

affirmed today its readiness to serve as a source of liquidity to support the economic and financial system.”

It was short, calm, and unambiguous. Markets stabilized, and the crash did not become a depression.

That was Greenspan: precise under pressure and deliberate when others were panicking.

He went on to navigate the savings and loan crisis, the Gulf war recession, and the dot-com boom and bust.

My best wishes for his centennial, and my best wishes to his family.

GROTON, CONNECTICUT: SUB-  
MARINE CAPITAL OF THE  
WORLD

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw the attention of the House to another milestone in the extraordinary history of the Submarine Capital of the World, Groton, Connecticut, where this Saturday, USS *Idaho* (SSN-799) will be commissioned. *Idaho* is the 26th Virginia-class attack submarine delivered to the U.S. Navy, and the seventh such vessel built by the U.S. submarine industrial base in the last 4 years.

It is a technological marvel, weighing 7,800 tons, and the product of a workforce at the Electric Boat shipyard that has 26,000 hardworking, talented people.

Building a submarine is an extremely complex enterprise. Submarines operate in an environment that does not support human life, with a crew of 135 sailors. The boat is powered by a nuclear reactor and is armed with an arsenal to carry out its mission of deterrence. This is so important to our national security. Needless to say, there is no margin of error in its construction.

The good news is as the output of the Virginia-class program has grown, the proficiency of a new generation of shipyard workers has accelerated over the last 10 years, and the submarine quality scores by the Navy during submarine sea trials have steadily improved. In the case of USS *Idaho*, the Navy recorded the highest test scores in the history of the Virginia program.

Mr. Speaker, this successful commissioning is happening at a time when the volume of production is also hitting historic highs and hiring has been growing over the last 10 years.

This poster, produced by the U.S. Navy, depicts the volume of submarine construction tonnage in the U.S. starting in 1952, to my far right, through the present and into the future of 2054.

The orange bar represents tonnage in 2026, which is on par with the peak of high-rate production in the midst of the Cold War. There is no question, Mr. Speaker, that Groton, Connecticut, is the Submarine Capital of the World, full stop, period. It is not, as some are trying to say, trying to reclaim its title.

Indeed, after *Idaho*'s commissioning on Saturday, EB and its teaming partner, Huntington Ingalls Industries, are hard at work delivering USS *Arkansas* (SSN-800), which is now in the water performing sea trials, and USS *Utah* (SSN-801), which I visited in Groton with Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Daryl Caudle a few days ago, and soon to be floated off to join *Arkansas* for at-sea testing. They will be the 27th and the 28th Virginia-class submarines to be delivered to the fleet as soon as the end of this calendar year.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, Groton is the yard where the first Columbia-class SSBNs, the USS *District of Columbia*, is in the final stage of production and assembly. Columbia submarines weigh 21,000 tons, 2½ times the size of a Virginia. Once again, the EB workforce defied the skeptics and naysayers when the Navy announced that delivery of that boat is being moved up to calendar year 2028 from 2029, which was the Navy's prior plan.

As ranking member of the Seapower Subcommittee on the House Committee on House Armed Services, I cannot overstate how extraordinary it is to have a first-in-class of a program's delivery date moved forward rather than back.

The strong momentum at the Groton yard and its sister shipyard at Quonset Point, Rhode Island, received another round of good news when EB recently announced its hiring goal for 2026. The overall goal is 8,000 new workers in 2026: 3,400 in Rhode Island and 4,600 in Groton. The plan will take the workforce from 26,000 to over 30,000 for the first time since the 1980s.

Once again, the skeptics and naysayers are scoffing at this goal, but as someone who has been directly involved in the adult job training programs and helping equip career and technical schools, as well as regular comprehensive high schools, with apparatus to run metal trades curricula, I have no doubt that Groton will meet its goal.

Indeed, 1 week ago, EB held a job fair in Waterford, Connecticut, expecting perhaps a few hundred visits. Instead, 1,800 people showed up. They had to cut off the line a few hours into the event because the H.R. staff was so overwhelmed.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday at the USS *Idaho* commissioning, the head of Naval Reactors Admiral Bill Houston, the successor to the Father of the Nuclear Navy, Hyman Rickover, will deliver keynote remarks, and it will be a proud moment for the ship's commanding officer, Commander Chad Guillerault, his crew, and their families.

It will also be a strong reaffirmation at the Groton Submarine Base, America's oldest submarine base, that the men and women who work at Electric Boat have, once again, demonstrated to our Nation and the world that Groton is still and always will be the Submarine Capital of the World.

PEDAL FOR IMPACT

(Mr. BEAN of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we all know why a bicycle can't stand up by itself. It is because it is too tired. We also go through life being too tired sometimes, but for two married veterans in northeast Florida, they are overcoming being too tired because they, Mr. Speaker, are on a mission.

Ashton and Casey Kroner are undertaking an amazing journey. This June, they will leave Green Cove Springs, Florida, and travel all 737 miles here to Washington, D.C., to advocate for change on bicycles.

They call it Pedal for Impact. Casey is currently battling cancer. His journey reflects what too many veterans experience: a health system that should work better. His story is not about blame but about awareness, urgency, and getting this right for the next veteran.

Mr. Speaker, veterans face higher cancer risks due to toxic exposures, yet screenings still rely largely on age rather than exposure history. That gap leads to delays, difficult treatments, and outcomes we can and must improve.

Ashton and Casey are seeking solutions. As they ride through Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas, and Virginia, they carry a simple message: Screen earlier, detect sooner, and save lives.

In a town where we talk about moving the needle and where we all talk about leadership, they show us that moving the needle is sometimes accomplished by moving the pedals and shifting into high gear.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes we are all too tired, but Ashton and Casey show us that this is no moment to squeeze the brakes. We must keep moving forward for our veterans and in the fight against cancer.

Godspeed on their mission and journey.

Pedal on, Ashton and Casey.

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 23 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

Pastor Chad Weeks, Russell Baptist Church, Green Cove Springs, Florida, offered the following prayer:

God of Heaven and sovereign Lord of the nations, we come before You in this

Chamber mindful of Your holiness, goodness, justice, and mercy.

From our founding, this Nation has known its need for You, and we confess that we have often strayed from Your ways. Have mercy on us and forgive us.

We thank You for sustaining, preserving, and protecting this Nation through these 250 years and for every undeserved blessing You have given.

Grant wisdom, integrity, and humility to these lawmakers, that they may govern justly and serve faithfully. Restrain and frustrate all who seek evil, ruin, or violence against this land.

Turn the heart of our Nation back to You, and grant our children a future marked by truth, righteousness, peace, and freedom to walk in Your ways.

We ask this in the name of Your glorious Son, our only Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

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 Mississippi (Mr. EZELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. EZELL 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.

### WELCOMING PASTOR CHAD WEEKS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, Mr. BEAN of Florida was recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in a world that often feels out of control, marked by anxiety and fear, how do we respond to this chaos?

Pastor Chad Weeks reminds us of a simple but powerful answer: faith.

Today, I rise to honor Pastor Chad Weeks of Russell Baptist Church in Green Cove Springs, Florida, and to thank him for serving as the House's guest chaplain.

As lead pastor of a historic church founded by his great-grandparents in 1916, Pastor Weeks carries a legacy of service. Under his leadership, Russell Baptist has become a place to find strength in adversity and hope in times of hardship.

In a season of rapid growth, he has remained steadfast in holding firm to biblical truths while investing in the next generation through thriving youth ministries and community outreach.

It is a true honor to welcome Pastor Weeks to our Nation's Capital, along

with his parents, Jimmy and Joan Weeks; his wife, Ashley; and their four children: Ava, Eden, Ella, and John.

I am grateful for his friendship, Mr. Speaker, and his ministry in Clay County, Florida, and particularly for his boldness in sharing the Gospel.

### HONORING THE LIFE AND ULTIMATE SACRIFICE OF DEPUTY MICHAEL LEROY JIMERSON

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

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and ultimate sacrifice of Deputy Michael Leroy Jimerson of the Jackson County Sheriff's Department, who was tragically killed in the line of duty on April 2, 2026.

Deputy Jimerson made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his community. He put others before himself, living out the oath he took with courage, selflessness, and an unwavering commitment to protect those around him.

Mike served his community for 16 years with the Sheriff's Department, beginning as a volunteer before becoming a deputy. He answered the call to serve not because he had to, but because he believed in it.

He was a devoted husband to his high school sweetheart, Sheila, a proud father, and a loving grandfather. To his family, he was a protector and a steady presence. To his community, he was someone people could depend on.

This loss of the deputy is deeply felt across south Mississippi. As a former sheriff of this same organization, I know the risks that come with the badge and the kind of character it takes to wear it every day.

We honor his memory, we pray for his family, and we stand with the men and women who have come to serve.

Mike, you will not be forgotten. Rest in peace, brother.

### WISHING SENATOR PAT ROBERTS A VERY HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY

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

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish former Senator Pat Roberts a very happy 90th birthday.

For decades, Senator Roberts showed up for Kansas, first as a marine, and then for our rural communities as chairman of both the Senate and House Agriculture Committees. When he was elected to the Senate in 1996, he promised that "when Kansas spoke, Washington would listen."

Mr. Speaker, no matter your political party, that kind of commitment is something that we should all respect and emulate.

Personally, I have appreciated the guidance he has shared with me over the years, especially on the farm bill. He understands still today that agriculture isn't just part of our State's economy, it is in our blood.

His mentorship is a reminder that even in a place like D.C., we can still come together, share stories, and learn from one another.

Today, we celebrate a Kansan who spent a lifetime working on our behalf.

Happy 90th birthday, Senator Roberts, and I thank you for all of your service.

### PRAY FOR SHREVEPORT ON LOSING EIGHT PRECIOUS CHILDREN IN A SENSELESS ACT OF VIOLENCE

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

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning, Shreveport lost eight precious children in a senseless act of violence. Eight children, the youngest just 3 years of age, are gone way too soon. There are simply no words.

Our hearts break for the families and everyone in the Cedar Grove neighborhood who are dealing with this unimaginable grief. We extend our deepest condolences to each of the families who lost loved ones and will continue lifting up the two women who were injured.

I encourage Louisiana and the Nation to join me in praying for these families and for this community.

I would also like to commend the officers and first responders who had to witness this tragedy firsthand for their bravery and dedication.

Shreveport is hurting now, but we have seen tough times before, and I know we will get through it again.

To the people of Cedar Grove, you are not alone. The Nation stands with you, and we will work through this together.

### CONGRATULATING THE ARTEMIS II CREW

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

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Artemis II crew on their successful mission around the Moon.

On this historic journey, Christina Koch made history as the first woman to travel this far into space. I am especially excited to celebrate Christina's achievement because she is a proud graduate of NC State University in my district.

Go Pack.

She is an inspiration to women and girls everywhere who want to pursue a career in a field that has been dominated by men.

Artemis II reminds us of the power of investing in space, science, and innovation, and, as Christina shared, the power of a crew. These four extraordinary astronauts set the stage for the future of the space program and for future generations of scientists.