

His family, like most American families, had much to overcome during the ending of World War II and the economic and emotional hardship that ensued during the postwar period.

While the Knight family struggled to make ends meet, the American values of hard work, pride in what you do, and determination were instilled at a very young age. Gerald began working at the early age of 6 when he routinely walked a half mile to gather 3 gallons of water from his grandparents' home.

When he turned 14, he earned his driver's license and began driving a pulpwood truck at 4:30 every morning to earn money for his family. After finishing his early morning drive to the lumberyard, he would attend school and then returned home to gather another load of wood.

Gerald would often say: "I was born into poverty, but I did not choose to stay in poverty."

After graduating from Flat Creek High School in 1962, he joined the Air Force and boarded a bus to San Antonio, Texas, where he entered training to become an air traffic controller. He was one of only three out of 18 to graduate, and he became an air traffic controller as part of the 648th SAGE Squadron serving during the Cuban Missile Crisis, where he monitored air traffic in the Southeastern United States and Puerto Rico to Cuba.

Gerald was soon stationed in Germany. During a visit to his home, he met his future wife, Joyce, on a blind date set up by his brother Charles. After one date, he asked her to marry him. However, being a senior in high school and needing to graduate, Joyce declined but promised to wait for Gerald until his military service was completed.

Gerald spent the next 2.5 years in Birkenfeld, Germany, where he continued to work in air traffic control and warning systems, monitoring the airspace of Europe, including tracking and identifying all aircraft in the airspace.

After completing his service in the Air Force, Gerald hitchhiked home, where the Vietnam war was raging. His younger brother Ronnie had been drafted and sent to serve in Vietnam. Gerald, wanting to be with his brother, offered to reenlist in the Air Force, provided he went to Vietnam. He never served in Vietnam due to a clerical error by the Air Force and was, instead, sent to Maine, where he declined and returned to South Carolina.

He married Joyce on November 6, 1966, and by 1970, they were the proud parents of two small girls, Carrie and Bobbie.

After working in the textile industry for a short time, he was hired by the DuPont company located in Camden, South Carolina, where he initially worked as a spinner operator. The company quickly realized that Gerald had a unique talent for listening and relating to people and moved him into the employee assistance department,

where he was certified and began investigating sexual harassment cases and representing DuPont in Federal court.

He counseled employees and their families dealing with addiction problems, as well as working for the Lancaster Recovery Center, which served the entire community on these issues. Gerald was uniquely qualified to deal with these issues as he had struggled with alcohol abuse in his younger years until surrendering his life to Christ at the age of 38.

Gerald was instrumental in writing new human resources policy for DuPont and was once told: "You are the best outhouse lawyer I have ever seen."

His career at DuPont was stellar, and he was characterized by his peers as being honest, caring, and treating everyone with respect and dignity, regardless of their status in life.

When Gerald was asked what his greatest accomplishment was in life, his response was: "My girls. I look at their lives to measure my success, as they are well-adjusted human beings with their own families serving God."

Gerald Alexander Knight has lived a life with a sense of moral obligation to duty and a personal creed of God, family, and country, in that order.

He is a proud member of the Greatest Generation and will be remembered for his kindness, generosity, and integrity.

God bless you, Gerald Alexander Knight. The world was a better place because you were in it.

□ 1030

RECOGNIZING PETTY OFFICER
SECOND CLASS MARGARET
NICOL OF THE U.S. COAST
GUARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. SCHRIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize Petty Officer Second Class Margaret Nicol of the United States Coast Guard.

A fellow resident of Sammamish, Washington, Maggie grew up in a large boating community in Florida. She found out all too well at the early age of 8 that the Coast Guard is an elite group of individuals whom we can always count on when she had to be rescued by them. Driven by a desire to give back, she enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserves during high school.

After attending college, she completed 2 years of Active-Duty service in Iraq, responded to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and went on to pursue registered nursing.

After relocating to the Seattle area in 2017, she rapidly qualified well ahead of deadlines to earn her response boat-small coxswain and boarding team member qualifications. To support her colleagues, she amassed over 130 hours helping to train and qualify crew members, significantly increasing Station

Seattle's Reserve mobilization readiness.

But Petty Officer Nicol's commitment to our country does not stop at the armed services. She is a business owner of FLWA Holdings, providing affordable housing for those in need in Washington and Florida. She volunteers at Food Lifeline, serves local schools in the community, and engages with the Diveheart Foundation for disabled children, adults, and veterans.

Among her accolades, Petty Officer Nicol has earned the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, and, most recently, the high honor of being named the 2018 Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year. She epitomizes the Coast Guard's core values of honor, respect, and devotion to duty. Most importantly, she leads by example, champions a humanitarian spirit, and has devoted her life to serving others.

Thank you, Maggie. Washington State and the Coast Guard would not be the same without you.

TAHOMA HIGH SCHOOL, STATE CHAMPIONS

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tahoma High School, State champions.

Congratulations to the students of Tahoma High School from Washington State's Maple Valley on their 10th consecutive statewide victory and 23rd victory in the last 25 years in the Center for Civic Education's We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution annual tournament.

These smart and ambitious students from the Eighth District will represent Washington State in the 32nd annual We the People finals later this month right here in D.C., where they will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the Constitution to distinguished panels of scholars, lawyers, and leaders from across the Nation. They will no doubt uphold the standards of excellence for which Tahoma High School is known and champion the values inscribed in our founding documents.

I would especially like to recognize Gretchen Wulffing, Tahoma High School's dedicated teacher and coach for civic education. She has coached the Tahoma High School team for 11 years, was honored as one of Washington's Civic Educators of 2016, and received Washington's Civic Educator of the Year distinction in 2011. We are grateful for her dedication to our schools and to our next generation of leaders.

Congratulations to Gretchen and the hardworking students from Tahoma High School for being true warriors of the Constitution. You are exemplars of young people leading the way in the 21st century. Good luck. Washington could not be more proud of you.

WE ARE A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague, Mr. GREEN of Texas.

We are a nation of immigrants. It is our responsibility to welcome refugees

and to not close our doors to those seeking asylum. We are a good country at heart. We should not separate children from parents. We are better than that.

CONGRATULATING KAY ARTHUR ON RECEIVING THE LYDIA IMPACT AWARD

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, few people have the gift to bring people together, but Kay Arthur is one of these special individuals. Her passion for people and deeply rooted faith is illuminated through her television, radio, and online programs in which she uses God's Word to reach over 75 million households in over 30 countries.

Kay is a four-time ECPA Christian Book Award-winning author and the cofounder of Precept Ministries International, and she will soon be recognized once again as the recipient of the Scenic City Women's Network Lydia Impact Award.

An institution in the Chattanooga community, the vision of the Scenic City Women's Network is to encourage, equip, and energize Christian women. As part of this vision, the Lydia Award is a special honor for a woman who emulates the attributes of Lydia in the Bible: a devout woman, a seeking woman, a hospitable woman, and one who is fervent in spirit and serves the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, that woman is Kay Arthur.

I would like to share a story that illustrates her servant heart:

Being a high-profile Bible teacher and author has never kept Kay from striving to meet the needs of whoever crosses her path. From waiters to cab drivers, Kay Arthur seeks to truly meet people where they are, but never leave them without a pathway to hope.

One chilly afternoon, Kay and her son David were driving back to the office after a lunch appointment. Kay noticed a lady in a wheelchair on the side of the road. David was instructed to promptly pull over. Kay sprang out of the car and approached the woman. After a quick conversation, Kay took off her full-length winter coat, wrapped it around this lady and shared that Jesus loves her, and the coat is a sign of His gracious love to her.

Kay never meets a stranger, no matter if in Chattanooga or a country across the world. She loves people, and she loves her Lord Jesus. She consistently seeks to demonstrate her love with kind words and actions. She truly has the servant heart of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Mr. Speaker, as you have just heard, Kay, like Lydia, has committed her life to her faith and exemplifies what it is to be a woman of God.

I would like to congratulate Kay Arthur on receiving the prestigious Lydia

Impact Award and thank her for her blessing our Nation with her Christian heart and service.

SOCIALISM

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to talk about a word that is everywhere, a word that is the response to every idea that we come up with, and that word is "socialism."

It is a scary word. It is a magical word. It is the word that comes up every time Democrats propose a plan to better educate America's children—socialism; to make the elderly more secure in their retirement—socialism; to make healthcare available to people in this country who still can't see a doctor—socialism.

It is a magical word because, if you say "socialism," then it allows you to hide the fact that you actually don't have a counterplan, that when the Democrats say here are a bunch of plans to make healthcare better and you don't have a plan, you just say "socialism," and that could end the conversation.

It is a magical word because it allows you to distract from the fact that, if you actually do the things to better educate America's children or to make America's retirees more secure in their retirement or to make healthcare more available, that costs a little money. The problem with that is that, for my Republican colleagues, that money needs to go into tax cuts for the wealthiest people in this country and for corporations. That is a problem.

By the way, it is not a new thing. This has been going on for 100 years. I have a quote here from President Reagan. He is talking about Medicare here:

And behind it will come other Federal programs that will invade every area of freedom as we know it in this country until, one day, we will awake to find that we have socialism.

Ronald Reagan promised us that Medicare, probably one of the most successful programs this country has ever put forward, would lead to socialism. It goes back before that.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who did so much to make for the decency that is endemic in this country after the Depression, the Securities and Exchange Commission so that our capitalist economy would be a fair economy, the progressive income tax so we could actually fund our military and fund education—all socialism. He was a traitor to his class. He was a socialist. This goes way back.

So having quoted Ronald Reagan, let me quote another great leader, Inigo Montoya, in "The Princess Bride." He says: "You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means."

So what does socialism mean? What is socialism?

Here is the dictionary definition. It is a system in which there is no private property or a system in which the government owns the means of production.

What is that? Is Medicare socialist? At Mount Sinai or Sloan Kettering, are those hospitals or doctors working for the government? Of course not.

Was Dodd-Frank socialist? No. Dodd-Frank put in place regulations that have allowed JPMorgan Chase, Citibank, Wells Fargo, and all those banks to be more profitable than ever before. That is not socialism.

What is particularly interesting is socialism is just a lot of government in your economy. I took time to look at States where government is actually a big part of the economy. You can look this up, Mr. Speaker.

There is an article called, "The Top Five Most Socialist States." West Virginia, Alaska, Wyoming, Mississippi, and Arkansas are the five States with the largest percentage of government spending as part of their economy—deep, deep red States. The top five socialist States, Republican.

Now, what about those socialist States that my Republican friends call socialist? Here are a couple of them: California, New York, Massachusetts—that is Taxachusetts.

California: My friend, DEVIN NUNES, the Representative from California, because they are trying to take plastic out of the Pacific Ocean, called California socialist.

These are the economic powerhouses of the Nation. They have GDPs that look like small countries. They have innovators; they start companies. And the reason for that is because innovators and business people want to start businesses in communities where there are good schools, access to healthcare, and people have the wages to actually buy their products.

So, Mr. Speaker, don't be fooled by that magical word, "socialism." Socialism is what is used to address every effort that we make to make for a more fair and just society. That is not socialism.

These things—increased wages, better healthcare, and better access to education—are not socialism. They are in the finest tradition of making sure that opportunity is available to every American and that the American Dream will not die.

CONSTITUTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

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

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise questions of grave constitutional significance.

Last week, the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee requested the IRS turn over years' worth of President Trump's personal and business tax returns. These are returns that cover business decisions and dealings long before the President came to office.