

players and former coaches, from Dee Rowe to Dom Perno and Kevin Ollie, and, of course, the house that Jim Calhoun built, bringing those initial championships to Connecticut, and nobody has won more basketball championships than Geno Auriemma and the women's team, as well.

Connecticut rightfully deserves that. We are so proud of everything that they have done, and we commend and congratulate them.

ENHANCE SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am also here to discuss Social Security.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, more than 70 million Americans are on Social Security and receive it. Yet, Congress, Mr. Speaker, has not acted since 1971 to enhance and improve anything about Social Security.

For the people in our audience today, they have to be scratching their heads and saying: What is this? Why is it that for 40 percent of all people on Social Security, it is the only pension benefit that they have, and every day 10,000 fellow Americans become eligible for Social Security, but Congress has not voted to enhance Social Security in more than 50 years?

It is long overdue. We have a proposal not to cut Social Security and not to raise the age. For every year you raise the age for Social Security, Mr. Speaker, that is a 7 percent cut in benefits.

Does it make any sense to say people are living longer, so we ought to raise the age so they can receive less the older they get? That makes no sense.

It is long overdue for Congress to take the steps and do what it should do. All the American people are asking is that we vote on their interest to increase Social Security, which hasn't been done since 1971.

We need to make sure that teachers, firefighters, and police officers see that WEP and GPO is repealed and paid for, that they get the benefits that they have been denied, and to make sure that people who are working currently and receiving Social Security don't pay tax on that Social Security.

Those are the things that we need to do to improve this program, which is the number one insurance program in the country. It is the number one program that prevents both the elderly from being impoverished and children from being impoverished.

Only in Congress do people sit here day after day and not take up the most important thing they can do on behalf of the American people to improve their lot in life.

As important as basketball championships are, Americans are having kitchen table discussion about: "What are we going to do, honey? Why hasn't Congress voted to make sure that we get a cost-of-living increase that actually reflects the cost of things today that we have to account for?"

Mr. Speaker, 1971, when Richard Nixon was President of the United

States, was the last time that Congress voted to enhance the Nation's number one insurance program. It is long overdue that Congress step up and make sure that we take these votes that will help every single American.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, while Women's History Month was in March, the impact that the women on the Education and the Workforce Committee have can be felt every day. I would like to take this time to highlight the accomplishments and legislative wins that Congresswomen on the Education and the Workforce Committee have secured.

When Congresswoman STEFANIK was elected in 2014, she was the youngest woman ever elected to Congress and is currently the youngest woman to serve in top House leadership. This Congress, she coauthored the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act, which will tackle workforce gaps and equip students with transferable skills.

Congresswoman STEEL was the first Korean American to be elected to Congress and has continued to pave the way ever since. Her bill, the DETERRENT Act, passed the House and will prohibit foreign adversaries from using monetary incentives to infiltrate U.S. universities.

Congresswoman LETLOW is the first woman to represent Louisiana in the House in more than 30 years. As a former education professional, she saw the need to increase transparency and expand school choice options. She authored the Parents Bill of Rights Act to restore parents' presence in their children's education and the Empower Charter School Educators to Lead Act to aid the charter school application process.

Congresswoman HOUCHIN has been a leader in her community for years and served in the Indiana State Senate for 8 years before her time in Congress. Language from her Students Bill of Rights Act, which codifies free speech protections on college campuses, was recently passed by the committee.

Congresswoman MILLER of Illinois is a conservative champion, local farmer, and vice chair of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Her work on the Parents Bill of Rights Act was vital to its passage and enshrines parents' right to make decisions for their children. Additionally, her work to protect women's sports has been instrumental. She will lead a Congressional Review Act resolution to overturn the Biden administration's dangerous and unfair Title IX policies that allow biological males to compete in women's sports.

Before her time in Congress, Congresswoman McCLAIN spent more than 30 years growing her own successful

business from the ground up. She currently serves in House leadership and authored legislation to save taxpayers from Biden's \$559 billion student loan transfer scheme.

Prior to her time in Congress, Congresswoman CHAVEZ-DEREMER served as Happy Valley's first female and Latina mayor. She is the first Republican woman from Oregon elected to Congress. This Congress, her Health DATA Act was passed by the House to increase transparency in the health insurance marketplace.

This committee is dedicated to advancing opportunities for women both in the workplace and throughout their education. The remarkable women who serve on the committee play an indispensable role in that mission, and I thank them for their tireless work on behalf of the American people.

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OUTDOOR LEGACY PARTNERSHIP

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, today Congress will consider the EXPLORE Act. It is a bipartisan bill that will improve outdoor access and recreation opportunities for Americans.

This legislation includes my bill, the Outdoors for All Act, which updates the Outdoor Legacy Partnership program and codifies it into law.

I am proud to lead this bipartisan bill with my House colleague, Representative MICHAEL TURNER. With Outdoors for All, we protect the urban park funding in the Outdoor Legacy Partnership program. We modernize the program to include Tribes, smaller cities, and to fully account for the benefit parks provide.

Access to urban parks and the outdoors is a bipartisan issue because every community wants parks for its residents. Urban parks are good for our economy, our environment, and our physical and mental health.

However, not every community has access to parks, especially low-income communities and communities of color. This is a challenge in my district in Los Angeles, where far too many kids cannot walk to a park.

Now, this disparity is personal. When I was a kid, I grew up in the Harbor Gateway. I had to take a bus to go to baseball practice because there was not a field I could walk to.

My district also includes the L.A. Harbor community of Wilmington, which has the highest concentration of refineries throughout California. Close to 20 percent of the total land area in Wilmington is occupied by refineries. For context, that is 3½ times more than is available for parks and outdoor space.

With passage of the Outdoors for All Act, we can fund new trails, parks, green spaces, and playgrounds to bring

nature's benefits directly to our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the coalition of environmental groups, outdoor recreation advocates, businesses, and local governments that have worked day in and day out to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank Natural Resources Chairman WESTERMAN and my friend, Ranking Member Raul Grijalva, who have worked together on today's bipartisan outdoor recreation package.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the EXPLORE Act and to work with the Senate to get a strong outdoor recreation bill passed this Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Auburn University's men's basketball team as the 2024 SEC Tournament champions.

It is my honor to congratulate Coach Bruce Pearl, the players, and staff on an outstanding season once again. The Auburn Tigers won their third SEC championship in program history as they fought to the finish line, beating the University of Florida 86-67.

As 1 Peter 4:10 says: "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

Winning this championship is not just about the celebration on the court, but it is a testament to the Tigers' character, dedication, and efforts for Christ.

Through the leadership of Coach Pearl, this program has embodied the Auburn creed by believing in a sound mind, a sound body, and a spirit that is not afraid. As they have developed these qualities, they have worked heartily and confidently to achieve their worldly and eternal goals.

The Auburn men's basketball team, under the leadership of Coach Bruce Pearl, has set a standard of excellence that will be remembered for years to come, not just in athletics, but in every aspect of life.

The State of Alabama is blessed to have men like them, and it is great to be an Auburn Tiger. "War Eagle."

SECOND CHANCE MONTH

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, April is Second Chance Month, a time to raise awareness of the challenges people face when attempting to return to life after time behind bars.

Securing a steady job, housing, and reintegrating into a community can be tough when you have a criminal record. This is a challenge that more than 70 million Americans face.

However, America is built on the principles of God and His grace. It has always been a land of new beginnings and second chances.

I am proud Alabama's Second Congressional District is home to J.F. Ingram State Technical College, which helps provide many of these second chances through education.

J.F. Ingram State offers 20 technical training programs for incarcerated adults, including automotive repair, construction, cosmetics, and logistics. I can vouch for the extensive training, as I visited last year and got a wonderful haircut.

In 2022, they placed nearly 250 formerly incarcerated adults in jobs. Those who participate in these correctional programs through education are 43 percent less likely to recidivate than those who do not.

Lamentations 3:21-23 King James version says: "This, I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning. Great is thy faithfulness."

May we all be reminded of God's compassion towards us as we consider supporting those who are committed to rectifying their mistakes. Getting back on track and making meaningful contributions to society can reduce recidivism and make our communities a better place.

STREETCARS: THE FOUNDATION OF CITIES AND SUBURBAN AREAS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, streetcars are still the foundation of cities and suburban areas across the country, establishing a pattern that guided development for over a century.

By 1910, you could travel from Boston to Chicago entirely on streetcar lines, just transferring from one to another. Sadly, 60 years later, the streetcar had largely disappeared. Only the St. Charles Streetcar Line in New Orleans remained of this vast network.

We had a different vision in the city of Portland. In 1987, I called for the development of a circulator system in the central city that built around the streetcar.

I worked with the late Bill Naito, a visionary Portland businessman and developer, who bought old streetcars from Portugal. He brought them to town, thinking that if people actually saw them, it would help promote his concept of their reintroduction.

I worked with a gentleman named Rick Gustafson to bring this to fruition. We had a 10-member citizen steering committee, who worked with the city to fashion an approach going forward, and it worked. Within a decade, we had a loop in downtown Portland connecting it.

That loop of streetcars was the focus for much of our affordable housing. It changed the dimensions of downtown, where people used the streetcar for short trips rather than vehicles. It

guided development in modern Portland.

This is part of a national movement reintroducing streetcars. I am proud to have helped lead that with the Portland model. We now have streetcars in over two dozen cities across the country, with more on the way. There is hard work in Omaha, Nebraska, which might be the next major development.

This is human-scale technology. It is proven. It is cost effective. People love streetcars. They are energy efficient and help promote a development pattern that is human oriented.

We have an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to be able to continue this effort at mobilizing efforts to promote livable communities, another transportation alternative, and guide development.

I was pleased to, 10 years ago, be in Tucson, Arizona, for the opening of their streetcar. Before it even opened, the streetcar redefined its downtown development, relationship to the university, and promoted additional housing opportunities.

The streetcar is a chance for us to be able to use this proven technology and mobilize patterns of growth and development in a low-cost, high-energy initiative. The modern streetcar has the opportunity to help communities across the country.

I was pleased to be at the Streetcar Summit in Charlotte, North Carolina, this last week. People from around the country gathered to share their stories of streetcar development. This is a new wave of urban development, proven transportation technology, and an opportunity to reshape our central cities.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to look at these examples in so many of our communities. The streetcar is making a difference in a way that saves money, saves time, improves the planet, and makes people feel good about their urban environment.

HONORING WEGAYEWU FARIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a local hero, whose selfless act exemplifies the very essence of courage and sacrifice.

Wegayewu Faris, an immigrant from Ethiopia who settled in Coralville, Iowa, displayed remarkable bravery when he risked his life to save an 8-year-old boy from drowning back in 2022. Without hesitation, Faris, who worked as a custodial worker at City High School in Iowa City for 17 years, leaped into action when he saw the boy in danger, struggling in the Iowa River. He jumped into the river, and his quick and decisive response underscores the true nature of heroism.

Tragically, Faris lost his life in the process, but his heroism did not go unnoticed. Recently, he was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal for Heroism, the highest civilian honor