

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.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LOUISE
KRONHOLM

(Mr. LARSON of Connecticut was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning, first and foremost, to pay tribute to Louise Kronholm.

Mr. Speaker, when you are in Congress, oftentimes you are unable to be home for wakes and funeral services. Louise Kronholm was the daughter of the legendary John Bailey. John Bailey was the chairman of the Democratic Party in Connecticut. He was the national chairman of the Democratic Party in 1960 when we elected the first Catholic President of the United States, John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

The Bailey and Kennedy families were extraordinarily close, and Barbara Kennelly, Louise's sister, was the Congresswoman from the First District in Connecticut whom I succeeded.

Our hearts and our thoughts and prayers are with them today as they mourn and bury their beloved Louise Kronholm, John Bailey's daughter and Barbara Kennelly's sister.

RECOGNIZING PRATT & WHITNEY AIRCRAFT

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to recognize Pratt & Whitney aircraft in my hometown of East Hartford, Connecticut.

July 22, 1925, yesterday, marked the 100th birthday and anniversary of Pratt & Whitney aircraft. Pratt & Whitney builds the most dependable engines. They have led the aerospace industry in this country and are the greatest manufacturing force in the world. They are located in East Hartford and in Middletown, Connecticut.

My father and mother both worked there. My mother worked there during the Second World War. She had just gotten out of high school. My mother was 17 years old. She had been in the National Honor Society, and was recruited by Pratt & Whitney to help take down the details, information, and categorizing of parts, et cetera, which was desperately needed.

My father went off to war, and when he came home, he worked there. My brothers have worked at Pratt & Whitney.

In 1925, East Hartford was an agricultural community, and overnight it became the leading manufacturer of airplanes and aircraft and now aerospace.

We salute Pratt & Whitney aircraft.

When my father would go to work, we would say: Dad, are you going to work?

He said: Yeah.

I said: What do you do?

He said: We keep the eagle flying.

The symbol of Pratt & Whitney aircraft is the bald eagle in flight, and underneath it, it says: "Dependable engines."

That was true in 1925, and it is true today.

I am proud to be part of the F-35 Caucus and to understand that not only is

it important to America, but it is also important to our allies all across the globe who still depend on Pratt & Whitney and their production of the most dependable aircraft engines ever assembled.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the resolution introduced by Governor Lamont of the State of Connecticut recognizing this 100-year anniversary celebration of Pratt & Whitney aircraft.

EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION

Whereas, 2025 marks the 100th anniversary of Pratt & Whitney, founded in 1925 by Frederick Rentschler, whose vision revolutionized aviation with the creation of the dependable air-cooled Wasp engine; and

Whereas, Pratt & Whitney, headquartered in East Hartford, Connecticut, has since become a global leader in the design, manufacture, and service of aircraft engines and auxiliary power units for commercial, military, business aircraft, helicopters; and

Whereas, Pratt & Whitney has contributed to every major advancement in powered flight over the past century, helping drive innovation, support national defense, and enable safe, efficient air travel around the world; and

Whereas, for 100 years, the people of Connecticut have been at the heart of Pratt & Whitney's success—engineers, technicians, veterans, and countless other skilled employees whose dedication and ingenuity continue to power the future of aviation; and

Whereas, the company's continued investment in workforce development, manufacturing, sustainability, and community partnerships has strengthened Connecticut's economy and aerospace leadership; and

Whereas, the State of Connecticut proudly celebrates the achievements and legacy of Pratt & Whitney, recognizing a century of excellence in engineering, innovation, and public service;

Now, Therefore, I, Ned Lamont, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby proclaim July 20 through July 26, 2025 as Pratt & Whitney 100th Anniversary Week in the State of Connecticut and encourage all citizens to join in honoring this iconic company's extraordinary contributions to our state, our nation, and the world.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of Connecticut to be affixed this 25th day of July, 2025.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I also include in the RECORD an op-ed piece that was presented in the Hartford Courant by Pratt & Whitney President Shane Eddy, again, talking about that great workforce over this past 100 years and their dedication then, now, and well into the future.

This op-ed ran in the Hartford Courant July 22nd:

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF AVIATION INNOVATION—AND INVESTING IN CONNECTICUT'S FUTURE

(By Shane Eddy, President, Pratt & Whitney)

In 1925, an engineer named Frederick Rentschler founded Pratt & Whitney in Hartford with an idea for an air-cooled radial engine that would revolutionize American aviation. Rentschler was driven by an unwavering belief that "the best airplane could only be designed as the best engine" and a powerful vision for dependable propulsion to connect people, grow economies, and defend freedom.

His first creation, the R-1340 Wasp, became an engineering landmark—setting a new standard in performance and reliability over the liquid cooled engines of the era. It also marked the beginning of an enduring legacy of safety, innovation and Dependable Engines forged right here in Connecticut by generations of employees, who have quite literally shaped the world we live in.

Over the past century, the skilled men and women of Pratt & Whitney have designed, built and supported products that have powered more than 500 different aircraft types, achieving many commercial and military aviation milestones. We powered the first major commercial air travel in the 1930s, provided more than half the total horsepower for Allied aircraft during World War II, and led the transition of commercial air travel into the jet age in the late 1950s—among countless other examples.

Today, our products power everything from the most advanced fight aircraft, such as the F135 engine for the F-35, to the GTF engine for most fuel-efficient narrowbody commercial jets. Both of these marquee products are built in Middletown, with critical parts produced in East Hartford as well as suppliers located across the state.

The impact of our work extends far beyond Connecticut's borders. Our global team is spread across more than 40 major sites worldwide—including locations in Canada, Poland as well as Singapore—and plays an important role in the design, manufacture and support of our current and future engine programs. The dedication and expertise of our global workforce are at the heart of our success.

As we've grown from a single site in Hartford to a global propulsion leader with 45,000 employees and more than 90,000 engines in service worldwide, Connecticut has and will continue to be our home—just as it's been for the past 100 years. That commitment is reflected in the significant investments we've made in our facilities, our workforce, and our community here in the state.

Looking ahead, Pratt & Whitney is well positioned to shape the future of flight for the next 100 years—with Connecticut's industrial base leading the way. For example, the new GTF Advantage engine for the Airbus A320neo was recently certified by the Federal Aviation Administration and will begin delivering soon. Additionally, we are growing the capability of the F135 with the development of our Engine Core Upgrade to ensure the F-35 fighter remains ahead of threats for years to come. In partnership with our parent company RTX, we are also actively developing technologies such as hybrid-electric to secure positions on the next generation of platforms.

The future for Pratt & Whitney is exciting and incredibly bright—and will be powered by the talented and dedicated men and women at our sites in Middletown and East Hartford, along with the approximately 100 suppliers across the state that support our engine programs.

Connecticut's industrial base is a national asset, producing advanced commercial and military technology at scale that no other country can match. But it's also fragile, and it's imperative that we keep the conditions strong, so it continues to thrive. That includes having a stable and predictable business climate so companies can invest for the long-term and a robust talent development ecosystem that identifies and trains the next generation of aerospace talent. While Connecticut's leaders have made significant progress on both fronts, there is still more work to do to grow and protect the state's industrial base for generations to come.

To our employees, suppliers, partners, and neighbors across the state—thank you for