

age. Social Security has been around since Franklin Roosevelt created the program nearly 100 years ago.

Social Security accounts are yours, and it is a sacrilege to do anything to disturb them. You might think about President Trump; he inherited all of his money. He didn't have to work.

Mr. Speaker, we have to do everything possible to protect Social Security for the millions and millions of Americans who deserve those earned benefits, and no one should lie about them and say that they are in trouble. They are 99.8 percent delivered. They are 99.8 percent perfect. It is almost a perfect score. Don't believe what the President said down on this floor just a few days ago. We are here to protect Social Security benefits.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

REMEMBERING REPRESENTATIVE SYLVESTER TURNER

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

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember our colleague, Representative Sylvester Turner. My colleague previously discussed his policy accomplishments, but I will take this from a different angle.

If I had to rank my freshmen colleagues, respectfully, by kindness and decency, Sylvester Turner would have won in a landslide. He had a warmth about him, whether you were a constituent, a colleague, or just someone passing by. He didn't serve for recognition. He did it because he wanted to make people's lives better.

Representative Turner made this a better place, through his work and through the way he treated people. Before Congress, he served as the mayor of Houston, leading with the same heart and dedication that defined his life.

Losing him reminds us to appreciate the people around us. Today, let's take a moment to reflect, to check in on one another, and in this House and in houses across this Nation, let's carry forward the kindness and service that define Sylvester's life.

THE ACTIONS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL ACTUALLY RAISE COSTS FOR EVERY AMERICAN

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, this week's address to Congress was one of the longest addresses to Congress ever, yet there was no real plan or blueprint for how we are actually going to lower costs.

We heard a lot about Greenland and golden tickets and something about Mars, but we didn't actually hear

about lowering costs because the actions of this administration will actually raise costs for every American.

If you cut Medicaid, for instance, not only will you cut off care for millions, it will raise the healthcare premiums of every American, not just the ones on Medicaid. Health costs will go up.

If you fire half the people who administer Social Security and undermine it for our seniors, costs will go up. If you continue the brain drain in our government and fire Federal workers who protect consumers or do critical safety or health research, you will make us less safe and costs will go up.

Mr. Speaker, this administration's policies will directly lead to costs going up for all families. Americans deserve better.

□ 1130

REMEMBERING LARRY GERSTNER

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Larry Gerstner, an outstanding businessman who was well loved by his community and spent his life in service to it.

Larry was born in Columbus, Ohio, and grew up on a small farm in Hilliard. Earning a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Cincinnati, Larry joined the Peace Corps in 1971 and spent 3 years in Tonga constructing the main island's road and country's first jet field.

Upon returning to the States, Larry was elected Hocking County Engineer in 1976 and later served as a board member for the Hocking Hills Tourism Association.

Larry created numerous businesses that grew Hocking County's tourism industry, most known for the Columbus Washboard Company, the very last maker of washboards in the United States. One of his incredible washboards is displayed in my office for Ohioans to enjoy, similar to this one that I hold in my hand today.

After an 18-year fight with cancer, with his devoted wife, Joyce, by his side, Larry passed away in February of 2025. Larry will be dearly missed in Hocking County and across Ohio, but the legacy of his life of service will continue.

TARIFFS WHACK TRUMP VOTERS

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are trumpeting the dawn of a golden age of economic growth. However, this week, The Wall Street Journal had an editorial, "Trump's Tariffs Whack Trump Voters" with a subhead of "Whatever happened to GOP concern for the working class?"

The Wall Street Journal said: "President Trump won the Presidency a second time by promising working-class voters he'd lift their real incomes. Which makes it all the more puzzling that he's so intent on imposing tariffs that will punish those same Americans."

The Wall Street Journal said: "Tariffs are taxes, and Mr. Trump's latest tariffs are estimated to be about an annual \$150 billion tax increase. Taxes are antigrowth. That is the message investors are sending this week since Mr. Trump let his 25 percent tariffs on Canada and Mexico take effect."

The Wall Street Journal said: "Brace for higher prices on berries, bell peppers, and . . . beer. Target CEO Brian Cornell told CNBC . . . that tariffs on Mexico may force the company to raise prices on fruits and vegetables."

The Wall Street Journal said all of these things, Mr. Speaker. I couldn't have said it better myself.

CONGRATULATING LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lincoln High School football team on winning their second State title in 3 years. This was a huge achievement, but it is even more amazing when you consider what this team had to overcome to get there.

The Hornets spent their entire season on the road, after their field was deemed unsafe due to water damage. The team boarded buses and traveled to every single practice. They never played a home game.

Despite these obstacles, this team never gave up. They demonstrated resilience, grit, and teamwork, and together they brought home the State championship.

Congratulations again to the Lincoln High School football team. All the incredible players and coaches have made our entire district and city proud.

REMEMBERING DR. HAZEL NELL DUKES

(Ms. CLARKE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. Only days ago, New York State and our Nation lost a giant, an icon with the passing of Dr. Hazel Nell Dukes.

I have known Dr. Dukes for most of my life, and I consider it one of my greatest blessings to have called her my friend, mentor, soror, Link Sister, and inspiration.

When we look back on Dr. Dukes' remarkable life, we will remember her tireless advocacy and work to further

racial diversity, equity and inclusion, and prosperity for the Black community. We will remember her leadership as president of the NAACP and its New York chapter, which solidified her as a source for social action and change. We will remember how she stood tall against the oppressive status quo of Jim Crow and paved the way forward to a more enlightened, more accepting, more loving era for our country and world.

I know I will remember the image of her arm in arm with my mother, Dr. Una Clarke, at the Democratic Convention, where they stood in the trenches together, fighting for the Black community at each other's sides.

Truly, Dr. Dukes lived a life of courage, resolve, and unmatched tenacity. We owe her a debt of gratitude that can never be measured or repaid, and I will miss my friend's warmth and wisdom so dearly.

Ma Dukes, we will never forget you. May you rest in power. May you rest in peace.

SAYING GOOD-BYE TO A GIANT

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

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today we say good-bye to a giant, a leader, a warrior for justice. Today, we mourn the passing of my dear friend and brother in service, Congressman Sylvester Turner.

Mr. Turner was more than a colleague. He was family. He carried the weight of his community on his shoulders, never once complaining, never once backing down from a fight when the people needed him. He walked these Halls not for power, not for prestige, but for purpose. That purpose was clear: to uplift the forgotten and fight for the unseen and to ensure that every child, no matter the ZIP Code they were born in, had a fair shot at success.

His legacy will be defined by his lifelong fight for civil rights, economic justice, and opportunity for all, but perhaps some of his most visionary work was cofounding the Congressional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Caucus that he, Congressman FIELDS, and I took on together with urgency and purpose.

Sylvester knew that representation wasn't just a box to check, it was the foundation of our democracy itself. He fought to break down barriers, to build pipelines of opportunity, and to ensure that government truly reflected the people it served.

THIS IS NOT NORMAL

(Ms. STANSBURY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STANSBURY. America, continue to be courageous because what is happening right now is not normal: The

dismantling of agencies, including today the Department of Education, the firing of teachers, veterans, military, hacking your personal data, cozying up to foreign adversaries. This is not normal.

We must continue to fight back, to push back in Congress, in the courts, and in our communities, so here is what you can do. Raise your voice. Push your Members of Congress, push the administration, push your State and local leaders, engage in collective action, and engage in everyday acts of resistance in your own life because, America, this is not normal. We will not go back.

I say to you, stay strong, raise your voices, and engage in acts of courage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

A REAL MATH PROBLEM

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. SCHWEIKERT of Arizona was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, have you ever had the time here where you basically are having to take on two things that push against each other, that create a real math problem, and that telling the truth about it—how do you say it?—oh, yeah, gets the crap kicked out of you? Let's have at it, though.

President Trump stood there just a couple days ago, and within his speech, when you talk about some of the policy to help our brothers and sisters in this country, there was the discussion of no tax on tips, no tax on overtime, these things, and the pushing to get us in Congress, the Senate included, to move the extension of the 2017 tax cuts. I am going to show you why that is so important.

However, at the same time, within almost the same breath, the President looked out at us and said he also wants a balanced budget.

Okay. Now we need to deal with the reality of how hard that math is, but there is a way to do it. I just don't know if intellectually, when you think about the things you heard behind these microphones this last week, how many of our brothers and sisters here, how many of the public, how many of the armies of lobbyists that are in the hallways here lined up saying they want more spending, more money, more regulation on their competition understand this. Let's go through some of the basic math facts, and then let's have a brutally honest conversation of how we stabilize and how far we can actually go.

All right. An oldie but a goodie, and the numbers are actually worse, but I didn't want to print another chart, so we have been using the same one from last year.

Do you see all the red in the chart? That is what we call mandatory. It is

automatic. It is earned benefits. It is, you served in the military, your pensions, those things. Interest is automatic. You have to pay it.

Do you see the blue? That is military and what we call nondefense discretionary. A Member of Congress, other than in a reconciliation opportunity—we are going to come back to why it is so important—only votes on this blue. Every dime a Member of Congress votes on, other than that moment of reconciliation, is borrowed. It is all borrowed money. Last year, for every dollar we took in in tax receipts, we borrowed \$1.39.

Look, the number of times I have come before these mikes, and I have done the charts and shown, in times when we have had very high marginal tax rates, we take in about 17, 18 percent of GDP in taxes. When we have had very low marginal tax rates, we take in about 17, 18 percent of GDP. It is the seesaw of lower marginal tax rates, the economy grows; higher marginal tax rates, the economy shrinks. We are getting basically the same percentage of the economy in tax receipts.

There is an article on the Manhattan Institute's website that does an aggregation of a lot of studies, many of them from leftwing groups, showing that if you raised every tax that functionally the Dems have offered that has gotten scored, and then you adjust it for its economic effects, you get about a 1.5 percent of GDP in taxes, additional taxes.

The cuts we had been talking about were now actually getting much broader, but let's go back to that point and a half. We are going to borrow 7.25 percent of the entire U.S. economy this year, so when the President turned to us and said he really wants a balanced budget, that is a tough one.

Now, his Treasury Secretary has talked about if we could get down to 3 percent stability. Ray Dalio, who is talking about a book he is giving away, talks about his incredible fear of the squeeze that is happening around the world because the countries in the world are bingeing on debt and that there may be a shortage of borrowable capital, which will cause us, as he says, a heart attack. He says it would be good if we could get back to 3 percent of the size of the economy.

Okay, maybe that should be our goal, but, once again, remember your government is functionally an insurance company with an army because the vast majority of our spending, the vast majority are things like Social Security, Medicare, and other benefits you get either because you hit a certain age, you worked a certain number of quarters, you fell below a certain income, or you are part of a certain Tribal group, but they are automatic. The one time we get an honest opportunity to really look at them is when there is this reconciliation. You are able to open up and look at the formula spendings.

Let's actually walk through this for someone like myself, who basically is