

up there in Heaven with all of the other soul singers. We are never going to give him up, and I know that he is up there leading them in glory, hallelujah, His truth is marching on.

The only thing that I can say is Jerry lived a life well done, and I will see him when I get there.

HONORING CHIEF OF STAFF, KARI OSMOND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, ask any Member of Congress and they will tell you, none of us could adequately serve our constituents without staffers. They are a necessary component of our office.

Today, I will take a moment to thank my chief of staff, Kari Osmond, who will be leaving our office at the conclusion of today's work.

Kari has been working with me since I was first elected to represent the 12th Congressional District a decade ago, but I have known her since my time in the State assembly.

In fact, we spent so much time together during my first campaign, driving around the 12th Congressional District listening to gospel music, I nearly turned her into a Black Baptist. We preferred Hezekiah Walker's "Every Praise."

Her dedication and her commitment to the people in the four counties that I represent has never wavered in all of the time that I have known her.

Kari is not just a friend. Bill, my husband, and I consider her family. She has been a tremendous professional, a committed organizer, and a courageous leader who has always run toward the fight.

In her time as chief of staff, she also helped me to assemble a talented team committed to representing the values of the 12th Congressional District and fighting for everyday New Jerseyans.

A Congress Member is only as good as their staff, and she has led one of the best on the Hill for the last 4 years and the best in our district office in New Jersey.

I will miss her greatly. I will miss her dearly. I am certain, though, that she will carry her talent and her commitment to service to her new role at the College of New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Kari Godspeed, best wishes, and know that she goes with my love.

SOCIAL SECURITY IS THE NUMBER ONE ANTIPOVERTY PROGRAM IN UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak and address the Chamber about the Nation's

number one antipoverty program for the elderly and the Nation's number one antipoverty program for children. I speak, of course, of Social Security.

Social Security is currently under attack by the Trump administration with just this weekend, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Trump calling Social Security a scam and Mr. Musk calling Social Security a Ponzi scheme.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am sure as you know in your district, you have 209,000 Social Security recipients: 157,000 are retirees; 25,000 plus are disabled workers; 10,000 are widows; 3,678 are spouses; and over 12,000 are children. I don't believe that you think that Social Security and the checks that these people receive is a scam or that Social Security is a Ponzi scheme.

In fact, in your district, \$377 million comes into your district monthly that goes to those individuals. Where do they spend that money? They spend that money right back in your district at the grocery store, at the pharmacy, at the dry cleaners, heating and cooling their homes, paying their rent, their mortgage, and putting gasoline in their car.

The brilliance of Franklin Delano Roosevelt still lives on. This is capitalism's answer to have a safety net for people, who through no fault of their own or because they work and ultimately end up retiring, have benefits that they can live on. It is especially more important as people are living longer. They need these benefits that are currently under siege by an administration who has asked Elon Musk to find \$2 trillion in cuts.

Where is he looking? He is looking right at your district, Mr. Speaker, and my district, and the 435 congressional districts, who, on average, receive \$200 million monthly from Social Security where, on average, the more than 145,000 people per district that receive these benefits go directly back to the local economy.

We are looking for three Republicans to stand with a unified Democratic Party and Congress to push forward a bill that was last extended in 1971. Richard Nixon was President of the United States the last time Social Security benefits were extended for your constituents as well as my constituents in Connecticut.

It is long overdue. We have a COLA that doesn't work. We have people that continue to work after they receive Social Security that are taxed on their benefits. We have had teachers and firefighters and police officers, as well, who have been denied benefits. Now, while they are eligible for them, they are not funded and so that money comes out of the trust fund.

President Trump has now proposed a tax cut for Social Security that is unpaid for. That is over a \$900 billion hit to Social Security and all the constituents who receive it.

Mr. Speaker, I know you to be a man of goodwill and you understand your district and what your people need, as

well. It is long overdue for the citizens of the United States to have their Social Security benefits enhanced, not cut.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 39 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

Great and awesome God, Your glory is too wonderful to be seen. Even Your servant Moses, whom You regarded worthy enough to bring forth Your law to Your people wandering in the desert, You covered his face that he would not perish in Your sight.

In our journey through at times the wilderness of faith, it seems You have hidden Your face from us, too. Is it because the brilliance of the righteousness that You demand for us is too great to bear witness to?

Or is it that You are not hidden, but it is we who have turned away from You? The events of these days, the inhumanity of war raging throughout the world, the conflict and controversy in our own country, not to mention the personal unrest in our own lives, all these have grabbed our attention.

Perhaps it is these things that have kept us from seeing Your face, from experiencing Your abiding presence. Perhaps we are looking in the wrong places, searching our social media or our social circles for our answers.

In this season, call us to search our hearts and, in Your mercy, may we find You there. Reveal in our spirits, by the power of Your own holy spirit, what You have always wanted us to see: Your great and wonderful love for us and Your desire for us to live righteously.

We lean on Your everlasting arms and call on Your name as we pray this day.

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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PROTECT DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, unhinged bureaucrats have stood in the way of American energy for too long. Overregulation, job-killing policies, and reliance on foreign nations have driven up costs and hurt American families, businesses, and farms.

That changes now as we take measures to unleash America's full energy potential. President Trump has already taken decisive action by declaring a national energy emergency to cut through the bureaucracy, red tape, and nonsense to finally get back on track.

He has rolled back the Biden administration's crippling regulations, ending the so-called Green New Deal policies, and withdrawn from agreements, such as the Paris climate accord, that put other countries first while holding us back and exporting our jobs to the Pacific Rim and others.

We are opening back up the 625 million acres for offshore drilling that were put in recklessly via a last-minute monument. That is a 1,000- by 1,000-mile square, to say no more. The President is opening that back up.

Lifting Biden's ban on liquefied natural gas exports helps get energy flowing again to Europe, helping our allies not be dependent on Russian gas.

We are backing it up in Congress. We are passing legislation to protect domestic energy production and ensure we never face these kinds of restrictions again, including three pieces of legislation this week alone that will be done.

The results are clear: Crude oil prices will have dropped 5 percent and will continue to drop.

RECOGNIZING BRANDON JOHNSON

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Honorable Brandon Johnson, vice chairman of the Greene County Board of Education, as my special guest for the President's address to the joint session of Congress.

Brandon is a Greene County native and has served on the school board since 2020. He was the youngest elected official in our county's history when he was first elected.

Brandon is also a special agent in law enforcement for our State, teaches part time in the basic law enforcement program at Pitt Community College, and serves at his home church of Ormondsville Original Free Will Baptist Church. He is passionate about education and public safety, topics essential for eastern North Carolina and our Nation.

Brandon's father serves on the county board of commissioners, and his greatest inspiration in life comes from his mother, who passed when he was 17.

When my colleagues see Brandon, Members will also see someone driven by his faith and dedicated to shaping the future of Greene County, eastern North Carolina, and America.

I welcome Brandon to our Nation's Capitol.

RECOGNIZING RED CROSS MONTH

(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 recognize March as national Red Cross Month.

Since its founding in 1881, the Red Cross has played a vital role in supporting our communities by providing disaster relief, emergency assistance, and critical health services.

One of the Red Cross' most essential initiatives is its nationwide blood donation program. Today, this program remains a cornerstone of public health, supplying more than 40 percent of the Nation's blood products, yet the need for donation remains urgent.

Every 2 seconds, someone in the United States requires a blood transfusion. However, less than 38 percent of the population is eligible to donate, and only 3 percent of those eligible give blood annually. The critical need for blood and the lifesaving potential that comes with a donation cannot be overstated.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all healthy Americans to consider giving blood or plasma. A single act of generosity can make all the difference for someone in need.

RECOGNIZING GLEANING FOR THE WORLD

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

Mr. MCGUIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gleaning For The World, a Christian-based nonprofit in my district, Virginia-05, that helps people recover from disasters.

Mr. Speaker, they have distributed over 100 million pounds of humanitarian aid around the globe. When dev-

astating floods hit southwest Virginia due to Hurricane Helene and when southwest Virginia was hit by harmful snowstorms, Gleaning For The World answered the call.

During my first district work period this year, I visited Gleaning For The World's headquarters in Appomattox County. I was moved by their compassion for their fellow man and their willingness to give to others.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for the cheerful givers of Gleaning For The World, and I am honored to have them as my constituents.

PROMISES MADE, PROMISES KEPT

(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, President Donald Trump will deliver his first address tonight before a joint session of Congress since his historic mandate reelection.

Reversing damage caused by the policies of the Biden-Harris administration in order to make America secure and competitive, President Trump is already delivering major wins for American families, reducing illegal border crossings by 98 percent.

President Trump is restoring peace through strength; rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer dollars; and securing tremendous savings for taxpayers.

Led by Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, House Republicans are standing by President Trump to get America back on track, including through the passage of a single bill on the Trump agenda by providing a secure border, unleashing American energy, preventing the largest tax hike in history, creating jobs, and bringing common sense back with limited government, returning power to the people.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators put all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent, as warned by the FBI. President Trump is reinstating existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength.