I thank Jessie for his service to our Nation and for his commitment to fellow students who are veterans.

RECOGNIZING CHARLIE ZHANG

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charlie Zhang for his philanthropy and his induction into the Orange County Hall of Fame.

Charlie comes from humble beginnings. He came to this country penniless and unable to speak English but with a dream. With hard work, he started a number of businesses, and he achieved the American Dream.

Now, Charlie is known throughout Orange County for supporting education and the arts. Some of his most important contributions have helped business and economics students at my own alma mater, Cal State Fullerton.

I thank Charlie for being a role model and helping to uplift Orange County's next generation. I congratulate him on a well-deserved induction into Orange County's Hall of Fame.

HONORING SERRATO SISTERS

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate sisters Alicia, Anabelle, and Angelica Serratos for their accomplishments as part of the Santa Ana High School girls' wrestling team.

Alicia, Anabelle, and Angelica took home an impressive combined record of 104 wins and 12 losses into their recent CIF Southern Section girls' championship meets.

Their parents, Fernando and Monica, are both former wrestlers and currently coach at Santa Ana High School. Their guidance has helped their daughters, the sisters, and many other champs at Santa Ana High School.

I wish Alicia, Anabelle, and Angelica success in their wrestling careers, and I thank the Serratos family for showing Orange County how it is done.

Go Saints.

RECOGNIZING SENIOR SANTA & FRIENDS

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Senior Santa & Friends program that supports many seniors across Orange County.

Each year, this program brings joy to seniors and adults with severe disabilities, bringing them gifts and special requests, gifts that make changes in their lives like household appliances, medical equipment, clothing, and nutritional supplements.

Senior Santa & Friends has been able to deliver 2,100 gifts annually to seniors in need in our community.

Please join me in thanking Senior Santa & Friends for their dedication to helping our community make life much better during the holidays for our seniors.

CONGRATULATING ALEXANDRIA HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAM

(Mrs. FISCHBACH of Minnesota was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mechatronics Team 3133, the Alexandria Area High School's robotics team, on winning the Impact Award.

This prestigious award will send the team to the world championship in Houston, Texas. This is their third Impact Award, and it is clear why. The team is extremely dedicated, having offered hours of their time in the summer to work with elementary and middle school robotics teams.

Teammates Bridger Klavetter and Gunner Sellnow said they appreciate the worldwide community that the sport has allowed them to be part of and said that their team works to be professional in defeat and gracious in victory.

On behalf of the Seventh District, I wish them the best of luck in Houston.

DEFENDING MEDICAID FOR FAMILIES LIKE THE CURRANS

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, in this Chamber, as early as today, we may be passing legislation that is explicitly designed to maintain historically low tax rates on the Nation's wealthiest people.

The richest people in America will be served by this institution so that they can pay the lowest tax amounts possible. The corporations in this country must have their record-low tax rates maintained.

The problem is this comes with a cost, and that cost will be paid, as the Republicans have laid it out for us to see, by the Medicaid program and by the addition of trillions of dollars to the United States debt.

Let's talk for a second about Medicaid because it serves about 80 million Americans. Not all Americans have experience with it, but an awful lot do. We are told, and the fantasy is, that the money can be saved by identifying waste, fraud, and abuse.

Make no mistake, that is a fantasy. If you are rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse, you hire more people, investigators, and auditors to go after it. We are doing the exact opposite. Elon Musk and DOGE are firing the people who go after waste, fraud, and abuse.

It turns out that people don't wear signs around their necks saying: ''I am committing waste, fraud, and abuse.'' No, it is hard to identify this stuff. It exists, but it does not exist in any conceivable number that the Republicans are talking about cutting out of the Medicaid program.

That number is almost $100 billion a year, $100 billion out of roughly $600 billion in spending. Mind you, that is not trimming. That is taking a wheel off the car.

Here is what is going to happen. As I said, Medicaid covers 80 million Americans with health insurance. It also provides the funding that allows grandma to stay in an assisted living facility after she has run out of assets.

What I really want to do is tell you about Conner Curran. Conner is a 14-year-old from the town of Ridgefield, which I have the honor of representing. His mom is a teacher. His dad works for a local municipality. These are wonderful, middle-class folks just like anyone else in this country.

The problem is that 10 years ago, when he was 4 years old, Conner was diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Duchenne muscular dystrophy is a terrible disease. Your muscles waste away, including your heart and your lung muscles. As a consequence, people who have this terrible diagnosis tend to live between 20 and 30 years. Conner is 14.

Lately, because of breakthrough research, some people diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy are living into their forties and fifties.

You might imagine what the Curran family felt when those research programs were devastated by Elon Musk and DOGE. Imagine that.

The real threat to Conner is what is going to happen in this Chamber this week as they find a way to slash Medicaid.

Conner's medicines, the medicines that have kept him alive, cost thousands of dollars a month. A middle-class family can't pay that. Medicaid does.

His lung function is compromised, so he needs a $12,000 machine to breathe. He needs help in school. He wants to go to college, but he needs a little help because he is severely handicapped by this terrible disease.

Conner comes to my office almost every year to tell me about his aspirations and to beg that we keep funding not just the research that may provide him with a normal lifespan but those things that give him a reasonable quality of life, a shot of achieving that dream of going to college.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues are not voting on numbers this week, although there are billions involved. My colleagues are certainly not voting on waste, fraud, or abuse. Let's leave that fantasy behind. My colleagues are voting this week on what kind of future, if any, Conner can expect and what kind of future, if any, 80 million Americans who rely on Medicaid will have.

My colleagues must take seriously the pain that is about to be caused to some of the most vulnerable Americans out there as they think about their vote, as they think about what they are trying to achieve, as they think about what they aspire this country to be.

HANDS OFF SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. MAGAZINER of Rhode Island was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the more than 120,000 people in my district who count on Social Security, a sacred promise earned through decades of hard work.

Social Security is the bedrock of retirement for the middle class. It means dignity after a lifetime of work.

Donald Trump and Elon Musk are firing the staff that run the Social Security office, all to find more money to pay for tax cuts for billionaires, and the impact has been devastating.

Last month alone, the Social Security website crashed four times in 10 days for hours, in one case for almost an entire day, locking retirees out of their accounts.

People who try to call the Social Security offices are on hold for hours because all the staff in the offices have been fired.

Now, they are threatening to shut down the phone lines altogether and close offices all across the country.

These aren't glitches. These are deliberate choices for no good reason. This is a violation of the sacred promise of Social Security, and I am urging this body and Members on both sides of the aisle to listen to your constituents and stand up for the working people of your districts who have paid into Social Security. This is their benefit that they have earned.

Tell Elon Musk to get his hands off of the Social Security Administration.

□ 1045

RECOGNIZING RHODE ISLAND STATE POLICE'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a century of service from the Rhode Island State Police.

For 100 years, the men and women of the Rhode Island State Police have answered the call through hurricanes and blizzards, working on the highways, in cyberspace, and undercover, always committed to keeping Rhode Islanders safe.

Established in 1925, the Rhode Island State Police was a new type of police force. They were tasked with reaching and serving the areas that were often underserved by the local police.

In the 1930s, the Rhode Island State Police established their headquarters in North Scituate, where they remain to this day.

During their 100 years, they have been known for excellence in disrupting organized crime, responding to emergencies, solving complex financial and cybercrimes, and keeping the roads safe and traffic moving. They also have a history of lending a hand to other States in their times of need, including in Massachusetts after the Boston Marathon bombing.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Rhode Island State Police for a century of service. They have our gratitude and our support.

SUPPORT FOR CAREGIVERS

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, every day in this country, millions of people wake up and serve as caregivers for a parent, spouse, or a sibling who is aging, sick, or disabled.

Let's be clear that this is work. It may not come with a title or a W–2. Yet, for those family members who need a little extra help, it means the world. In spite of the important role that family caregivers play, they too often go overlooked.

That is why I am working with a bipartisan group of colleagues to introduce legislation to make the lives and work of caregivers a little easier. Together, we are introducing bills to expand access to tax-free savings accounts to cover the costs of medical expenses, to improve communication between Medicare and caregivers to streamline the benefits process, and to create a new $5,000 tax credit to help offset the costs of family caregiving.

Just a few weeks ago, I joined a bipartisan, bicameral group of colleagues to introduce the Alleviating Barriers for Caregivers Act to eliminate red tape for caregivers. Caregiving back home in my district and across the country deserves support and deserves respect, and I am calling on my colleagues to join me in helping those who give so much.

IN RECOGNITION OF LUIGI ''GENO'' AURIEMMA

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, first and foremost, to talk about the incredible achievement of Geno Auriemma and the University of Connecticut's women's basketball team, the winningest program in the Nation's history.

They performed remarkably well throughout the tournament, and it is just a great honor and a tribute for the entire Connecticut delegation to recognize this outstanding achievement.

Typical of Geno Auriemma, what he did before he accepted the award or said anything, he congratulated South Carolina and their coach and their achievements and the incredible season that they had, as well.

It is nice in athletics and sports to still see the class rings and the recognition of contributions of student athletes. Watching the NCAA tournament and watching both men's and women's collegiate athletes compete, it reminds us of just how great of a nation we live in.

In this great Nation, I am equally proud to recognize the number one program of all time is that of the University of Connecticut, led by Coach Geno Auriemma.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I also rise to discuss Social Security today, the Nation's number one antipoverty program for the elderly and the number one antipoverty program for children, as well.

Mr. Speaker, it is dismaying to see the President's proposal and Elon Musk's proposal to cut Social Security. Let's be clear about it. That is exactly what this administration is doing when they are taking SSA and diminishing its field forces and closing regional offices.

In the Speaker's district, there are over 160,000 recipients who receive Social Security benefits. What most Members don't realize is that also means $291 million that comes into the Speaker's district every month.

Mr. Speaker, that hasn't been changed since 1971. Have a few things changed since 1971? It is long overdue that Congress not only protects Social Security, the Nation's number one antipoverty program for the elderly and children but expands it because it hasn't been expanded since 1971. That is shameful and long overdue.

Instead, Elon Musk is going about and talking about how he is going to cut programs and singling out Social Security, Medicare, and national defense. Yet, the only thing he is really talking about is Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, that is because, of those three programs, Social Security is the only one that has $2.7 trillion in its trust fund. That is the people's money. That is what every single American has put into that program.

Mr. Speaker, it is not an entitlement. It is an earned benefit. The actions of Elon Musk and the President and, until this body speaks out and up, the actions of the Republican-controlled House and Senate is to go along with what Elon Musk and President Trump are providing.

That means a direct cut to the Speaker's district and all of the other 434 districts and all of the individuals who rely on Social Security. It is a shame that, in the wealthiest Nation in the world, over 5 million of our fellow Americans who paid into the insurance program get below-poverty-level checks from the wealthiest government and the wealthiest Nation in the world simply because Congress hasn't acted.

It is equally shameful that not since 1971 have any of these programs been enhanced. Even last December, when teachers and firefighters and police officers were finally included, it was not paid for. Step up, pay for, and fund Social Security.

HONORING EDWARD JAMES McGRAW

(Mr. CISCOMANI of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of United States Air Corps sergeant and World War II veteran, Edward James McGraw.

A tail gunner, Purple Heart and Bronze Star recipient, prisoner of war survivor, beloved member of the Greatest Generation, and Green Valley resident, Edward McGraw represented the highest ideals of service, sacrifice, and resilience.

Shot down over France in 1944, Edward's bravery saved countless lives, even as he endured frostbite, captivity, and some of the hardest conditions of the war. While he faced unimaginable