

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

declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Eternal Father, sovereign God, enable us this day to see each other as You see us. Though we be broken or belligerent, contentious or callous, demanding or discouraged, nonetheless, You regard us with unconditional love.

In Your sight, we, Your children, are Your creation, the apple of Your eye. We may at times be lost, but not unloved, careless, yet held in Your embrace, mortal, and yet made righteous in You.

With Your eyes may we live into the love You have shown us; with Your words, may we speak with the grace You have given us; and in Your spirit, may we meet others with the same mercy You have offered us.

And as we follow where You lead us, serving in this time and this place, may we bear witness to the holiness to which You have called each of us.

In Your steadfast loving-kindness we receive in Your name, we offer these prayers.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TAYLOR) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TAYLOR led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT JOHN DANNEKER

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sergeant John Danneker of Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Sergeant Danneker served as a waist gunner for the 565th Bombardment Squadron, 389th Bombardment Group during World War II.

On June 20, 1944, his bomber crashed into the Baltic Sea off the coast of Denmark. Sergeant Danneker was initially declared nonrecoverable after investigations into the crash were unable to locate the crewmen.

In 2019, Danish divers alerted the Royal Danish Navy of a World War II-era aircraft wreckage in the general area of where Sergeant Danneker's aircraft went down.

From May 2024 to June 2024, the Royal Danish Navy, the Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, and their partners were able to recover the remains from the aircraft.

On December 10, 2024, Sergeant Danneker was positively identified through DNA analysis.

Last week, on August 26, Sergeant Danneker was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

Mr. Speaker, we must never stop searching for those who made the ultimate sacrifice. I am grateful to all involved for bringing Sergeant Danneker home.

#### SUCCESS BY PRESIDENT TRUMP FOR PEACE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the success by President Donald Trump for peace and prosperity in the Middle East is being implemented by American patriot Ambassador Tom Barrack as I witnessed firsthand last week in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

Our bipartisan, bicameral delegation, led by Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN, visited with inspiring leaders like King Abdullah in Amman, President Ahmed al-Sharaa in Damascus, and President Joseph Aoun in Beirut.

Jordan is appreciated as a prosperous, longtime American ally. Syria is advancing to include all communities and religions into a unified nation. With dictator Assad fleeing to Moscow, President Trump promotes "give Syria a chance." Lebanon is fulfilling its pledge to disarm Hezbollah by year-end. Ambassador Barrack is successfully isolating Iran as Iran chants "death to Israel, death to America."

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstituting existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump and mocking Trump, murdering Ukrainian civilians with rocket attacks as he conducts lovely conversations.

#### HONORING THE TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD

(Mr. PFLUGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with immense pride to honor San Angelo, Texas, native and commander of the 449th Aviation Support Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Jordan Boyd, as well as two extraordinary National Guard units: the 108th Assault Helicopter Battalion in Austin and the 149th General Support Helicopter Battalion in San Antonio.

These units are extraordinary. On the morning of July Fourth, as floodwaters devastated central and west Texas, these two units immediately jumped into action and have not stopped since. Knowing many of the stranded children were present at that time, these crews pushed themselves to every imaginable limit, flying through adverse weather to reach Camp Mystic and the entire Guadalupe River. Their daring efforts saved 366 lives that day and reunited hundreds of families.

Mr. Speaker, I thank not just the pilots but also the maintainers and support personnel and all of the people in the Texas National Guard that have shown immense heroism over the past few months. I can't thank them enough for their heroic efforts.

#### RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Homeland Security:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, August 29, 2025.

Speaker MIKE JOHNSON,  
Washington, DC.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: I am providing official notice of my intent to withdraw from the House Homeland Security Committee, effective immediately.

Over the course of my nine years in Congress, I have been a dedicated servant to We the People through the House Homeland Security Committee, fighting for the America First agenda, enforcement of American law, and security of American sovereignty. My Republican colleagues have chosen an alternate path for the Committee that I helped to build, a path more in alignment with the less conservative factions of our Conference, factions whose core principles are quite variant from my own conservative perspective on key issues like amnesty, ICE operations, and opposition to the surveillance state.

Therefore, recognizing that I would be in opposition to the core principles and agenda of the newly elected Chairman, I withdraw my presence from the House Homeland Security Committee.

Respectfully,

CLAY HIGGINS,  
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.