

to slow down a little bit and recognize those officers that put it on the line for us each day, each week, each month, and each year.

They face a lot of obstacles that they encounter in their efforts just to keep us safe and keep criminals off the street and hopefully prosecuted.

When I first entered into the political realm as a candidate, I met a deputy one time who was so frustrated with the state of the criminal justice system at that point.

He told me that he was aggravated that those that he arrested would beat him home from being released before he could even get the paperwork done.

As we see the situation with prosecutors not prosecuting and with a revolving door in our jail system, we really need to dig deep and not only thank our officers but also pass legislation that supports them in their efforts to do what we ask them to keep the streets safe and not have ridiculous defund the police efforts happening in some of these blue cities. Indeed, they are feeling the regret of defunding them at this time.

IMMIGRATION ISSUES

(Ms. PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, to hear Republicans tell it, the only problem with our immigration system is the border. That is a lie. Our process for legal immigration is badly broken.

In 2023, 35 million people applied for green cards; some for economic opportunities, some to bring their families together, and some to flee violence.

Of the millions in the green card lottery, what percentage got them? Go ahead. Take a guess. Twenty percent? Five percent? One percent? Nope. Mr. Speaker, it was 0.2 percent. That is wholly unacceptable.

This deeply dysfunctional system for lawfully entering the United States worsens unlawful immigration. The two are connected.

Congress can fix immigration, not just point the finger at those seeking a better life. Instead of blaming everyone else for our broken immigration system, Republicans should own up to the fact that Congress, under their leadership, is what is broken.

HONORING LOUISIANA OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

(Ms. LETLOW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LETLOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of H. Res. 1226, memorializing law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty, that I am proudly co-leading with Representatives MICHAEL GUEST, CHRIS PAPPAS, and ABIGAIL SPANBERGER.

Today, I would like to take a moment to honor the courageous heroes

from my home State of Louisiana who have been added to the Fallen Law Enforcement Officers Memorial:

Officer Carl Douglas Kimball; Deputy Sheriff Marilyn Anjanette Mayo; Officer Trevor Aron Abney; Corporal Scotty Wayne Canezaro; Sergeant Nicholas Neal Pepper; Sergeant Charles Fitzgerald Dotson; Lieutenant Barry Paul Giglio; Corporal Robert William McKinney; Deputy First Class Kyle Michael Melancon; Sergeant David Jacob Poirrier; Corporal Shawn Kevin Kelly; and Lieutenant Michael Stephen Godawa.

I ask everyone to join me in praying for these officers and their families who put their lives on the line each day for every American.

May we continue to teach future generations the critical mission that law enforcement personnel undertake in service to our communities.

HONORING DON LEE

(Mr. GOLDMAN of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a giant in the New York City AAPI community, Don Lee.

Don was driven by a passion to support his AAPI neighbors and make government work for everyone. He connected underserved AAPI businesses with resources and government contracts traditionally kept out of reach.

After 9/11 devastated the Manhattan Chinatown community, Don served as a liaison between neighborhood businesses and FEMA.

He protested for transit access after the Grand Street Subway closure in 1995, helped expand licenses for Chinatown street vendors, and tirelessly fought against anti-Asian hate in the wake of COVID.

Throughout all of this, Don was the board chair of Homecrest Community Services for two decades, an anchor for disadvantaged communities throughout South Brooklyn. Homecrest created three new centers under his leadership.

Last weekend, Don passed away, somewhat suddenly, and we all mourn his loss.

On a personal note, Don was an early supporter of mine who took the time to invest in me, mentor me, guide me, and helped build my relationship with the large AAPI community in my district.

My heart breaks for his wife, Lai, and daughter, Victoria, in the wake of his passing, but I know that they, along with New York's AAPI community and our entire city, are inspired by the life Don led and the legacy that he leaves.

UNIVERSITY PROTESTS

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

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, at university after university, we have been seeing acts of moral cowardice and failures of leadership as university presidents cave to the demands of lawless encampments and anti-Semitic demands like cutting ties with Hillel or divesting from Israel or ending study abroad in Israel.

Today brought the most egregious example yet where Sonoma State in California, not far from my district, not only agreed to the full set of BDS demands of the encampment but also agreed to convert the encampment into a permanent governing authority to assure that that agreement is enforced in a sufficiently anti-Semitic manner. I am not kidding. You almost can't believe this is real.

It says the council here will be composed of members from the encampment, faculty, staff, administrators, Palestinian alumni, and other interested students as determined by Students for Justice in Palestine.

Any university leader who is entering into these kind of agreements is elevating groups who are willing to engage in lawless action and to pursue their despicable agenda by force while silencing other groups and silencing any debate to the contrary.

Any president who would agree to this is not fit to lead a university in our State or our country.

HONORING SERGEANT BILL HOOSER

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

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Police Week, and I am grateful for the opportunity to honor the brave men and women who put their lives on the line every day to ensure our safety.

Law enforcement officers face unique challenges that most of us cannot even imagine. They have accepted the call to serve and protect others, risking immense cost to themselves and their families.

Just the other week, I joined the Utah House delegation in a moment of silence here on the House floor for Sergeant Bill Hooser who was tragically killed at a traffic stop in Santaquin, Utah.

Reports say he was helping a woman who was being driven against her will. As Sergeant Hooser was assisting her, the assailant drove his vehicle toward Sergeant Hooser, ending his life. Sergeant Hooser's final moments were spent serving his community and helping a woman in harm.

This is a senseless tragedy and one that will take much time to process. I join his family, friends, and the community in paying tribute to this great public servant.

This year alone, 56 law enforcement officers throughout our Nation have died in the line of duty. They are our heroes.

As crime surges across the Nation, we simply cannot allow the growing anti-police sentiment to take any root. We must show unwavering support for those who stand ready to protect us and our families.

My colleagues and I support our law enforcement. They risk their lives so we can live in safety, and we will always be thankful.

ENHANCING SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STAUBER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening with my colleagues to have a discussion about the Nation's number one antipoverty program for the elderly and the Nation's number one antipoverty program for children. More veterans rely on Social Security disability than they do on the VA.

Mr. Speaker, we want to make sure that we are addressing this to our colleagues. Since you are in the chair from Minnesota, Mr. Speaker, I want you to know that you have more than 189,000 Social Security recipients in your district; more than 147,000 retirees; more than 20,000 disabled; 8,000 widows; 9,000 children.

Here is the key, Mr. Speaker, \$335 million a month comes into your district for those Social Security recipients. Where do they spend it? Right back in their district.

Yet, it has been more than 53 years since Congress has enhanced Social Security. Richard Nixon was President of the United States the last time Social Security was enhanced.

Democrats are bound and determined to make sure that we get something simple like a vote here in Congress to help out all of those people in your district, Mr. Speaker, as well as highlight why this is so important.

Seventy million Americans rely on Social Security. Ten thousand baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security. Forty thousand Americans rely on Social Security in and of itself as their primary tenet for retirement.

It is the Nation's number one antipoverty program for the elderly and for children. That is why our colleagues have taken to the floor today, so that the American people understand that what is between them and enhancement to this program is a vote. It is a vote on Social Security 2100, that will extend the solvency of Social Security, but, as importantly, expand benefits, including making sure that the more than 23 million people that pay taxes on Social Security no longer have to do that.

What could be a better bipartisan plan than helping out every single individual in everyone's district and also providing for 23 million Americans, not

the wealthiest Americans but the everyday citizens who work weeklong to provide for their families and pay into a system and haven't received an enhancement in 53 years.

That is why JOE NEGUSE is here as part of leadership that has strongly endorsed this.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE).

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Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Connecticut, our former Caucus chair, for his clarion call that he has issued year after year, month after month, and day after day to protect and strengthen Social Security.

It couldn't be more important, and we couldn't be more grateful for his leadership and the leadership of so many of my colleagues who have joined us tonight on the House floor to talk to the American people about the ways in which House Democrats are protecting critical programs like Social Security and Medicare and the myriad ways in which, unfortunately, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are doing the exact opposite.

I will give you but one example, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the latter. I know you are familiar with the Republican Study Committee, the largest caucus within the Republican Conference. I don't know if the American people are familiar with it.

Eighty percent of the Republican Conference consider themselves members of this committee. A hundred percent of House Republican leadership count themselves among the members of this committee. The former chairman of the Republican Study Committee is now the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Why do I bring up the Republican Study Committee? Well, it might interest you to know, Mr. Speaker, that just 2 months ago, the Republican Study Committee issued a budget for 2025. Again, this is a committee that has 80 percent of the Republican Conference in its membership. This backward budget plan is incredibly revealing.

What does it do? It upends critical programs that American families depend on, makes draconian cuts to Medicare and Social Security with a plan that increases the retirement age to 69, forcing Americans to work longer for less, a plan that cuts disability benefits and erodes care for children, making it more expensive to care for our families.

Their plan raises Medicare costs for seniors, takes away the program's ability to negotiate prescription drug costs, and repeals the \$35 insulin and the \$2,000 out-of-pocket caps that House Democrats, the Members gathered here on the floor this evening, fought so vigorously to enact in the 117th Congress.

Just to be clear, Mr. Speaker, although we are here tonight to talk

about Social Security and Medicare and our efforts to protect, strengthen, and expand both of those programs, and Republican efforts to dismantle them, it is worth noting that this is Police Week. Notwithstanding the many statements made by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle concerning their purported support of law enforcement, their budget tells a very different story. Why? How? I encourage every American to go to page 148 of the Republican Study Committee's budget. What you will find is clear, unambiguous, plain language that states that they would like to reduce funding for community-oriented policing services, the COPS Program, a program that the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania has fought to expand for years, a program that is funding the hiring of law enforcement officers in my district in Colorado and countless other jurisdictions across our great country, a program that is critical to law enforcement's abilities to provide for public safety in our country, and a program that they intend to cut.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, insofar as one were to glean essential observation from a review, a cursory review of their budget, it is simple: House Republicans are uninterested in tackling issues that matter to the American people.

We will not let them cut Social Security. We won't let them cut Medicare. We won't let them cut law enforcement funding. That much is clear.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado, our esteemed leader, for his contribution. I would point out as well that the repeal of WEP and GPO, which directly impacts police officers and firefighters, is contained within our proposal. It needs a vote.

Social Security has no impact on the debt or deficit and, as President Biden has proposed, is fully paid for by—most Americans don't even realize this—lifting the cap on people making over \$400,000. Doing so allows us to enhance the program for the first time in 20-plus years and also makes sure that we extend the solvency of the program.

Someone who knows that extraordinarily well is the gentleman from New Jersey, who also serves on the Social Security Subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. LARSON for putting his work and soul on the line for the last several years.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the more than 124,000 constituents in the Ninth District of north Jersey who rely on Social Security each and every month.

Social Security is one of America's greatest success stories. After nearly 90 years, it still stands as a monument to decency, dignity, and the birthright of hardworking Americans.

Yet, throughout its storied history, it has been under attack. Going back