

of Service Above Self through countless projects supporting local schools, awarding scholarships, and promoting youth leadership.

Their commitment to bettering our community is unwavering, and to mark this milestone, the club has launched a project to construct new, modern facilities at Shawmut Park.

With the growing popularity of Fall Fest and other local events, the current facilities can no longer meet community needs. This upgrade will improve accessibility and enhance the park experience for all residents. Earlier this year, construction was completed, and new facilities were officially opened to the public.

Volunteer service is the cornerstone of a successful, strong, and healthy community, and the St. Mary's Rotary Club fills this vital need by supporting our neighbors and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the St. Mary's Rotary Club for 75 years of service, and I thank its members for their continued leadership in strengthening our community.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL JOHN C. RAAEN, JR.

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary service and sacrifice of Army Major General John C. Raaen, Jr., who dedicated his life to serving our great Nation.

At 22 years old, he was captain of the Army's 5th Ranger Battalion during the Normandy invasion. General Raaen led his unit up the steep bluffs of Normandy Beach, helping liberate prisoners from Nazi concentration camps and marking the beginning of the Allied victory in World War II.

His bravery and that of his fellow soldiers on D-day remain a powerful symbol of courage, unity, and the ongoing fight for a more just and peaceful world.

For his heroism, he was awarded the Silver Star and went on to serve in Korea and Vietnam, rising to the rank of major general before retiring after 36 years of service. It is an honor to represent such a remarkable hero in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, in 2022, Congress passed a bill to honor the brave Army Rangers of World War II with the Congressional Gold Medal, but at 103 years old, General Raaen has yet to receive this award. I urge the Speaker and my colleagues to take swift action to ensure he receives the recognition he deserves.

RECOGNIZING GATEWAY NURSING AND REHAB

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it was an honor to visit Gateway Nursing and

Rehab in Lenoir, North Carolina, this past Friday and attend a program that honored veterans who are receiving care there.

I commend Shannon Price, the director of social services, as well as members of the staff for taking the time and making the effort to recognize those veterans.

The program was very positive. Shannon is a true patriot, and so, too, are members of her family, including her son Seth, who is currently serving in the Army.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Shannon and all the wonderful staff at Gateway Nursing and Rehab for all they do in service to our Nation's veterans and for those who are currently serving in the Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD the statement of Shannon Price.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction." When President Ronald Reagan spoke these words, he wasn't simply offering a quotable line—he was issuing a challenge that resonates across time. Today, as we gather in the presence of heroes who have answered that challenge, I invite you to consider: What does freedom mean when it's no longer an abstract concept, but a living legacy entrusted to our care? What does freedom demand of those who enjoy its blessings? And how do we honor those who have sacrificed to preserve it?

For many of us, freedom exists like oxygen—essential yet invisible, noticed only in its absence. We exercise our liberties daily without reflection—speaking our minds, pursuing our dreams, making choices large and small. Yet this seemingly effortless inheritance has been secured through tremendous effort. It has been purchased with courage, preserved with vigilance, and passed down not as a birthright, but as a sacred trust.

Today, I want us to make the invisible visible. To recognize that behind every freedom we enjoy stands someone who was willing to protect it—someone like the six distinguished veterans seated before us, like my son currently deployed overseas, like countless others who have answered when liberty called their name.

Look at our honored guests today—veterans who served in Korea and Vietnam. Their stories reveal a profound truth: freedom's defenders rarely speak of heroism. Instead, they talk of duty. Of brotherhood. Of the families who waited for their return. They describe ordinary people thrust into extraordinary circumstances, guided not by grand ideologies but by love of country and commitment to the principles that define us.

Witness the solemn precision with which today's service members folded our flag moments ago. Each crisp movement, each respectful gesture represents more than protocol—it embodies a promise. That flag, with its stars and stripes, symbolizes not just a nation's history but its ongoing covenant with those who serve. It reminds us that freedom isn't preserved in marble monuments but in living commitments renewed by each generation.

Freedom's meaning transforms when you have someone you love in the game. As the parent of a son currently deployed, I've learned this truth in ways both profound and

painful. Each morning brings both pride and concern. Each evening ends with prayers for safety. The abstract becomes intimate when you love someone who stands on freedom's frontier.

Every service family understands this reality. They know the weight of missed birthdays and empty chairs at holiday gatherings. They recognize the value of ordinary moments—Sunday dinners, bedtime stories, casual conversations—because they've sacrificed countless such moments for something greater. They measure freedom not in lofty rhetoric but in delayed dreams and postponed reunions, all given willingly in service to principles that transcend individual comfort.

"Greater love has no man than this: to lay down his life for his friends." These words from the Bible capture freedom's ultimate cost. Some who answered liberty's call never returned to receive our thanks. Their sacrifice created absences that can never be filled—empty chairs that remain empty, voices preserved only in memory, futures un-lived so that our futures could continue.

These fallen heroes represent freedom's highest price—a debt we can never fully repay but must always acknowledge. Their legacy lives not just in the freedoms we enjoy but in how faithfully we steward what they have preserved. They challenge us to ensure that their sacrifice was not in vain—that the liberty they protected remains worthy of such devotion.

Freedom is indeed never more than one generation from extinction. It survives not through inheritance but through commitment—through citizens who understand that liberty requires more than celebration; it demands stewardship.

Today, I ask you to join me in recognizing our veterans present with us.

Let their example inspire us to be worthy custodians of freedom's flame. Let us honor their sacrifice not just with words but with lives that reflect the values they defended. And let us ensure that this precious legacy—this freedom—remains secure not just for our time but for generations yet unborn.

For in the end, freedom's story is still being written—and we each hold the pen. Thank you.

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STANDING UP FOR SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS

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

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand up for my constituents who rely on Social Security and Medicare.

Nearly 1 million Oregonians collect Social Security, and almost 20 percent of the State's population receives Medicare. These critical programs are under attack, and Americans are scared.

I spent the last 2 weeks talking with people in my district, and I have heard their concerns. Seniors are facing unprecedented delays in getting benefits they rely on, and it makes it hard for them to pay their expenses. They don't know if this administration is going to pull the rug out from underneath them and leave them without the benefits they have earned.

These benefits are not a Ponzi scheme. These benefits are not government handouts. They are earned benefits for American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to stand up for Americans and protect these programs with our lives and our votes.

RAID IN COLORADO SPRINGS

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

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, the Colorado Springs Police Department, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, and the Drug Enforcement Administration worked hard to do a raid in my hometown of Colorado Springs, Colorado. They arrested over 100 folks who are very likely illegally in our country. They found drugs, and they found sex trafficking of minors and of women.

Colorado Springs is safer today because of the policies of the Trump administration. As we celebrate 100 days of President Trump's administration, this is part of what he has brought to us.

There were MS-13, Hells Angels, and Tren de Aragua there. They frequented this nightclub that was shut down.

We are in this mess because of far-left policies from our Governor in Colorado, Governor Jared Polis, our State legislature, and the Biden administration.

I thank Sheriff Joe Roybal and all of the people from El Paso County Sheriff's Office and the Colorado Springs Police Department.

STANDING FOR AMERICA

(Mrs. TORRES of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the 100th day of Donald Trump's second term as President.

While some of my colleagues celebrate his actions, I am reminded why I first ran for office and why I continue fighting for my community.

I was raised to believe that the United States of America was built on the principles of liberty, democracy, and equal opportunity. For more than two centuries, those ideals have guided us, creating a Nation where everyone has the right to pursue their dreams, serve their communities, and have a voice in their government without reprisals.

Today, we are witnessing something deeply troubling: the erosion of the rule of law, the abandonment of democracy norms, and a betrayal of the very values Americans of all backgrounds have long fought to uphold.

On this 100th day of the 119th Congress, I stand firm in my belief that: I, too, am an American. I, too, am a patriot. I, too, will continue to defend the

values and principles that made this country a beacon of hope for the world.

HONORING CHARLES RINKEVICH, SR.

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Charles Rinkevich, Sr., a distinguished law enforcement official who dedicated his life to public service for over 40 years.

After graduating from Michigan State University and serving an Active-Duty tour with the Army Reserves, Mr. Rinkevich became a lieutenant and training officer for the Savannah Police Department.

During his tenure, he also served as an instructor and law enforcement consultant for the University of Georgia and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

In 1982, he was appointed by the White House to oversee two Federal Government task forces aimed at aiding community law enforcement in Atlanta and Miami.

In 1983, Mr. Rinkevich moved to St. Simons Island where he was appointed director of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco.

While serving in this role, he managed an annual budget exceeding \$100 million and oversaw an agency that graduated over 25,000 students annually.

Charles Rinkevich's commitment to excellence, innovation, and collaboration was an inspiration to countless individuals.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and colleagues during this difficult time.

APPEASEMENT INVITES MORE AGGRESSION

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

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, history has taught us time and time again that appeasement in the face of aggression and evil only invites more aggression.

We saw it in the 1930s, and we are seeing echoes of it in the Trump administration's actions today.

When we hesitate to support Ukraine, we drag our feet, or allow political infighting to stall critical aid, we are sending a dangerous message to autocrats, especially China.

Vladimir Putin invaded a sovereign democracy. He is betting that the free world will grow tired, turn inward, and look away. We cannot let that happen.

Standing with Ukraine is not charity. It is deterrence and in our national security interests.

If we do not stand with Ukraine, eventually American troops will be forced to fight aggressors in East Asia and Europe.

Deterrence is the key to putting them and our national security first.

Appeasement failed the world before. We cannot afford to repeat that mistake.

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize that April is Autism Awareness Month.

Autism spectrum disorder is a developmental disability that generally appears before the age of 3, impacting social interaction, communication skills, and cognitive function.

Today, 1 in 36 children in the United States are diagnosed with autism, and approximately 5.4 million Americans are living with autism spectrum disorder. By raising awareness, we can support individuals and families affected by autism and help them lead fulfilling lives.

I will take a moment to recognize my longtime dear friend Vincent McLaughlin, a dedicated advocate and true inspiration. Vincent has shown unwavering commitment to his community through his decade-long service on the Ulster County Planning Board representing the Village of Saugerties, his 16 years of service as a volunteer firefighter, and his continuous work to raise awareness and support for those living with autism.

In 2023, he was appointed to the New York State Council on Developmental Disabilities because of his advocacy and dedication, which embody the spirit of community involvement and empowerment. Vincent's selfless efforts make a difference every day, and I am grateful for his dedication and support.

As we observe Autism Awareness Month, let us commit to supporting all Americans with autism, ensuring they receive the necessary resources, opportunities, and respect they deserve. As my friend Vincent has proven, autism should never be a barrier to success or happiness.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ED MORGAN

(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 with a heavy heart to pay special tribute to the extraordinary contributions of Mr. Ed Morgan, who passed at 90. He was a beloved retired music teacher in Greene County.

Mr. Morgan dedicated his life to inspiring countless students, teaching them to read music and find joy in playing instruments like clarinets and horns. He would take his students' instruments to tune, maintain, and even teach them how to play.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for him teaching me how to play the drums.