan and around the world. He was my adopted "amo," "uncle."

Rene, who passed away at 87 years old, dedicated his life to teaching others about the Holocaust, ensuring that stories of survivors would never be forgotten. He worked so hard to live by the mission of Never Again to anyone.

Through his art, film, and photography, he captured the resilience of the human spirit, and through his activism, he fought for social justice and an end to human suffering.

At the age of 63, Rene got his Ph.D. in instructional technology and spent two decades working at a hospital in our community.

Even in the end of his life, Rene was painting, organizing with Jewish forces for peace in Detroit, and standing up for Palestinian human rights.

Rene's impact and legacy will live through his work and the countless lives he touched. May his memory and work live forever.

I will miss you, Rene. I love you.

#### HONORING GREGORY E. WALZ

(Mr. LAWLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Sergeant Gregory E. Walz of the Town of Pound Ridge Police Department.

Greg dedicated his life to serving others. Before his career in law enforcement, he worked as an EMT and paramedic, providing lifesaving care across Westchester County.

In 2008, he joined the Pound Ridge Police Department, where his skill, dedication, and leadership left a lasting impact.

Throughout his career, Greg was a mentor, protector, and friend to so many. His expertise saved lives, and his commitment to public safety earned him the respect of his fellow officers and the community he served.

As a police officer, Greg was honored with the Top Cop award by Westchester County for his outstanding efforts in