

ethnic cleansing, echoing the genocide in Darfur that began two decades ago.

The United States has a long history of leveraging its foreign policy tools to uphold human rights and prevent atrocities. Notably, during the Balkan conflicts of the 1990s, the U.S. spearheaded arms embargoes and economic sanctions to curtail the flow of weapons to perpetrators of ethnic cleansing. Such precedents underscore the moral and strategic importance of using U.S. influence to hold states accountable for actions that destabilize regions and perpetuate human suffering.

The UAE's continued support for the RSF through arms transfers not only violates international norms but also undermines global stability and the values the United States seeks to uphold. By halting its arms sales to the UAE until it ceases its support for the RSF, the United States can send a clear message: it will not tolerate impunity for those who enable crimes against humanity.

Senator CHRIS VAN HOLLEN and Representative SARA JACOBS have introduced bills (S. 5376 and H.R. 8501) and Joint Resolutions of Disapproval (S.J. Res. 118 and H.J. Res. 226) that would condition U.S. arms sales to the UAE on its cessation of support for the RSF. These measures are both principled and pragmatic. Blocking the \$1.2 billion sale of Guided Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (GMLRS) and Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS) to the UAE would increase the political costs of its actions in Sudan while raising international awareness of the devastating conflict in our country.

Sudan stands on the brink of collapse, and the international community's inaction is emboldening perpetrators of mass atrocities. Supporting the Van Hollen-Jacobs bills is a necessary and timely intervention. It aligns with the United States' commitment to human rights, international law, and the prevention of atrocity crimes.

We urge you to cosponsor and advocate for the passage of these bills. The United States has the leverage to influence the UAE's actions, and with that power comes the responsibility to act. By supporting this legislation, you can help end the suffering of millions and reaffirm America's leadership in defending human dignity and justice.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

LIST OF SIGNATORIES

Fikra for Studies and Development (FikraSD)
 The Regional Centre for Training and Development of Civil Society (RCDCS)
 The Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA)
 The Sentry
 Nonviolence International (USA)
 The Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights
 Saferworld
 Sudan Solidarity Campaign
 Sudanese Center for Peace and Justice
 Combating Violence against Women Unit—Sudan
 Sudanese Center for Human Rights and Media Freedom
 McElligott International
 Autumn Development Organization—Sudan
 Sudanese Food Bank Organization
 Sudanese Network for Ending War and Building Peace
 TopCare LLC
 Sudanese Center for Democracy and Development (SCDD)

DICTATOR ASSAD DEFEATED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on Truth Social, President-elect Donald Trump correctly identified that: "Assad is gone". . . . "His protector, Russia, Russia, Russia, led by Vladimir Putin . . . because of Ukraine, where close to 600,000 Russian soldiers lay wounded or dead . . . forever.

Russia and Iran "are in a weakened state right now, one because of Ukraine and a bad economy, the other because of Israel and its fighting success."

Courageous Ukrainians, with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, have determined Israelis, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, have made an achievement for freedom and democracy for the world. With maximum pressure by President Donald Trump, peace through strength will become a reality. Americans should read National Review's "The Morning Jolt" with Jim Geraghty today "The World's Most Murderous Ophthalmologist Calls It Quits."

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, and our sympathy and prayers to beloved Congressman MIKE BURGESS on the passing of his daughter Christine Burgess.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, Social Security, as you know, is the number one anti-poverty program in this country for the elderly and the number one anti-poverty program in the country for our children.

More than 70 million Americans receive Social Security. Yet, it has been more than 54 years since Congress has last enacted any legislation to enhance Social Security.

Richard Nixon was the President of the United States the last time that Congress enhanced the benefits of Social Security. With more than 10,000 baby boomers a day becoming eligible for Social Security, you can understand the impact that this has, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, more than 154,000 people in Alabama in your district alone receive Social Security; 111,000-plus for pensions; 19,000 receive disability payments; more than 9,000 widows; 4,000 spouses; and more than 9,000 children.

□ 1230

Mr. Speaker, \$275 million a month comes into your district to supply the people of that district with the essential benefits they need and to keep

most of them out of poverty. Where do they spend this money? They spend it right back in the communities that they live in.

This is an important economic enhancement, as well, and Congress has not taken any action in more than 54 years. Now, the Republican Study Committee says that it is going to cut Social Security.

The benefits are going to be cut regardless of whether Congress takes no action. That is why Congress should act and act now. We shouldn't be looking to cut benefits for the citizens we represent. We should be enhancing benefits that haven't been touched in more than 50 years.

President Trump has now called for tax cuts for Social Security. That is laudable in and of itself. However, he does not pay for them.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues know that when you don't pay for those benefits, the money comes directly out of the trust fund. The great irony in attempting to say that Congress is going to give citizens a tax cut is that what Members are really doing is cutting benefits by more than 36 percent for all those individuals.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats have a plan that calls for a tax cut, as well, but it is paid for. The American people need to know that these benefits need to be paid for, and Congress needs to take action. Otherwise, we will continue to stress the Social Security trust fund that Congress hasn't acted on in over 50-plus years.

I am sure, for a number of people listening in the audience and our viewers, they understand what this means, but they probably weren't aware that it is going to take a vote of Congress. This isn't something the President can do through executive action or that the Supreme Court is going to do. It is going to take an act of Congress specifically on behalf of the individuals we are sworn to serve.

By passing a tax cut that is not paid for, what my colleagues are really doing is cutting benefits for all recipients, including those who will receive the tax cut. Even though they may get some temporary relief, the program will be impacted in the long term. Meanwhile, people like Elon Musk are paying nothing into a system that desperately needs the help of Congress.

PRIORITIZING WELL-BEING OF AMERICANS OVER WASHINGTON INEFFICIENCY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, securing our southern border still remains one of our most urgent and pressing challenges facing our country.

House Republicans are taking decisive action with the National Defense Authorization Act, which we will be taking up soon. It is a bill that not

only strengthens our military but directly addresses the border crisis.

A cornerstone of this plan is the authorization of National Guard deployments to the southern border. This ensures we have the manpower to respond effectively to illegal crossings, combat the influx of dangerous drugs, and disrupt cartel operations that endanger American lives and jeopardize our national security.

We are directing resources to where they are needed the most: protecting the borders and safeguarding the homeland. Indeed, the cartels have been so powerful and so aggressive in what they do that it endangers many, many lives. We have heard horrific stories about the lives that have been taken and the trafficking.

This focused approach prioritizes the well-being of all Americans over the inefficiency we typically find in Washington.

To prepare the folks who serve in our military, this bill would help them with that. This bill makes significant improvements in housing, boosts pay, and shortens healthcare wait times. If you have dealt with VA on that, which we do often, our retired soldiers should not have to do such horrific things to get the care they need through the VA or the Veterans Choice Program through any local entity.

The bill even enhances childcare options for military families. The legislation also eliminates divisive policies that have no place and no business being in the Department of Defense, allowing our military to concentrate solely on readiness and morale within the military.

This renewed focus ensures that our forces are prepared to succeed in tackling challenges such as the border crisis. House Republicans are delivering a comprehensive defense bill that prioritizes border security, improves the conditions for servicemembers, and eliminates wasteful spending.

Mr. Speaker, more locally, in my district in northern California, part of the effort will be to set up the new mission of collaborative combat aircraft at Beale Air Force Base. These drone wingmen will make our existing aircraft more lethal, as well as protect the manned aircraft by having these drone vehicles available to be part of a flight, which will place less emphasis on and create less risk for manned aircraft.

Drone technology can extend the fight longer and farther and allow the engagement of many more targets.

This year's NDAA invests more money into this new drone technology. This forward-looking technology enhances the existing airframes that we have to be able to keep vital air dominance and control in near-term Indo-Pacific conflicts.

Mr. Speaker, this is really great technology that is important to incorporate so we have less risk to our pilots. We can use existing aircraft instead of having to buy nearly as many

hyper-expensive new aircraft. It is not that I am against it. I am in favor of the newest, best aircraft we can get, but maybe we don't have to buy nearly as many when the stuff that we have is still good for the mission, with the wingman approach of these drones being able to do a lot of the dirty work and take the immediate risk off of the manned aircraft.

The NDAA is something we have to pass every year. We need to get this done this month and keep that continuity that our fighting people need to get the job done, as certainly it is a more dangerous world than it ever has been right at this moment with what is happening in the Middle East and with what is happening in the South Pacific with China and its aggression.

Mr. Speaker, we need to be ready, and this legislation will help move us in that direction. These new technologies will lower the risks for our fighting people.

RECOGNIZING KAY GRANGER ON HER RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Congresswoman KAY GRANGER of Texas, who will be retiring at the end of the 118th Congress.

For close to three decades, the gentlewoman has represented Texas' 12th Congressional District in the people's House, and she made history as the first Republican woman to represent Texas in the people's House.

From her staunch support of the military to her defense of border security, Congresswoman GRANGER has built a reputation as a rock-ribbed conservative and someone who many look up to, especially when she chaired the House Appropriations Committee.

KAY GRANGER's departure is a serious loss to the people's House. I thank the gentlewoman for her years of service to this great institution, to her constituents in Texas' 12th Congressional District, and to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, may God continue to bless the gentlewoman and her family as she enjoys a well-deserved retirement.

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 38 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. WEBER of Texas) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

The Earth belongs to You, O Lord, and the fullness thereof. Therefore, let the fullness of this day remain in Your care and keeping.

May everything that comes to our minds be filled with Your wisdom and discernment. Let every sentiment that passes through our souls reflect the fullness of Your compassion and mercy.

In all that we do or say today may our words and actions be fully laden with Your message of love and grace for Your people.

We lift up our heads, our hands, and our hearts to seek Your face. We lift up our heads, our hands, and our hearts to You, O God, the king of glory, that You would enter in.

May Your strength and might lead us in the way we should go, and may You be glorified in all that we accomplish.

In Your sovereign 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 Washington (Mr. LARSEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington 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.

RECOGNIZING PENN HIGHLANDS DUBOIS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Penn Highlands DuBois for earning a Pathway to Excellence designation.

Penn Highlands DuBois has delivered expert health and wellness care to the central Pennsylvania region for nearly 125 years.

Recently, Penn Highlands DuBois received a Pathway to Excellence designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. This prestigious status is a recognition held by fewer than 250 organizations nationwide and less than 25 in Pennsylvania.

The Pathway to Excellence designation is awarded to healthcare systems that create a healthy working environment where nurses feel empowered and valued.