

In her own words, she said, “We worked hard. We worked Saturdays. We worked afternoons and evenings until we got it right.”

The rest is history. Now, Ms. JOHNSON’s name is enshrined in the Apollo Saturn V Roll of Honor at the Smithsonian and Library of Congress.

I could not have been prouder to have someone like Ms. JOHNSON from the First Congressional District of Georgia contributing to this engineering marvel that changed world history.

RECOGNIZING BLACKSHEAR TIMES’ ROBERT AND CHERYL WILLIAMS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Cheryl Williams, who are retiring after nearly 50 years of running the Blackshear Times in the First Congressional District of Georgia.

The oldest business in the area, the newspaper is 150 years old this year. Under Mr. and Mrs. Williams’ leadership, the Blackshear Times has become one of the top papers in Georgia, receiving over 400 awards. Nearly everyone in Pierce County gets their news from the newspaper, exemplified in the Blackshear Times tag line, “Liked by Many, Cussed by Some, Read by Them All.”

Mr. WILLIAMS edited and published, his dream job since he was a young child. Mrs. Williams continually kept the paper’s financials in check.

“To be a good paper, first, you have to be a good business,” Mr. WILLIAMS said in praise of his wife’s work.

I am proud to have the Blackshear Times in my district, and I am thankful that Mr. and Mrs. Williams dedicated 50 years to the paper and keeping the Blackshear community informed.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Williams on their retirement. They both will be missed.

RECOGNIZING HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR SAM WEINREICH

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Sam Weinreich, who is celebrating not only his 100th birthday in August but also his 73rd wedding anniversary with his wife, Frieda.

Referred to as Zadie, from Yiddish, Mr. Weinreich is a Holocaust survivor who spent time in both the Auschwitz and Dachau concentration camps. He was the only survivor from his family, which included nine of his siblings. His hometown, Lodz, Poland, once contained over 200,000 Jews and the second largest Jewish community in Europe.

After the Nazi occupation ended, Mr. Weinreich was one of only 6,000 to survive. Mr. Weinreich survived in part because he was a Jewish doctor and received more privileges than other prisoners, but he also had a beautiful voice and would sing songs in front of the guards for food.

Now living in Memphis, Tennessee, Mr. Weinreich has dedicated his life to sharing his story and ensuring that a tragedy of this magnitude will never happen again.

Mr. Speaker, happy birthday and anniversary, Zadie.

CONGRESSIONAL INTERNS SHARE CONCERN ABOUT NATIONAL DEBT

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, President Herbert Hoover once stated, “Blessed are the young, for they will inherit the national debt.”

Four young interns in my office—Nathan Olsen, Jill Oxley, Austin Snell, and Tyler Wiley—recently shared their concerns about the debt burden they will inherit from debt-addicted Washington politicians. These remarks reflect their concerns.

Ironically, their concerns coincide with a massive \$2 trillion deficit bill Congress will soon vote on that bequeaths at least \$24 trillion in debt to America’s future generations. Bequeathing this dangerous debt is the greatest disservice ever done by one American generation to another.

My interns itemize three ways in which excessive debt endangers America.

First, excessive government debt and borrowing compete with and crowd out private borrower investment opportunities by decreasing available credit, thereby costing American jobs and better incomes. According to the Congressional Budget Office, when the government borrows, it borrows from people in businesses, which limits American business and citizen opportunity, which, in turn, drives them to be less productive, cuts their compensation, and makes them less inclined to work. In sum, excessive government debt stunts future growth and hurts the American economy and people.

Second, excessive debt hurts Congress’ ability to respond to challenges and emergencies. The Peter G. Peterson Foundation warns that high levels of debt reduce our government’s flexibility concerning “future emergencies, unanticipated challenges, wars, or recessions.”

The Peterson Foundation adds that one reason “the United States was able to recover from the Great Recession more quickly than other countries was because our debt was fairly low, at 35 percent of GDP.”

As recent history proves, America can better respond to a financial crisis if we are not drowning in excessive debt. Unfortunately, by year’s end, America’s debt will explode to roughly 78 percent of GDP, more than double that of a mere decade ago. That trend is dangerous.

Third, as America’s debt becomes more unmanageable, our creditors become increasingly concerned about government default and national bankruptcy and insolvency. The Congressional Budget Office warns that with the debt-to-GDP ratio projected to grow to “unprecedented levels, it is in-

creasingly likely that . . . investors will become concerned about the risk of default.”

America has clearly entered dangerous, uncharted financial waters. The greater the debt, the greater the risk.

How do we safely navigate these dangerous waters? Washington must learn from history and heed the advice of President John F. Kennedy, who said we do not choose to cut spending because it is easy, but because it is hard. Unfortunately, today’s Washington politicians reject President Kennedy’s wisdom because they are as hopelessly addicted to debt as a junkie is to heroin.

As a result, America faces a mountainous \$22 trillion debt and a bipartisan debt agreement that adds yet another \$2 trillion in debt in just 2 years.

If America is to soar to new heights rather than crash and burn on a mountain of debt, Washington politicians must act like adults. Our choice is clear.

Washington can rack up obscene deficits, accumulated debt, and pay hundreds of billions of dollars each year in debt service costs, with the ultimate catastrophe being debilitating national insolvency and bankruptcy. Or Washington can protect America’s future, stop unnecessary spending, and bequeath future generations economic freedom and prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, I choose the path of economic freedom and prosperity for future American generations. That is why I vote against so many unnecessary and excessive spending bills that we don’t have the money to pay for. And that is why I will vote against the proposed spending deal that creates a short-term debt junkie high while badly risking America’s future and health.

HONORING WAR HERO TOM “PINKY” FUNDERBURK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a man who is part of the Greatest Generation, Tom “Pinky” Funderburk of Rock Hill, South Carolina.

Mr. Funderburk has been awarded the French Legion of Honor. Pinky flew B-17 bombers, known as the Flying Fortress, with the Mighty 8th United States Air Force during World War II.

The Legion of Honor was established by Napoleon in 1802 as the highest French order of merit for military and civil merits.

The first dangerous missions for which Pinky was awarded the Legion of Honor took place on the 14th, 15th, and 16th of April 1945 over Royan, France. His crew’s mission was to bomb the 30,000 encamped German troops concentrated around Royan on the coast of France.

One day, they approached their target from an altitude of 25,000 feet and noticed an absence of antiaircraft activity in the skies, so they dropped down to 17,000 feet. The formation circled three times to drop their bombs more accurately when a small flare used to follow bombs to their targets ignited in their bomb bay, filling the aircraft with thick, sooty smoke that covered all the windows.

Fearing they were hit by ground fire, the crew grabbed their parachutes and prepared to abandon their plane over enemy territory. Before jumping out, the crew made one last check to see if the pilots were able to make it out safely. They yelled through the intercom to see if they were coming but received no reply. Just as they were ready to bail out, copilot Funderburk yelled out, "Wait."

The smoke was so thick that the pilots were worried about crashing into the other planes in the formation and were too busy flying the plane and clearing the smoke to worry about bailing out. The pilots were able to clear the smoke and fly the airplane and crew safely back to their home base.

The final mission took Pinky deep into enemy territory into Horschung, Austria, where French prisoners of war had recently been liberated from a POW camp. Pinky's crew reconfigured their B-17 bomber to carry 31 prisoners of war back to Paris and their homeland.

Mr. Speaker, for these heroic duties and his selfless service, Pinky Funderburk honors all South Carolinians, and I am proud to recognize him today for receiving the prestigious French Legion of Honor.

CAHOKIA MOUNDS

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, southern Illinois is home to one of America's great civilizations in history, many years before this was the United States of America. Its center was at Cahokia, and it was once the largest civilization in today's United States. By 1200 A.D., the community numbered 10,000 to 20,000 strong.

What remains today are the Cahokia Mounds, a 2,200-acre site with more than 70 earth mounds, upon which many of their buildings once stood. This treasure is visited by schools, families, and history buffs, everyone who wants to see this wonderful part of history. It is a critical part of history.

That is why I introduced a bill to make Cahokia Mounds a national park. My bill would help preserve this amazing piece of history for generations to come.

I thank Congressmen CLAY, SHIMKUS, and DAVIS for cosponsoring this bill. This legislation preserves the mounds in their districts, as well.

I also thank the State and local leaders who support our efforts in Illinois,

and I thank the HeartLands Conservancy for its hard work and for being guardians of our history.

I thank my staff for working so hard with other issues that are going on but understanding how important this issue is to future generations, to the opportunity for our children and grandchildren to understand the history of this area in the world. I am proud to be part of these efforts to preserve our past well into the future.

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 11 o'clock and 13 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LANGEVIN) at noon.

PRAYER

Rabbi Mark Getman, Temple Emanu-El of Canarsie, Brooklyn, New York, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly One, our protector and redeemer, guardian of life and liberty, we ask for Your continued blessings as we open this session of the House of Representatives.

May our Nation and its leaders be blessed with Your protection as they continue their work for their constituents across these United States.

God, continue to send Your light to all elected officials across this land, guiding them with Your good counsel and providing them with wisdom and forbearance.

May our Nation and its citizens always work towards world peace and harmony as part and party representing this great Nation.

God of peace and prosperity, bless this House of Representatives and all those who lead, serve, and defend our Nation as they continue to serve with honor, and remember those who have died in defense of our ideals and values.

May the One who makes peace in the universe make peace for all of us, for all the United States, for all the world.

God bless America.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DUNN)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DUNN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING RABBI MARK GETMAN

(Miss RICE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Rabbi Mark Getman of Temple Emanu-El of Canarsie, Brooklyn, and thank him for leading us in prayer this morning on the House floor.

I was proud to invite Rabbi Getman to give the opening prayer today, and I am even more proud to call him a constituent of New York's Fourth Congressional District.

Rabbi Getman is a military veteran, a cancer survivor, a community leader, and a man of deep faith. He embodies the strength, leadership, and patriotism that we look for in every American.

I can't express how grateful I am to Rabbi Getman for making the trip down to Washington today to represent our community and to deliver a message of harmony and compassion. I believe that is a message that our country needs to hear, perhaps now more than ever.

Rabbi Getman graciously reminded us today that we are a country united under God, in our pursuit of prosperity and peace for all people, and he reminded us that this shared purpose is more powerful, more important than any political division we may have, and I couldn't agree more.

As a member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am beyond appreciative that Rabbi Getman paid such a touching tribute to the brave men and women who wear our uniform today and to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our great Nation. As a veteran himself, I know that Rabbi Getman understands that sacrifice better than most.

I want to thank Rabbi Getman once more for his service to our community and to our country and, above all, for taking the time to be here with us today and delivering a much-needed message of unity.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ANNIVERSARY OF DEATHS OF CAPITOL POLICE OFFICERS JACOB CHESTNUT AND JOHN GIBSON

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1