

More than 5 million of our fellow Americans have worked and paid into a system and get below poverty-level checks from their government, the wealthiest in the world, with the Nation's number one antipoverty program that this body has not acted on in more than 50 years.

It is long overdue that we take the initiative and have a vote in the United States Congress that will help the American people.

Social Security is bedrock. Whether you are a Democrat, Republican, or Independent, you understand this.

Now, our colleagues on the other side have put forward something they call a study commission. We don't need to study Social Security. We know what needs to be done.

To have a study that goes behind closed doors and has an up-or-down vote that is unamendable, with no input from this body, is absurd, anti-democratic, and anti-elderly and -children from the standpoint of the havoc that it would wreak on this system.

The idea that they are doing this to save Social Security is a fallacy. They are doing it so they can go behind closed doors and cut the very program that sustains so many Americans. For more than 40 percent of all Americans who are on Social Security, this is the only pension benefit that they will have.

Madam Speaker, you know as well as I that it is not only a pension benefit. It is a disability benefit, as well as taking care of spouses and children.

Imagine, for our viewers in the audience, Congress has not taken a vote in more than 50 years for the Nation's number one antipoverty program.

It is long overdue that we not study this but do what we are elected to do by the public and actually vote.

If you have a better idea, put it out there, but we believe this, as well. I commend President Biden for saying, look, the way that we are going to pay for this is to lift the cap, or what is called Scrap the Cap, on people making over \$400,000.

This past month marked when millionaires have already stopped paying into the Social Security program. Bill Gates stopped paying back in January.

That is wrong. It is not right. To lift that cap will allow us not only to extend the solvency of Social Security but increase benefits across the board for its members, to make sure that WEP and GPO, which have hurt teachers and municipal employees over the years, is finally scrapped; to have in there a tax cut for more than 23 million Americans who continue to pay taxes on their Social Security; and to make sure that everyone's benefits are enhanced.

Where does that money go, Madam Speaker? The money from Social Security goes right back into every single Congressional district, and it allows those individuals in that district to sustain themselves. Nobody's going out and buying stock options with Social Security 2100.

HONORING SECRETARY BILL NORTHEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, today, I am proud to recognize the passing of Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey.

Secretary Northey's tenure as Iowa's Secretary of Agriculture left a remarkable legacy and included countless contributions to Iowa's agricultural heritage and Iowa's agricultural landscape.

Under his leadership, Iowa saw significant advancements in conservation practices, soil health initiatives, and water quality improvement efforts.

Beyond his policy achievements, Secretary Northey was known for his genuine kindness, approachability, and dedication to serving the people of Iowa.

Secretary Northey's legacy will inspire future generations to continue to his work and uphold his vision for a vibrant and prosperous Iowa.

Bill's love for Iowa and Iowa agriculture was known to all, and his dedication to our farmers and the environment will be sorely missed.

RECOGNIZING 51ST RAGBRAI

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, today, I am thrilled to share exciting details about the upcoming 2024 Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, also known as RAGBRAI.

Earlier this year, it was announced that the route of the 51st edition of this renowned bicycle ride will cross southern Iowa towns for the first time in 5 years. The route will extend 424 miles from Glenwood to Burlington, Iowa. At the end of the ride, cyclists can take on the challenge and power their way up Snake Alley.

The ride will take place this summer from July 21 to July 27, and I look forward to cheering on everyone who will participate in this upcoming adventure.

CONGRATULATING ANDREW MARTINO

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I wish my nephew, Andrew Martino, a blessed confirmation.

Congratulations, Andrew, on this milestone.

RECOGNIZING CAITLIN CLARK

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I have introduced this resolution with the entire Iowa delegation. This resolution congratulates Iowa native Caitlin Clark on becoming the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Division 1 basketball leading scorer.

Whereas, on March 3, 2024, during a baseball game between the University of Iowa Hawkeyes and the Ohio State University Buckeyes, Caitlin Clark, referred to in this preamble as Clark, became the National Collegiate Athletic Association, referred to in this preamble as NCAA, Division 1 basketball all-time leading scorer;

Whereas, because of Clark and the University of Iowa Hawkeyes women's basketball team, referred to in this preamble as the Hawkeyes, women's sports are being covered and talked about at the national level in the United States with the same fervor as men's sports;

Whereas, the Hawkeyes have sold out games at home at the Carver-Hawkeye Arena and on the road in arenas across the United States;

Whereas, every sold-out game is full of young girls watching Clark and the Hawkeyes demonstrate the excitement, competition, and fun that is possible because of women's sports;

Whereas, women's sports serve as an important way for young girls to develop discipline, teamwork, confidence, and leadership skills, and the achievements of female athletes should be celebrated;

Whereas, Clark serves as a role model, demonstrating that dreams are achievable with hard work and dedication;

Whereas, Iowans are proud of Clark and thankful for the opportunity to watch Clark, one of the greatest athletes to ever play basketball, compete for the Hawkeyes;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the House of Representatives congratulates Caitlin Clark on becoming the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division 1 basketball all-time leading scorer and respectfully requests that the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to Caitlin Clark; the athletic director of the University of Iowa, Beth Goetz; and the head coach of the University of Iowa Hawkeyes women's basketball team, Lisa Bluder.

Go Hawks.

□ 1215

HONORING MARIE RIDDER

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

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise this afternoon to honor the lifetime contributions of Marie Ridder to Virginia and to our Nation.

Marie, a distinguished journalist and one of the most passionate conservationists I have ever known, celebrated her 99th birthday just a few weeks ago. I believe her children have finally gotten her to agree to stop driving herself to every one of her many engagements.

Marie Ridder began her career as a journalist by covering the reconstruction of post-World War II Europe for the Philadelphia Bulletin. Over the years, she wrote for The Washington Post, The Boston Globe, and for Knight Ridder publications.

Not just a writer, Marie edited Vogue, Glamour, Mademoiselle, and also Conde Nast magazines.

I became close with Marie when she hosted my first political event more

than 36 years ago. When everyone else was skeptical, including my own family, she believed in me.

Marie is passionate about saving our landscapes and our environment. She has been the champion of the Piedmont Environmental Council for decades. She has served on the boards of the League of Conservation Voters and the Trust for Public Land.

She is also a master gardener. While working in her garden high above the Potomac River, she was bitten by a copperhead a few years ago and rushed to Sibley Memorial Hospital for the antivenom. When she was struck again by a copperhead a few years later, the emergency room doctor noted that he had only treated two snake bites in his life; both were Marie. It will come as no surprise that he was, yet again, the attending physician on her third snake bite. I do my best to avoid her garden.

Marie's public service history is both remarkable and intriguing. She was the deputy to the national director of Head Start where she also served as the direct liaison to First Lady Lady Bird Johnson for 4 years.

Later, she led the Sasha Bruce House, a compassionate home for lost children in our Capital City, the abused, abandoned, neglected, and run-aways.

Marie has won many awards in her fight for democracy, and in 2019, I was privileged to award her the Clara Mortenson Beyer Women and Children First Award for outstanding accomplishments and contributions to empowering women.

On a recent visit to her McLean home, we were regaled with the most recent bow and arrow and deer story in her garden—that same cursed garden. It was in season, of course.

Megan and I are most fortunate to count Marie Ridder as our beloved friend. Our America is the long beneficiary of her creativity, her energy, and her tireless commitment to others.

When you earn her trust, Marie will even tell you about her date with John F. Kennedy.

ARE YOU BETTER OFF TODAY

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, in the final week of the 1980 Presidential campaign, former President Ronald Reagan posed an important question to voters: "Are you better off today than you were 4 years ago?" We don't have to wait until November to answer that same question today. The answer lies right outside this building.

If you are not sure whether you are better off than you were 4 years ago, consider that last year, Washington, D.C., saw 274 homicides. That is the highest number in almost 30 years.

Homicides are up 23 percent from 2019 in Chicago. In New York City, homicides are up 23 percent from 2019. Felony assault is up 35 percent. Car thefts

have almost tripled. A record 5,363 NYPD officers were injured on the job last year. In major cities across this country, organized retail theft has claimed more than \$112 billion in property, up from just \$94 billion in 2021.

There are two reasons for this, Madam Speaker: bad policy and bad messaging.

House Republicans are committed to restoring law and order and opposing all efforts to defund the police and cracking down on rogue prosecutors who refuse to hold criminals accountable.

We passed into law a bill to stop the D.C. Council's dangerous plan to change the criminal code. It would have ended mandatory minimums for many offenses and reduced maximum penalties for burglary, carjacking, and robbery.

According to a recent article from The Washington Post, the D.C. Council is finally starting to reverse its position on these radical, progressive criminal reforms that it has been considering. It turns out that advocating for criminals isn't the best approach to stopping crime.

D.C. lawmakers are also starting to see the damage caused by catch and release. If things keep moving in this direction, we might even begin to see those accused of violent personal crimes remain behind bars while they await trial.

Last year, this city also experienced the worst officer shortage it has seen in 50 years. This is a direct result of the defund the police movement. It was more than a ridiculous slogan. It was a dangerous slogan that, unfortunately, garnered some traction around the country. It has become a cynical rallying cry, and I believe it is the reason law enforcement agencies across the country are having difficulty filling open positions.

Another reason is, frankly, it is a more dangerous job today than it was a few short years ago. Last year, 378 officers were shot. Madam Speaker, 46 of them lost their lives. That is up 20 percent from 2020.

So, no, we are not better off than we were 4 years ago, Madam Speaker. In fact, those who live and visit our Nation's Capital are not better off than they were just 2 years ago.

House Republicans are proud to stand with the men and women who keep our communities safe. We are also committed to taking on the extreme policies of the Biden administration, including bail reform and our wide-open southern border.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 21 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. ZINKE) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Guard both our hearts and our mouths today, O God. Let no thought enter our hearts that may hinder our closeness with You, nor let any word come from our mouths that is not meant for Your hearing. But set a guard over our mouths; keep watch over the door of our lips.

Do not let any unwholesome talk leave our mouths, but only that which is helpful to the value of the institution and the benefit of the people we have been called to serve.

Show us how to speak in such a way that edifies the conversation. Despite our differences, may we vow to benefit those with whom we dialogue.

Inspire us to energize and not jeopardize discussion, to invigorate and not denigrate our interlocutors. May we cultivate dignity and demonstrate respect for all with whom we engage this day.

Encourage us to build one another up, according to their needs, that we may succeed in strengthening the body and repairing the divisions that weaken our purpose to do good works in our service to You and to this country.

O God, our guardian, guide, and stay, abide with us this day, and grant us the blessing of Your divine guidance.

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, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr.