

under past radical policies. That had to change.

Even more concerning, over 70 percent of those charged with illegal reentry last year had criminal records. These are not first-time offenders. These are repeat criminals who have shown complete disregard for our laws.

The Stop Illegal Entry Act will increase penalties and prison time for illegal entry and reentry, sending a clear message that there will be consequences.

President Trump ended catch and release. With this legislation, House Republicans are continuing that commitment to restore accountability and protect American families.

It is time to bring back law and order by stopping these illegal crossings. I urge my colleague to support this bill and stand for the safety of the American people.

PUSHING BACK AGAINST ICE'S AUTHORITARIAN OVERREACH

(Ms. ANSARI of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, I want you to imagine for a moment that a person is going to the grocery store, grabbing coffee, or picking their child up from school.

Instead of running errands or waiting for the school bell like usual, that individual is surrounded by masked men who scream at them, shove them to the ground, threaten them with weapons, and throw them into the back of a car.

People are calling out for help, asking where that person is being taken. Authorities refuse to answer. The person has no idea where they are going, who these people are, or when or if they will ever see their family again.

Mr. Speaker, imagine if you, or worse, your child, experienced the terror, the fear, and the blind pain of being kidnapped off the street.

For many of my constituents, this is a horrific reality that they are dealing with every single day. ICE is terrorizing our communities. They are kidnapping people off of the streets, tearing families apart, and destroying futures to meet insane daily quotas enacted by Donald Trump.

Just a few weeks ago, Republicans in Congress passed a massive budget that funnels billions of new dollars to ICE. This money makes ICE the largest domestic police force in the United States with more resources than dozens of militaries around the entire world.

This funding is unprecedented, and it is a free pass for ICE to ramp up Trump's cruel and inhumane mass deportation policies.

They are already building concentration camps in Florida where they are threatening to lock up legal immigrants and Latinos from across the country. I have visited facilities like this.

On May 29, I went to the Eloy Detention Center just outside my district. I

met with women who wanted to and, frankly, were desperate to share their stories with me.

One was a green card holder who had been pulled over for a traffic stop. When they learned of her status, they stripped her of her green card and threw her into ICE detention without another thought. She had been trying to reach her family for months.

Another woman told me a story about a guard taking all of the women out into the blazing Arizona heat. He forced them to march in circles for hours without water. One woman fainted and needed medical attention.

While they marched, the guard yelled at them: This is the price of the American Dream.

It should not matter who these women are. It should not matter whether they are citizens, legal residents, or undocumented people trying to make a life for themselves.

It is shameful and embarrassing for our country that we would treat any human being like this. The detention centers and the facilities in this country are atrocious. They have absolutely zero oversight mechanisms in place.

More than a month later, after formally inquiring to the Department of Homeland Security and ICE about the conditions that I saw firsthand, I have yet to receive a response.

People are being harassed. They are being dehumanized. They are being abused.

Last weekend, I tried to return to Eloy to meet with several constituents of mine who are detained there.

I wanted to meet with a woman named Yari who has chronic lymphocytic leukemia. She has been detained at Eloy since February and has lost 55 pounds while in detention. She needs help.

I also hoped to meet with a man who has been coughing up blood for weeks.

Lastly, I wanted to meet with a 35-year-old woman with a kidney infection who says her antibiotics are not working and her condition is worsening.

Even after ICE put in place new protocols to make it more difficult for us to do our job and our oversight work, we tried to follow their new rules. I gave them ample notice of my visit and a list of constituents that I hoped to meet with. They let us know that our visit was approved.

Then less than 24 hours before I was supposed to make the trip, they changed their minds and said that my meeting with my constituents was denied.

ICE is leaving families without answers and human beings without care. They are doing it, regardless of whether people are undocumented, legal residents, or even American citizens.

They are splitting up parents by sending them to different detention facilities and then making children navigate the funds for a lawyer and basic survival.

If I cannot get answers as a U.S. Congresswoman, how is anyone else in my

district supposed to? Any one of us could be next.

I will always stand with and fight for our immigrant communities. I will do everything I can to push back against Trump's authoritarian overreach.

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HONORING LANCE CORPORAL RYAN JAMES BARNARD

(Mr. LAWLER of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lance Corporal Ryan James Barnard, of Valley Cottage, New York, who died on July 2 while serving our country at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

Ryan was just 22 years old. He served in the United States Marine Corps with the 3rd Littoral Combat Team, Ares Company. He was living his dream, wearing the uniform with pride, and doing what he believed in.

Ryan grew up in the Hudson Valley playing Little League baseball and hockey, skating for Nyack High School, the Palisades Predators, and the Army West Point Junior Black Knights. He was known for his quiet focus, toughness, and strong sense of duty.

In the wake of Ryan's passing, his family and our community are working to establish a youth hockey grant in his name, carrying forward his spirit of discipline and teamwork for years to come.

I am grateful for Ryan's service to the United States, and I extend my deepest condolences to the Barnard family.

HONORING MICHAEL HALPIN

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Michael Halpin of Pearl River, New York, who passed away on July 9 at the age of 88.

Born in Kilrush, County Clare, Ireland, Mike immigrated to New York in 1955 and proudly served in the United States Army, including a tour of duty in Korea. After his military service, he continued to serve as an NYPD officer in the 46th Precinct in the Bronx.

Like me, Mike was a proud Irish American. The very definition of a pillar of the community, he served as president of the Rockland Irish-American Cultural Center and the Rockland GAA. He was a member of the AOH Division 3 and led the 2004 Rockland St. Patrick's Day parade as grand marshal.

Mike was a devoted parishioner of St. Margaret's Church, a member of the Hudson Valley 10-13 Club, and, above all, a proud husband, father, and grandfather.

Mike Halpin lived a life of dutiful purpose and leadership with a deep love for both his heritage and his community. He will be missed.

RECOGNIZING JOHN "JACKIE" SULLIVAN

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John "Jackie" Sullivan, a Navy veteran, FDNY EMS deputy chief, and longtime volunteer firefighter in Spring Valley and Yorktown Heights.

Jack gave his entire adult life to serving others. He spent 12 years as a Navy flight engineer, 31 years as a paramedic, rising to deputy chief, and more than three decades answering fire calls as a volunteer.

On 9/11, he ran toward the towers. When they fell, he dove under a truck to survive and then stayed at Ground Zero for a year, helping recover the fallen with dignity and respect. That tells you everything you need to know about the kind of man he was.

Jackie was also a union leader, a mentor to younger EMTs and firefighters, and a relentless storyteller, who never missed a chance to make someone laugh. He was the kind of guy you wanted by your side in a crisis and around the dinner table once the storm had passed.

To his wife, Denise; his daughters, Katie and Maggie; and all who loved him, our hearts are with you. May his memory always be a blessing.

HANDS OFF OUR SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. STANSBURY of New Mexico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to say hands off our Social Security because Social Security is not a luxury. It is not a handout. It is a sacred trust, a promise that we make to Americans that the hard-earned money that they pay into the system will be there when they need it—our seniors, our children who have lost a parent, people in our communities who live with disabilities.

It is the lifeline that sustains our communities, our seniors. It is a promise that they can live their lives with dignity.

I am here today with my dear colleague, Congressman JOHN LARSON, to not only say hands off our Social Security but also to introduce a bill with that name.

This bill will protect Social Security from an administration that is trying to systematically dismantle it. It will protect benefits. It will stop the privatization of benefits. It will stop staffing cuts and closures, protect privacy and data, and protect the proud men and women who go to work every day to serve our seniors at the Social Security Administration.

Mr. Speaker, these are the American people's benefits, and we are fighting to ensure that not only are they here today and tomorrow but for future generations to come.

That is why I am so proud to be in this fight with my dear colleague, the man, the legend, the Congressman who has fought for Social Security for so

many years, Ranking Member JOHN LARSON of Connecticut.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), the ranking member.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY) for yielding to me. Her work and effort are exemplary.

Here is the data, the facts, Mr. Speaker: Over 70 million of our fellow Americans rely on Social Security, and Social Security, throughout its history, has never missed a payment.

Today, it is even more crucial as 10,000 baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security, and for more than 40 percent of all Social Security recipients, this is the only benefit that they have.

Representative STANSBURY is part of legislation that seeks to expand benefits, not just protect Social Security. Congress hasn't acted on Social Security and its expansion since 1971. Richard Nixon was President of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, because of the initiative, energy, and enthusiasm of Members of Congress like Representative STANSBURY, people in New Mexico and all across the country—Mr. Speaker, it might surprise even you, as well, to know how many people in your district are equally served. More than \$300,000 comes in monthly to recipients in your district in the great State of Virginia, but that hasn't changed in over 54 years.

Now is the time to act. Now is the time to get behind Representative STANSBURY's legislation that will be incorporated into the Committee on Ways and Means' configuration on Social Security that will benefit the people.

As Representative STANSBURY has indicated, this is America's number one antipoverty program for the elderly and number one antipoverty program for children, and more veterans rely on Social Security disability than they do the VA.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. STANSBURY for her efforts and initiatives.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I am so proud and honored to be in the fight with the ranking member and, more importantly, to be in the fight for America and for our veterans, seniors, and children.

Let's do this, America. Let's protect Social Security.

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE JAMES KNECHT, ILLINOIS' FOURTH DISTRICT APPELLATE COURT JUSTICE

(Mr. LAHOOD of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Illinois' Fourth District Appellate Court Justice James "Jim" Knecht as he reaches the milestone of serving 50 years as a judge.

Jim was born in Lincoln, Illinois, and earned his juris doctor degree from the University of Illinois College of Law in 1973.

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In 1975, Jim began his judicial career serving as an associate circuit judge and was soon after promoted to circuit judge. In 1986, Judge Knecht was elected to the Illinois Fourth District Appellate Court. He is currently the longest serving judge in Illinois court history and an accredited leader within our Illinois legal community.

Outside of the courtroom, Judge Knecht is heavily involved in communities across Illinois and with his alma maters. He serves on both the Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council and on the National Advisory Board of the Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence.

At his undergraduate alma mater, Illinois State University, Judge Knecht was an adjunct professor for nearly three decades and is a recipient of their Distinguished Alumni Award.

Again, I congratulate Judge Knecht on this momentous achievement in his legal career and thank him for his continued service to the State of Illinois. I wish Judge Knecht, his wife, Ruth, their children and grandchildren all the best in the future.

I congratulate Judge Knecht.

RECOGNIZING JAMES COLLINS, PRESIDENT OF LORAS COLLEGE

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Collins for his extraordinary 20-year tenure as president of Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. As the longest serving president in the school's history, Jim has left a lasting impact on Iowa's oldest institution of higher education.

President Collins earned his bachelor of science degree in finance from Loras College in 1984. After graduation, he began as an admissions representative and advanced through various leadership positions before being selected as president in 2004 at the age of 42.

During President Collins' tenure at Loras College, the institution achieved unprecedented growth. He oversaw actions to raise the endowment by 67 percent to support students, expanded graduate and professional programs, spearheaded the completion of multiple campus renovations, and led the college to consistent recognition by U.S. News as a top 15 Midwest baccalaureate institution.

President Collins' visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to Catholic higher education has impacted thousands of students who attended and graduated from Loras College.

I congratulate Jim, his lovely wife, Lisa, and their children and grandchildren on this remarkable career. I thank him for his decades of service to Loras College and wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

Go Duhawks.