

Department of Agriculture opened a state-of-the-art National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Manhattan, Kansas.

The facility will conduct research into serious animal disease threats and the potential impact of those diseases.

It is the only maximum biocontainment space in the country where USDA conducts comprehensive research, develops animal vaccines and antivirals, and explores diagnostic and training capabilities.

This facility is just down the street from my alma mater, Kansas State University, and their School of Veterinary Medicine and the Biosecurity Research Institute.

These institutions are the crown jewels of the animal health corridor, creating a scientific hub where world-renowned research happens, leading the world in agriculture research and health.

American farmers, ranchers, and agriculture producers understand that to turn a profit, we must embrace the data of innovating, adapting, and increasing efficiency.

According to USDA, agriculture research returns \$20 in benefits to the economy for every public dollar that is spent.

We save American tax dollars and the risk of disrupting our food supply chain when we adequately invest in agriculture and animal health research.

Despite this, Federal funding has declined in real dollars over the past two decades while other forms of research have increased.

If we continue down this path, we will not only hurt our agriculture producers but also American consumers, American food security, and, in turn, our national security.

We must ensure the farm bill addresses the risk to animal health and better positions us to invest in prevention rather than outbreak control.

Investing in animal health research bolsters the long-term availability of U.S. animal agriculture to be competitive in the global marketplace, provides consumers with safe, wholesome, and affordable food, and ensures agriculture thrives in America.

BUILDING GREEN

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

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, we all know that our planet is the most important thing we have, which is why we need to make the necessary investments to protect it.

I am proud to announce that I have joined forces with Senator ELIZABETH WARREN to introduce the BUILD GREEN Infrastructure and Jobs Act.

This bill is part of the Green New Deal, and it is a major step toward addressing climate change. It will invest \$500 billion over 10 years to electrify

and modernize public vehicles and trains across the country, all while building new electric transportation infrastructure in every major city in America.

It will make our transportation networks safer and cleaner from buses to trains to rail. The bill links transit investments with increasing density and affordable housing. It will also help create millions of new green jobs with strong protections for labor.

The BUILD GREEN Act is sustainable, equitable, and most importantly, necessary for protecting our future. We will continue working to combat our climate crisis and supporting a Green New Deal for every single American. Let's pass this bill now and electrify the Nation.

CELEBRATING THE CONSERVATIVE PARTNERSHIP INSTITUTE'S SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY

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 honor and congratulate the Conservative Partnership Institute, otherwise known as CPI, on their 7-year anniversary. I also welcome Ed Corrigan and Mark Meadows into the gallery to recognize this great organization.

In 2017, former Congressman and Senator Jim DeMint began this organization to be an incredible support system for conservatives in Washington, D.C.

CPI was designed to train and unite true conservative leaders in Washington and all across the country to stand up against the swamp.

I consider the CPI a safe haven, a place that feels like home for conservative lawmakers and staff to go to connect, to learn, and to brainstorm.

CPI has shown a great commitment to conservative offices, to conservative Members, to conservative staffers, and to conservative lawmakers alike.

CPI provides everything from regular training seminars on House and Senate procedures, advertisement on floor strategy, communications, budget, and much, much more.

Their vested interest in all aspects of governance plays a large role in the success we have seen from conservative offices and individuals.

The training provided by CPI is top of the line, and its positive impacts are clearly on display not only here in Washington, D.C. but in districts all across the country. Their efforts continue to ensure that we are well prepared in our fight for this great Nation.

I also want to take the time to specifically honor Jim DeMint and his lifelong and tireless fight for freedom, prosperity, and traditional American values.

Jim represented South Carolina in the House of Representatives and then in the Senate from 1999 to 2013. He led meaningful efforts such as a ban on

congressional earmarks and reclaiming control of billions of dollars of wasteful spending.

Today, he and others, including Ed Corrigan and Mark Meadows, spearhead the fight for a new generation of true conservatives.

All over America, the CPI has been a bulwark against the swamp and the support systems for conservatives looking for the right thing to do. The goal is reflected daily in the operations of CPI and the tremendous impact that it continues to spread.

I cannot thank the many patriots who have fought hard to preserve this great American system as we know it, otherwise known as freedom for we, the people.

Please join me in congratulating CPI for their excellence during the first 7 years. It means everything to me and my colleagues and our staffs to have a home at the CPI building.

I am forever grateful to Jim DeMint and others and the entire team at CPI for providing the platform for us to grow even stronger in our American ideals.

I look forward to watching them pave a path forward for true conservatives to thrive and to make America the best that it can be.

CELEBRATING TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, our teachers do not get nearly enough love. Well, maybe during COVID they did when students were all at home, and parents and families suddenly realized just how important those teachers were, but not before or since and not nearly enough.

I am very happy that it is Teacher Appreciation Week, although, honestly, I think we should be appreciating our teachers every single day.

I am so proud to honor outstanding teachers across my community in Pennsylvania's 7th starting with Ms. Jennifer Danzeisen from Palmerton Area High School in Carbon County.

Ms. Danzeisen has worked at the Palmerton School District for more than 20 years, and her students have repeatedly commended her calming presence, her heavy involvement in extracurricular activities, and her commitment to all of them.

On top of her work as the department chair for business and technology classes, she advises the Mock Trial Club and Future Business Leaders of America and coaches the tennis team.

Even while juggling numerous responsibilities, she prioritizes treating all of her students with dignity and respect.

I thank Ms. Danzeisen and all of our wonderful teachers for their commitment to shaping our next generation.

In this teacher appreciation week, I am also proud to recognize Ms. Susan Klotz from Kenneth N. Butz Jr. Elementary School in the Nazareth Area

School District. Ms. Klotz has been an educator in the Nazareth Area School District in Northampton County for 23 years.

In addition to making each and every one of her students feel valued and supported in their learning journey, she is an adviser for the Kindness Squad, working with students to spread kindness not just throughout their school but across our community and even globally.

This year alone, she facilitated the collection of more than 2,000 books for the Cops 'n' Kids program and organized a toy drive for students in the Dominican Republic. Ms. Klotz also spends time mentoring aspiring educators from East Stroudsburg University.

She always goes the extra mile to make school a place where everyone—teachers, students, and families alike—can thrive.

I thank Ms. Klotz and all of our wonderful teachers for their dedication to bettering our community.

This teacher appreciation week, I am proud to recognize Morgan Polony, a third-grade teacher at Steckel Elementary School in Lehigh County.

As a Whitehall High School graduate herself, Morgan is deeply connected to her community, both inside and outside the classroom.

She has served as a high school softball coach, teacher leader, mentor, and active participant in various district committees.

Her students and colleagues know that they can always count on her for encouragement, leadership, and a positive attitude.

Morgan's impact in Whitehall goes beyond teaching. She actively participates in community events and fundraising for organizations like Big Brothers, Big Sisters and the Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital.

Her presence is felt at her students' sporting events and spirit days where her colleagues said her school spirit is truly unmatched.

We thank Morgan, and all of our wonderful teachers, for her unwavering dedication to our shared community.

CONGRATULATING ADMIRAL JOHN AQUILINO

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, the people of Guam would like to congratulate and recognize Admiral John Aquilino, call sign "LUNG."

Admiral Aquilino began his career as a midshipman at the U.S. Navy Academy. Upon graduating in 1984, he would go on to receive his aviator wings.

Over his four decades of service in the U.S. Navy, he performed his duties with distinction. From his first fighter squadron assignment to commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, he has stood a most commendable watch.

As the admiral stood his last watch as commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific

Command, he ensured 375,000 service-members and civilian personnel maintained a bias toward action and excellence. This was especially the case in his service to the land of America's first sunrise, Guam.

During his tenure as INDOPACOM commander, he led the establishment of the Joint Task Force Micronesia and continually advocated for the Guam Missile Defense System.

His efforts ensured the people of Guam know that the Defense Department is committed to defending the homeland and our allies globally.

As the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command welcomes Admiral Paparo, we would like to take time to thank Admiral Aquilino and his family for their support, advocacy, and commitment to the Navy and our Nation.

Today, we take pause to witness this shipmate go ashore for the final time. May God bless Admiral Aquilino. We wish him fair winds and following seas. Hooyah.

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CELEBRATING ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, as the Nation celebrates Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, I proudly rise to recognize my community, the island of Guam.

Over 7,000 miles away from the U.S. mainland resides a proud community of Chamorros, Filipino Americans, Korean Americans, Micronesians, and an array of other ethnicities. We are a melting pot of different cultures and backgrounds united by our shared values and beliefs.

At the core of it all lies "inafa maolek," which means "restore harmony" or "make good." The concept of inafa maolek plays a significant role within our Asian-American and Pacific Islander community on Guam. This cultural value encourages community members to uplift one another, take care of each other, and work toward a common goal of unity and harmony.

As Guam's Representative in Congress, I am committed to ensuring that the voices and perspectives of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are heard on the national stage.

During this month, may we continue to pay tribute to the achievements and invaluable contributions of over 50 ethnic groups speaking more than 100 languages and dialects. Let us honor the rich diversity of cultures, traditions, and contributions that the AAPI community has woven into American history.

To my community back home and fellow islanders on the mainland, I extend my warmest wishes during Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the body to discuss the Nation's number one antipoverty program for the elderly and the Nation's number one antipoverty program for children. That is Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, I know you know this, but can you imagine that Congress hasn't made an adjustment to Social Security in more than 53 years? Richard Nixon was President of the United States the last time that Congress enhanced benefits for the country. Imagine that, Mr. Speaker, as 10,000 baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security.

The fund is about to be cut by 20 percent in two ways. If Congress does nothing, by 2034, according to the latest report, it will be cut 20 percent. Basically, the Nation's number one antipoverty program for the elderly will be cut by 20 percent if Congress does nothing, and it hasn't done anything in more than 50 years.

There are some proposals, including Social Security 2100, that would extend and pay for this. There are others, like the Republican Study Committee, that say what they want to do is raise the age. The idea is that people are living longer. Well, that is true. That is a good thing.

If people are living longer, they should be working longer and should be getting less. I don't know how that makes sense, that if you are living longer, when you retire, you should be receiving less.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, for every year you raise the age, that is a 7 percent cut in benefits. Raising the age to 70 is a 21 percent cut. If that were to be enacted, that would cut Social Security 21 percent before 2033—again, leaving our most vulnerable behind.

It is not only, Mr. Speaker, seniors. Social Security is also the number one antipoverty program for children. It is also the disability program that more veterans rely on than they do the VA.

This body, this Congress, is the only body capable of doing this. The President can't do it through executive order. The Supreme Court isn't going to rule on it. The only body that can act is the United States Congress, and it hasn't done a thing.

The American people, especially with 10,000 baby boomers a day becoming eligible for Social Security, are demanding that Congress act.

We have a proposal to enhance benefits. We have a proposal to lift up the more than 5 million Americans who get below-poverty-level checks from their government after having paid into Social Security throughout a lifetime. That simply isn't fair. We have a proposal to give a tax cut to 23 million Americans who currently continue to work because they have to and whose Social Security ends up being taxed.

The Republican Study Committee lays out tax cuts for the extraordinarily wealthy in the trillions. How about we do something for the average