

than anyone I have ever known. I pray that we will all take up the mantle and leave our communities a little better than we found them.

ENHANCING SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I am here this morning to talk about Social Security. I start with commanding Chairman NEAL of the Ways and Means Committee, and especially for his formation of the Racial Equity Committee that was headed up by one of the previous speakers, TERRI SEWELL, and STEVEN HORSFORD, and JIMMY GOMEZ.

Our great colleague, John Lewis, said that Social Security would be the next civil rights movement. John had probably no idea about what the pandemic would bring. What the pandemic has done has underscored the plight and the need of all of our fellow Americans.

What I mean by that is this: This pandemic has hit the country hard. It is turning everybody's lives upside down. There are close to a million people in our country that have perished during this pandemic because of COVID-19; but 740,000 plus are over the age of 65.

In that same group over the age of 65 are, of course, the recipients of Social Security. Those recipients also are the people who are on a fixed income. People on a fixed income are hurt the hardest by the inflationary times that we are in.

That is why we have proposed Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust, that is currently in the process of being marked up in the Ways and Means Committee. It is being marked up so that we can address what Martin Luther King best described as the fierce urgency of now.

What is that fierce urgency? For every Member of this body to go home and look at your brothers and sisters, their coworkers, the people you go to church and worship with, and understand that it has been more than 50 years since Congress enhanced any benefit in Social Security.

A gallon of milk was 71 cents back in 1971. Look at the cost of milk. Look at the cost of gas. Look at the cost of heating and cooling your home. Look at the cost of groceries and prescription drugs.

And for Congress to be negligent and not address this issue—this is not something, Madam Speaker, that can be done through executive order, nor is the Supreme Court going to adjudicate. This is the direct responsibility of the United States Congress, and the last time it did something was in 1983. Ronald Reagan was the President. Bob Dole was the Senate leader, and Tip O'Neill, the Speaker. They made the program more solvent then, but they did it by cutting benefits; the last of

which just went into effect this January, with raising the age to 67.

Now, it sounds good when you say, well, people are living longer so we have got to raise the age. But consider the logic: If you are living longer, how is it that you can sustain a cut in Social Security?

It hasn't been enhanced in more than 51 years. It is Congress' responsibility. Ten thousand baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security. It affects our rural communities more than it affects our urban communities. And in doing so, who has it impacted? Close to 5 million of our fellow Americans who get below-poverty-level checks from the Federal Government at a time we are passing out tax cuts to the wealthiest 1 percent in this country.

If, indeed, Black lives matter and is more than just a slogan, we will be voting on this issue on this floor to send a message to the more than 65 million Social Security recipients that help is on the way. No one will ever work all their lives and then retire into poverty because we are going to create a new floor that will be 125 percent of what the poverty level is.

Madam Speaker, I urge the body to take a look at Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust. This is bipartisan. If you look at the data, 80 percent of Democrats, 75 percent of Independents, 69 percent of Republicans agree that these benefits need to be enhanced. It is a commonsense, practical way in this pandemic to both deal with inflation and give long-overdue relief to our senior citizens.

Social Security is the number one anti-poverty program for the elderly. It is the number one anti-poverty program for children. Our veterans utilize Social Security disability more than the VA.

It is long overdue for this body to do one simple requirement that we all take an oath of office for, and that is to vote, and vote on increasing and enhancing Social Security and its benefits, something that hasn't been done in this body for more than 50 years.

1030

PENNNSRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL WOMEN'S VARSITY SOCCER CHAMPIONS

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous accomplishment of the 2020 Pennridge High School women's varsity soccer team.

At a time when our schools were just reopening, the Pennridge women's soccer team seized the moment and went on to win their first PIAA Class 4A title on November 21, 2020.

This victory was years in the making, following a 2018 overtime loss in the final tournament game. Thanks to

the visionary leadership of Coach Audrey Anderson, the Pennridge women's varsity team pushed past the adversity and clinched the championship win.

With both teams battling through a contentious 80 minutes of regulation and 27 minutes of overtime, freshman forward Tori Angelo chipped a pass over to junior Leah Malone to score the game-winner with just a few minutes remaining.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize these champions today for their leadership and their outstanding efforts in their 2020 season, and I formally enter their names in the RECORD:

Head Coach Audrey Anderson, Assistant Coach Jason Lollar, Assistant Coach Erin Stevenson, captain Lindsey DeHaven, captain Leah Malone, captain Maddie Angelo, captain Emily Kriney, Sierra Shaeffer, Cady McKean, Anna Croyle, Zoe Sabol, Liv Grenda, Riley Hepler, Tori Angelo, Kera Dam, Casey Malone, Brielle Tasher, Jess Levush, Joey Tomlinson, Lauren Atchley, Lavi Baldovin, Lindsey Balmer, Raina Adelman, Sophie Craig, Aubrey Long, Avery Drumbore, Danae Luecke, Lauren Moylan, Maggie Hayes, Ryan Hodder, Sammi McBride, Sam Kiwak, and Phia Lowery.

Madam Speaker, along with that victory, it is with a heavy heart that I recognize the team's assistant coach who recently passed away, Robert Lee Miller.

Anyone who had the privilege of knowing Robert knows that he could always be found on the soccer field, lending his strengths and gifts to coach dozens of teams and mentor thousands of youth players.

As our Bucks County community mourns his loss and remembers his passion for the game, I would like to offer a moment of silence for Robert Miller.

Madam Speaker, we are incredibly grateful for the inspiration and impacts that the coaches of the entire Pennridge women's soccer team and, of course, the team's parents have had on our community. They are a tremendous asset.

We are very proud of all of them, and I look forward to seeing them all and presenting them with flags individually that were flown over the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE POWELL PANTHERS CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, might I say that is a wonderful outfit you are wearing today.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Powell Panthers football team for winning its first-ever Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association State championship in 2021.

On December 3, 2021, the Panthers defeated the Page High School Patriots

by a final score of 42-34 at Chattanooga's Finley Stadium to win the Class 5A BlueCross Bowl championship. That is the equivalent to our State championship, if anybody is wondering.

This victory was significant for all the players and coaches, including the Panthers' head coach, Matt Lowe. Back in 2011, Coach Lowe was a freshman player on the Powell football team when the Panthers lost in a heartbreaker State championship game to Henry County High School.

A decade later, he led his alma mater to a championship that brought pride to every student at Powell High School and the community.

It was not an easy win for the Panthers. The Patriots were competitive throughout all four quarters, but the Panthers claimed the title when the final whistle sounded.

Winning this championship was the Panthers' goal all season long, and nothing was going to stand in their way. The team kept its eye on the prize and gave it their all to capture its first State championship in the end.

The Powell Panthers worked hard and supported each other the entire season, and it paid off with a State title.

Congratulations to all the players, Head Coach Matt Lowe, the team support staff, and the entire Powell High School community on this great victory.

CELEBRATING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF
ALBERT HARB

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to sing the praises of a man who I feel is probably the greatest legal mind in America. It is my good friend Albert Harb. He has been an attorney in East Tennessee since the 1980s, and Albert will retire from practicing law this spring. I rise to celebrate his distinguished career.

Albert earned both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Tennessee. After working with fellow attorney Joe Yancey for several years, Albert went to work for the firm Hodges, Doughty & Carson in 1984. He has been employed by the firm ever since.

Throughout the years, East Tennessee has sought out Albert's legal expertise in commercial litigation, construction law, product liability, personal injury, domestic litigation, and occasional divorce cases. He also provides legal services for business transactions, corporate law, and wrongful death suits.

Organizations such as the Best Lawyers in America, Best Lawyers Consumer Guide, Who's Who American Law, and Mid-South Super Lawyers have all recognized Albert for his excellent representation in the fields of commercial litigation and personal injury.

In the Knoxville News Sentinel, a noted politician was quoted as saying that he was the best legal mind in America. Additionally, he is consistently recognized by Cityview Magazine

as one of Knoxville's top lawyers for personal injury and construction law.

Outside of practicing law, Albert is engaged with the Knoxville community. When West High School's mock trial team won the Tennessee State championship, Albert mentored the students by serving as their attorney coach.

He also held leadership positions with WDVX, the Peninsula Club, and the Ramallah Club of Knoxville.

Albert and his wonderful wife, Carmen, are parents to Ashley, Nicholas, and Noel, and they have several grandchildren.

Albert, thank you for your dedicated legal representation to East Tennesseans. I wish you the best in your retirement, and congratulations on achieving of counsel status.

RECOGNIZING LUCY AND RAY HAND AS
KNOXVILLIANS OF THE YEAR

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Lucy and Ray Hand, two of my all-time favorite people and two incredibly amazing people who helped me through one of the toughest periods of my life.

They were recently recognized by the Junior Achievement of East Tennessee as Knoxvillians of the Year.

When I was going through a particularly tough time in my life, I had a lot of bad press. On a Tuesday, I always recall, I received a call from Lucy Hand. She said: Kickoff for the UT game is this Saturday at noon. I expect to see you in the skybox with us.

I asked if she had seen what the paper was saying about me, and she said: TIMMY, kickoff is at noon. Don't make me send Raymond after you.

You know it is serious business, Madam Speaker, when Lucy brings up Ray.

So, I went to the game, and the Hands, of course, were gracious hosts to me as they always are. At halftime, I decided to go down to the lower section of Neyland Stadium and check out some renovations that were recently completed and to see General Neyland's statue.

When I got there, I heard the most beautiful noise in the world. It was the sweetest little 4-year-old girl I think I had ever seen. She was wearing some unbelievably cool little red shoes. They were sparkling, and she was spinning around. I can see it in my mind's eye right now.

After I saw her, I looked to my left, and it was the most beautiful woman that I had ever seen. Her name was Kelly, and she would later become my wife, and Isabel would soon become my daughter.

That day changed my life. Lucy and Ray Hand were there for that moment, just like they were there when my parents died, when I married Kelly, and when I adopted my Isabel. They were also here in Washington in 2019 when I was sworn into Congress.

I remember when they were standing in line, and the Capitol policeman asked me if they were my family be-

cause they were escorting family through. I looked at him and said, yes, they are my family. Madam Speaker, they are my family.

I thank them for being my friends, and I thank them for bringing Kelly and Isabel and me together and creating a wonderful family for me.

I congratulate them on winning Knoxvillians of the Year.

RECOGNIZING SEAN HANNITY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, we appreciate your million-dollar smile.

Living legend Sean Hannity of FOX News is now officially the longest running prime-time cable news host in television history, passing the former record of Larry King.

I especially appreciate his professionalism, having myself minored in journalism and being editor of my high school, college, and law school newspapers, and also being an intern reporter for The Post and Courier, the daily paper of Charleston, South Carolina.

He is a champion for freedom, and he cites each day that has passed in honor of the 13 dead Americans in Kabul. He also points out, sadly, the Americans left behind in Afghanistan.

He stands with the heroes of Ukraine fighting war criminal Putin as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy inspires: Live free or die.

As aptly written in an April 21 FOX News story by Brian Flood: "Hannity, who has been with the network since it was launched in 1996, has hosted a prime-time program on FOX News for 25 consecutive years, 6 months, and 15 days.

"Sean's authenticity and insightful commentary have created one of the most enduring connections with our audience, and it has been an honor to watch him over the years. A FOX News original, he has helped innovate the industry, and we are incredibly proud of his extraordinary success," FOX News Media CEO Suzanne Scott said in a statement.

"Hannity's eponymous program has been one of the most-watched cable news programs on a regular basis. 'Hannity' has finished number one in its time slot for 13 consecutive years among both total viewers and the advertiser-coveted demographic of adults age 25 to 54 since launching as a solo hour in January 2009, according to Nielsen Media Research.

"I am extremely grateful to FOX News Media and to our loyal, dedicated viewers, whom I am proud to serve every night," Hannity said.

"Before landing a solo program, Hannity was one half of the popular 'Hannity & Colmes' with the late Alan Colmes.

"Last year, Hannity joined 'FOX & Friends' to discuss the network's 25th