

species but is actually just another population of one called the stargazing darter. This raises concern about a species' identification when really what it is being used for is a weapon.

This is what the snail darter actually looks like because it doesn't exist as its own.

This is what they are doing in southern California. I just showed you the picture of the fires. There is a project near Pacific Palisades that was going to remove some vulnerable power pole lines that were made of wood and some lower hanging wires and other equipment with some stronger, more fire-resistant ones. They started on the project, but they discovered a species of vetch which is grown as a crop in many other areas, as a cover crop or what have you. They discovered one called, I think, Braunton's milkvetch. We grow cow vetch all the time in other areas. I have another picture in another speech.

When placed side by side, they are the same picture. These are weaponized to stop a project that could have been helpful in keeping Pacific Palisades from burning due to downed power lines. It probably wouldn't have been the key piece, but that has certainly happened in plenty of other areas around the State where downed power lines, due to the wind or branches and stuff blowing into them, have caused several fires, including the Camp fire in Paradise I mentioned that killed 85 people, and started a fire called the Dixie fire which burned a million acres.

Frequently, we have in northern California what we call public safety power shutoffs where people just have their power shut off because the wind might blow hard enough to blow branches into power lines somewhere. We sit without power like a Third World country.

This all traces back to the inability to do the forestry management where I was talking about water storage and to have a water supply for southern California.

What it boils down to is we need the leadership like President Trump is going to provide and what Gavin Newsom has been stopping as far as helping us with water storage and helping us get the water to the farmers and urban areas as needed.

ADDRESSING SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the concern that faces the United States Congress, one that it has avoided and neglected for more than 54 years.

Richard Nixon was the last President to enhance Social Security. That was in 1971. All of us are concerned on both sides of the aisle, but concern is no substitute for action. It is long overdue that Congress takes a vote on behalf of the American people.

Social Security is more than a pension program. I think the American public knows it and is getting aroused because there are 70 million Americans that are on Social Security and 10,000 baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, for example, in your district alone there are over 175,000 Social Security recipients. It is broken down into those who receive pensions, those who get spousal benefits, those who get widow benefits, children, and, of course, disabilities. More veterans rely on Social Security disability than they do on the VA.

It is not emphasized enough, but the other key thing is: Social Security is the best economic development program that there is in the country. Every district, on average, gets over \$200 million coming into that district on a monthly basis.

Where do they spend that money? Nobody gets wealthy on Social Security. That is for sure. That money goes right back into the economy. It becomes something that Congress hasn't adjusted since 1971. I think there are a few things everyone would acknowledge that have happened to the economy since 1971.

Certainly, Congress is neglecting its responsibility. We can point fingers every way, but the bottom line is Congress needs to act. Congress needs to vote.

President Trump has called for tax cuts for people on Social Security. I applaud him. We have had tax cuts in our proposal for the last decade. There has been no action on that.

The difference between what we are proposing and what President Trump is proposing is that we pay for ours because if it is not paid for, what ends up happening is the Social Security fund will be bankrupted. It is still the number one antipoverty program for the elderly and the number one antipoverty program for children.

This economic development piece is something, again, that all of us ought to be able to embrace. I will provide every Member of Congress with a card that will demonstrate how many recipients they have and how much money comes into their district on a monthly basis.

For us, meaning the United States Congress, we are the only body that can act. The President can't do it through executive order. The Supreme Court isn't going to take it up. Only the United States Congress can. Inaction means the fund will be cut. Unpaid action means the fund will be cut drastically.

Imagine there are more than 5 million people that get a below-poverty-level check from Social Security, having paid in all their lives. That was not the guarantee that they signed up for.

There are close to 35 million people in total. This is the only benefit they have, again, attesting to the great vision and leadership of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, knowing this is actually the

safety net of capitalism. This allows people to take risks because even if people were to fail, there is something there to catch them and help them and their families through this.

Congress has not acted since 1971. Some will say: No, no, wait a minute. Didn't Tip O'Neill? Yes, they did. It was primarily led by Senator Bob Dole, but Tip O'Neill got together with Ronald Reagan who was adamantly opposed to Social Security. Mr. Dole convinced him, no, this is the right thing to do.

What they did is they extended the solvency of Social Security to its current position. It is not as long as it should have been, but, nonetheless, it is an action that went in the right direction.

I know the Speaker to be a man of good will and integrity. I hope this is something that we can bring up and work on to get this done on behalf of the American people.

□ 1100

REPUBLICANS STAND WITH WOMEN

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, this past week, House Republicans passed the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, which ensures that biological men cannot compete in women's and girls' sports. It makes sense to about 99 percent of America.

The idea that we even need a bill like this is disturbing in itself. Think about it. We are debating whether boys or men should compete against girls or women in athletics, all athletics.

When Title IX was enacted back in 1972, Mr. Speaker, it opened the doors for women and girls to have equal opportunities in sports. When Title IX was enacted back 1972, it opened the doors for women and girls to have equal opportunities in sports. It is worth repeating.

Before Title IX, women's sports were almost nonexistent, but since then, we have seen great progress. Women's sports have flourished, and we have seen amazing accomplishments in basketball, soccer, swimming, and so much more.

Athletes like Caitlin Clark, Angel Reese, Simone Biles, and Lindsey Vonn are now household names, inspiring young girls everywhere.

Yet we have been faced with a narrow but loud group of activists and media who think it is acceptable for a 6-foot-4-inch biological male to compete against an average-sized, yet athletic, woman in sports.

Let's be clear, it is not acceptable. Also, it is not acceptable to force women to share a locker room with a biological man, forcing them to shower and change together.

This is not an overstatement, Mr. Speaker. It is happening, and it is traumatizing to women and girls to have a

man walking around naked in their locker room or spiking a volleyball full force into their face.

This failed ideological social experiment is disrupting the very fabric of what Title IX was designed to protect.

One example, without mentioning names, is a male swimmer, who was ranked 554th among male athletes, but became the top-ranked female swimmer in the women's category in the Nation.

We can go back to Caitlyn Jenner, who as Bruce Jenner competed in the Olympics and won the decathlon. As Caitlyn Jenner, she stated that if she would have transitioned earlier, she would have won every gold medal. Clearly, that is not fair.

This does not respect the hard work, dedication, and sacrifices made by female athletes.

This was a commonsense bill, and there was a right way and a wrong way to vote on it.

In my view, as I stated earlier, 99 percent of Americans agree that men and boys should not be competing in women's and girls' sports, which is why my Republican colleagues and I voted to pass this bill yesterday with only two Democrats voting along with us. That is kind of disturbing in itself.

Our Republican Conference will continue to stand with women throughout this Congress and advocate for the protection of their rights.

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 11 o'clock and 3 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. STRONG) at noon.

PRAYER

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

Lord, our God and our protector, who with a word can calm the storms and hold back the Sun, we pray that You would move Your spirit over the chaos that ravages our country and speak Your word of peace.

Arrest the fire that still burns in Los Angeles and its surrounding communities. Bring relief to those who found themselves in the paths of the hurricane that devastated Tennessee and North Carolina, who feel its destruction all the more keenly in the depth of winter.

Be merciful to those, O Lord, who remain fearful in the surround of danger. Be merciful to those who feel helpless and hopeless before the great power of

fire and wind. Be merciful to those who have lost hearth and home, who seek refuge for their bodies and their souls.

In the shadow of Your wings, may they take shelter until the storms of ruin pass by. Behind the hedge of Your protection, may they find safety from the afflictions bearing down on them from all fronts.

Encourage and equip with fortitude and perseverance all those who remain in the fight against the unrelenting fires and who continue to strive to build defenses against even more harm.

For You, O Lord, are our deliverer. In You will all be restored. In the strength of Your 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 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. ANSARI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ANSARI 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

MILLIN FAMILY FARM RECEIVES CENTURY FARM DESIGNATION

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Millin family, located in Bedford County, Pennsylvania. The Millin family owns the Millin Family Farm. It has received the designation of a Century Farm from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

A Century Farm is a farm that has been owned by the same family for at least 100 consecutive years, has a family member who still lives on that farm, and has at least 10 acres of the original holding.

The Millin family has farmed in Bedford County, Pennsylvania, since 1874, when Sandra Millin's great-grandfather purchased the property. Today, the Millins manage an over-200-acre grain operation on that exact same land. They even have the farm's original log structure dating to pre-1874.

On behalf of everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I offer heartfelt congratulations to the Millin family and express gratitude for their enduring commitment to one of Pennsylvania's most vital industries: agriculture.

HONORING SUZANNE EVANS SHEPPARD

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and celebrate the remarkable life of Dr. Suzanne Evans Sheppard, an exceptional member of our community who touched many lives.

She was a devoted mother, educator, and wife, an inspiring figure who cherished her church, Victory & Dominion World Outreach Center.

To serve as a reminder of her tremendous contributions, her church has renamed its family life center in her honor. On her birthday, family and community members gathered to celebrate. We released balloons into the sky, and Pastor Dr. Zebedee Sheppard, her beloved husband, made the heartfelt announcement. The new name is fitting, reflecting the center's role in serving the community to which she dedicated so much of her life.

I am truly grateful for Dr. Suzanne Sheppard, and the new name of this incredible facility in our community now makes it complete.

CONGRATULATING GREG SEIDENBERGER ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Ms. DE LA CRUZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Guadalupe County Commissioner Greg Seidenberger on his well-deserved retirement after a lifetime of extraordinary service to both our country and our community.

Greg began his career with 20 years in the United States Air Force, serving as a command pilot during the Vietnam war and leading the squadron operating out of the Seguin Auxiliary Airfield. He then served as a pilot for American Airlines for 18 years.

For the past 12 years, Greg has dedicated himself to Guadalupe County as the commissioner for Precinct 1, transforming the county and ensuring the foundation for a bright future.

I wish Commissioner Greg Seidenberger a joyful retirement. Again, I congratulate him.

ATTACK ON NORTH CAROLINA ELECTIONS

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