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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 24, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ABRAHAM J. HAMADEH to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

PRESIDENT TRUMP BRINGING BACK INVESTMENTS

(Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, during President Trump's inaugural address, he spoke of an aggressive artificial intelligence agenda to keep America competitive with the Chinese Communist Party.

Just a few months later, President Trump announced a historic \$1.4 trillion investment into our economy from the United Arab Emirates. This invest-

ment will support American artificial intelligence infrastructure. It will support semiconductors made in America. It will support energy production from America. It will support American manufacturing.

Our two nations worked closely together during President Trump's first term to bring peace to the Middle East through the historic Abraham Accords. Now, with President Trump's leadership back in the White House, I am encouraged to see this partnership grow even stronger with this investment.

President Trump promised to bring investment back to the United States, and he is already delivering on this promise just 2 months into his term.

AGRICULTURE IS CRITICAL IN PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as a leading producer of dairy products in the country, Pennsylvania dairymen know just how important food additives are for the safety of our food supply. However, the FDA's approval process for these additives has resulted in a decades-long approval process that stifles innovation and leaves American farmers falling behind their international competitors.

I am proud to join a bipartisan group of Members on the Innovative FEED Act to streamline this process and cut the approval time down by years.

Nutrient supplements keep our food supply safe and our livestock healthy and allow American farmers to stay competitive on the international market.

Agriculture is a critical industry in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and I am proud to help lead this fight in Congress to give farmers access to the innovative products that they need to compete.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LLOYD PECK

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable life and distinguished legacy of Lloyd Peck, a proud veteran, a

beloved community leader, and a true American patriot who passed away on March 17.

Lloyd Peck served as a first lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean war. In civilian life, Lloyd filled many various roles as an advocate for veterans. In addition to serving as the commander of the Blair County War Veterans Council, Lieutenant Peck was a founding member of the Blair County Honor Guard, the chief parade marshal for the Memorial Day and the Veterans Day parades in Altoona, and a volunteer at the James E. Van Zandt Medical Center, where he worked tirelessly to help local veterans receive their benefits.

In the true spirit of Semper Fidelis, Lieutenant Peck continually demonstrated his steadfast loyalty to his fellow veterans and continually worked to help our Nation become that more perfect Union.

As we remember Lloyd Peck, we also keep in mind his loved ones, including his wife, Judy; his daughter, Heather; and his sister, Betty. We offer them our condolences and our heartfelt prayers.

Mr. Speaker, please join me, and all members of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, in remembering the incredible life and legacy of Lieutenant Lloyd Peck.

IT HAS BEEN OVER 50 YEARS SINCE CONGRESS HAS ENHANCED SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. LARSON of Connecticut was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the body with regard to Social Security and the lack of congressional action.

It might interest people in the audience to know, Mr. Speaker, that it has been over 50 years since Congress has enhanced Social Security on behalf of

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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its recipients. That is why I have introduced legislation specifically to address this issue.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, at the same time, we see that Mr. Musk has been charged by the President of the United States to cut \$2 trillion from the budget. Mr. Musk has made no bones about the fact that he plans to privatize Social Security and Medicare, amongst others.

Social Security, Medicare, and defense, as a number of people in the audience knows, makes up more than 70 percent of the budget. He has been instructed to find \$2 trillion. Coincidentally, that is just about how much Trump's tax cut for the wealthiest 1 percent is, \$2 trillion.

Where will it come from, Mr. Speaker? Obviously, he has his designs on Social Security, the only one of those entities—defense, Medicare, and Medicaid—that has a trust fund, a trust fund of \$2.7 trillion of hardworking people's money.

It might surprise you, Mr. Speaker, to know that, in your district, you have over 183,000 Social Security recipients, over 13,000 who are disabled, 7,000-plus children, 8,000 widows, and 4,000 spouses.

Here is the critical thing: Republicans should wake up in this time of inflation. Your district and every district on average, by the way, receives more than \$200 million monthly for its Social Security recipients. Your district, Mr. Speaker, receives \$354 million.

That hasn't been changed since 1971. People in America should be outraged by the fact that Congress has not fulfilled its responsibility to act on behalf of its citizens.

Social Security is the number one insurance program in the country, serving over 70 million people. Mr. Speaker, 10,000 baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security, and Congress continues to ignore them and ignore their needs.

Shamefully, more than 5 million of our fellow Americans get below-poverty-level checks from the wealthiest Nation in the world and the most successful insurance program because of congressional inaction. Most of those 5 million are women, and among those, most of them are women of color.

People have been taxed on their Social Security when they continue to work after retirement, and that is false, as well. I have had a proposal, Mr. Speaker, to correct all of that, to change it, and, by the way, pay for it.

How do we do that, Mr. Speaker? Very simple: We lift the cap on people who pay nothing or very little or are through paying the first day and second day of January. Lifting the cap on over 400,000 people, as President Biden proposed, will provide us the benefits and solvency that Social Security needs.

Why is it that hardworking people in this gallery should pay into a system all their lives and get a benefit, yet billionaires can be excluded and don't

have to pay in the same amount or some totally circumvent the law altogether and pay nothing?

It is long overdue, Mr. Speaker, don't you agree, for a vote to take place. For all the citizens in your district, the more than \$300 million that comes in, imagine what that does to the local economy in your district, how it will help out the local grocery store, the pharmacy, and, most importantly, the individual families in that region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Republicans stand up to join us in enhancing Social Security, not cutting it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members that the rules do not allow references to persons in the gallery.

CELEBRATING STEPHEN BUCHANAN'S WRESTLING TITLE

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS of Iowa was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today after 5 minutes of fiction to bring a little Iowa reality to Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Stephen Buchanan, who secured the 197-pound national wrestling title at the NCAA championships in Philadelphia. His victory was witnessed by President Donald Trump, highlighting the significance of this achievement.

Stephen's journey is one of transformation. Transferring to Iowa for his final season, he found not just a team but a family. Under the guidance of Coaches Tom and Terry Brands, Stephen's passion for wrestling was reignited, propelling him to become a four-time all-American and now a national champion.

Stephen's triumph not only adds to Iowa's storied wrestling legacy but also serves as an inspiration to aspiring athletes nationwide.

Stephen Buchanan exemplifies the power of dedication, resilience, and a community support system.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Stephen on this well-deserved honor. His achievement made the Hawkeye Nation proud.

HONORING 100 GREAT IOWA NURSES

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 33 outstanding nurses from Iowa's First Congressional District who have been named among the 2025 100 Great Iowa Nurses.

These dedicated professionals are at the heart and soul of our healthcare system, showing up every day with compassion, strength, and an unwavering commitment to their patients.

As a former nurse, I understand the immense challenges they face and the dedication required to provide exceptional care.

I am incredibly proud to see so many from our district recognized for their hard work, sacrifice, and service.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the nurses being honored today and all of those across Iowa for their tireless efforts to

make our communities healthier, stronger, and better places for everyone. Their work truly makes a lasting difference.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GLEN KEPPY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a great Iowan, Glen Keppy.

A lifelong resident of Eldridge, Glen dedicated his life to family, farming, and his community. His passion for agriculture was unmatched. Whether raising award-winning livestock, advocating for Iowa pork producers, or mentoring the next generation of farmers, Glen's impact stretched far beyond the fields.

Glen served his neighbors through organizations like the North Scott Rotary, Farm Bureau, and 4-H, always leading with integrity and kindness.

I saw this firsthand at his visitation last Thursday when there were more people there than I have ever seen at a visitation in my lifetime.

Glen's leadership in agriculture took him all the way here to Washington, D.C., where he served as a political appointee in the George W. Bush administration, working on behalf of rural America. Yet, no matter how far his work took him, his heart remained in Iowa, where he welcomed thousands of students to his farm to share his story of agriculture.

Glen's legacy is one of hard work, service, and an unwavering love for his family.

Mr. Speaker, may his wife, Jean, and their children and grandchildren find comfort in knowing his spirit lives on in the land he nurtured and in the lives he touched. God bless Glen Kempy.

Mr. Speaker, I wish a happy birthday to my brother Fred. Happy birthday, Fred. I also wish my amazing daughter, Taylor, a very happy birthday. Happy birthday, Taylor.

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KEATON BEASLEY TEACHES IMPORTANCE OF FINANCIAL LITERACY

(Mr. HILL of Arkansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Keaton Beasley of Simmons Bank.

Keaton is a graduate of Henderson State University, a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, and a banker in Little Rock.

Keaton exemplifies the ethos of a community banker, frequently working with children, adults, and seniors to teach them the importance of financial literacy. His efforts prove it is never too late or too early to learn how to manage your finances.

As a former community banker, I admire his efforts to uplift his community and help those around him build a stronger foundation in finance.

I look forward to seeing Keaton's continued impact in central Arkansas