

where it belongs. Many seniors will be impacted by ending the double taxation of Social Security. These deductions to their Social Security taxation will benefit 88 percent of seniors.

Under the Working Families Tax Cut Act, seniors age 65 and older can now claim a \$6,000 individual deduction, while married couples filing jointly can claim \$12,000, significantly reducing and for most seniors effectively eliminating Federal taxes on Social Security benefits.

After a lifetime of contributing to our communities and our country, seniors deserve real peace of mind, and this deduction helps deliver exactly that.

**CELEBRATING AMERICA'S INDEPENDENCE
AT LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY**

(Ms. PELOSI of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, as this year unfolds, the year of the 250th anniversary of our great country and the signing of the Declaration of Independence, I had the privilege yesterday of speaking at Loyola Marymount University in California to start, from our standpoint and theirs, this celebration. It was such a joy to behold the enthusiasm of the young students for our country, its heritage, and its founding.

President Thomas Poon welcomed me there. I met with the administration as well as the teachers, but of course, all of us were there to celebrate the students and their enthusiasm about how they wanted to take the lead as we go forward, recognizing that so many of our Founders were very young people. Lafayette—not an American, but a Frenchman—was 19 years old when he first started helping in our revolution.

I bring this to the attention of my colleagues because this is something that is not just about the 250th anniversary and the vision that our Founders had for this great country. It was the first time in the history of the world that a country was founded on the equality of people, and again making pursuit of happiness part of that Declaration.

We have a Constitution that was so wise, it recognized that we couldn't do it all there, so it was made amendable. In the history of our country, over time, freedom became even more broadly enjoyed, whether it was the abolition of slavery, the voting rights for Black men, women having the right to vote, and then, of course, Roe v. Wade and marriage equality and the rest. For the first time, though, we acknowledge that now our freedoms are being limited, and that is part of the discussion that we have to have now.

It was a glorious occasion. I was saying to the students that there is nobody in the history of the world like them. They need to know the power they hold, and they should be ready, know why they would want to be in-

involved in politics, in government, and the rest, because we really need them to be there. However, they should also appreciate the education they have at this Jesuit institution which is there for the glory of God as its value system. It is not just about the education, but about the values that are being conveyed and exchanged, listening to the students, learning from them, those that we strive to teach and mentor, but also hearing what they have to say.

I am grateful to them for giving me the opportunity to have this as one of my first events to observe publicly the anniversary of our Declaration of Independence and everything that flowed from that.

I thank President Poon and I thank the university. It was so impressive to see the enthusiasm that Loyola Marymount University has for our great country.

SUPER BOWL HALFTIME PERFORMANCES

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, on another note, though, the day before—and I call this to the attention of some who may not be aware—as the world knows and acclaims, we had the performance of Bad Bunny at the Super Bowl halftime.

I rise with pride in that because we take pride in the San Francisco Bay Area hosting. Even though we didn't have a team in the game, we had responsibility for hosting. Our mayor of San Francisco said his main responsibility was the weather, and the weather was beautiful. We were so happy to see all the patriotism and the songs that were sung throughout. We had the flag, and the military were present with the planes that flew over, and then the beautiful performance by Bad Bunny. At the end of it, he said: God bless America.

It is interesting to see the reaction to it when people said: Well, he is not American. Yes, he is. He is a Puerto Rican, and he is an American.

I was recalling to friends in 2002, when I was in New Orleans for the game between—at the time it was the St. Louis Rams versus the Patriots. The Patriots won, I think, their first Super Bowl, first in a long time anyway under Tom Brady and Belichick. Anyway, at that one, the half-time performance was Bono and U2. They are Irish. They are not Americans. They are Irish. It was received so beautifully by everyone.

The point I want to make, Mr. Speaker, is that during the performance of U2 and Bono in the stadium in New Orleans, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations was behind him. That spirit existed Sunday in our stadium in the San Francisco Bay Area when Bad Bunny performed. God bless America.

**MARK BURNS INDUCTED INTO
LIVING LEGENDS OF AVIATION**

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Mark Burns, president of Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, on his induction into the 23rd annual Living Legends of Aviation.

Founded in 2003, the Living Legends of Aviation awards recognize individuals who have significantly impacted the aviation industry. This includes entrepreneurs, innovators, industry leaders, astronauts, record setters, pilots turned celebrities, and celebrities who have become pilots.

A Savannah native, Mr. Burns earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Georgia Southern University and began working at Gulfstream Aerospace in 1983. Over the course of more than four decades, he has served in numerous leadership roles across the company, including engineering and customer support.

In July 2025, Mr. Burns was named president of Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, proudly leading the organization since then, contributing significantly to its growth and success.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Burns on his leadership in both the aviation industry and his induction into the Living Legends of Aviation.

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**HONORING FORMER UGA PRESIDENT MICHAEL
ADAMS**

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Michael Adams, the former president of the University of Georgia.

Unfortunately, Dr. Adams passed away on January 25 at the age of 77.

From 1977 to 2013, he served as the University of Georgia's 21st president, transforming our State's flagship university into one of the Nation's most prominent public institutions.

Under his visionary leadership, enrollment grew from nearly 30,000 to 35,000 students, Federal research expenditures nearly tripled, and the endowment more than doubled.

Dr. Adams oversaw more than \$1 billion in campus construction and renovation, creating vital facilities for teaching, research, and student life. His success as a university administrator was recognized by more than 50 higher education awards. He deeply believed in the transformative power of higher education, and his stewardship directly strengthened Georgia for generations.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Adams has left an enduring legacy that will forever touch the soul of our beloved State.

**HONORING COLONEL STEPHEN "TRACKER"
THOMAS**

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Stephen "Tracker" Thomas, who is retiring from command of Georgia's Combat Readiness Training Center at Savannah Air National Guard Base.

Since assuming command in 2023, Colonel Thomas has led this premier training hub with unmatched commitment and devotion.

Drawing on nearly two decades of combined Active-Duty and Air National Guard service, he elevated the CRTC's role in preparing warfighters for great power competition.

Under his leadership, the center continued hosting quarterly large force exercises, training specialists in theater-deployable communications, and delivering exclusive cross-demand training from Charleston to Orlando.

His vision has solidified the CRTC as a vital national asset for the Air Force, Air National Guard, Reserves, and other partners.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Colonel Thomas for ensuring global air readiness and dominance. We wish him and his family a fulfilling retirement.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF GEORGE
WHITTENBURG

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of George Whittenburg, a bright young man taken from us far too soon following a tragic car accident on January 30.

George was a 21-year-old student at the University of Georgia from Austin, Texas. He was a beloved son, brother, cousin, and friend whose infectious spirit touched countless lives.

Through his involvement in Sigma Phi Epsilon and Cru, a religious organization at the University of Georgia, George exemplified faith, leadership, and kindness. His friends would describe him as smart, confident, and a source of comedic relief, a Christlike man who overcame personal struggles to inspire others toward ministry and service.

George's personal growth and friendship have left a lasting impact on the Athens community, with thousands praying for him following the accident.

Mr. Speaker, our hearts ache for this loss. I pray for the Whittenburg family and all who knew him. May God's perfect plan bring them comfort.

FUNDING FOR LOS ANGELES

(Ms. RIVAS of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to deliver over \$2 million in Federal funding to the city of Los Angeles' Crisis and Incident Response through Community-Led Engagement program, or CIRCLE.

CIRCLE is a 24/7 unarmed response program that sends a team of mental health professionals and individuals to address nonurgent LAPD calls relating to the homeless population.

Through the use of this Federal funding, CIRCLE will now expand to more communities in my district, including North Hollywood and Sun Valley.

By meeting people where they are, CIRCLE helps prevent crises from escalating and connects individuals with the service and long-term support that they need.

The safety and prosperity of communities in the San Fernando Valley are

among my most critical priorities. I am working with stakeholders and leaders across my district to ensure that all people feel safe and welcome in my district.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to bring these resources that will improve mental health and address substance abuse within the homeless population.

FUNDING FOR AUTODESK TECHNOLOGY
ENGAGEMENT CENTER

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to secure over \$1 million in Federal funding for the CSUN's Autodesk Technology Engagement Center.

This center will be a tech hub where students and our community will be able to explore their curiosities in STEM through hands-on learning opportunities.

These funds will allow the center to purchase cutting-edge tools and equipment for their discovery lab, Student Success Center, and other state-of-the-art technology.

As challenges continue to plague our country, including climate disasters and health-related threats, it is important that we understand how STEM can be used to solve these issues. As an engineer and former STEM educator, I have seen firsthand what can be done when we provide accessible STEM education resources to communities with diverse backgrounds.

For over 65 years, CSUN has provided students across the San Fernando Valley with the educational opportunities that they need to succeed in our world.

With the funding I was able to help secure for the Autodesk Technology Engagement Center, CSUN will be able to continue preparing students for the workforce.

I am confident that with this support, students will feel encouraged to pursue careers in STEM and create innovative solutions to solve the demands of our ever-changing world.

FUNDING FOR LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE
CYBERSECURITY CENTER

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to deliver \$1 million in Federal funding to Los Angeles Valley College for a new cybersecurity center.

This funding will provide the latest software and training for our current and future cybersecurity professionals to engage with.

Cybersecurity is one of the fastest growing career fields in California and across the country. In fact, California has promoted a statewide initiative to train 50,000 entry-level cybersecurity professionals by 2030. The expansion of STEM education in my district will help close equity gaps and barriers that traditionally exist.

Meeting the demand for careers in cybersecurity not only boosts our workforce but also ensures that the United States remains a global leader.

Cybersecurity education needs to be accessible, and this center will foster those opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds to gain experience from those who are in the cybersecurity field. It also ensures that our

workforce is better equipped to prevent cybersecurity threats to our key infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with LA Valley College to continue paving pathways for students to access high-paying, in-demand careers.

CONGRATULATING ELLEN
LAMPTON

(Mrs. FISCHBACH of Minnesota was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ellen Lampton of Perham on her National Service Honor award. This prestigious award, presented by Helper Helper, is reserved for individuals who embody the very best of civic responsibility.

Since 2022 alone, Ellen has dedicated over 1,000 hours of service across nearly 300 separate volunteer commitments.

Whether she is volunteering at the Perham Living gift shop, assisting with local bake sales, or spending countless hours calling bingo games for residents, Ellen's presence is a constant source of joy and stability.

Ellen's service goes far beyond mere numbers. It is defined by what her neighbors describe as a spirit of generosity, leadership, and deep compassion.

Mr. Speaker, as her colleagues at Perham Health and Perham Living can attest, volunteers like Ellen are the heartbeat of our rural communities. Her dedication reminds us all of the difference one person can make when they lead with heart and faith.

HONORING DAVE BLANCHARD

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding educator and mentor, Dave Blanchard, who was recently honored by the Prairie Conference for 27 years of dedicated service to the Long Prairie-Grey Eagle School community.

For nearly three decades, Dave has been the definition of stepping up whenever needed. In addition to being a cornerstone of LPGE's English department, he has served as a coach for football, volleyball, and baseball, and as the National Honor Society and One Act Play adviser.

As the LPGE director recently noted, Dave's positive presence and willingness to serve have made a lasting impact on generations of students and staff. He is a reminder that the success of our school depends not just on what happens in the classroom but on the selfless dedication of those who support our students in every area of their lives.

CONGRATULATING BROCK NELSON

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brock Nelson from Warroad, Minnesota, on his selection to the 2026 U.S. Olympic men's ice hockey team.

Throughout his career, Brock has defined himself through quiet leadership