

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

challenges and harsh conditions, he continued to fight for his fellow countrymen and never lost his commitment to justice and freedom.

After the war, he built a joyful life, carrying with him a quiet strength from his time in service.

Edward's lifetime of service and his courage, grace, and patriotism will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

We will never forget the sacrifices that he and countless soldiers made for our freedoms. I thank Edward for his service, and may he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING CARLO RIVERO AND CLAYTON RATLIFF

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and highlight Clayton Ratliff and Carlo Rivero, two young athletes from Arizona who were selected to play on the 12U USA Baseball team. This is a monumental achievement that reflects their dedication and perseverance to the sport.

Tryouts start with 25,000 hopeful participants with three rounds of eliminations, ultimately creating a final roster of only 18 players.

Clayton is a proud resident of Casa Grande and an aspiring baseball player who is well respected by everyone in his community. He is a pitcher and outfielder.

Carlo lives in Tucson and comes from a proud baseball family. His dad played college baseball, and his grandfather played professionally in the MLB. He plays as a pitcher and an infielder.

I am grateful for the opportunity to honor these two young athletes for their accomplishments at such a young age. I know we all look forward to rooting for them and seeing all the amazing things that they will accomplish in their baseball and academic careers.

RECOGNIZING ANDRADA POLYTECHNIC HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Andrada Polytechnic High School for receiving an A-plus School of Excellence Award by the Arizona Educational Foundation, the highest State-level recognition given to a public school.

Go Mavericks.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 55 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at noon.

PRAYER

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

God, You are the giver of all good things. Thank You for having granted to us all that brings life and directs us toward godliness. We pause to reflect in this moment how countless and comprehensive are these gifts of grace that You have laid before us to enjoy and to steward.

Cause us to understand that we can only appreciate the responsibility You have placed in our hands if we first acknowledge that all this is ours that we would know both Your power and appreciate Your grace. All that we have is ours to glorify You and to reveal Your generosity to each and everyone we encounter.

On this day, in all that we do, in all that we say, in the use of our time and the stands that we take, may Your good gifts, especially the immeasurable gift of Your steadfast love, flow through us and reveal Your glory and excellence.

In the name of Him who is able to do far more than we could ask or imagine, we offer our prayers.

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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. JACOBS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. JACOBS 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 159

Whereas, on June 10, 1932, John Bennett, Johnston, Jr. (referred to in this preamble as "Senator Johnston"), was born in Shreveport, Louisiana;

Whereas Senator Johnston graduated from C.E. Byrd High School in Shreveport, and later attended Washington and Lee University, the United States Military Academy at West Point, and Louisiana State University Law School;

Whereas Senator Johnston excelled in his academic pursuits at Louisiana State University Law School, graduating with distinction as a member of the Order of the Coif in 1956;

Whereas Senator Johnston married Mary Hunter Gunn in 1956, and they later had 4 children and 10 grandchildren;

Whereas Senator Johnston served as a First Lieutenant in the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, and was stationed in Germany from 1956 to 1959;

Whereas Senator Johnston began his career in public service to the State of Louisiana as a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives from 1964 to 1968, where he served as floor leader before his election to the Louisiana State Senate, where he served from 1968 to 1972;

Whereas the people of the State of Louisiana elected Senator Johnston to represent the State of Louisiana in the Senate, where he served from 1972 to 1997;

Whereas Senator Johnston served on several important committees throughout his Senate career, including—

- (1) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources;
- (2) the Committee on Appropriations;
- (3) the Committee on the Budget;
- (4) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship;
- (5) the Special Committee on Aging; and
- (6) the Select Committee on Intelligence;

Whereas his tenure as Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources from 1987 to 1995 cemented the legacy of Senator Johnston as guiding the energy policy of the United States;

Whereas Senator Johnston achieved many legislative triumphs important to the State of Louisiana during his tenure in the Senate, supporting and passing legislation on—

- (1) flood control and hurricane protection;
- (2) natural resource conservation;
- (3) expanding offshore oil and gas drilling off the coast of the State of Louisiana;
- (4) deregulating the natural gas industry; and
- (5) national energy security, including Senate Bill 2166, 102d Congress, a comprehensive energy measure providing for national security and reducing the dependency of the United States on foreign energy;

Whereas Senator Johnston championed legislation to create national wildlife refuges, to preserve more than 120,000 acres of Louisiana-inland wetlands, and to honor the rich history of the State of Louisiana through the establishment of the New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park and the Cane River Creole National Historical Park;

Whereas Senator Johnston lived to be 92 years old; and

Whereas, throughout his life, Senator Johnston served the State of Louisiana and the United States with integrity and distinction, and never wavered in his commitment to honorable public service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(A) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable John Bennett Johnston, Jr. (referred to in this resolution as "Honorable Bennett Johnston"), former Senator from the State of Louisiana; and

(B) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate—

(i) communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives; and

(ii) transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the Honorable Bennett Johnston; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns on the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Senate stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Bennett Johnston.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 117-263, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Commission on Reform