

Wayne's impact extends beyond Virginia. He serves on the board of the American Farm Bureau Federation and is involved with several key organizations within the agricultural community.

Additionally, "Virginia Business" magazine has recognized him multiple times in its annual "Virginia 500" list of the Commonwealth's most influential business, government, and political leaders.

Mr. Speaker, Wayne Pryor's leadership has made a lasting impact on the agricultural community and on Virginia itself. We thank him for his service and wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

CONGRATULATING THE ROANOKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Roanoke Catholic School girls track and field team for winning the 2024 Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association Division II State Championship.

After finishing second or third in the last three years, the Celtics were determined to improve. With hard work in technique, strength training, and practice, they made their championship dreams a reality.

This achievement reflects the dedication of both the athletes and their coaches, JASON SMITH, Sara Planta, P.J. Moyer, Erika Barger, and Brandie Smith. I especially recognize Jason for being named VISAA Girls Outdoor Division II Coach of the Year.

This year's exceptional roster—Aubrey Aaron, Sophia Bradley, Allison Brundrett, Eva Coniglione, Bailey Cundiff, Barrett Cundiff, Charlie Floyd, Annie Kovats, Justinne Llavore, Nicole Medina-Salinas, Mickie O'Herron, Ellie Patel, Karly Smith, Natalie Smith, and Sydney Whitt—had the honor of bringing home this historic title, marking the first girls track and field championship for Roanoke Catholic and the first private school to win a team title at the Cosmopolitan Invitational.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Roanoke Catholic School girls track and field team on this remarkable achievement. It is a great honor to have such talent in Virginia's Sixth Congressional District.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LEONARD KRAEMER

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the remarkable life of a true patriot from Virginia's Sixth District, Mr. Leonard Kraemer, who recently passed away at the remarkable age of 100.

Leonard exemplified what it means to serve our country. During World War II, he proudly served in the United States Navy as an electrician on the USS *Erben*, a *Fletcher*-class destroyer in the Pacific. His bravery earned him six battle stars, showcasing his dedication and sacrifice.

Beyond his military service, Leonard was a pillar of the community. He led as president of the Winchester Host Lions Club for three terms, supported Little League Baseball programs, and

even had the honor of playing baseball with Joe DiMaggio at Yankee Stadium. His generous spirit and love for his community continue to inspire us all.

As we remember Mr. Leonard Kraemer, let us celebrate his extraordinary life, his wartime sacrifices, and his lifelong commitment to Virginia and our Nation.

We thank Leonard for his service and dedication. May he rest in peace.

HISPANIC VOTE

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

Mr. LOPEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hispanic community. On November 5, our Nation turned a page of history with an election of a Republican President and a Republican-controlled Congress.

This is a defining moment in our Nation's history, as a sleeping giant has arisen that will forever determine the future of our Nation: the Hispanic vote.

For the first time in American history, nearly 50 percent of my Hispanic brothers and sisters voted their values of faith, family, and freedom and voted Republican.

To my Republican brothers and sisters, I urge you to seize this moment. I firmly believe that the Hispanic vote not only saved America but also saved the American Dream that we all aspire to achieve by electing President Trump.

Why do I believe that? I am glad you asked.

First, I firmly believe that our misguided brothers and sisters of the Democratic Party would still be in positions of leadership if it wasn't for the Hispanic voters who decided to fire them and hire new leadership.

Let me remind you that we are all Americans, and as Americans, we want leaders who care about us, who understand us and, most importantly, who listen to what we have to say and treat us with respect.

We believe in work and opportunity. We believe that dignity and respect come from hard work and providing for our families. We believe we play a role in the tapestry and future of America, and we are one of the many communities that are the lifeblood of this Nation. I am a living example of this belief.

Second, the American Dream, something that for generations so many of us came to this country to pursue, is being destroyed as job opportunities are dwindling and the cost of living is becoming unbearable. Soaring inflation has made it increasingly difficult for families to make ends meet and for our children to achieve the American Dream.

As an American from Mexican descent, I am proud to stand here today and witness my community break free from the Democratic Party. It is a shift that not only reflects the frustration many of us feel but also the rec-

ognition that the values that truly resonate with the Hispanic community, values such as faith, family, and freedom, are in line with the core principles of the Republican Party.

These are not just abstract concepts. They are the foundation of our lives and the very essence of what made this country great.

Faith has always been an essential part of the Hispanic community. It is our guiding light in times of trial and our source of hope for the future. We want our newly elected Republican President to stand firm in his commitment to protecting religious freedom. Whether it is defending the rights of churches to operate freely or standing up for the religious freedoms of all Americans, the Republican Party is a party that understands the importance of faith in daily lives.

Family is another cornerstone of our community. Hispanic families are close-knit, resilient, and supportive. We prioritize our families above all else, and we want to ensure that our next generation has the opportunity to thrive in a country that offers them safety, prosperity, and the ability to achieve their dreams.

Under the leadership of the Republican Party, we will again see policies that continue to promote family values, policies such as tax cuts helping working families and support for school choice. These are the kinds of policies that truly uplift families, and they are policies that have resonated with Hispanic Americans.

Finally, freedom. We live in a country where each person has the opportunity to pursue their dreams, to work hard, and to succeed on their own terms. It is what drew so many of us to America in the first place. The Republican Party will continue to stand strong in defending individual freedoms, whether it is economic freedom, the right to bear arms, or the freedom to speak our minds.

November 5 was a pivotal day in American politics. It wasn't just a victory for one party or one candidate. It was a victory for the values that have always been at the heart of the Hispanic community.

Latinos are rejecting the extreme agenda of the Democratic Party, and they are finding a new home in the Republican Party, one that will put their interests first, defend their values, and ensure their voices are heard.

This is only the beginning. The Hispanic community in America is waking up to the reality that the Republican Party offers a better path forward.

Mr. Speaker, 2025 marks the beginning of a new chapter for the Hispanic community, a chapter that will be defined by prosperity, safety, and opportunity, all of which will return under the leadership of President Trump.

As we look to the future, let us be clear: The Hispanic community is no longer a guaranteed vote for the Democratic Party.

We are standing up, we are speaking out, and we will never stop. Together,

we will continue to build a future where every American, regardless of their background, can achieve the American Dream.

AMERICA HAS SPOKEN

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, America has spoken. Our country has told us clearly: It is time to go in a new direction. It is morning in America. As the sun rises, it brings hope, optimism, and opportunity, but it also brings the realization that we are in a mess.

President-elect Trump appointed Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy to lead the Department of Government Efficiency. Their goal is to dismantle the out-of-control bureaucracy, cut wasteful programs, and restructure Federal agencies.

Taking on crazy town is no easy task. Elon and Vivek will need partners in Congress to accomplish many of the cuts that are necessary to rein in the unelected bureaucrats who have enjoyed unchecked power for far too long.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I have created the Delivering Outstanding Government Efficiency Caucus. The DOGE Caucus will work with President Trump, Elon, and Vivek to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse. Together, we will take bold steps to end Washington's reckless spending addiction.

I invite my colleagues to join us in this effort. Together, we will strengthen the America First agenda. Let's go get 'em.

□ 1045

CONGRATULATING STANTON COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL ON NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON AWARD

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, everybody knows that Stanton College Preparatory School in Jacksonville, Florida, is home of the Blue Devils, but I just heard some news that blew me away. Stanton is now home to a National Blue Ribbon.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stanton for earning a brand-new blue ribbon from the Department of Education. From over 100,000 eligible schools, Stanton was one of the 356 nationwide to be given the very prestigious National Blue Ribbon Award.

As Duval County's first magnet school, Stanton specializes in getting the very best out of students and launching them to new heights, but they don't just excel in the classroom. To get the National Blue Ribbon Award, Stanton also proved its excellence in extracurricular activities and athletics.

Stanton is known for fostering an extremely positive and supportive environment to ensure that students succeed in every arena.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating everyone at Stanton College Preparatory

School for this monumental achievement. The Blue Devils will wear those blue ribbons proudly.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas) at noon.

PRAYER

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

On this day, Lord, hear our voices as we speak from the depths of our hearts our innermost concerns and our deepest fears. Listen to our intent as we speak with our actions our profound desire to get things done and to make things better in our communities and in this country.

God, You are not pleased with wickedness. Forgive us our grievous injury, both unintentional and calculated, to our colleagues and those closest to us. The arrogant cannot stand in Your presence. Help us in the face of all that feeds our pride to humble ourselves before You.

If we have done wrong, we pray Your mercy. For the lies we have told and lived, we pray Your reconciliation. For the deceit we slip into so easily, we pray Your truth will redeem us.

O God, our king and Savior, listen to our words, both spoken and unspoken, and consider our contrite hearts as we lay our requests before You and wait expectantly for You to answer.

In Your merciful name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCGOVERN 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.

CONGRATULATING ENERGY SECRETARY CHRIS WRIGHT

(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, American families have suffered under disastrous Biden-Harris energy policies, including regulatory attacks, destroying jobs, and increasing prices. Biden-Harris halted sales for liquefied natural gas, financing war criminal Putin, and the murderous Iranian regime, hurting allies purchasing American energy.

Since Biden, Americans have lost over \$4,400 in higher energy costs. Gas prices reached a historic high of over \$5 a gallon and reduced the American strategic stockpile to a 40-year low. House Republicans support energy independence this week with the Committing Leases for Energy Access Now Act to increase geothermal leases.

President Donald Trump has nominated Chris Wright as Secretary of Energy, and as a former Reagan Energy Department alumnus myself representing the Savannah River Site, I know his background will lead to the development of small modular nuclear reactors.

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

RECOGNIZING JUNIPER HELPS

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Juniper Helps, a nonprofit organization in Worcester, Massachusetts, doing remarkable work to improve food security among Worcester public school students.

Led by Julie McDonald, Juniper Helps runs food pantries in six public schools in my hometown of Worcester, offering snacks and easy-to-make meals for students who need them the most.

Many of these young people face the heartbreaking reality of unstable housing. For them, a nutritious meal isn't just food, it is a source of stability and hope.

Julie saw this critical need in our community and has rallied a powerful coalition of local businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies to make sure local students have nutritious meals and snacks when school is out of session.

Food is love, Mr. Speaker, and Juniper Helps is reminding us all of our responsibility to ensure that every child has continued access to nutritious food. Their work is inspiring and a critical safety net for kids as we work to end hunger now for all.