

War II. She proudly served in the Coast Guard, and the Iowa City VA Healthcare System honored her with a plaque to recognize her incredible dedication.

Clara's humble spirit and sense of humor shine through as she fondly recalls her time in service, joking that she joined in 1945 to help get that darn war over with.

As she, herself, will tell you, her greatest achievements are not in her service but in the joys of family, getting married, raising children, and cherishing a family she calls the greatest in the world.

Clara's century of life is a testament to the strength and heart of our Nation. We are grateful for her service and her example.

SUPPORTING THE MOST VULNERABLE

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reaffirm my unwavering commitment to protecting life and supporting both mothers and babies. Every life is precious, and it is our responsibility to defend the most vulnerable among us.

As a mother, a doctor, and a Member of Congress, I have always been dedicated to ensuring that children have the opportunity to grow, thrive, and fulfill their potential.

I am proud to share that I earned an A+ on the Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America National Pro-Life Scorecard for the 118th Congress. This score reflects my consistent pro-life voting record, cosponsorship, and efforts to protect the sanctity of life.

This week, people from all around the country are coming to Washington, D.C., to celebrate life and advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves.

In addition to defending life, we must ensure that mothers have the support and resources they need to make the best choices for themselves and their children.

Mr. Speaker, today I wish a happy 15th birthday to my best buddy and nephew, Andrew Martino. I hope he has a wonderful day.

CELEBRATING EAGLE SCOUT RECIPIENTS

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate three young men who this weekend will receive their Eagle Scout badges.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I was a Boy Scout in Troop 805 in Downey, California, but I never actually achieved my Eagle Scout. I know what an honor this is and how hard they worked.

I celebrate Vincent Misenti, an honor student at Pleasant Grove High School in Elk Grove, California. For his Eagle Scout project, he planned, developed, and installed pre-identification signs along the Gold River Parkway's nature trails.

This project totaled 30 distinct permanent signs representing a total of 11

different tree species. Vincent is also a member of the Pleasant Grove High School varsity football team, and he has got a stellar academic record with a 4.0 GPA.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Chase Soriano. Chase is a freshman at Jesuit High School in Sacramento, California. His Eagle Scout project was working with the Cordova Recreation and Park District to purchase, build, and install a little free library at the neighborhood park to improve literacy in his community.

This library allows children to exchange books that they have outgrown or read, allowing others to read the same stories Chase read as a child. Chase plays bass guitar, violin, and is a member of the football, rugby, and track teams at Jesuit High. He also has an impressive 4.1 GPA.

Mr. Speaker, I also honor Gregory Rubio who will become an Eagle Scout this weekend as well.

Gregory is a junior at Cordova High School in Rancho Cordova, California, and is on track to achieve his international baccalaureate diploma. His Eagle Scout project was working with the Cordova Recreation and Park District and the Tuskegee Airmen Heritage Chapter of Sacramento to design, purchase, install, and promote a memorial to the Tuskegee Airmen at Veterans Park in Mather. These signs focus on the 477th Bombardier Squadron who served at Mather Air Force Base during World War II.

Gregory plays the drums, participates in Skills USA, competes in National History Day at the county and State level, and is a student pilot who just flew his first solo flight.

I congratulate Vincent, Chase, and Gregory on this achievement. When I think about what I learned in the Boy Scouts, and when I think about the world that we are confronted with, they can teach us a lot by that Scout motto: "Be prepared."

SENSE OF TOGETHERNESS

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, often the public out there sees Democrats and Republicans fighting and wonder: Where did that comity go? Where did the sense of being together go?

Well, Mr. Speaker, this past December over the Christmas holiday, I was surprised by one of my Republican colleagues, the Congressman from Tyler, Texas, who sent me a Greenberg Smoked Turkey out of the blue.

Mr. Speaker, that is the civility that exists between Democrats and Republicans. I thank that Member of Congress who represents Tyler, Texas, and that Greenberg Smoked Turkey sure was delicious.

MAKING AMERICA PROSPEROUS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out again, President

Trump is leading the way to make America prosperous and even more free than what we have been the last 4 years.

President Trump, as part of his package of executive orders, has withdrawn us, once again, from the calamity that is the Paris accords. Our Governor, Gavin Newsom, in California, keeps pushing us down this path, taking away our cars, taking away our gas stoves, leaf blowers, light bulbs, you name it, in this endless effort to somehow chase down carbon dioxide.

Well, let me show you. Carbon dioxide, I will remind you once again, is a tiny portion of our atmosphere. When I ask the average person—it is kind of interesting—how much CO₂ is there in the atmosphere? What percentage is in the atmosphere?

Most people just tend to believe—they don't really know. They have got their lives and they are busy, but they think, wow, it must be 20 percent, 50 percent. A lot of it is because of the hype of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle and the so-called scientists and the media trying to corral us into being scared of CO₂ production.

In our past years, past decades, past centuries, it has been much higher than what it is right now. Let me give you what the representation actually is. Right here, see this chart? Mr. Speaker, 78 percent of our atmosphere is nitrogen, and 21 percent is oxygen. We have over here a few trace gases here that includes krypton and a few things like that and water vapor.

Here, the third place one is argon, right here in green, 0.93 percent. Way over here in fourth place is CO₂ at 0.04 percent. Most people have been hyped into believing it is half the atmosphere, 20 percent of the atmosphere, as I said.

Fear is the effort that is being put upon people. Climate action now, oh my gosh, it is going to be the end of us by Al Gore, by all the people taking their private jets to Davos and having these climate meetings. Yet, the U.S.—whether it is part of the Paris accords or it is just how we do things—when we improve our technology, improve our engines, we improve everything that we do if we are allowed to. If we are allowed to focus on that, we are one of two countries that actually has seen our curve go down a little bit on CO₂ production. It is us and Japan. We are the only ones in the Paris accord of all the Western countries doing that.

Now, let's take a look at what China is doing. China is ever-increasing their amount of CO₂, more and more coal-fired power plants with very little scrubber activity on them, if at all, on the output from those plants.

China is nearly triple the CO₂ production than what the United States is. We are number two. We are a highly industrialized country, but we are already bending the curve downward, aren't we? We don't get credit for that. Let's, instead, export all our jobs, our economy, our manufacturing to China, to India, places like that.

India is on the rise as well. They are a smaller country industrially, but they are on the rise.

Why would we do that? Why would we exchange our economy and the way we do things in a much cleaner and efficient way to send it over there because, A, it can be cheaper, easier to get by the environmental regulations and the ridiculousness of chasing this CO₂.

Carbon dioxide is an essential building block of life. Plants and trees need it. If we were too successful at dropping CO₂ below whatever established standard they want, which is out in the air—it is interesting when I am in committees here, people don't even know. The experts that sit on panels say we need to do more to reduce CO₂. They don't even know what the baseline number is. I asked them. They think it is 7, 8, 9 percent. They don't even know. They don't know what the start is, let alone what the target is.

Are we going to continue to let other countries produce the things we need and trade our economy and jobs for that versus as efficiently and as well as we do it here? What does that mean?

Well, in my district, they have already torn out hydroelectric dams. Do you know what hydroelectric dams provide? They provide CO₂-free power. Oh, let's tear them out because of a fish deal that isn't even going to work out. Let's not build more hydroelectric dams.

We could add to Mount Shasta here 600,000 more acre-feet for all Californians, including those talking about the issues in southern California where they ran out of water, and they are not tending to the foliage there that is helping drive that. No. No. No. We can't have conditions on aid. No, we are helping people down there. That is a different story.

Management of forests, it helps have stronger forests, which are better CO₂ sinks, you know, a managed forest here versus the one that is going to be the next fire. More CO₂ is released from the fires in southern California and the million-acre fires in my district than what 5 years of cars driving in southern California produces, let alone a volcanic eruption and how much CO₂ comes out of that.

We are chasing the wrong thing here. I believe, instead, let's not make CO₂ the enemy. Let's follow President Trump and get out of the Paris accords and bring our economy back to this country.

THE NATION'S NUMBER ONE INSURANCE PROGRAM

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am here this morning, and I rise to speak and address the Nation's number one insurance program: Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, it might surprise you that on average, there are about 150,000 Social Security recipients per district. What is equally shocking, however, is that Congress has done nothing in more than 50 years to comprehensively address Social Security, the Nation's number one antipoverty program for seniors and also for individuals.

I know we will have another Speaker, but in the gentleman's district alone, there are over 175,000 recipients. Social Security brings in a monthly amount of almost \$200 million. That makes it the best economic development program in the Nation with everyone receiving those benefits.

Yet, Congress hasn't acted. Mr. Speaker, since Richard Nixon was President of the United States. That was back in 1971. Now, some will say: Wait a minute, didn't we just recently pass something for teachers and firefighters and police officers and municipal employees? Yes, we did. We did pass that, but we did not enhance it because we didn't pay for it. In essence what that does, being unpaid for, is further hurt the Social Security program by about \$98 billion.

President Trump has got a proposal. His proposal is to do away with taxes for people on Social Security. We have had that proposal in a bill for more than 10 years. The difference is we pay for it so that the trust fund stays intact, Mr. Speaker. The President does not, so what that would mean is if it were to pass unpaid for, that by 2030, there would be a 36 percent hit on everyone's Social Security.

In other words, 2 years after President Trump is out of office, the Social Security fund would be hurt by 36 percent. What does that mean? To the listeners out there and to you, Mr. Speaker, what it means is that is a 36 percent cut in their benefits.

The average benefit for Social Security for a male is \$18,000 and for a female, it is \$14,000. In 2030, do you think they could stand a 36 percent cut for that? The last time Congress enhanced Social Security for its constituents was 1971.

Now, some might say: No, wait a minute, in 1983 didn't Tip O'Neill and Ronald Reagan enhance Social Security? Yes, they did. They worked out a deal.

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Mr. Speaker, they worked out a deal to prolong the length of Social Security. They did so by raising the age, which sounds logical, doesn't it, until you realize that for every year you raise the age, that is a 7 percent cut in benefits.

Proposals by the Republican Study Committee to raise the age to 70, for all of the C-SPAN viewers and listeners out there, that would mean a 21 percent cut in their benefits. As I said, that Social Security pension benefit for 40 percent of Americans is the only thing that they have.

That is why this Congress has to take action and do something constructive

for all Social Security recipients. As has been expressed by President Biden, there is a pretty simple solution staring us right in the face. Everybody ought to pay into Social Security. Billionaires and millionaires shouldn't be exempt from paying into Social Security. Some pay nothing. Others are done paying by January 1. Working-class America has to pay throughout. Vote for Social Security.

RECOGNIZING PRESIDENTIAL CITIZENS MEDAL RECIPIENT PAULA WALLACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRAWFORD). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of Paula Wallace, who was awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal this month.

Paula Wallace dreamed of a school that would transform how we think about public education. By establishing the esteemed Savannah College of Art and Design and serving as its president, Ms. Wallace has fulfilled this dream and guided thousands of students into creative industries.

The Presidential Citizens Medal was awarded to 20 recipients who performed exemplary deeds of service for their country or fellow citizens. Recipients of the Presidential Citizens Medal are characterized by their common decency and commitment to serving others, which Ms. Wallace has demonstrated by being a lifelong educator and trailblazer of the arts.

Ms. Wallace was selected to be among the distinguished group honored at the White House because her dedication and vision have made our Nation and Georgia's First Congressional District better.

We congratulate Ms. Wallace on this honorable achievement and recognition for all of her hard work. On a personal note, we thank her for everything she has done for my hometown of Savannah, Georgia. I continue to say that SCAD transformed Savannah, Georgia.

HONORING REVEREND WAYNE RACZ

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Wayne Racz whose retirement marks the culmination of over 25 years of faithful service in the ministry.

Throughout his career, Reverend Racz has been a guiding light in the United Methodist Church, serving congregations across south Georgia.

Most recently, he served as pastor at St. Simons Island United Methodist Church and St. Luke in Savannah where he strengthened their mission and built meaningful connections within their communities.

In addition to his role as pastor, Reverend Racz served in leadership positions within the United Methodist Church's connectional ministries, leaving an unforgettable impact on its missions and outreach.