

these things out instead of lying about it?

We are trying to achieve better budgets and get closer to balancing the budget than what we have had the last 4 years. Why don't we be truthful in this process instead of the nonsense?

#### PROVIDING FAIRNESS IN SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Social Security Fairness Act, which we passed a few months ago, is now in effect, and 3.2 million Americans will see a big increase in their monthly Social Security checks.

We are talking about retired public schoolteachers, retired police officers, retired firefighters, and retired letter carriers. They paid into Social Security for years but weren't getting their full benefits. They were missing out on hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars a month.

The bill was introduced in every Congress for the last 25 years. It had the most bipartisan support of any bill in the last Congress.

We had to force a vote on the bill with a discharge petition, and within 2 days, we got 218 signatures. We fought very hard to get this done, and now, our public retirees will finally start to see the benefits they were owed each month.

We could not have done this without the advocacy of thousands of public servants and retirees. I hope it can help restore some faith in our government that this institution does still get things done.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Ms. Deirdre Kelly, one of his secretaries.

#### HONORING CHARLES "CHUCK" HAEFLINGER

(Mrs. KIM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles "Chuck" Haefflinger of Chino Hills, who passed away on February 3 at the age of 77.

Chuck had a distinguished 32-year career in the Army, serving as a helicopter pilot in the Vietnam war and retiring as a lieutenant colonel. He earned a Bronze Star and five Meritorious Service Medals.

Chuck's service to our Chino Hills community continued after his retirement. He helped fellow veterans transition back to civilian life, became a mentor emeritus for the Reaching New Heights Foundation, and was an active

member of the Chino Hills 55 Plus Club Veterans Group, playing a key role in raising funds for the military service monument at the community center. He was also a valued member of my Veterans Advisory Group.

I thank Chuck for his contributions to our community and extend my heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

#### DISMANTLING SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, in January, a largely unknown midlevel career employee at the Social Security Administration, Leland Dudek, was caught sharing unauthorized data with Elon Musk's team at DOGE. Senior officials were so alarmed they put him on leave and launched an investigation. He may have violated privacy and tax laws.

Here is the stuff you can't make up. President Trump just promoted him to be the Acting Commissioner of Social Security.

DOGE, which I think stands for destruction of government by Elon, is reportedly demanding plans to gut the Social Security Administration, firing up to 50 percent of workers and closing field offices across the country, potentially including one in my district.

This isn't about efficiency. It is a back-door attack on Social Security itself. If they succeed, tens of millions of Americans will face delays, disruptions, and denials of benefits they have earned.

This is nothing more than an attempt to dismantle Social Security from the inside. We cannot allow it. We need answers. We need oversight. We need to stop this now.

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#### RECOGNIZING HUNTER THOMAS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic actions of Deputy Hunter Thomas of the Ware County Sheriff's Office, who recently saved a life through his quick thinking and decisive actions.

On January 29, Deputy Thomas responded to a severe accident on U.S. 1/Georgia 4 near mile marker 8. A semitruck had collided with a Ford F-150, leaving several people injured.

Upon his arrival, Deputy Thomas found the semitruck driver severely wounded, suffering from a deep bleeding cut on his elbow. Without hesitation, he used his training and experience to apply a tourniquet, effectively stopping the excessive blood loss. His immediate response undoubtedly saved the driver's life.

Deputy Thomas' professionalism, dedication, and courage exemplify the

best of law enforcement. His actions not only protected a life that day but also set a standard of excellence for his department and colleagues.

He was rightfully honored with the lifesaving ribbon commendation bar by Sheriff Carl James. We are beyond grateful for his bravery and service to the Ware County community.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RENE LICHTMAN

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend, Rene Lichtman, a Holocaust survivor and activist in our community who was deeply committed to justice in southeastern Michigan and around the world. He was my adopted "amo," "uncle."

Rene, who passed away at 87 years old, dedicated his life to teaching others about the Holocaust, ensuring that stories of survivors would never be forgotten. He worked so hard to live by the mission of Never Again to anyone.

Through his art, film, and photography, he captured the resilience of the human spirit, and through his activism, he fought for social justice and an end to human suffering.

At the age of 63, Rene got his Ph.D. in instructional technology and spent two decades working at a hospital in our community.

Even in the end of his life, Rene was painting, organizing with Jewish forces for peace in Detroit, and standing up for Palestinian human rights.

Rene's impact and legacy will live through his work and the countless lives he touched. May his memory and work live forever.

I will miss you, Rene. I love you.

#### HONORING GREGORY E. WALZ

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Sergeant Gregory E. Walz of the Town of Pound Ridge Police Department.

Greg dedicated his life to serving others. Before his career in law enforcement, he worked as an EMT and paramedic, providing lifesaving care across Westchester County.

In 2008, he joined the Pound Ridge Police Department, where his skill, dedication, and leadership left a lasting impact.

Throughout his career, Greg was a mentor, protector, and friend to so many. His expertise saved lives, and his commitment to public safety earned him the respect of his fellow officers and the community he served.

As a police officer, Greg was honored with the Top Cop award by Westchester County for his outstanding efforts in

traffic safety through DWI enforcement.

In 2016, he was promoted to detective, where he took on investigative work and played a key role in training new officers. Just this month, Greg was promoted to sergeant, a testament to his unwavering commitment to Pound Ridge.

His passing is a tremendous loss to the Pound Ridge community, and my thoughts are with his wife, Lisa, his family, and his loved ones.

Today, we honor his service, his sacrifice, and his legacy. May he rest in peace.

#### DACA RECIPIENTS NEED PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share an incredible story of one of my constituents, a proud DACA recipient, Martha Delgado.

Raised by a single mother who worked in the fields and cleaned houses, Martha was determined to earn the American Dream. She graduated with high honors from Godinez Fundamental High School in Santa Ana and then went on to earn a bachelor's degree in public health from UC Merced in 2019.

Martha's passion for innovation led her to University Lab Partners, where she helps startup companies develop groundbreaking medical devices and diagnostic devices. She helps bridge the gap between research and real-world problems.

Martha's journey is a testament to the impact our youth can have when they have the opportunity to earn the American Dream. I will not stop fighting until she and other DACA recipients have a shot to earn American citizenship.

#### CONGRATULATING NORTHERN MARIANA SPORTS ASSOCIATION

(Ms. KING-HINDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KING-HINDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the Northern Mariana Sports Association and all of our athletes in the Northern Mariana Islands who are celebrating the 40th anniversary of this great community organization today, February 27.

Being an athlete has given me so much, and it is not just about sports. It is about building self-confidence, understanding teamwork, and finding value in ourselves and our abilities, lessons essential both on the field and in life.

I have seen firsthand how critical the support of governing organizations like NMSA is to smaller sports groups in our islands and to giving our athletes moments of triumph and lessons for life that become a part of who they are.

For all NMSA does in our community and for the lives they have shaped, they have my sincere gratitude and congratulations. To all CNMI athletes, especially those who are being recognized this week, they make the Northern Marianas proud. I am honored to share their stories and amplify their voices here in Congress.

#### HONORING PROJECT ROOTS

(Ms. ANSARI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark Black History Month and recognize the contributions of Black-led organizations in Arizona's Third District doing the work on the ground to uplift their communities.

Today, I want to honor Project Roots. Project Roots is a nonprofit community garden founded by two incredible women, Dionne Washington and Bridget Pettis, who recognized an unmet need in their community and stepped up to address it.

Their goal is to empower community members to grow their own crops so that their neighbors have access to fresh produce while also providing food to anyone who needs it.

Project Roots is a pillar in our community and an inspiring example of what can be when we envision a future where every single person has reliable access to fresh, nutritious food.

This Black History Month and every month, I hope we can follow Dionne and Bridget's example by centering those with the most need and working together to build a more connected, healthy, and equitable community for all.

#### PUTTING YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, if families across the Nation pay their debts and live within their means, shouldn't we in Congress reevaluate how money is being spent in Washington and across the Nation? Of course we should.

For far too long, our government has put the cost of not just emergencies but everyday expenses on our Nation's credit card. Now, as a result, our national debt is a staggering \$36 trillion and growing every day.

Mr. Speaker, I am willing to put my money where my mouth is, and that is why I have introduced the Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is Act to reduce congressional office budgets by \$100,000, just a paltry 5.2 percent.

The American credit card has reached its limit. We must tighten our belts. We have bills to pay and emergencies to cover. We need to be in this together.

Mr. Speaker, I have one question for you and this body: Are we willing to put our money where our mouths are?

I encourage all of my colleagues to join in this effort. Let's go get them.

#### HONORING MINISTER DWAYNE ROBERTS

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

Mr. MIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Minister Dwayne Roberts of Second Baptist Church for his incredible 50 years of service to our community.

Second Baptist Church is the oldest Black church in Orange County, and it has become a home for faith, music, and fellowship.

Minister Roberts' 50 years of leadership are unprecedented. He served longer than any minister in the church's history. Through his gift for music ministry, he has touched and transformed countless lives.

Minister Roberts' talents are numerous. He is a singer, musician, songwriter, and compelling speaker. For 50 years, he has used these gifts to help others.

Last weekend, I had the honor of joining his congregation to celebrate Minister Roberts' 50th anniversary. I was moved by the love and respect for the minister in that room.

This Black History Month, I am proud to recognize Minister Roberts and his tremendous legacy in Orange County.

#### HONORING ANTHONY W. YOUNG

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

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to honor Colonel Anthony W. Young, a distinguished veteran and dedicated public servant in our community.

Colonel Young is a retired United States Army officer who has devoted his life to serving both our Nation and our local community.

Tony is a native of Vero Beach. He has served as mayor, councilman, and vice mayor, and he has been a key leader in the Florida League of Cities.

Tony's military career spanned over 30 years, serving with the 24th Infantry Division, the 1st Armored Division, and the 30th Medical Brigade. His dedication and leadership have left an indelible mark on our military, city, and Nation.

Most recently, under his leadership as the president of the Indian River Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, Tony spearheaded the creation of a permanent memorial for local World War II veterans, ensuring that their sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Colonel Tony Young is a true patriot and an embodiment of service. We are