

have a real opportunity to live with dignity and pursue the American Dream.

**CONGRATULATING PUSCH RIDGE  
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY MEN'S  
BASKETBALL TEAM**

(Mr. CISCOMANI of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pusch Ridge Christian Academy men's basketball team for winning their first championship in the history of the program.

The 11th ranked Lions beat the 5th ranked Palo Verde Titans with a score of 69-46, an incredible performance by all players.

From being four games under 0.500 just 6 weeks ago to clinching their goal as champions, this victory is an incredible underdog story.

This championship caps off a monumental achievement for second-year coach Steve Solita, who has transformed the Lions into a winning program during his short tenure.

To the players, coaches, family members, and anyone who played a part in this special season, I congratulate them on this historic achievement. They have made their school and our community extremely proud. Mr. Speaker, may they know that we all look forward to rooting for them next season again.

**RECOGNIZING WOLFGANG WEBER**

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible contributions Wolfgang Weber has given to the soccer community in southern Arizona.

Born in Germany in 1944, Wolfgang distinguished himself as a talented soccer player before immigrating to the United States in 1973.

In 1977, he was the cofounder and head coach of Tucson United Soccer Club and the Tucson Soccer Academy. During this time, his team made it to eight finals and won three state championships.

In 1982, he became head coach of Salpointe Catholic High School men's soccer program and has amassed an outstanding record of 888 games, 793 wins, went to the State finals 12 times, becoming State champions 10 times. He is the longest tenured head coach in Tucson's history, coaching 43 seasons.

In fact, Coach Weber just led the Salpointe men's soccer team to a championship this year, their fifth title in a row.

For his passion, devotion to all student athletes that he has coached, and his genuine love for the game of soccer, Wolfgang was rightfully inducted into the Pima County Sports Hall of Fame in 2005 and the Arizona High School Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame. Wolfgang Weber is known as the father of soccer in southern Arizona, and rightfully so.

Wolfgang's legacy reminds us of the incredible impact one person can have

in a community. Through his passion for soccer, he has enriched southern Arizona in ways that will be felt for generations to come.

**HONORING MARK SCHMITT**

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mark Schmitt on his retirement as the director of the Small Business Development Center at Cochise College and thank him for his outstanding leadership and support for small businesses, the backbone of our local economy.

As a former businessowner himself, Mark leveraged his deep knowledge of the trials and triumphs of running a small business to help others. Through his 17 years as the SBDC, he was more than willing to help out those chasing their own American Dream.

The center not only helps prospective owners launch their businesses, it also provides a variety of cost-free classes and services, such as forming a business plan, designing a website, and much, much more.

Throughout his time as director, Mark was instrumental in hosting workshops, pursuing grants, and advocating for the small business economy to thrive.

Mark's unwavering commitment to this purpose has truly made a long-lasting impact. I know we are all thankful for Mark's leadership and service to southern Arizona. His legacy and the invaluable contributions he has made will continue to positively influence his community and the lives of countless people. Once again, I thank him for his service.

**HONORING WALTER B. GONSOLIN,  
JR.**

(Ms. SEWELL of Alabama was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Jefferson County Schools superintendent Dr. Walter Gonsoulin, who was just named the 2025 National Superintendent of the Year.

Superintendent Gonsoulin was celebrated at the AASA's National Conference on Education for his leadership within Alabama's Jefferson County School system.

He helped to create over 20 signature academies in the school district that exposed students to potential careers, all while increasing the district's college readiness rates and dual enrollment participation.

He is the first Alabama educator to win this national title.

As the daughter of two educators, I am forever grateful for Superintendent Gonsoulin's efforts and all of the teachers, administrators, and parents who share his mission to provide the best education possible to our next generation of leaders.

On behalf of Alabama's Seventh Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Superintendent Walter Gonsoulin. We are all so proud of him, and we are grateful for

the work that he does each and every day to create opportunities for our students to thrive.

**MONTGOMERY GREYHOUND BUS  
STATION**

(Mr. FIGURES of Alabama was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a deep sense of responsibility to highlight an issue that is disappointing that we have to highlight.

We just spent the weekend, myself and colleagues on both sides of the aisle from both the Senate and the House and people from around the country and around the world, down in Selma, Alabama, and Montgomery, Alabama, commemorating the 60th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, which recognizes the importance of voting rights. We reflected on the lives of the people who marched across that bridge 60 years ago for me to be able to stand here today and for people who look like me to be able to have a fair opportunity to participate in our electoral process.

They were led on that day by a former colleague of many Members here, Congressman John Lewis. Before Mr. Lewis was nearly killed in Selma, Alabama, in 1965, he was nearly killed a few years earlier in Montgomery, Alabama. He was a Freedom Rider, and he was on the bus of Freedom Riders himself with other young college students at the time, both Black and White, as they came from Birmingham into Montgomery, Alabama.

They were abandoned by the State highway patrol escort that they had on that day. When they got to the Montgomery Greyhound Bus Station, there were hundreds of Klansmen and Klan supporters awaiting them who unleashed a brutal and savage attack on them nearly killing them, including a U.S. Department of Justice official who had been sent to monitor the freedom rides.

The reason I stand here today is because several years ago we had the wisdom to designate that Montgomery Greyhound Bus Station as a national historic landmark, and it was added to the National Register of Historic Places here in the United States, and the National Freedom Rides Museum is now housed in that building.

Last week, just before we went down to Alabama, DOGE, in its infinite wisdom, decided to list that building for sale. That strikes a chord with people in the State of Alabama, both Democrats and Republicans. That strikes a chord with me as someone who sits here today who is the product of the Voting Rights Act.

We think we will win on this one. We hope that they will see the logic in preserving American history. After all, just a few years ago we saw people literally lose their minds over efforts to remove the monuments that have been

placed around this country in recognition of those who fought to keep people who look like me enslaved.

I think we will win this one, but we shouldn't have to keep doing this. We shouldn't have to stand up for pieces of history in this country. We shouldn't have to stand up for pieces of history related to our civil rights, related to voting rights. We shouldn't have to deal with an administration where it seems every single week we are having to stand up again, whether it is talking about the Tuskegee Airmen and their rightful place in history, whether it is repealing an equal opportunity executive order that has been in place since the 1960s, whether it is seeing this administration hit pause on Federal scholarship funding to land-grant institutions for historically Black colleges but not hitting pause on the same funding for land-grant schools that were not historically Black colleges.

It is a shame. We should not be doing this. We have to do better. We cannot keep running the clock back in an effort to appease this administration's efforts to whitewash history.

Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in honor of John Lewis, in honor of the civil rights workers, both known and unknown. We will stand with you. We will fight for you because we will not sell our history. We will not go down silently. We will not go down quietly, and we certainly will not go backwards.

#### CELEBRATING 314 DAY

(Mr. BELL of Missouri was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise as this week on March 14 in my hometown of St. Louis we are celebrating 314 Day.

This day is much more than just our area code or an excuse to celebrate our hometown sports teams: the Cardinals, the Blues, St. Louis City Soccer Club, the Battlehawks. I am also going to acknowledge Mathews-Dickey and a huge shout-out to the St. Louis Stars, our Negro league baseball team back in the day, and St. Louis' own James "Cool Papa" Bell. God rest his soul.

It is not just about what high school you attended, which is also a St. Louis thing, or it is not just about the beer, which we are known to make a lot of. It is not about the gooey butter cakes. It is not just about Imo's Pizza, Vess soda, and Ted Drewes. God rest his soul. It is not about the fact that many St. Louisans sincerely believe that our Chinese food is better than Chinese food in China.

I won't even quiz you on what a chicken St. Paul with cheese is, which is also a St. Louis thing.

It is about recognizing and renewing the powerful bonds and resilience that define our community.

St. Louis is a city of complexity, a rich history, and deep contrasts. From neighborhoods in Webster Groves, Normandy, and the 24-1 communities to historic neighborhoods in North City and Ferguson and Florissant, from

Saint Ann to Soulard and South City, our city encapsulates both the beauty and the struggle of America.

We have faced challenges, economic inequality, racial injustice, and public health crises, but we have never backed down from confronting hard truths or demanding necessary change.

That is why 314 Day matters. In a country that feels deeply divided, days like today remind us of the power of community. Families in Tower Grove Park, the immigrant communities of the Hill and our Bosnian brothers and sisters in South City and South County, businesses thriving in the Central West End in Clayton all remind us of the collective strength we gain from unity and cooperation.

St. Louisans know what it means not to fall in the shadow of hateful rhetoric, but instead to rise in the face of adversity. Whether it is organizing for justice, rebuilding neighborhoods, or simply coming together to support each other through difficult times, our community exemplifies resilience and compassion every day.

On 314 Day, let's not just celebrate our history, our food, and our iconic art. Let's celebrate our city's extraordinary spirit, the unwavering belief that our greatest challenges can become opportunities for growth, justice, and meaningful change.

Today, we recommit to that ideal because St. Louis deserves nothing else.

On a solemn note, rest in peace Berkeley, Missouri, Mayor Babatunde Deinbo and his fierce passion for his community.

I wish a happy birthday to Jordan Sanders and to Justin Tatum, a former St. Louis University basketball star and father of St. Louis-born and bred NBA champion Jason Tatum. Boston, you are welcome.

Finally, I wish a very special—and I won't say the number because I don't think she wants me to—but a very special birthday to my mother, Sharon Gardner, our matriarch, the primary reason that I rise in these Halls so that I could rise before you today.

Happy birthday to my mom.

□ 1115

#### REMOVING CORRUPTION

(Mr. SUBRAMANYAM of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, our Founding Fathers had a pretty clear principle when it came to corruption. Thomas Jefferson, a fellow Virginian, warned of the fate of our country if corruption prevailed. He said: "The time to guard against corruption and tyranny is before they shall have gotten hold on us. It is better to keep the wolf out of the fold than to trust to drawing his teeth and talons after he shall have entered."

There are wolves in our government and in governments all around the world. Look at Russia, where the wolf,

Vladimir Putin, has become the richest person in the country and maybe the world. It is a country where if you speak out against him, you will pay the price. If you make a lot of money, he better get half.

We see what a democracy can become. It will cease to be a democracy. The people will cease to govern, and those in power will enrich themselves.

We cannot let that happen in our country, but we are trending in the wrong direction today. The U.S. recently received the lowest ever Corruption Perceptions Index score in recent history.

For all the things this administration has done, we cannot turn a blind eye to the corruption it has endorsed.

Let's start with the profiting off of the Presidency. From the time President Trump got elected, he has used the office to actively profit from Amazon deals, branded Bibles, shoes, and digital trading cards. Then there are the meme coins, which are a perfect way for Russia, the CCP, and anyone else with an interest in influencing U.S. policy to conveniently pad the President's personal pockets. It sends a message to our adversaries that America is for sale.

How can we ever trust that decisions are being made in the best interests of the American people and not as a financial quid pro quo?

Then there is DOGE. The first thing it did was fire the very people in charge of rooting out corruption and protecting whistleblowers. Why? They would never have signed off on the administration's actions.

It doesn't stop with the administration. They have green-lighted corruption abroad by getting rid of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, a law to prevent bribery of foreign officials. Companies will now have to put corruption experts on their payrolls, and they will pass along those costs to consumers.

Then there is the normalization of corruption by pardoning corrupt politicians across the political spectrum.

Mayor Eric Adams was in a bind, facing indictment on charges of corruption, conspiracy, wire fraud, and bribery, but President Trump directed prosecutors to drop the charges. Conveniently, Mayor Adams is now steering his city's policies at the whims of this administration.

When Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich, convicted for essentially selling a U.S. Senate seat, asked for a pardon for his corruption, he got it. Blagojevich even had a name for a corrupt Democrat bailed out by an administration, a "Trumpocrat."

These actions are hurting the American people. They steal from the American people. They erode our trust, raise costs on working families, and steer us into bad policy.

Thomas Jefferson also liked to say that when "a republic is corrupted, there is no possibility of remedying any of the growing evils but by removing the corruption and restoring its