

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.

CELEBRATING THE GEORGIA SAFARI
CONSERVATION PARK IN MADISON, GEORGIA

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Georgia Safari Conservation Park in Madison, Georgia, for being named one of TIME magazine's World's Greatest Places for 2025.

This 530-acre park offers an unforgettable safari experience where visitors can encounter giraffes, rhinos, and other exotic animals. The park provides luxurious accommodations, including glamping tents and a private giraffe suite, giving guests the chance to stay close to nature.

The park plays a vital role in wildlife conservation by educating the public and supporting endangered species. The park's success has significantly contributed to Madison's economy by attracting tourists from across the Nation.

Accessibility is a priority with wheelchair-friendly amenities ensuring all guests can fully enjoy the experience. TIME highlights Georgia's commitment to preserving natural wonders while promoting economic development. This honor showcases the park as a top destination that blends adventure, education, and conservation.

HONORING MRS. WILKES' DINING ROOM IN
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a true southern institution, Mrs. Wilkes' Dining Room in Savannah, Georgia, which was recently highlighted on Southern Living's bucket list.

In the Hostess City of the South, it is only fitting that lunch is served with true southern hospitality. At Mrs. Wilkes', this means gathering around tables set for 10 where guests take a seat, share a meal, and leave as friends. Every day at 11 o'clock, the doors swing open, inviting everyone to enjoy a rotating menu of classic southern home cooking all served family style.

The meal is always a surprise. You never know what the day's entrees and sides will be, and that is part of the restaurant's charm.

Whether it is crispy fried chicken, collard greens, cornbread, or black-eyed peas, every dish is steeped in tradition. Mrs. Wilkes' Dining Room isn't just a restaurant; it is an experience.

It is a place where history, hospitality, and home-cooked meals unite to create something truly special.

COMMENDING THE ISLANDS OF ST. SIMONS,
JEKYLL, AND TYBEE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the islands of St. Simons, Jekyll, and Tybee, which have recently been recognized as three of the top five best beach towns in the South.

Jekyll Island was ranked as the fifth best beach town in the South, celebrated for its beauty, pristine wilderness, otherworldly nature, and function as a refuge for local wildlife.

Tybee Island was ranked fourth on the list, being praised as a little island packing a big punch. Tybee contains

over three miles of beaches, hundreds of years of history, and countless opportunities to explore nature making it one of the most beloved areas in the First Congressional District.

St. Simons was ranked as the number one beach town in the South, surpassing a list of 50 other iconic locations.

St. Simons' laid-back and welcoming atmosphere, delicious restaurants, renowned golf courses, and historic landmarks are reasons why the idyllic town beats out all the rest.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that Georgia's First District is home to three of the best beach towns in the South.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 4 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

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

Savior, like a shepherd, lead us. In Your tender care may we find certainty and security in the face of any danger that dares threaten us. In Your verdant pastures may we be fed and refreshed to continue on the journey on which You lead us.

With Your rod of righteousness and Your staff of security, guard and guide us that we would not stray from the paths You would have us follow. May we listen for Your voice and not be lured by the enticing sounds that would lead us away from the way You would have us live.

And when the shadows of life overtake us, when we walk in the deepest valleys of fear and death, remind us again that You abide with us still.

Prepare us to face the inevitability of the inimical.

Anoint us with the imparting of Your unimagined blessing.

And follow us throughout the day and always with the certainty of Your goodness and love.

In the strength and protection of Your name we pray.

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 North Carolina (Mr. MCDOWELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCDOWELL 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.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish my firstborn child, Jonathon, of whom I am an incredibly proud mom, a very happy birthday.

Happy birthday, Son.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish my amazing nephew Joseph Martino a happy 18th birthday.

Happy birthday, Joseph.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish my incredibly talented nephew Matthew Martino a wonderful 18th birthday.

Happy birthday, Matthew.

Mr. Speaker, I think that is enough birthdays.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT JOSE DUENEZ, JR.

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

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my constituent Sergeant Jose Duenez, Jr.

Sergeant Duenez was described by his family as someone who always wanted to protect people. He enlisted right after high school and served with his whole heart.

His family said: "It is like it was in him to be a hero," and that is exactly what he was, an extraordinary hero.

As we mourn this devastating loss, our community in Joliet stands with Sergeant Duenez' family: his wife, Kai; their 1-year-old son, Junior; and with all the loved ones of the four soldiers who lost their lives in Lithuania last month.

Let us never forget their strength and resilience. Let us draw inspiration from their courage and selflessness. Let us thank them always for their service.

RECOGNIZING GOLD STAR SPOUSES DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gold Star Spouses Day.