

HONORING THE DILIGENT SERVICE OF KEVIN GRANEY, PRESIDENT OF GENERAL DYNAMICS ELECTRIC BOAT

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the diligent and honorable service of the president of General Dynamics Electric Boat, Mr. Kevin Graney of Stonington, Connecticut.

On December 1, in a couple weeks, Kevin is slated to retire from his eventful and impactful 5-year term as the shipyard lead for the United States Navy's submarine force, and it is more than fitting that this Chamber take a moment to recognize his extraordinary service to our Nation.

A native of Cheektowaga, New York, Kevin's career spans nearly 40 years of service to the Navy's shipbuilding enterprise. His intelligence, patriotism, and leadership qualities stood out at an early age, foreshadowing a promising career as a naval officer.

Upon graduating high school, he attended State University of New York Maritime College, earning a bachelor's degree in marine engineering and nuclear science, which would serve him well as a submariner and instructor at the Naval Nuclear Power Training Unit in Ballston Spa, New York.

Following a distinguished career at sea, Kevin began his shipbuilding career at General Dynamics Electric Boat in 1995 as a senior engineer working on critical power components for the *Virginia*-class submarine program.

Following his assignment at Electric Boat, he moved to Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia to design the reactor plant for the next-generation aircraft carrier, the CVN-78 program. He then moved overseas and managed Electric Boat engineers to assist our allies in the U.K. as they built their British Astute-class nuclear submarine program. Eventually, he returned to Electric Boat and began his last term over the last 5 years in 2019 as CEO of the shipyard.

During his time, the 120-year-old EB shipyard experienced a massive generational transformation with new and improved infrastructure, increased hiring, and new operations to dramatically improve performance and efficiency in the submarine industrial base.

In 2023, Electric Boat hired nearly 5,400 new workers, the biggest number in its history, even surpassing its growth in World War II and the Cold War. The total workforce today now exceeds 23,000, and they are still hiring today.

If that was not challenging enough, 5 months into Kevin's ascension to president, the shipyard was confronted with the global COVID pandemic. It is hard to visualize how difficult it is to manage an airborne pathogen in a shipyard, particularly a submarine shipyard where, again, the quarters are so tight.

Nonetheless, they kept the shipyard open. They did not close for a single day during the pandemic, and that is because Kevin Graney overcame this crisis and skillfully managed operations to continue as a critical industry in our Nation's security.

After performance across the shipyard and the nationwide industrial base was stabilized, it was then faced with increased rates of retirement of senior workers and a corresponding reduction in the supervisory trade workforce.

Since then, Kevin has spearheaded recovery efforts that have transformed the shipyard in just a short time. A few months ago, he signed a 5-year Metal Trades collective bargaining agreement with the Metal Trades Council, which represents machinists, electricians, carpenters, teamsters, and boilermakers that increased their pay by 25 percent, retaining their pension and health benefits at the same time.

Next to me is the USS *Iowa*, the 24th *Virginia*-class submarine, which was delivered to the Navy a couple of weeks ago. As I stand here today, it is undergoing sea trials and will be commissioned to the U.S. Navy in a few months or so.

Mr. Speaker, as ranking member and chair of the House Armed Services' Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee and the Congressman representing EB's facility in Groton, Connecticut, I have had a front-row seat to Kevin's tenure. It was not an easy time.

Through it all, though, he maintained a steady level of confidence from his peers and overcame adversities that were not anticipated at the start of his tenure.

I haven't even talked about the AUKUS security agreement, which last December this Congress voted to sell three *Virginia*-class nuclear-powered submarines to our great ally, Australia, the first time in history our country has ever made that commitment.

He has built the foundation, and it will be incredibly difficult to replace him, but we welcome the next president of Electric Boat, Mark Rayha, who I am sure will continue in Kevin's steps.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Kevin as he enters this new era of retirement with his wife, Cheryl, and his daughter, Katherine. I ask that my colleagues in the House, and particularly those who serve on the House Armed Services Committee along with me, join me in recognizing his life of service to the Navy and the United States by submitting his legacy into the permanence of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE TRUMP MANDATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the people spoke and Donald

Trump and J.D. VANCE achieved the most historic political comeback in American history, while also naming extraordinary patriots to his cabinet: ELISE STEFANIK as U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., Tom Homan as the border czar, MARCO RUBIO as Secretary of State, Kristi Noem as Homeland Security Secretary, MIKE WALTZ as National Security Advisor, LEE ZELDIN as Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, Governor Mike Huckabee as U.S. Ambassador to Jerusalem, and the extraordinary Susie Wiles as Chief of Staff, working with the deputy chief of staff for policy, Stephen Miller.

The Trump mandate is a recognition of his policy achievements, which I submitted to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, January 21, 2021, pages E60-E62, and achievements to the First Lady, Melania Trump, on January 21, 2021, pages E52-E53.

As chairman of the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia Subcommittee and chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I especially appreciate Donald Trump, who will achieve peace through strength.

Without equivocation, he stood with Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, clearly stating Iran must not secure a nuclear weapon, threatening our Arab allies from Kuwait to UAE to Bahrain, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia, along with NATO member Türkiye.

Trump stood with Ukraine against war criminal Putin, supplying Volodymyr Zelenskyy Javelin missiles, placing troops in Poland, and stopping the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which financed Putin's murderous atrocities.

Trump stood with Taiwan, supplying defensive weapons to deter the Chinese Communist Party from an invasion threatening the Korean and Japanese shipping lanes, along with the shipping capabilities of our great ally, India.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators put all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent as warned by the FBI. Trump will reinstitute existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy and eternal God, we come before You, humbled by the mercy You have shown us in these last days and months. From Your throne, You have borne witness to our less than loving behavior, our harsh rhetoric of the election season, and our insatiable desire to ensure that the balance of power tips in our favor.

Remind us again that the mellifluous words, the most convincing arguments are but a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal if they are not grounded in love.

Even if our certitude and sureness, our knowledge and conviction are enough to move mountains, if we do not love both our neighbor and our adversary, all our success amounts to nothing.

Teach us again how to be patient and kind, neither envious nor boastful, arrogant or rude. Wherever we stand, may we not insist things go our way, nor hold a grudge when they don't.

In Your truth, show us how to bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things; and, above all, to strive to be bearers of the greatest of all things: love.

In Your merciful name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

VACATING ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF NOVEMBER 5, 2024

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the order of the House of November 5, 2024, regarding H.R. 82 be vacated.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

EXPLANATION REGARDING VACATING OF ORDER

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

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rose to vacate the order of the House of November 5 because, having reviewed the Speaker's announced policies, the decision in the Chair should have been to not entertain the motion to table on that day.

CONGRATULATING DR. VICTOR AMBROS

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor my constituent, Dr. Victor Ambros of the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, on being awarded the Nobel Prize for his work on microRNA.

He shares this tremendous distinction with Gary Ruvkun of Harvard Medical School. I am proud to be from Massachusetts today.

Mr. Speaker, decades ago, scientists discovered that our genes, the tiny strands of DNA that make us who we are, are translated into another compound called RNA, which helps make sure our cells function.

Thanks to the laureates' work, we now know that tiny pieces of RNA called microRNA can actually do things all by themselves, speeding up or slowing down important cellular functions.

Their work has opened up unprecedented new research opportunities when it comes to all kinds of things, including cancer treatment. Thanks to this work, we have learned more about how we become who we are.

I speak for Worcester, for Massachusetts, for the United States, and the world when I say thank you to Dr. Ambros for his contributions to our understanding of how we become who we are.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF SPEAKER JOHNSON

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Speaker MIKE JOHNSON for his achievements of the passage of critical legislation in the House and his leadership in maintaining the Republican majority.

"We flipped blue seats red . . . and we kept this majority," said the Speaker today on the Capitol steps with the proven leaders STEVE SCALISE, TOM EMMER, and RICHARD HUDSON.

The Speaker heard from the American people and has given them voice and change that Americans deserve.

Families have suffered high prices for everyday items, dangerously open borders, and national security in jeopardy. Speaker JOHNSON has pledged: "We are going to raise the America First banner over this place."

I was grateful in July to be with the Speaker in Milwaukee to lead the ap-

plause for his statement of being a Reaganite for peace through strength. In October at Lake Como, Italy, I was there as he represented America so well. Last month at Mar-a-Lago, I was grateful to be present as he confirmed the Trump-Johnson partnership.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators put all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent as warned by the FBI. Trump will reinstitute existing laws to protect American families.

PUBLIC SERVANTS DESERVE THEIR EARNED BENEFITS

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act.

People in western New York and across the country rely on Social Security to meet their basic needs and live well. This bipartisan legislation fixes loopholes that unjustifiably cut benefits for millions of Social Security recipients.

The Social Security Fairness Act repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset, existing provisions of the Social Security Act that slash Social Security for millions of public workers.

Dedicated public servants—teachers, firefighters, postal workers, police officers, and their spouses or widows—are unfairly seeing Social Security cuts because of these loopholes. This is a slap in the face to the people who have given so much to our communities.

All Americans deserve the benefits they worked so hard to earn, and this bill delivers on this promise but especially those who have dedicated their lives to public service.

I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation swiftly and deliver for our fellow Americans.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MORAN) at 4 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings