

HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

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

Mr. SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the protection of freedom.

While the circumstances that brought our heroes to combat vary, their sacrifice is the same. They died protecting their fellow soldiers in the foxhole, the skies, and the seas. We can never fully grasp the unique story of each of our fallen, but let us never forget the patriotic lesson that our Nation's bravest remind us.

Among them, we do not pursue freedom in support of the United States, we pursue the United States in support of freedom.

On this Memorial Day as the Nation collectively pauses to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, let us also contemplate what their sacrifice teaches us. The United States and its Constitution are more than a mutually beneficial agreement between the States. The final cause of our union is the universal principle of freedom.

Many of our heroes lost their lives protecting the freedom of their friends, family, and neighbors. Others died in defense of freedom belonging to those they had never met. The sacrifice of our fallen servicemen and -women, including thousands from the Third District of New York, reminds us of this.

Today and every day, Mr. Speaker, let us honor the lives of our fallen military personnel and let their lessons guide our every decision as we move toward a free world. Let that be what we talk about on this Memorial Day.

NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today during National Military Appreciation Month to recognize some of Virginia's many Active-Duty servicemembers, veterans, fallen heroes, and military families.

Earlier this month, I reached out to families across Virginia's Seventh District to gather their stories of service, detailing the courage and the unwavering commitment of Virginians who have answered the call to serve our country.

As the daughter, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter of veterans, I am humbled to read some of the stories I received.

Rick Pullen of Fredericksburg shared the story of his wife, Air Force Colonel Cherie Zadlo, whom he described as the "first woman" in nearly every job she had in her 27-year career. Colonel Zadlo built an airfield, saw missiles come right at her while she was a passenger

in a military cargo plane, and was almost killed by a roadside bomb. A symbol of dedicated service to our country, her maternity uniform is a part of the Women's Military Museum collection.

Marie Atkins from Prince William shared the story of her late husband, Michael Atkins, who joined the U.S. Army when he was 17 years old. He served two tours in Vietnam, joined the Army Reserves, and served in the Gulf war. Upon returning home, Mr. Atkins married Mrs. Atkins, they had two daughters, and he enjoyed spending time with his three grandchildren. Committed to honoring his brothers in arms, he was a member of two motorcycle clubs, Rolling Thunder and Patriot Guard, which escorted fallen servicemembers to burials in military cemeteries. Mr. Atkins is now buried with military honors at Quantico National Cemetery.

Annette Wiahner from Orange shared the story of her late father, U.S. Army Air Corps fighter pilot Walter Kozial. Of her father's service in World War II, she writes: "Few people know that he was among a few brave volunteers to be the first to try shooting projectile rockets off the P-51 Mustang. They were told that it was uncertain when the rockets would detonate and that they could light up while still on the wing. Dad said to himself, 'Well, somebody has got to do it.' He had guts, and he loved his country."

I also heard from Clayton Hill from Stafford who shared the story of his great uncle Wibb Cooper, a U.S. Army veteran and doctor in the Pacific theater during World War II where my own grandfather served.

Mr. Cooper was captured by Japanese forces and survived the horrific Bataan Death March. In Clayton's words: "During that time, he stood up to his captors on behalf of other prisoners. He was decorated for his valor."

Michele from Stafford, who was born and raised in Germany, emigrated to the United States in 1980, and she shares that she always felt that service to country is the responsibility and duty of all citizens. She wrote: "When I joined the Army, it was my way of giving back to a country that was to become my new home." She served for 8 years before transitioning into civilian service working for the U.S. Government, and she retired after 35 years of total service to our country.

Alexa Rice from Prince William wrote to honor many of her loved ones; her husband serving in the U.S. Army currently on Active Duty, as well as her brother who serves in the U.S. Marine Corps. Her husband has been deployed for the past 8 months and Alexa's father served for more than 20 years in the Marine Corps. Her oldest brother served in the Marines, and her grandfather served with both the Marine Corps and the U.S. Navy.

She writes: "It is with such gratitude that these special individuals, not just in my own family, but men and women all over get the recognition and appreciation they surely earn and earned."

Virginians who are serving, have served, or love someone who is serving or has served know the true meaning of sacrifice.

We as Americans owe a debt of gratitude to every servicemember past and present who put on the uniform and defended our Nation. I will continue working in Congress to pass legislation to connect Virginia's veterans and veterans across the country with the benefits and support they deserved and have earned, and I will encourage all Americans to give thanks for the men and women in your life, in our life, in our communities who took up arms. We must all remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our great country.

Mr. Speaker, we as Americans enjoy the promise of freedom because so many brave Virginians answered the call.

WE MUST GET CONTROL OF OUR SPENDING

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

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, we are at a precipice as we face a debt ceiling crisis coming down in a few short days. The President doesn't seem to have a sense of urgency in the negotiations that is required to meet the moment.

Over the past 2 years, costs have gone up over 15 percent. Inflation is eating away at American paychecks. American families are finding it harder to get by. Our Nation's debt now surpasses \$31 trillion, and Washington continues to spend more. It is time to get our spending under control.

This House passed a reasonable, sensible bill to raise the debt ceiling. The Limit, Save, Grow Act moves our debt ceiling up by eliminating the growth of government, saving taxpayers' money, and growing the economy. The plan will claw back unspent COVID funds, making sure we are protecting taxpayers. It calls for able-bodied, childless adults to work a minimum of 20 hours a week in order to receive benefits. Bringing people back into the workforce will actually grow our economy and help address poverty.

We can limit government growth and spending, we can save taxpayers' money, and we can grow the economy all at the same time.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful the President of the United States understands the urgency of the moment and comes together to save taxpayers' money.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO MRS. VERNETTA JORDAN GLASS

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of the United States, and I am pleased to add that she is a member of my family, the Glass family.

Before my mother married my father, her maiden name was Glass. The lady that we celebrate today and acknowledge as she celebrates her 100th birthday is Mrs. Vernetta Jordan Glass.

□ 1130

I am pleased to wish her a happy birthday and to wish all of my Glass relatives well as we celebrate a family reunion in Detroit, Michigan.

Vernetta Jordan Glass was born on May 27, 1923, in the historic town of Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

Mound Bayou traces its origin to the 1820s to a White planter, Joseph Davis, the older brother of Jefferson Davis, who was President of the Confederate States, which left the Union and formed the Confederacy, which led to the Civil War.

After the war, Joseph Davis sold his land to a former slave, Benjamin Montgomery, and it was Isaiah T. Montgomery who led the founding of Mound Bayou in 1887.

Vernetta was born on May 27, 1923, in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, and grew up in this all-Black town. She went to school and church, participated in community activities, and was taught values by her parents that have guided her life to this day.

She married Winston L. Glass, and she and her late husband migrated from Mississippi to Detroit, Michigan, in 1947, where they created for themselves very productive lives and raised seven highly educated and accomplished children.

After retiring from her nursing career, Vernetta increased her volunteer activities at her church, the community center, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall, senior citizens centers, and other community places of interest.

Understanding the value of electoral politics and the civil rights movement, for many years, Vernetta worked as a judge of elections.

She is grandmother to more than 50 grandchildren and great-grandchildren and enjoys visits from friends and family. She also loves music and gardening and is a superb Scrabble player.

As she reaches the ripe age of 100, I am pleased to wish this dynamic lady, who has accomplished so much, a happy birthday. By the way, I am extraordinarily pleased that she is my cousin.

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 31 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Give ear to our prayers, O God. Do not hide Yourself from our supplication, but hear us and answer us, as there is so much this day that troubles us.

We look to one side of the world, and we see the extensive damage visited upon Guam by Typhoon Mawar. Its three-pronged attack of high winds, torrential rains, and life-threatening storm surge have wreaked havoc upon Your people.

Lord, grant them respite from storm and tempest. As they flee the destruction around them and huddle in emergency shelters, grant them Your comfort and hope. Wrap Your hedge of protection around those who bear the responsibility of guiding people to safety, tending to the wounds of the injured, or providing solace to the grieving.

So, too, do we find ourselves praying as we look to the other side of the globe where we are still witnessing the terrible devastation inflicted upon Ukraine at the hands of their aggressors. Their raging assault upon Ukrainian sovereignty, the leveling of whole cities, and the inhumane hostilities against innocents have caused unnecessary death and ruin. God, these, too, are Your children.

Lord, grant them respite from war's storm and tempest. As they continue to flee the destruction around them and huddle in emergency shelters, grant them, too, Your comfort and hope. Wrap Your hedge of protection around those who bear the responsibility of guiding people to safety, tending to the wounds of the injured, and providing solace to the grieving.

From the violence of nature's wrath to the vitriol of war, in the West and the East and around the world, Your people cry to You.

Give ear to our prayers, O God, and do not hide Yourself from our supplication. We trust in the strength of Your name as we call upon You this day.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD)

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

Ms. WILD 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

AMERICAN FAMILIES AT RISK

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the irresponsible policies of Biden have caused the most threatening border crisis in American history.

This illegal alien invasion exposes families to potential terrorists, human trafficking, and dangerous drugs.

Since Biden took office in January 2021, there have been over 5.2 million illegal crossings. Mr. Speaker, 10,300 illegal aliens came over the border on May 9 this year, the highest ever.

Gruesomely, another 1.5 million illegal aliens have crossed without being detained. That includes over 200 on the terrorist watch list, putting every American family everywhere at risk of mass murder.

Drug cartels are destabilizing Mexico and killing over 107,000 Americans annually, mostly due to fentanyl.

I am grateful House Republicans, led by Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY, have passed the Secure the Border Act, stopping illegal aliens.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues, moving from the safe haven of Afghanistan to America with open Biden borders.

MANUFACTURED CRISIS

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, on Memorial Day, we honor veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect our country.

Many veterans return home with lasting effects on their health and well-being. This Congress should honor their service by making sure they have access to quality healthcare, food, and housing.

The default on America act undermines this commitment. To preserve tax cuts for billionaires, their plan would cut veterans' benefits and programs by 22 percent.

We are told that if they don't get everything they want, they will force a default, sending our economy into a spiral.