

watch. A bipartisan, uniparty bill will get voted off of this floor that does not a damn thing to fundamentally alter what is happening at the border while Texas takes it on the chin.

Why should Texans pay their Federal taxes? Why?

Why should Texans give a rip about what we do in this body when it is all against them? It is all against us as Texans?

For that matter, why should anybody pay taxes?

The rule of law matters if you want people to follow it. If we are printing money, destroying the dollar, and destroying the economy and bloating the government in hiring and funding bureaucrats to undermine your liberty to pass regulations to take away your happiness and undermine your ability to prosper, you are printing money and borrowing money to do that, what is the point of paying your taxes?

It hurts to write that check. It hurts to lose that money to go to the Federal Government, but if the Federal Government is just going to spend money anyway, why do Americans believe that they have a duty to go pay their taxes?

So we pay \$2 trillion in taxes but borrow \$2 trillion or pay \$4 trillion in taxes but borrow \$4 trillion?

That is crazy. I have got some colleagues who are waiting to come out on the floor, so I am going to in a few minutes yield.

Madam Speaker, here is the thing. This country is not done yet, but it is getting damn close. That is where we are. We cannot be a free and secure country if we are \$34 trillion in debt and bleeding \$2 trillion a year.

We cannot be a free, secure, and sovereign nation if our borders are wide open, terrorists are coming in, cartels are coming in, and fentanyl is pouring in.

We cannot be a free, secure, and sovereign nation if we are printing money to fund foreign conflicts that we don't have an actual vested interest in or if we do we are not acting like it, when we never declared war and we never really specifically authorized the force and we continue to fund it so that the machine in this godforsaken town can keep making money.

Why are the seven wealthiest counties in America right here?

We are printing money and funding it.

Three-quarters of the cars I drive by in this town are a hell of a lot nicer than any of the cars that I have got or that any of the hardworking people whom I represent have because we are printing money and funding this place to stick it to the American people every single day.

This is what the American people are on to. They are sick of the same game. They are sick of bills that come to this floor and are designed for a political purpose rather than to achieve an end that is constitutional, that is paid for, and that is responsible.

I was spending a lot of time in the last month out on the campaign trail, and my friend, the Governor of Florida, Governor DeSantis, would talk about his time in service in the United States Navy, but, more importantly, he would talk about when flying into Ronald Reagan National Airport looking out of the left side of the plane and seeing the Washington Monument, the United States Capitol, the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, and the White House, and all of these monuments to our ideals, who we are as a people, the inspiring white buildings. Nevertheless, then he would point out that if you look out of the right side of the plane, Madam Speaker, when you are coming in that northern route down the Potomac River, you see a whole bunch of other monuments, evenly distributed, small, and all identical of the 400,000 men and women who are buried there having fought under that flag, the American flag, the 13 stripes and the 50 stars.

When we come here on this floor, all 400,000 of them, all of the hundreds of thousands buried around this country, all of those who have given the last full measure of devotion for something bigger than themselves, we carry that burden. We have to actually do the hard work of representation.

That does not mean flying here on Monday for a fly-in vote, having a dinner with some meaningless votes, getting up on Tuesday and Wednesday to do a series of preprogrammed votes for political purposes, and then flying out Thursday to go do a damn fundraiser back home.

That is what we do.

We have a responsibility to actually finish the work that those 400,000 started, that George Washington called "the sacred fire of liberty."

Liberty depends on us, though, and we are not going to be free if we are mortgaging our future.

We are not going to be free if we come down here and we are forced to choose to stand by our friend Israel or print more money.

That was the choice I was given. That is not a choice. That is not a choice we have to make; we choose to make it. We choose to take the easy path. We choose to fail to do our job and to actually follow some rules that will keep us somewhere close to the straight and narrow of caring for the legacy of those who came before us.

□ 2045

The hardworking American family out there today, right now struggling to get by, is looking to us to fix it.

It is not acceptable for a migrant to come into this country illegally, beat a cop in New York, get sent out on no bail, flick off the American people. That will destroy our country more than anything else.

That is not acceptable. It is not acceptable, and we have to end it, or we won't have a country left.

We have to stop spending money we don't have. We have to. It is not hyper-

bole. You can't make a good decision here about balancing interests if you just write blank checks. You can't do it.

One of my strong Jewish friends out in conservative radio was pointing out we are \$34 trillion in debt—hell, \$300 trillion in debt if you look at the entire Fed's balance sheet and everything that we have going on. What is \$17 billion? That is exactly right, except I have to say it is exactly wrong, or we will never change this place.

I came here and said I wouldn't vote for unpaid-for supplemental spending, and even if my best friend is out there getting hurt, I have to find a way to do it the right way, or we are going to lose this country. Then, as I said, there will be no America left to stand with Israel. There will be no America left for some people to go to, no America left for migrants to seek to come to, to live a better life because the rule of law will be gone. The fiscal health of our country will be gone. The American Dream will be unattainable.

I think we can choose a different path, and I think Republicans are actually in the process of choosing a different path right now by challenging the status quo of this town that our Democratic colleagues want to continue to exploit to grow government and to regulate and to have open borders and to have our streets wide open. Republicans are standing athwart that, and right now is the opportunity for Republicans to make good on what we have been saying for my entire life. That is that the American Dream depends on what we do here to ensure that the Federal Government is not meddling in the lives of the American people, undermining their ability to prosper, undermining the American economy, making us less secure, empowering our enemies, emboldening those who want to do us harm, undermining Western civilization.

We can stop that. We can, in fact, as William Buckley said, stand athwart history yelling stop. The progressive movement that is designed to undermine our very way of life needs to end right now, and it ends by Republicans standing up on the wall and saying no.

That is our calling. That is what we need to do. If we do that and if we unite, then we will actually have the majority that we tend to try to buy with single votes on the House floor when, instead, you earn them by doing what we are supposed to do under the Constitution.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING FRED ZEILBERGER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an incredible man

and Fourth District neighbor, Fred Zeilberger.

Mr. Zeilberger is a Holocaust survivor, Korean war veteran, dedicated husband, proud father, and an American whose life is a testament to the power of perseverance.

Born in 1929 in Wurzburg, Germany, Fred faced extreme hardship at the hands of Nazi forces, who forced him into a camp in Latvia and later the Stutthof concentration camp in Poland, where he was eventually liberated.

While Fred survived, the evil Nazi war machine murdered his mother and sister. Fred's father also died shortly after being liberated from the Buchenwald concentration camp.

After surviving the horrors of World War II, Fred emigrated to the United States of America in 1947 in search of new opportunities. A few years later, in 1951, Fred donned the uniform of his adopted country after being drafted into the United States Army during the Korean war, where he served as a butcher.

Fred's tenure in the Army was followed by a lengthy career in the wholesale meat industry, where he established his own business in 1956. This proud businessowner chose to make his home in Cedarhurst, alongside his wife, Elaine, and three children, Jenna, Rachel, and Zane.

Fred has long been an important part of the village of Cedarhurst community and locales far beyond. His ongoing service as a Holocaust educator provides younger generations an important witness to the atrocities that occurred during that dark time in human history.

I am immensely grateful for Fred's life of service, the sacrifices he made in defense of this Nation, and his lifelong commitment to never forgetting the Shoa.

In that vein, I was happy to see Fred recognized during this year's Holocaust Remembrance Day service in Nassau County by County Executive Bruce Blakeman, where attendees were able to learn of his story and struggle.

Fred Zeilberger has culturally enriched the communities that comprise New York's Fourth Congressional District, and I am grateful to call him a Nassau County neighbor.

I thank Mr. Zeilberger for his work and his dedication to the truth, to his family, to history, and to this country.

HONORING BOB BECKWITH

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today on a sad occasion to honor the life of a dedicated family man, committed first responder, and proud American who passed away this past Sunday, Bob Beckwith, of Baldwin, New York, a resident of the Fourth Congressional District.

Bob Beckwith had a storied career serving the people of New York City as an FDNY firefighter. Bob joined the FDNY in 1965 and was assigned to Ladder 117 in Astoria, Queens, before transferring to Ladder 164 in

Douglaston, where he served until his retirement in 1994.

During Bob's 29-year tenure in the FDNY, he faithfully protected the people of the city of New York, but in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, Bob became more than just a hero for New York. He became a national symbol of American resilience.

Even though Bob was retired, he made his way to Ground Zero after the attacks to help search for survivors. While there, he stood shoulder to shoulder with President George Bush when the President delivered his famous "I can hear you" speech that rallied a Nation in mourning.

You see, Bob handed over a megaphone so that the people at Ground Zero could hear the President, but little did he know that that megaphone would allow the people across the world to hear the President that day.

His presence alongside President Bush demonstrated that, even in one of this country's darkest hours, there were still brave Americans giving it their all to rescue neighbors. The image of Bob standing atop the wreckage of Engine 76 will forever be etched into our Nation's history.

The Nation heard President Bush's rousing speech on that day in 2001, but everyone watching also witnessed Bob Beckwith's quiet courage.

While Bob left us last weekend, I know his spirit will live on in the lives of his 6 children, 10 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, the heroes of the FDNY, and every American who loves this country as much as Bob Beckwith did.

Rest in peace to a Fourth Congressional District neighbor, a dear friend, an American hero, Bob Beckwith.

My thoughts are with his widow, Barbara, and the entire Beckwith family during this difficult time.

Mr. Beckwith, a final tip of the helmet to you.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, last week, I promised we were getting close to actually finishing our math in regard to what was the true story of what was happening with Social Security. A couple of our Ph.D. economists have spent months, and we have put it together.

However, I first want to talk a little bit about the politics of telling the truth around this place. Then I want to talk about the reality that the Democrats, our brothers and sisters on the left, either willfully or through ignorance, their solution just doesn't get you there, and the immorality.

Let's first walk through something. How many of you have heard over and

over from me behind this microphone that, in 2033, 2034, a 25 percent cut, because the Social Security trust fund is emptied? I had a debate the other day with a Democratic Member here who is running for another office, and she was saying Social Security doesn't contribute at all to the debt and deficit.

She is absolutely right. That is not what we are discussing. What we are discussing is, in 8 or 9 years, we are going to double senior poverty, the average couple in America. In 2033—I am going to use 2034 because at least that is more of a consensus number for the exhaustion of the trust fund. That average couple in America will take a \$17,400 cut. Articles that we have been collecting on the number of baby boomers who are ending up homeless—they are ending up on the street. We are looking at numbers that would explode that type of dystopian vision. Yet, if you get behind this microphone and tell the truth about the math, right now, some troll in a basement is writing something saying: SCHWEIKERT mentioned Social Security. Let's attack.

It is the same thing with Medicare. This society is absolutely immoral. We have this obligation to modernize, to save, to protect. If you step up to try to do it, you will be attacked. There is a reason we call it the third rail.

Well, screw them. We are going to tell the truth here. Part of the morality here is: How do you save something? How do you modernize it? How do you protect seniors?

Everyone runs away from the discussion, runs away from the actuarial reports, because the moment you start to tell the truth, you are a target. Now, most of it is not true. I had someone in my office a couple of hours ago bring me something saying: Look, this person is writing editorials in your district saying you voted against Social Security.

I am going, okay, let's see. I actually used to chair the subcommittee over Social Security, trying to work out the math and those things to save it. I don't remember ever having a vote in this place to change it.

We looked it up. There hasn't been, but this is the way politics works anymore. Make crap up. Then you wonder why it is toxic. It is so much easier around here to pretend, somehow pretend magic is going to fall out of the sky and everything is going to be fine.

Let's actually walk through a couple of things here. One of the things, just because this bothers me, my sarcasm that this is a math-free zone, I listened to a number of people, both Republicans and Democrats, get behind these microphones today, and they have no understanding of the scale of the problem.

Therefore, let's actually do a little bit of very simple math off the top of our heads so you understand some of the scale. Yesterday, interest rates popped up a bit. They came down a bit today, but I think, at one point yesterday, they were up 14 basis points. I just