

Sergeant Martin was part of the Greatest Generation, a group of Americans who gave years to defend liberty and defeat tyranny. We owe it to them and to Charles to ensure their sacrifices are never forgotten.

So, today, Mr. Speaker, we honor Sergeant Charles Martin, our good friend from Brevard County.

RECOGNIZING AVIATOR AVA HERNANDEZ

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ava Hernandez, a recipient of the prestigious 2025 Ray Aviation Scholarship, an honor that will support her journey to earning a private pilot's license.

Ava was nominated for this scholarship by the Brevard County Experimental Aircraft Association chapter in appreciation of her love for aviation, constant volunteer work, dedication to flight training, and her stellar academic performance.

Ava's passion for aviation grew from her involvement in The 99th Squadron, a Brevard County-based nonprofit organization that exposes middle and high school students to the fundamentals of flight.

Ava's commitment to aviation is truly admiral, and I thank those who have encouraged youth involvement in the industry, such as the EAA and The 99th Squadron, for shaping the next generation of pilots.

Congratulations to Ava on her accomplishment, an honor well-earned.

ADDRESSING OUR EXPLODING DEFICIT

(Mr. KHANNA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, one of the largest challenges our country faces is exploding deficits. The Republican budget would add \$2.4 trillion over 10 years to the existing deficits.

Let me show this chart. On this chart, the yellow line shows the existing deficits as they currently are projected. The Republicans would take those existing deficits and add, over 10 years, \$2.4 trillion.

Now, Ray Dalio and Jamie Dimon have said that this is a disaster and that the bond markets are afraid.

Why are the bond markets afraid?

It is because they know that the Fed would engage in quantitative easing, buying up more Treasury bonds, as people outside view the Treasuries as more risky. This will lower the value of the dollar, and it will make basically all Americans poorer.

However, people are tired of just hearing one side bash the other side about deficits and no one doing anything about it. So, today, we are introducing a plan, a real plan, to lower deficits in America.

This plan would take the deficit down over the next 10 years to below 3 percent of GDP. The historic leverage over the last 40, 50 years has been under 4 percent of GDP.

As far as the Republican plan, by the way, independent analysis takes the

deficits to 8.6 percent of GDP. That is the highest it has ever been in peacetime. Our plan would take it back down to under 4 percent.

Mr. Speaker, here you see the Republican deficits, here you see the current deficits and here you see our plan which would reduce deficits by \$12 trillion.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you say: How are we going to do this deficit reduction?

Where are the spending cuts, and where are the revenue generators?

It is pretty simple actually. We need to start with the Pentagon and modernizing the Pentagon. This is what Elon Musk actually signed up to do with SpaceX and initially with DOGE. He wanted to cut the bloated defense contractors and the waste out of the Pentagon. We need not cost-plus accounting. We need new competition.

Secondly, we need to go after negotiating with Big Pharma. Medicare should be negotiating drug prices.

Third, we should be stopping Medicare Advantage from ripping off the American people. They are upcoding, and they are making people sicker than they actually are. We should make competitive procurement for the government.

None of this, by the way, is in the Republican plan. These are the big-ticket items that would actually start to reduce the deficit. They always say that our side is not for spending cuts. Right here are actual spending cuts of what we can be doing to reduce the deficit.

Also, Musk has called for ending fossil fuel subsidies. Let's have some revenue generators. We have to vote to cut spending and generate revenue.

Let's tax billionaires. I never understood the billionaire argument. I have more billionaires than anyone in this Chamber. There are five trillion-dollar companies in my district: Apple, Google, Nvidia, Broadcom, and Tesla. I am saying: Let's raise taxes on them.

I don't understand how this is a hard vote for 434 other Members of Congress. We should be making sure that we are taxing our stock buybacks. We should be making sure that when we have large inheritances that people who are inheriting it actually have to pay capital gains so that we, in this country, start to reward hard work again and not just speculation.

This is so we celebrate the people who are doing daily work and paying taxes as opposed to just speculators who are avoiding taxes.

Anyway, this plan would reduce the deficit, reduce debt by \$12 trillion over 10 years, and it would also reduce the interest payments on the deficit every year which would add an extra \$2 trillion of savings.

Now, I am not saying this plan is perfect, but here is what I think every Member of Congress should do: Propose how you are going to reduce the deficits, and tell the American people how the math works.

Every Member of Congress owes that to their constituents.

Mr. Speaker, if you disagree with me, then have your own plan. Here is what I do know: The Republican plan is just going to explode deficits, and it is going to hurt the American economy and make us all poorer.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, we can come together in this body to be honest with the American people, to actually have a calculator to do math, and to propose real plans for deficit reduction.

CONGRATULATING GREG PARKER, RETAILER EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Greg Parker on being named 2025 Retailer Executive of the Year by Convenience Store News.

Greg, the founder and CEO of Parker's Kitchen, has grown his business from one store in 1976 to his 100th in a grand opening in April of 2025.

His brand has become a role model in business, being synonymously described as clean, friendly, profitable, and philanthropic. Greg exhibits the best characteristics of this award. He is a leader. He positively impacts his community, and he strives for business excellence.

He is often recognized for his significant philanthropic efforts, recently donating \$20 million to the Savannah Community Foundation. This generous donation is just one of many throughout his successful career.

Mr. Speaker, the First District of Georgia appreciates Greg and his many years of friendship.

SAVANNAH: OUR NATION'S TOP HONEYMOON DESTINATION

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Savannah's recent distinction as one of the Nation's top honeymoon destinations. The city was ranked sixth overall, accompanied by renowned areas such as Palm Springs, Napa Valley, and Miami.

Savannah's downtown offers visitors a plethora of experiences. The Savannah Historic District offers preserved architecture and museums for history enthusiasts. Broughton Street offers a wide range of shopping options, featuring a mix of small, local shops and larger commercial retailers.

If visitors prefer a more relaxing experience, Tybee Island is just 15 minutes away. On Tybee Island, vacationers can enjoy the serene beaches, outdoor activities, and coastal relaxation.

Savannah's distinctive blend of cultural richness and coastal beauty makes it an ideal destination for new-luweds.

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HONORING ROBERT HEADLEY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Robert Headley, for receiving the Student Organization Leader of the Year Award at Georgia Southern University.

This award is presented annually to a student who demonstrates exceptional leadership, embodies their organization's values, and positively impacts student life on campus.

As president of the Interfraternity Council during the 2024-2025 academic year, he played an essential role in advancing Greek life and fostering collaboration among Greek organizations. Robert is an outstanding young man who has consistently excelled in all of the mentioned areas.

I congratulate Robert on this remarkable achievement. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING NICHOLAS PAPPAS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Nicholas Pappas, a distinguished gentleman who devoted more than 30 years to the restaurant scene in Savannah, Georgia.

As a longtime owner of the Olympia Cafe, he united locals and tourists with his cherished recipes, exceptional culinary skills, and warm personality. Under his leadership, the restaurant gained significant acclaim, being ranked in the top 10 percent of restaurants worldwide by Tripadvisor in 2024.

Mr. Pappas was more than just a restaurant owner. He was a loving father and a grandfather, a mentor and a role model, and an exemplary civil servant. His legacy will live on through Olympia Cafe, where countless memories and joy were brought to many. He set a superb example for others to follow through his welcoming manner and unwavering work ethic.

Today, we celebrate Nicholas Pappas' life. The community is strengthened in the one-of-a-kind service that he provided to the people of Savannah.

BACKLOG IN IRS

(Mr. SUBRAMANYAM of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, imagine if someone owes you money and they said they would pay you back immediately, but they take weeks, months, and then years to do so.

That is what is going on right now with our Federal Government. The IRS has a backlog of tax refunds that is costing the American people a lot of money. Instead of fixing the backlog and rooting out waste and fraud, this administration is defunding the IRS and firing tax experts. They are opening the door for more waste, fraud, and abuse, not less.

This doesn't save money. Instead, we will lose out on \$159 billion on tax revenue, and the impacts are just hypothetical. I am hearing from constituents all over my district who are tangibly impacted by this backlog and by what is going on at the IRS.

Take a small business in my district who filed for a tax refund. They are owed tens of thousands of dollars, money that is critical to running and growing their business, and now they

can't make new investments because they are waiting for their refund. There is another family whose refund has taken years now, and they continue to see delays in getting their money back.

Defunding the IRS will only make those delays worse, and firing the tax watchdogs who prevent corruption will help big corporations dodge taxes left and right.

DOGE is enabling tax fraud, and making it harder to hold corporations more accountable. If my colleagues want to save taxpayer money, how about we fix the IRS, not dismantle it. This will save more money than DOGE ever would.

RUSSELL VOUGHT AND DOGE

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, many people think after Elon Musk left his post and is taking shots at the administration that DOGE is over, but that is simply not true.

The real architect of DOGE is Russell Vought. Vought is the co-author of Project 2025, the memo that President Trump said he has nothing to do with during the campaign trail.

Vought currently heads the Office of Management and Budget and said himself that he wants to traumatize the Federal workforce. He said: "... we want them to not want to go to work ... We want their funding to be shut down ... We want to put them in trauma."

This includes firing hard-to-replace civil servants, scientists, and meteorologists; and intimidating and harassing those who remain in hopes of driving them out of the Federal Government, despite their expertise that we need to keep our country safe and prosperous.

Let's be clear. This is not about making government more efficient. In fact, they want to replace many of these jobs with loyalists, even setting up loyalty tests. They are driving a brain drain in our Federal Government by choosing loyalty to the President over merit and competence, creating less efficiency and more waste, fraud, and abuse, and opportunities for corruption.

Essentially, we have to stop this. Make no mistake, I will fight this every step of the way.

CELEBRATING STATION 7

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the new fire station that just opened off of Route 50, Station 7.

This new 23,000-square-foot facility is replacing the previous fire station that was built in 1971 and will provide crucial, lifesaving services to over 6,000 residents, covering over 40,000 square miles of response area.

Station 7 will be staffed around the clock by career and volunteer firefighters and respond to calls of all types, medical, fire, and even wildland support.

The work that these first responders do is critical, and they keep all of us healthy, safe, and protected; putting

their lives on the line for the benefit of the community.

As a former volunteer firefighter myself, I thank the crews operating out of the new Aldie Fire Station for their service and dedication to our community.

EFFECTS OF BIG, UGLY BILL ON VIRGINIANS

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, the big, ugly bill the House passed is actually far worse than we thought for Virginians.

A new report shows that the red tape this bill adds to Medicaid eligibility could leave over 400,000 people in Virginia uninsured. That will lead to full ERs, long wait times, and higher insurance premiums for all Virginians.

The bill also continues the attack on Virginia's Federal workforce by undermining benefits for contractors, veterans, and longtime civil servants.

And while Virginians are being squeezed by grocery prices because of tariffs, the cuts to SNAP in this bill will mean tens of thousands of kids and over 35,000 veterans could lose their access to affordable food. I don't think leaving children and veterans without food assistance is beautiful at all.

The truth is that this big, ugly bill is that it will bankrupt future generations by exploding the debt. It will hurt our economy in Virginia and leave kids and seniors without food and care.

CONGRATULATING McALLEN HIGH SCHOOL MARIACHI ORO

(Ms. DE LA CRUZ of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. De la CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate McAllen High School Mariachi Oro for winning their eighth Texas Association of Mariachi Educators State Championship and tenth consecutive UIL State Mariachi Festival Division 1 Sweepstakes.

At the start of this year, many of the musicians were brand new to the team, and they were seen as the underdogs to the competition. Through hard work, through dedication, and daily practices, they worked together to secure these highly competitive titles. Their vibrant performances capture the spirit of Tejano music and continues to impress audiences nationwide.

I am honored to have the students and directors here today to share the culture and the music of the Rio Grande Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Mariachi Oro. Their community is so proud of their hard work, their talent, and their dedication.

ANTI-SEMITISM

(Ms. HOYLE of Oregon was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. HOYLE of OREGON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak about issues of great importance and concern to me and my constituents that are of utmost importance not just for national security but for the soul of our country.