

Speaker pro tempore MILLER was in the chair earlier, and there are over 160,000 of her constituents on Social Security. What Congress needs to do is vote.

Now, my good friend KEVIN HERN says that you have a plan on the other side to cut benefits. We see that President Trump has laid out his proposal that he would like to cut Social Security benefits. Cutting benefits is not the way to save Social Security.

The President and Democrats have a very specific plan: to enhance benefits across the board and extend the solvency of Social Security so that all of our constituents can receive the benefits they richly deserve.

Mr. Speaker, 10,000 baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security, which is not an entitlement. With all the discussion about the debt and deficit, it doesn't contribute a single penny to the debt or deficit. It is a paid-for program.

The business community pays half and gets a full tax deduction for it and individuals pay the other half. How do they know? All they have to do is go to their pay stub and look at the word "FICA," that stands for Federal Insurance Contributions Act.

Whose contribution? Theirs.

Mr. Speaker, that is 176,794 people in your district who make these contributions. This is not an entitlement. This is a benefit that they have earned and the only body that can address this is the United States Congress. It is long overdue for us to take this up on behalf of our constituents. If there is a better idea or you think that further study is needed, put it on the floor and let's have a vote on it.

Everybody professes how much they love and respect Social Security. Where is the plan? Where is the vote that people can say this is what my Representative stands for and this is what we are going to receive?

We don't need to cut benefits for Social Security. We need to enhance them. We need to make sure that WEP and GPO get repealed. We have to make sure that people are no longer paying income tax on their Social Security. We have to make sure that that happens now.

#### RECOGNIZING MAYOR PAUL McDONALD OF AGANA HEIGHTS

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor Paul McDonald of Agana Heights as he serves his last term representing his beloved village.

Being born and raised in Agana Heights, Mayor McDonald has devoted himself to the betterment of his village over the course of eight consecutive terms in office. He has earned the respect of his constituents through his hard work and commitment to deterring crime in Agana Heights and

through his beautification efforts in his village.

Mayor McDonald serves as a unifying force within the community, spearheading numerous initiatives, services, and events that foster cohesion and progress. His impact extends beyond the confines of Agana Heights, as evidenced by the 19-year tenure as president of the Association of Pacific Island Local Government.

He attributes his accomplishments to the enduring influence of his late father, Charles McDonald. Beyond his civic duties, Mayor McDonald takes great pride in his role as a devoted father and a cherished grandfather.

It is with genuine appreciation that I express my gratitude to Mayor McDonald for his steadfast dedication to the people of Guam and the beautiful village of Agana Heights.

As he embarks upon his final term, I extend my sincerest wishes for continued success and blessings. I am confident his legacy will endure as a source of inspiration for generations to come.

#### CELEBRATING THE ENGINEERS OF TOMORROW

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the engineers of tomorrow coming from our very own Frederick Douglass Elementary School in Wilson County.

Under the guidance of Ms. Katherine Taylor, the school's media specialist, these talented students are learning to code, building LEGO robots, and completing challenges using visual arts and technology. All the hard work has paid off, as they won first place in Best Robotics Design and Overall Champion in the multicounty FIRST LEGO League Challenge.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. Taylor for using technology to prepare the next generation of leaders and I thank the Wilson County Schools for investing in North Carolina's future.

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#### GREENE COUNTY ALL-STARS WIN EASTERN ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the young team of the Greene County all-star basketball program. These promising basketball stars of tomorrow just won the 2024 Eastern Athletic Conference Championship in the 10-12 age co-ed group. Greene County defeated Currituck County in a 55-45 victory.

Mr. Speaker, recreation sports are an excellent way to expose young athletes to the fundamentals of the game. These young basketball players experienced the wonders of competition, tested their skills and teamwork, and came out on top.

Hats off to the players, Coach Barry, and Coach LaVette for a fantastic sea-

son. Congratulations to our recreation departments across eastern North Carolina for making friendly competitions like this a reality. I particularly give a big shout-out to the Greene County Recreation Department and to the recreation director, Mike Anderson, for hosting this year's tournament.

#### COMMENDING IVELISSE DIAZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Latina, a music prodigy, a cultural worker, a mother, and a constituent: La Bombera de Corazon, Ivelisse Diaz.

Born and raised in Humboldt Park to a Puerto Rican family, Ivelisse found her calling in life at the age of 5 when she started studying the traditional Afro-Puerto Rican Bomba.

Over her 24-year career, audiences in Seattle, California, Detroit, Puerto Rico, New York, Mexico, and Ghana have been moved, enthralled, and educated by Ivelisse's artistry and passion.

A trailblazer in so many ways, she is the recipient of the prestigious 2019 3Arts Award for her contribution to the arts.

La Bombera has gone on to ensure the preservation of Bomba by founding La Escuelita Bombera de Corazon, where she shares her knowledge of the history, the culture, and music of Afro-Indigenous culture.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my honor to commend Ivelisse Diaz for her work preserving culture and passing the torch to the next generation of Bomberas.

Mr. Speaker, I thank and congratulate Ivelisse.

#### COMMENDING DIANA MARTINEZ

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Diana Martinez, a powerful Latina voice for our art, culture, and community in Illinois' Third District.

The proud daughter of a Salvadoran immigrant single mother, Diana demonstrated an early passion for creativity and the arts.

A Glen Ellyn native, she started her young career by participating in the Park District's theater programs and then nurtured her love for theater at Glenbard West High School and the University of Illinois.

In her current leadership role directing the McAninch Arts Center, Diana curates culturally impactful art experiences in DuPage County, including bringing major exhibits to our region featuring renowned paintings from legends like Frida Kahlo and Andy Warhol.

As an active and engaged neighbor, Diana seeks to protect and preserve her community's cultural and historic character through her work with Protect Glen Ellyn and Save Main.

For her dedication to art as a powerful means of building community, on

behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my great honor to commend Diana Martinez for her dedication to service and leadership. Congratulations to Diana.

COMMENDING ELIZABETH "LISA" HERNANDEZ

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of a Latina trailblazer and champion for working-class individuals across my home State of Illinois, the one, the only, State representative Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez.

Representative Hernandez is the highest ranking and longest serving Latina in the Illinois State Assembly, and she was recently elected the chair of the Illinois Democratic Party where she continues to ensure that Latinas are represented and recognized across our State.

As the current deputy majority leader in the General Assembly, she has been an advocate for quality higher education accessibility, a leader for reproductive rights and liberties, a champion for climate justice and natural disaster relief, and a defender for healthcare for all.

Whether organizing food drives to support local families or spearheading grant workshops to help small businesses thrive, Representative Lisa Hernandez is an inspiration for all Latinas in Illinois.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my greatest honor to commend "my friend," "mi amiga," my colleague for her commitment to public service and tireless work to make Illinois a safe and welcoming State for women, migrants, and everyone who desires to call it home.

It is my honor to congratulate Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez with this commendation.

#### HONORING MARGOT TAYLOR DURING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month, I stand here to celebrate a remarkable woman from my district whose dedication to equity and justice has made a profound impact: Margot Taylor.

Margot serves as vice president of strategy and advocacy at Planned Parenthood Los Angeles, where she has been and continues to be an integral part of the community since 2009.

Margot is a driving force for advancing reproductive health education, access to contraception, and defending the fundamental right to safe, legal abortion.

At the University of Houston, she witnessed firsthand disparities faced by Black and Brown communities. Motivated by these injustices, Margot is dedicated to dismantling systemic racism through advocacy and action. Margot's experiences fueled her passion to ensure equitable access to

healthcare and community services, especially for marginalized groups.

As the leader of Planned Parenthood's Black Health Initiative, she has championed successful approaches to address disparities in underserved communities.

With unwavering dedication to our community, Margot embodies the spirit of Women's History Month, a trailblazer dedicated to advancing reproductive rights and healthcare access for all.

#### HONORING DR. GABRIELA LOPEZ DURING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, this Women's History Month it is my honor to spotlight an exceptional woman from my district whose story embodies compassion and determination, Dr. Gabriela Lopez.

A San Pedro native, Dr. Lopez shattered barriers from the start. Born to immigrant parents, she became the first in her family to graduate from college and earn a doctorate in medicine.

During her time at UCLA, she recognized a critical need for inclusivity in healthcare for non-English speaking patients. She led efforts to provide translators for patients at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital so that language barriers did not prevent access to quality care. Her actions exemplify empathy and service.

Dr. Lopez remains deeply involved with our community. As a dance instructor for a local group in San Pedro, California, she celebrates her heritage and encourages unity and belonging.

Dr. Lopez' remarkable journey has been featured on platforms like UCLA Newsroom and La Opinion. Her story serves as a beacon of inspiration for women everywhere. Her story reminds us that with determination and heart, committed to service, women can overcome any obstacle and make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Let us honor Dr. Gabriela Lopez and all the trailblazing women who continue to shape our world with their courage and compassion not just this month but every month.

#### SUPPORTING WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE IN GASTON COUNTY

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

Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to gratefully announce that our office has secured over \$4.5 million to support water and sewer infrastructure in Gaston County.

We need these funds to support new jobs and affordable housing, as Gaston continues to see remarkable growth. The town of Randle is going to double in population this decade. With new families and businesses moving to the county, it strains our utilities and you can't put an apartment or an office building on a septic tank.

When I have talked to local leaders in Gaston County, this has been one of their top priorities. This funding is desperately needed and will go directly to making Gaston a better place to live and work. I am very proud that our office was able to help.

#### SUPPORTING GASTONIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today proud to announce that our office secured nearly \$1 million to support the Gastonia Police Department.

The funding will support a project equipping the Gastonia Police Department with technology to reduce crime, allowing officers to act in real time and protect the safety of Gastonia residents.

It is vital that we give our law enforcement the tools they need to safely reduce crime and help the people in our communities. I am proud to stand with the Gastonia Police Department to help them get the funding and tools they need to keep us safe.

#### SUPPORTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN MECKLENBURG AND GASTON COUNTIES

Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today proud to announce that our office has secured \$1.5 million to support affordable housing projects in Mecklenburg and Gaston Counties.

Our growth has made housing far too expensive, and it is making it even more difficult for working families to make ends meet.

The funding will support two projects in my district that will provide housing repair assistance and improve living conditions for families at risk of homelessness. It will also help the town of Matthews buy land and help with startup costs for new affordable housing developments. Having stable and affordable housing is the key to growing the middle class in our country.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be able to support these projects in my district.

#### AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE BETTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROBERT GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, last week we learned that the Jared Kushner gift continues to grow across the globe.

We already know that Donald Trump put his unqualified son-in-law, Jared Kushner, in charge of Middle East policy in the White House. We also know that Jared intervened and negotiated a \$110 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia and pushed for Donald Trump's first state visit to be in Saudi Arabia, a huge change of policy and a huge gift to this foreign government.

We also know that months after Jared left the White House, the Saudi Prince went against his own advisers and gave \$2 billion to Jared Kushner's