

and turn his back on traditional marriage between a man and a woman, that is a sign that society is losing its moral compass.

When lawmakers vote in favor of allowing biological men who are experiencing gender confusion to equally use women's facilities and compete in girls' sports, that is a sign of society losing its moral compass.

When the church decides to ignore its role in educating the people on the Biblical values that America was founded on, that is a sign that society is losing its moral compass.

Just last week, NANCY MACE, a Member of Congress, was physically assaulted in the Halls of Congress because she stands on a basic commonsense principle. The commonsense principle that caused her to be physically assaulted was her firm belief, as it is mine, that individuals experiencing gender confusion should not be allowed to utilize opposite facilities or participate in women's or girls' sports.

The majority of the American people share that commonsense belief and are thirsty for bold leaders who will openly defend our Nation's fundamental values. America needs and deserves strong leaders who are not afraid of fighting and speaking in the public square about regaining our country's moral compass.

Some of our brothers and sisters, instead of focusing on promoting our Republic's foundational moral compass, are fighting to ensure that government plays an overreaching role by dictating what America should think, eat, be educated on, and why they should be happy to pay more in taxes to fund the runaway spending of government.

Mr. Speaker, America is at a crossroads, and we, the people, through our Federal, State, and local elections, will determine the moral compass that will lead us into the future.

Our job here in the sacred Halls of Congress is to limit government and revitalize civil society. The \$36 trillion national debt is a sign that our country has lost its moral compass.

Self-reliance has given way to dependence, and a loss of respect for persons and property continues to spread like cancer.

In 1837, John O'Sullivan wrote: "The best government is that which governs least. . . . [Government] should be confined to the administration of justice, for the protection of the natural equal rights of the citizen and the preservation of the social order. In all other respects, the voluntary principle, the principle of freedom . . . affords the true golden rule."

Our Nation's founding documents were written with the unwavering understanding that the nature of government is force, not freedom. The language used in the founding principle was to limit the role of government to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Imagine an America where the elected officials understood the true role of

government and allowed us to live freely.

Imagine if every American believed in and followed the golden rule, as written in Luke 6:31: Do to others as you would have them do unto you.

Imagine an America where every individual not only believes in the American Dream, but that they can actually experience it.

Imagine an America that openly embraces the fundamental values that founded this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless America.

CONGRESS MUST ENHANCE CAPITALISM'S SAFETY NET

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, as all Americans know, Social Security is the number one antipoverty program for the elderly of this country. Most people don't realize that it is also the number one antipoverty program for children in this country.

What is further annoying to most Americans is that it has been 54 years since Congress, who has the responsibility for doing so, has enhanced Social Security benefits. This has a direct impact on every district in the country.

In the Speaker's district, there are over 174,000 Social Security recipients, and 142,000 of them are retirees; 13,000-plus are disabled workers; 7,000-plus are widows; 3,000 are spouses; and over 7,000 are children.

Mr. Speaker, what most Members don't realize is the direct economic impact and economic development impact that this has on their district. For example, the Speaker's district receives \$353 million monthly for those 174,000 recipients.

Where do they spend that money, Mr. Speaker? They spend it right back in the districts where they live.

Nobody gets wealthy on Social Security, but it has been the mainstay to keep people out of poverty, both the elderly and children alike.

Congress has not taken any action to enhance those benefits since 1971. Richard Nixon was the President of the United States the last time this body, which is in charge of making sure that Americans receive this benefit, has taken any action to ensure that people in the Speaker's district and in mine and in all 435 districts receive Social Security benefits.

Here are the statistics: Over 70 million Americans rely on Social Security. For more than 35 million Americans, it is the only retirement benefit that they have. Americans are getting concerned by the day because 10,000 baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to plead for Congress to take action. Have a vote. If Members have a better idea, they should put it forward.

President Trump has at least called for tax cuts. Most people don't realize

that, when they retire, all of a sudden, they are being double taxed because their Social Security is taxed. That is a good idea, but President Trump's plan doesn't pay for that.

When it is not paid for, the money comes directly out of the trust fund, therefore hurting everybody in the program because it will reduce Social Security benefits by 36 percent as soon as 2031. That is not a long way off, and this body of Congress has been woefully negligent in making sure it is speaking out on behalf of the American people and the citizens that we are sworn to serve.

This is capitalism's safety net. The reason that we are able to thrive as a Nation and be entrepreneurial in the system is because we have a safety net for our workforce. In the event that a business collapses or people get laid off or they don't have work, there is Social Security. That is the brilliance of Franklin Delano Roosevelt that is still with us, and it is embraced overwhelmingly by Democrats, Republicans, and unaffiliated persons.

It is time to act, Mr. Speaker.

REMEMBERING BATTLE OF THE BULGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding correspondence from a young constituent of mine, Lauren Tappert, who expressed her desire to make a Federal holiday in recognition of World War II.

I was impressed by Lauren's patriotism and her initiative, especially given the fact that she is just in middle school.

This week, we remember one of World War II's most significant battles, the Battle of the Bulge. As Winston Churchill famously said: It is "undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war."

The Battle of the Bulge, which occurred in the Ardennes Forest of Europe, lasted over a month. It is significant because it was the last major German offensive on the western front, ultimately ending in an Allied victory. In this defensive stand, the courage and fortitude of the American forces were challenged, but liberty ultimately prevailed.

I thank Lauren for taking the time to write to me and for placing special emphasis on a conflict that affected every American family and spanned the globe.

RECOGNIZING 233RD ANNIVERSARY OF RATIFICATION OF BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize

the 233rd anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights.

Yesterday, we celebrated Bill of Rights Day, a day that highlights a cornerstone for our democracy.

Bill of Rights Day was established in 1941, when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued a proclamation referring to the document as: "The great American charter of personal liberty and human dignity."

Each year, on December 15, this day is used as an opportunity to reflect on the rights enshrined in our Constitution's first 10 amendments. Classrooms across the Nation use this day as an educational opportunity to further stress the importance of these rights to our Nation's young people.

The Bill of Rights was born out of a fierce debate between the Federalists and the anti-Federalists during the founding of our Republic. The Constitution itself laid the foundation for governance, but it was the Bill of Rights that ensured that government would always serve the people.

The Bill of Rights includes some of our Nation's most precious rights, including: freedom of speech, press, religion, assembly, petition, equal protection under the law, and limitations on the role of the Federal Government, just to name a few.

The Bill of Rights also reminds us of something deeper. Our unity as a Nation stems from our diversity of thought, belief, and expression. We may not always agree, but these rights ensure that every voice can be heard, every faith can be practiced, and every dream can be pursued.

This year marked the 233rd anniversary since the ratification of the Bill of Rights. Now, many years later, these rights are just as important as they were when our Founding Fathers penned them.

Let us honor the wisdom of our Founders and the sacrifices of countless Americans who have fought to uphold these freedoms.

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 28 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. BENTZ) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Rear Admiral Gregory Todd, Chief of Chaplains, United States Navy, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Eternal Father, ruler of wind and wave, You establish the heavens and

order all of creation. Behold Your humble people, seeking only to serve and not to be served. Grant all who labor in this House a heart of humble service.

While the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps celebrates 249 years of a sacred mission of caring for the souls of sailors, marines, coastguardsmen, and their families, we are recently reminded of the relevance of our mission as U.S. sailors in the Red Sea have faced the enemy in combat, wielding the sword for our Nation and facing their own mortality. Grant Your divine protection to all of our ships at sea and all who labor to defend our Nation. Keep their families in Your care while they are deployed, and grant them a joyful, joyful reunion.

Lord, as Navy chaplains seek to care for our flock, by Your mercy, send us more chaplains to fill our ranks. The need is great, but the laborers are few. Grant us more Navy chaplains to care for our Nation's greatest treasure: our sons and daughters.

Into Your divine hands we commit our prayer, trusting in Your divine mercy.

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 New York (Mr. MORELLE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MORELLE 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.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 14, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I hereby submit my resignation, effective at 11:59 p.m. December 14, 2024, as United States Representative for the At-Large District of North Dakota.

Sincerely,

KELLY ARMSTRONG,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 14, 2024.

Hon. DOUG BURGUM,
Governor, State of North Dakota,
Bismarck, ND.

DEAR GOVERNOR BURGUM: I hereby submit my resignation, effective at 11:59 p.m. De-

cember 14, 2024, as United States Representative for the At-Large District of North Dakota. Attached is the letter that I submitted to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. It has been the honor of my lifetime to represent the great people of North Dakota for the last six years.

Sincerely,

KELLY ARMSTRONG,
Member of Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG), the whole number of the House is 430.

IN RECOGNITION OF NITTANY LEATHERNECKS

(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 the Nittany Leathernecks' contribution to Christmas throughout the Commonwealth.

The Nittany Leathernecks Detachment of the Marine Corps League is a community service organization composed of active, retired, and former marines.

Since 1947, the mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program has been to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November, and December each year and to distribute them as Christmas gifts to less-fortunate children in the community.

The Nittany Leathernecks Detachment coordinates Toys for Tots for Centre County. The detachment works with the Centre County Adult Services office, which coordinates with seven Centre County food pantries to identify needy children and distribute toys.

The Nittany Leathernecks campaign annually provides a Christmas gift experience to over 9,000 children.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the selfless marines for their service to our country and their dedication to uplifting our communities. I wish them a merry Christmas.

CALLING FOR CONSERVATION OF BERING RIVER COALFIELD

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a piece of property in Alaska. Southeast Alaska is called the Copper River Delta. There is a coalfield there called the Bering River coalfield.

Mr. Speaker, this goes back to Teddy Roosevelt's days as a conservation effort. The United States Government