

Under the banner of government efficiency and the claim to reduce waste, DOGE has fired three of the five investigators, which means longer wait times for our first responders who deserve answers as to how their brothers and sisters died in the line of duty and, critically, what changes need to be made to prevent such a death moving forward.

Another victim of the reckless work of DOGE was the National Firefighter Registry for Cancer, which tracked cancer cases and deaths of firefighters.

Cancer is now the leading cause of death for firefighters, and this database was critical to tracking health and safety improvements for firefighters and improving working conditions. In another sweeping effort to cut costs, DOGE eliminated the entire office. Now, this cancer registry is no longer maintained or updated.

When the President talks about DOGE and government efficiency, I am thinking about the firefighters whose lives he is putting in harm's way. We owe it to firefighters across this country who sacrifice so much to keep our families safe. At the very least, we can be there for them when they are exposed to cancer or lose members to line-of-duty deaths.

These jobs are difficult and inherently dangerous, but they do not need to be deadly.

These actions by the administration are cruel and unsafe. This is not what the American people wanted. This is not what they voted for.

Lost in this desperate mission to cut costs at all costs, we have forgotten the greater public good, the public good that government must maintain and deliver for our constituents, our obligations to one another, and, most importantly, our obligation to those who run into burning buildings and who keep our communities safe.

The Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program and the National Firefighter Registry for Cancer are the Federal Government at its best.

These civil servants who serve our first responders should not just be reinstated. Frankly, their offices should be doubled.

Perhaps these positions were eliminated as an oversight. Perhaps these hardworking, passionate civil servants were merely line items on a budget to some cost-cutter who didn't know any better.

That is why I rise today to give voice to these cuts, to put faces to these draconian measures, and to plead with my colleagues across the aisle and with the President himself to do what is right.

Restore these offices. Reinstatement these civil servants. Protect and serve those who protect and serve us.

□ 1245

MANCHESTER SQUIRES STATE CHAMPIONS

(Mr. YAKYM of Indiana was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to recognize and congratulate the Manchester Squires on an extraordinary achievement: winning the Class 2A basketball State championship this past weekend.

This victory marks a historic milestone because it was the first boys' basketball State championship title in the school's history.

The journey to a championship is never easy. It requires months, if not years, of dedication, sacrifice, and relentless effort. The championship win is not just about the trophy or the title. It is about the countless hours of practice, the late nights and early mornings, and the unwavering belief in one another.

It is about the community that stood behind them: the fans who filled the stands, families who provided constant support, and coaches who guided them every step of the way.

I especially congratulate Coach Henson for his leadership.

I also congratulate the players, specifically Gavin Betten and Ethan Hendrix, who scored 21 points apiece. The players all made their school, their families, and their entire community incredibly proud.

The encouragement of the families, fans, and support staff was invaluable to this accomplishment. Their legacy as the first State champions in Manchester boys' basketball history will inspire future generations of Squires.

This victory is not just for the team, but for Wabash as a whole. They should enjoy this moment. They have earned it. I congratulate them once again.

SOUTH BEND SAINT JOSEPH HUSKIES STATE CHAMPIONS

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the South Bend Saint Joseph Huskies on their remarkable triumph in the Class 3A State basketball championship this past weekend.

The Huskies made history with this win, the first-ever boys' basketball State championship. Winning a State title is an achievement that only a select few teams get to experience. Yet, for the Huskies, this championship was even more meaningful as it came just 1 year after the heartbreaking loss in last year's State championship.

Coming back just 1 year later, rising to the challenge, coming back, and securing the ultimate victory speaks volumes about the character and the commitment of this team.

The road to a championship is never guaranteed. It is earned through hard work in the gym, trust in one another, and the ability to rise to the occasion when it matters most. The Huskies did just that.

I congratulate Coach Eric Gaff for his leadership. I also congratulate the

players, whose determination and refusal to give up have written a new chapter in Saint Joseph's history.

I saw the putback dunk made by Chase Konieczny.

The unwavering encouragement of the families, fans, and support staff helped fuel this team.

The South Bend community celebrates this moment with the Huskies, and their victory will serve as an inspiration for years to come.

I congratulate the Huskies. This is an accomplishment that will never be forgotten.

IMPACT OF TRUMP ADMINISTRATION ANTI-DEI ACTIONS

(Ms. STANSBURY of New Mexico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, among the daily assaults on our communities, on our economy, and the daily distractions and absurdities that we see from this administration and from my friends across the aisle in this Chamber, it can be easy to lose track of the bigger picture of what is happening across our country right now and the historical inflection point on which we stand.

If Members zoom out and look at the bigger picture and the larger movement of this moment, my colleagues can see the ways in which this administration is trying to roll back the clock on American history, to redefine whose histories count, whose languages count, whose cultures count, whose identities count, whose personhood counts, whose very civil rights count, and who belongs in this great country.

We see it in this Chamber this week with a GOP that is trying to roll back the voting rights of Americans across the country, and we see it in the insidious rollback of civil rights across the administration, in our workplaces, in our schools, and all across this country, as the administration has armed itself with Project 2025 and has sought to redefine American society and roll back advancements of the civil rights era.

We see it in the executive orders that Donald Trump signed in his first days in office, terminating diversity, equity, and inclusion across our Federal agencies, putting thousands of Federal workers on leave, shuttering offices and freezing Federal funds, and scrubbing websites of American history.

We see it in the military in the treatment of our veterans, firing one of the highest-ranking generals serving on the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the first females in military leadership across multiple armed services divisions, the banning of our trans and LGBTQ+ servicemembers from serving openly, the scrubbing of DOD websites trying to erase the history of our veterans with 26,000 images and web pages of our history to be erased including the Tuskegee Airmen, Jackie Robinson, and the Navajo Code Talkers. Republicans even want to delete a picture of

the Enola Gay airplane because it contains the word “gay” in it.

We have seen the termination of the Commissioners of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and a memo from the Department of Justice that would investigate, eliminate, and penalize those who engage, both in the private sector and universities, in diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility for our communities who live with disabilities, claiming that they will unleash the law and criminal proceedings on private companies, unleash the FCC, threatening to block mergers of companies like Disney and ABC. Federal contractors are being told that they cannot have contracts with the Federal Government if their boardrooms engage in diversity and inclusion. They are engaging in trying to stifle and chill the telling of American history by putting the Vice President in charge of a commission, just last week, to erase history from our Smithsonian Institution as well as attacking our schools.

Across the United States, there are 98,000 public schools. Last week, the Trump administration issued a letter to those schools saying that they must certify that they will end the use of diversity, equity, and inclusion in our public schools, or they will have their Federal funding cut.

Imagine that in schools across every community. These are schools in your neighborhoods. They are the schools that I attended. They are the schools that your children attend. Their Federal funding will be cut if they teach history, if they teach language, if they teach culture, and if they celebrate the multiple cultures and diversity of this country.

The administration is trying to dismantle Tribal schools, which were created because of our trust and treaty responsibilities, trying to turn them into a voucher program and school choice. There are no choices in many of our rural and Tribal communities. The choice is to keep our Tribal schools open, which provide multicultural programs, language, and other programs that are the root of these communities.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot give in. We will not allow them to roll back the clock. We must keep fighting for the future of this country. We will not give in to the politics of despair because the time is right to always do right. We must stand up and fight back and we will.

RECOGNIZING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRINITY BAPTIST COLLEGE

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, let's go back to 1974, which was, indeed, a big year. It was the year “Blazing Saddles” was a massive box office success, “All in the Family” was the top-rated TV show, and “Happy Days” premiered on ABC.

Mr. Speaker, it was that same year that Trinity Baptist College was found-

ed in Jacksonville, Florida, 50 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Trinity Baptist College's 50th anniversary, a milestone that invites reflection on a half-century commitment to higher education from a God-centered worldview.

Mr. Speaker, TBC believes that ministry is not confined to the pulpit or the classroom but rather every career can be a platform for living out faith and sharing the gospel.

With this understanding, the college has seen impressive growth in both its academic and athletic programs. Most importantly, TBC has upheld a bold, unapologetic Christian worldview in every aspect of student development. For five decades, TBC's mission has remained unchanged and is today more alive than ever before as it strengthens students for service, purpose, and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, as TBC celebrates its golden anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them a hearty congratulations on 50 years of preparing students to learn with integrity, whether in the classroom, workplace, or the community.

May God's favor and blessing be upon Trinity Baptist College as it embarks on the next 50 years.

RECOGNIZING EXTRAORDINARY WORK OF KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

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

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary work done in my district at Kennedy Space Center.

I recently had the privilege of touring this iconic vehicle assembly building, a structure that rises 716 feet into the Florida sky. For almost 60 years, it has stood as a symbol of American space ambition.

This is where the mighty Saturn V rockets were assembled, launching Apollo astronauts toward the Moon. It is where three decades of the space shuttle fleet took shape, and that legacy continues today, where work is being done to prepare the Artemis II mission.

During my visit, I saw firsthand the progress on the SLS, the Space Launch System, the rocket that will carry astronauts on a 10-day journey to the Moon, further than we have been from the Earth for over 50 years.

I saw up close the SLS core stage, a 212-foot fuel tank engineered to launch the next era of human spaceflight, and the two solid rocket boosters that have already been stacked onto the mobile launch platform. Just days ago, the core stage has been integrated with the boosters, a major milestone in the path to launch.

In the coming months, the crews at the KSC will add more hard work to the SLS, culminating in securing the

Orion spacecraft to the top. The Artemis II mission is currently on track to launch in April of next year. When it lifts off, 9 million pounds of thrust will carry American astronauts further from Earth, as I mentioned before, in over 50 years, into our lunar orbit. When Artemis II succeeds, America will aim to return astronauts to the lunar surface in 2027.

These missions are a statement to the world that America still leads, still explores, and still dares. That is why the work being done by NASA at Kennedy Space Center is so critical. This team is working tirelessly to keep Artemis II on schedule, pushing through complex technical milestones with focus and determination.

This mission matters. Returning to the Moon opens the door to the future, deep space exploration, technological breakthroughs, and a new chapter in American space leadership.

It is a reminder to every child looking at the sky that there are still frontiers to cross and still dreams to chase.

Mr. Speaker, this is a race. China has made no secret of its lunar ambitions. This Communist dictatorship is building, planning, and pushing to plant their flag on the Moon and to shape the rules that follow. We cannot afford to yield that ground.

The Nation that leads in space will shape the world order on Earth, and that leadership must be American. Kennedy Space Center is where we make that stand, and I applaud the work of the men and women who are making Artemis II a reality. I am proud to say the future of American spaceflight is alive and well at Florida's Kennedy Space Center.

COMMENDING JEKYLL ISLAND CLUB RESORT AND SEA ISLAND

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Jekyll Island Club Resort and Sea Island for being named among Southern Living's Best Resorts for 2025.

Jekyll Island Club Resort is a historic retreat that combines timeless elegance with modern comfort. Nestled along Georgia's coastline, it offers visitors a unique blend of luxury and rich history. Sea Island is also a world-renowned resort that provides guests with unparalleled amenities, breathtaking coastal views, and a legacy of excellence.

Its pristine beaches and award-winning accommodations make it a stand-out destination. Both resorts contribute significantly to Georgia's tourism industry, attracting visitors from across the country. Their recognition highlights Georgia's ability to offer diverse and high-quality travel experiences. I encourage everyone to explore these iconic resorts and experience the best of Georgia's hospitality.