

goals and zero public input. It is one that tears communities apart while doing special favors to Sacramento insiders.

Do the voters want this? Do Californians want to overturn everything they had previously voted for? Emphatically they do not.

Polling shows that two-thirds of voters, an overwhelming majority of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, favor keeping the commission. This would seem to be a problem for Governor Newsom, as his plan to push the commission aside requires voter approval.

To overcome this problem, to produce an artifact of voter approval for a proposition our voters strongly oppose, the Governor has resorted to two strategies: disenfranchising voters and defrauding them.

First, the Governor has called a sudden, impromptu, off-year, low-turnout special election, asking a partial electorate to overturn the will of our full electorate. To further suppress voter participation, he has thrown election rules out the window in a hyper-accelerated timeline unlike anything our State has ever seen, meaning fewer polling places, fewer notifications to voters, and at least at first a digital-only voter guide.

Second, the Governor is committing outright fraud on the ballot itself, describing the proposition in terms designed to fool voters into thinking “yes” is “no” and “no” is “yes.”

To justify all of this, to clothe the naked political self-interest in some kind of principle, the Governor and his enablers have treated us to one absurd paradox after another. We are told that another State is doing something so bad and so sinister that we should do it too. We are told that banishing an independent redistricting commission somehow supports independent redistricting. We are told that we should fight fire with fire, even if that means the whole world burns.

This perversion of Federal elections simply cannot be tolerated by the United States Congress. We have a duty to protect the rights of voters in selecting their Representatives in this body, and we have the authority to do so under the Elections Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Pursuant to that authority, I have introduced H. Res. 4889 to protect the congressional map drawn by California’s citizens commission and to preserve the map of every State until the next Census.

This measure has bipartisan support. It will prevent a chaotic redistricting war from breaking out across America. It will allow us to focus on the real issues facing our country.

Today, I am calling on Speaker MIKE JOHNSON to bring this measure to a vote on the House floor.

Gerrymandering is a plague on our democracy wherever it occurs. That is why I have also called for a bipartisan commission to end the practice once and for all.

While almost everyone agrees political division has become a serious problem in this country, it is especially harmful when we can’t agree on the basic rules of the road. We need to find common ground when it comes to the basic parameters for our politics. We can then disagree vigorously within those parameters on matters of policy and our vision for the country. That is what democracy is about.

#### NORTHEAST OHIOANS ARE GETTING SQUEEZED

(Ms. BROWN of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I have just come back from our district work period in northeast Ohio, and let me tell you, Madam Speaker, there is nothing better than being home being in our churches, in our union halls, and our community centers listening to the people I serve.

Let me tell you what I heard, Madam Speaker. It was crystal clear. People are getting squeezed.

Groceries—a very old fashioned word—are too expensive. Gas is too expensive. Housing is way too expensive, and Trump’s chaos and corruption are making it all worse.

I heard how tariffs are jacking up prices, crushing small businesses, and threatening workers. I heard how the one big, ugly bill is about to make utility bills, student loans, and grocery costs skyrocket, all to give the richest Americans more tax breaks.

□ 1230

I heard how the President’s cancellation of community safety funding will make our neighborhoods less safe, and I heard how his attacks on unions at the VA and FEMA will ripple right into the private sector, hurting working men and women everywhere.

Donald Trump’s latest stunt, firing Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook, is illegal, reckless, and a straight-up power grab designed to give him control of the Fed and raise costs for families.

An independent Federal Reserve is the bedrock of American prosperity. If you undermine it, retirement savings vanish, mortgage rates climb, and life gets more expensive for everyone.

Madam Speaker, this is bigger than economics. This is about freedom. Take a look around our country. We have military patrols in American cities, political investigations of the President’s critics, mass detentions without due process, Federal agents hidden behind masks, museums ordered to rewrite history, the government bullying private companies and universities, and banners of the President’s face that would even make Kim Jong-un blush.

This is a toxic agenda, and the President knows it. That is why he is changing the rules in the middle of the game. Need I remind you, 4 years ago, he demanded Georgia find him votes? Now,

he is demanding red States find him more seats in Congress.

All this for what? So Donald Trump can enrich himself and his billionaire allies while everyday, hardworking Americans pay the bill.

I just have to ask, Madam Speaker: Where are the so-called constitutional conservatives? Will even one of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle find the courage to stand up? Have they not learned that cowering before this man only works until he decides you are expendable?

It may be easy to look away when people are without welfare status, when they suffer, or when people you don’t like are targeted, fired, or erased. It may be easy when the victims live in places like Cleveland, Chicago, or Washington, but be clear: It never ends there.

As a Black woman, I know who the cruel and oppressive executive orders and policies punish first, but I also know this: Once it starts, everyone is punished.

This is the moment to defend our economy, to defend our Constitution, and to defend our freedoms and elections.

Madam Speaker, let me close with this. Last week, President Trump said: I have the right to do anything I want to do. I am the President of the United States.

He said it and laid it on the table in plain sight for all of us to see. He wants no checks, no balances, not from the courts, not from Congress, and not from the voters.

It is time to wake up, America, before it is too late.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President of the United States.

#### MARKING 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF V-J DAY

(Mr. HILL of Arkansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today marks 80 years since the Empire of Japan unconditionally surrendered to General Douglas MacArthur and Allied forces aboard the USS Missouri.

On this anniversary of V-J Day, it is fitting that we pause to remember not only the end of history’s deadliest conflict but also the peace secured by the courage and sacrifice of the Greatest Generation, a legacy that still shapes our world today.

More than 16 million Americans served, including 195,000 from the State of Arkansas.

We remain forever grateful to the Allied war effort leadership, to the men and women who served down range in the Pacific, Europe, North Africa, and beyond, and to those on the home front who taught our kids and fueled the arsenal of democracy.

Our generation salutes the Greatest Generation for the defeat of fascism

and the preservation of liberty and freedom.

#### HONORING FLOYD BRANTLEY

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, one of those Pacific vets is my friend Floyd Brantley of Conway, Arkansas, a proud American who answered his country's call not once but three different times.

Floyd first enlisted in the Navy in 1943, serving as a hospital corpsman with the 1st Marine Division in the Russell Islands and New Guinea. After the war, he went on to Baylor University, joined the Air Force ROTC, and later served as a transport officer in Busan, South Korea, during the Korean conflict.

Most men would have considered that a full measure of service, but two decades later, during the Vietnam era, Floyd once again put on the uniform, this time in the Air National Guard, giving another 10 years to his country. He retired as a colonel.

As Floyd approaches a century of life, I have never met a more active, positive person. In all, Colonel Brantley devoted more than 23 years to the defense of our Nation. He is a shining example of service above self, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him today.

#### HONORING JOHN MASS

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, on this 80th commemoration of V-J Day, I recognize the remarkable service of Mr. John Mass, a proud veteran of World War II, the Korean conflict, and the Vietnam war.

Like so many of his generation, John answered the call to serve, devoting over 26 years to the defense of our country. He began his service in 1943 with the U.S. Army Air Corps and concluded with his honorable retirement from the United States Air Force in 1969.

Over that distinguished career, Mr. Mass served in posts worldwide, including the Philippines, Guam, Thailand, Greenland, Germany, and bases across the United States, where he contributed to the safety and effectiveness of airborne operations.

Now, at 97 years old, Mr. Mass' record of service stands as an enduring testament to duty, sacrifice, and patriotism. I honor his extraordinary contributions to his country.

#### HONORING MARY FINE

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, on this anniversary of V-J Day, I rise to recognize Mary Fine.

Mary Fine turned 100 years old this past March 12. I rise today to honor not only this incredible milestone in her life but her service to our country.

Ms. Fine was a member of the Women's Army Corps and served our country during America's most difficult tests of the Second World War.

From 1942 to 1978, the Women's Army Corps offered opportunities for women to serve in the armed and uniformed services. WACs, as its members were called, served in a variety of roles, in-

cluding as mechanics, medical professionals, photographers, and clerks. As for Mary, she served as a phone operator and translator.

Women like Mary were integral to our victory, as they worked tirelessly to support men on the front line and ensure the American war machine operated at peak efficiency.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Ms. Fine on her birthday and thank her for her service.

Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 20th Anniversary of the USS *Razorback SS 394* being docked on the banks of the Arkansas River in North Little Rock.

During World War II, the Balao-class submarine completed five war patrols in the Pacific, sinking multiple Japanese vessels, capturing enemy prisoners, and rescuing downed American airmen, even being present in the Tokyo Bay for the Japanese surrender.

By the time she was decommissioned in 1970 the *Razorback* had earned five battle stars for its service during World War II, four stars for Vietnam, and two awards of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

In 2004 she was towed up the Arkansas River and opened to the public on Memorial Day in 2005 to her permanent home in Arkansas's Second District.

Since then, the USS *Razorback* has become a part of Arkansas history. A place where schools from across the state come to learn about history.

Please join me in celebrating the 20th Anniversary of this historic Arkansas landmark.

#### SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the pending issue of Social Security.

Madam Speaker, for you and the people in the audience, it might come as a shock that Social Security has not been adjusted in more than 54 years.

What do I mean by that? Some would argue that Social Security was adjusted in 1982 under Tip O'Neill, Ronald Reagan, and Bob Dole. Indeed, it was addressed, but Ronald Reagan wanted to privatize Social Security. Bob Dole, a Senate Republican, said no, that this is too important a program. They agreed that what they would do was to keep the program intact, under the assistance of Tip O'Neill, but they raised the age. That sounds like a reasonable compromise until you realize that for every year you raise the age, that is a 7 percent cut in benefits. In essence, back in 1982, there was a 14 percent cut in benefits.

Today, we have a comprehensive proposal with regard to Social Security to help everybody across the board, including a 2 percent overall increase in Social Security—again, something that hasn't been done since Richard Nixon was President of the United States.

We also want to make sure that no one receives a below-poverty-level check from Social Security. Currently, more than 5 million of our fellow

Americans—most, Madam Speaker, you will find interesting, are women—primarily because they were the caregivers and providers at home and, when they were in the workforce, were making less than their male counterparts. No matter how you look at it, it is unfair and unjust.

Social Security is the Nation's number one antipoverty program for the elderly, and it is also the number one antipoverty program for children.

□ 1240

Madam Speaker, more veterans rely on Social Security disability than they do the VA. Yet, Congress has not acted.

This is not anything that can be done through executive order or anything that is before the Supreme Court. What all Americans should be demanding is that their Congress not only pay attention but act.

Democrats have a proposal that does just that. It expands coverage across the board. It makes sure that no one can retire into poverty, like more than 5 million current Americans do. It also makes sure that we provide a cost-of-living increase that will benefit everybody.

Where do they spend that money, Madam Speaker? They spend it right back in the congressional districts where they live. They put it right back into buying groceries and going to the pharmacies; paying to heat and cool their homes; paying their rent, bills, mortgages; and putting gasoline into their automobiles. That all helps the American economy.

During this time of inflation, it is not understandable why a Republican-controlled House and Senate will not take up Social Security as the main issue facing the American people, including the best step forward during these times of inflation. Where do people spend that check: right back in the communities that they live in. That is the most important thing.

Madam Speaker, that is why I come to the floor today: to make sure that we are acting on Social Security and to make sure that all Americans understand how vital and important this is. We can no longer afford to kick this can down the road. Kicking the can down the road doesn't help anyone out in your district, in my district, and in the 435 districts across this Nation. Quite the contrary, it will help everyone out.

This is not about being a Democrat or a Republican or an Independent. This is about Americans, again, demonstrating the brilliance of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and what they had in mind to get us out of the Great Depression.

We are still hanging on from the recession of 2008 and 2009. If people say it can't happen again, they are wrong. It can.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair