

built buildings and things almost to the day he died. My husband still uses the woodworking skills he learned from my dad.

My dad passed away in 2006. It was before I ran for the Arizona House of Representatives in 2008, and it was before I was sworn into Congress in 2018.

I wish my dad was alive, not only because I love him but because I wish he would have seen what I have accomplished. I know that he and my mom gave me the skills I needed to accomplish what I did.

I thank my dad for being a great father to me and for being a great grandfather to my kids. I love him and always will.

HONORING ROGER F. LORENZ

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my brother, Roger F. Lorenz.

Roger is my older brother. He set a good example for me while I was growing up. He studied hard in school, worked during the summer, and got really good grades in school.

While he was going to college, he would work nights—I mean, all night long into the wee morning—to pay the bills and went to college during the day. It was tough. He did well for himself and for his family. He was a manager for major companies selling huge mining equipment and machines.

Roger is a good husband, father, and grandfather. He is also a good brother to me. I can't believe it has been over 6 years since I was sworn into Congress in this very place. My brother Roger made sure he was here to show me his support.

I thank Roger for all the positive things he has done for me throughout my life. He has played a positive role in my success.

HONORING DONNA M. LORENZ

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my sister, Donna M. Lorenz. Donna is my younger sister, and she has always been there for me. I was often her babysitter when she was young.

One time, we were watching scary movies on a Friday night when our parents were gone, and we heard a sound in the basement. We went down the basement stairs, and we were scared out of our minds. If somebody was actually recording it, they would have had a good laugh.

We did lots of homework together. I helped her memorize things for tests at school, and I didn't think she thought it was very fun at all.

When I left my abusive ex-husband about 31 years ago, I was really having a difficult time. Donna dropped everything. She flew out to live with me and support me. Donna has always been there for me through the ups and downs. I love my sister.

As I near the end of my term as a Congresswoman, I thank my sister, Donna, for all she has done for my life.

HONORING PORT CHICAGO 50

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

California (Mr. DESAULNIER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to recognize the upcoming 80th anniversary of the Port Chicago explosion and to honor and seek justice for the Port Chicago 50, an incident that led President Harry Truman at the time to desegregate the United States Navy.

On Monday, July 17, 1944, at 10:18 p.m., disaster struck. Crewmembers were working in shifts around the clock to load munitions onto newly built ships so they could be sent off to fight in the Pacific in World War II. This explosion ripped through the shipyard at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine, about 18 miles northeast of San Francisco.

The explosion killed or wounded 710 people, 435 of whom were African-American sailors. This was the deadliest homefront disaster of World War II. This explosion was felt in downtown San Francisco as windows shook, and people thought there was an earthquake.

In another blow to the survivors, 50 of the brave enlisted men, all of whom were African American, refused to return to the unsafe working conditions that led to the explosion. They were discriminately convicted of mutiny.

Those men are now known as the Port Chicago 50. They were heroes, not traitors, who deserve to be fully exonerated 80 years later.

Indicative of the discriminatory practices and segregation policies at the time, all the enlisted men loading ammunition at the site were African Americans while all the officers were White. None of the African-American ammunition loaders were formally trained in the safe handling of munitions, as opposed to the Teamsters on the West Coast, who were White and properly trained.

After the explosion, the survivors were in a state of shock, troubled by the vivid memory of the horrible explosion in which so many of their friends had died. The day after the explosion, about 200 of the Black enlisted men helped with the cleanup operation.

One survivor recalled: "I was there the next morning. We went back to the dock. Man, it was awful. That was a sight. You would see a shoe with a foot in it. . . . You would see a head floating across the water, just the head, or an arm, bodies. Just awful."

"Everybody was scared," another survivor recalled. "If someone dropped a box or slammed a door, people began jumping around like crazy."

Many of the Black survivors expected to be granted survivors' leave before being reassigned to regular duty. Those leaves were never granted for the African-American sailors, not even for the men who had been hospitalized.

All the African-American sailors were sent back to work, loading ammunition under the same officers as before, but White officers were allowed to go home for 30-day leaves.

As the men marched to go back to work 3 weeks after the incident at another dock, they knew that, at a certain junction in the road, if they were ordered to turn right, they were going to the parade ground, but if they were ordered to turn left, they were going to continue to load ammunition, just like they were 3 weeks earlier.

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At the moment the sailors were ordered to go left, and they all stopped, one of the officers asked the sailor, Joseph Small, the lead African American, why they stopped. He responded to the White officer: We are scared, sir.

Mr. Speaker, 328 of the sailors followed him and refused to return to work, 258 were imprisoned as a result, and 50 were later charged with conspiring to make mutiny. This was not mutiny. There was no active rebellion, revolt, or coordinated effort to overthrow a command as required by law. It was men who, after having to witness and even clean up the bloody aftermath of this explosion, feared for their lives and were being forced to return to the same unfair conditions and to worry every day whether they would be next.

Thurgood Marshall, who ultimately became involved in their trial on Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay for the Port Chicago 50, once said: "What's at stake here is more than the rights of my clients; it's the moral commitment stated in our Nation's creed."

This quote rings even more true today, 80 years later. By not taking action to exonerate these brave men, we are reaffirming the discriminatory action taken against them 80 years ago. By refusing to stand up for their innocence, we are sanctioning the discrimination they faced 80 years ago. It is long past time that we right this historical injustice and officially clear the record.

COMMEMORATING THE ISLAND PARK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to commemorate the longstanding and storied traditions of the Island Park Volunteer Fire Department.

The Island Park Fire Department was started 100 years ago when a group of young men in Island Park gathered together at a local pub and decided that they needed a fire department as they planned to incorporate 2 years later what would become the village of Island Park. At that meeting they elected their first chief, Hubert Miele.

Over the last 100 years, the Island Park Fire Department has seen its fair share of ups and downs. We lost one of our members on the battlefields in World War II, Charles Talbot, Jr.

We had two line-of-duty deaths: honorary Chief Michael Fischer and ex-Chief Ronald Nurnberger to 9/11-related illness.

In 1976 we saw an explosion along our waterfront that caused death and closed 63 area beaches for weeks after.

We saw the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic and, of course, the devastation of Hurricane Sandy as the village of Island Park was one of the hardest hit communities on the East Coast.

However, some of our worst times gave us the opportunity to show some of our best, and the Island Park Fire Department has forever been a beacon in the Island Park community. It is that go-to place where people could find safety and where they could get help. During the devastation of Hurricane Sandy, they found food, they found a place to utilize bathrooms, and they talked to their government officials.

From 1924 to 2024, the Island Park Fire Department has been that beacon in our community, and it is a place and an institution that I am proud to be part of.

In 1978 we swore in our first female firefighter, Phyllis Berotti.

We have seen, I would argue, probably the only fire department perhaps in the United States that actually sent two members to this House. In 1980 the Island Park Fire Department sent Senator Alfonse D'Amato to the United States Senate, and in 2022, they sent me to this great House.

So, Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to recognize one of my true loves, the Island Park Fire Department, in its 100th year of service.

RECOGNIZING THE FAITHFUL SERVICE OF PAUL DIGIACOMO

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize NYPD Detective Paul DiGiacomo who just took his final walk from 26 Thomas Street in lower Manhattan as the president of the Detectives' Endowment Association.

Paul DiGiacomo started his career in the NYPD in 1983, serving over 40 years and earned his beloved gold shield in 1993. He was elected a delegate to the DEA in 1994. He has served as president of the DEA since 2020 and has been one of the leading voices in New York protecting law enforcement. He has stood with those who wear the uniform and has called out the disastrous effects of Democrat policies that have made our country and our city less safe and have put law enforcement in danger.

Paul DiGiacomo is not only a friend and not only a fellow detective, but he has been regarded as a cop's cop. As those of us who have worn the uniform know, there sometimes is no greater attribute than that reference, and that was Paul DiGiacomo.

His lasting impact on the DEA will be felt for generations of law enforcement professionals in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Paul DiGiacomo a healthy and safe retirement, and I thank him for his dedication to the New York City Police Department.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the Nation's number one antipoverty program for the elderly and the number one antipoverty program for our children. That program, Mr. Speaker, as you know, is Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, and for the members in the gallery, I think it is important to understand the statistics that we are dealing with, most importantly, that there are now close to 70 million Americans who rely on Social Security, 40 percent of whom rely on a pension which is the only benefit that they have.

It is a testament to the genius of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. What is required in an entrepreneurial capitalist system is that there be a safety net for people.

Even more so, imagine that 10,000 baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security. It is disheartening that Congress, the institution primarily responsible for Social Security's enhancement and protection, has not done anything in 53 years. Richard Nixon was the President of the United States the last time Social Security was enhanced.

Five million of our fellow citizens get below poverty-level checks from Social Security, the greatest insurance program in the Nation's history, but Congress has not attended to the program. That is why this is so vitally important that we do so.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, in Idaho in the First District there are 219,000-plus Social Security recipients, 170,000-plus who are retirees, and 21,000 who get disability. There are 10,000-plus widows, 5,600 spouses, and 11,000 children in Idaho who rely on Social Security. It brings in \$388 million monthly to the First District and has not been adjusted in more than 50 years. This is an outrage.

When Members learn of this and when the public is aware of this, they say: Why hasn't Congress acted?

President Biden has suggested, and it makes sense, that in this great Nation of ours, why shouldn't everybody pay the same?

So he said: Let's just simply lift the cap on people making over \$400,000 who don't pay nearly the same that a person making \$30,000, \$50,000, \$75,000, or \$100,000 does who pay into the program.

In doing so, we would be able to enhance Social Security not only in Idaho but across the entire United States.

Even former President Trump now is apparently changing the Republican platform to say that we are going to protect Social Security.

It is not enough to protect Social Security. Congress hasn't done anything in more than 53 years. So that means whether you are in Idaho or whether

you are in Connecticut, those very citizens, those 10,000-a-day baby boomers who expect their Congress to take action on their behalf, need to enhance a program that provides them with the benefits. That money goes directly into every congressional district and every congressional community.

Where do the citizens spend that money?

They spend it at the grocery store, at the pharmacy, and at the gas station. It goes to the essential needs that Americans require. That is why Social Security is the number one antipoverty program for the elderly and also the number one antipoverty program for children.

What Congress needs to do is not talk about it. It needs to vote. Citizens in the gallery and across this Nation should demand that the United States Congress vote on Social Security and correct something that has gone in disrepair for more than 50 years.

BORDER SOLUTIONS

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss President Biden's open border.

Since President Biden was sworn in, his open-border policies have created a national security and humanitarian crisis. House Republicans continue to urge the White House and our Democrat colleagues in Congress to work with us to identify solutions. Again and again, we are met with silence.

I understand border security may not be politically convenient for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, but at some point, they must stop pretending that this crisis does not exist.

I found it telling that over the Fourth of July weekend, the White House touted that illegal crossings along the U.S. southern border decreased following President Biden's recent executive order. What they conveniently left out is that even with this executive order, May was still the 39th straight month where illegal immigrant encounters have been higher than even the highest month under President Trump's administration.

I understand that the White House is in desperate need of good press, but with all due respect, Mr. Speaker, the facts are the facts. Our borders are far from secure, and no feel-good story or graphic from the White House communications team is going to change that.

I spent last week with Kansans in 11 counties across the Big First District, and they were clear: Addressing the Nation's border crisis matters to them.

Under President Biden's policies, cartels have been winners, and innocent children and those who are trying to enter the country legally have been the losers. It doesn't have to be this way. Let's do something to fix this chaos.

First, we need to immediately finish the border wall. Time and time again,