

achievement in capturing the 2025 USCAA National Championship, their second consecutive national title.

Under the leadership of Head Coach Mary Minick, the Lady Crusaders entered the season ranked number 1 and lived up to the challenge, finishing with an exceptional record of 26-2 and securing three straight victories in the postseason tournament to bring home the title once again.

This remarkable team is led by seniors Bridget McCaughey, Regina Bonvissuto, Catherine Thomas, and Miranda Keller, and includes Grace Hatley, Lilly Vander Woude, Mary Pennefather, Georgie Snyder, Libby Kolesar, Audrey Speier, Elizabeth Heisler, and Serena Keller.

Miranda Keller was named Student-Athlete of the Year; Regina Bonvissuto was named Honorable Mention All-American; Mary Pennefather was named First Team All-American and Tournament MVP; and Catherine Thomas was named First Team All-American and Women's Basketball Player of the Year. Eight players were also named to the Academic All-American Team: McCaughey, Bonvissuto, Thomas, M. Keller, Pennefather, Kolesar, Speier, and S. Keller. These student athletes demonstrated incredible discipline, teamwork, and commitment both on and off the court.

Coach Minick, now in her seventh season, has fostered a winning culture built on faith, leadership, and mentorship. Her guidance, along with Assistant Coaches Annie Heisler and Jeremy Minick, has elevated the program into a true national powerhouse.

Congratulations again to the 2025 Christendom Lady Crusaders on this historic season. It is an honor to recognize such an outstanding team and the pride they bring to our community. I wish them continued success in the years to come.

#### CONGRATULATING SALEM HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Salem High School speech team, who just made history by winning their 19th consecutive VHSL State Championship, the most in Virginia history.

With a commanding 39-11 win over E.C. Glass, Salem now holds 103 individual State titles, a record capped by senior Claire Rawlins, who earned the school's 100th with her second straight title in impromptu speaking.

Joining Claire were State champions Charlie Bain in serious dramatic, Rosalie Botos in prose, and the dynamic duo of Lacy Stratton and Bella Poarch in humorous duo.

Rounding out the team's strength were runners-up Hall Blackwood, Rebekah Steinweg, Parneet Gill, Tara Farrokhpoor, and Noah Lovern. Third place finishes went to Connor Smythers and Colton Easter, Brenasha Devlin, Ariana Turner, and Caden Smythers.

Also competing were Aly Ory, Zippy Elliot, Tori Iverson, and Lori Lowry,

all rising stars, along with Kaelyn Henzey, the team's manager, who made sure every detail of the event ran smoothly.

This team is more than a powerhouse. It is a legacy of excellence. Congratulations to Salem, whose voices are making history.

#### PRESIDENT TRUMP'S FIRST 100 DAYS

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, today marks 100 days since President Trump returned to the White House, and already the results speak for themselves.

In just 100 days, President Trump has delivered where it matters most: securing our border, cutting inflation, restoring American energy independence, rebuilding our economy, and enforcing the rule of law.

We are seeing the most secure border in our Nation's history, a manufacturing boom, and real relief for families who spent years struggling under failed leadership.

House Republicans are proud to be working with President Trump to keep our promises to the American people by strengthening our economy, protecting our communities, and restoring America's standing in the world.

Mr. Speaker, America is getting stronger every day, and we are just getting started.

□ 1030

#### HONORING ALEXIS MARGARET HERMAN

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

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a true hometown hero, a legendary trailblazer, a family friend, a mentor to me and many others, and the former Secretary of Labor for this great Nation, Alexis Margaret Herman.

I had the privilege to work on a Presidential campaign myself, President Obama's campaign. Before I decided to join that campaign, I called Alexis Herman because she had worked on several Presidential campaigns.

I then pursued career opportunities at the White House. Again, I called on Alexis Herman because she too had worked in the White House multiple times.

When considering a run for Congress, the seat that I now hold today, I again called Alexis Herman. That is not because I had known her my whole life, it is because few people could advise on the level that she could.

Mr. Speaker, to understand Alexis Herman, you have to understand where she comes from. She was born and raised in Mobile, Alabama, my hometown. She came of age with a number of people and some names who you would recognize if you are from the Mobile area.

They were people who all were born within a 10- to 15-year range of each other, African Americans, names that some know around the world, like

Hank Aaron, but others like my father, Michael Figures, and Thomas Figures, General Gary Cooper, Lonnie Johnson, Yvonne Kennedy, Sam Jones, and this body's very own SANFORD BISHOP. They were all born and raised in Mobile, Alabama, in generally the same time-frame, and went on to break through a number of barriers, color barriers and otherwise, throughout their careers and make significant contributions to this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, Alexis Herman's parents prepared her for the life that she had. Her father was actually the first Black person elected in the State of Alabama to any position post-Reconstruction. This led to him being very active and motivated in Black voter participation. It led to him one day actually being run off the road by the Klan. His five-year-old daughter, Alexis Herman, sat in the car and listened as her father was beaten by the Klan. Her mother was a schoolteacher who Alexis had actually witnessed being thrown off of a segregated bus as a child.

This produced Alexis, who went on to be a fighter for civil rights and a fighter for women's rights. She first stood up as a young woman when she challenged why African-American students at her parochial school were not allowed to participate in religious pageantry. She was suspended for that, but that was just the beginning.

When she finished school after graduating from Xavier University, she came back home to Mobile, Alabama, and helped desegregate other parochial schools. She then helped get African Americans jobs and apprenticeships at the shipyards for the first time in Mississippi.

That led her to doing similar work in Atlanta and helping to diversify some corporations there. That caught the attention of a young Georgia Governor named Jimmy Carter, who was running for President. He ultimately named her, at just 29 years old, the director of the Women's Bureau at the Department of Labor.

Mr. Speaker, her journey took her from a segregated Alabama to serving as an adviser to Jimmy Carter and, ultimately, serving as the director of the Office of the Public Liaison, as it was called at the time, under President Clinton. That led to her being a member of the President's Cabinet as the Secretary of Labor where, under her tenure, unemployment fell to a 30-year low here in the United States. She worked to promote job training opportunities for low-income Americans.

After that, she didn't quit. She always reached back. She always gave back. She always served as a mentor to give advice to people like myself, who wanted to pursue similar career tracks.

That led her to sitting in the boardrooms for companies like MGM, Coca-Cola, and Toyota, some of the biggest companies in the world. She never forgot where she came from. She never did.

In January of this year, when she was quietly battling a condition, she took

time to send me a text message that read:

Shomari, as you take your seat, congratulations. Your dad would be looking down on you proudly. Happy New Year.

Mr. Speaker, as I stand here today as a Member of Congress, someone who has followed in her footsteps, it is not only my father who I seek to make proud in this moment, but it is Alexis Herman. I can stand here today because of people like her.

#### RECOGNIZING BLACK APRIL

(Mr. TRAN of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. TRAN. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to mark the most solemn time of the year for the people of the Vietnamese diaspora. "Black April," "Thang Tu Den," is not just a solemn day in history, but it is a reminder of the day when we lost everything: our homes, our livelihoods, and our beloved country.

It was 50 years ago, on April 30, 1975, that South Vietnam fell to the Communist regime. American troops airlifted 6,000 American and Vietnamese people to safety. Hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese refugees would follow, most of them boarding boats on uncharted waters, not knowing what awaited them on the other side of the journey.

In Vietnam, the conditions under the Communist regime grew more brutal. Many were imprisoned in concentration camps, losing not just their homes but their freedom, their dignity, and, in too many cases, their lives.

This is a painful day, a day for reflection, for remembrance, and for mourning. Over 58,000 United States soldiers and more than 250,000 South Vietnamese soldiers gave their lives in service. These brave men and women made the ultimate sacrifice, and they deserve our continued and unwavering gratitude.

We mourn not only those who fought for freedom but the countless innocent lives lost during the war, those who perished at the hands of the Communist regime and the aftermath and the brave souls who were lost fleeing repression on boats. We have no choice but to honor those precious souls who were lost by giving the most we can to this life that we have been blessed with.

I share my own story with hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese Americans born to parents who fled our homeland with nothing. Boat people did not let the hardship of the journey define the life that they built in America. We have built communities that are unparalleled in strength, prosperity, and commitment to preserving our history.

Mr. Speaker, as we reflect on the past 50 years since the fall of Saigon, we do so in solemn remembrance but in celebration of what we have built together. From the ashes of war, we have risen.

We celebrate today the trailblazers who have risen from this legacy: generals and admirals in the U.S. military, award-winning scientists, titans of business, educators, doctors, and artists. Our community has nurtured leaders in all walks of life, turning adversity into opportunity in just five short decades.

Many of these people are children of refugees or refugees themselves, and they represent just a few of the countless contributions that Vietnamese Americans continue to make across every sector of society. Our journey from tragedy to triumph has only just begun, and the story of our people will continue to inspire generations to come.

As the first Vietnamese American to represent Orange County's Little Saigon community in Congress, I am humbled by the responsibility to carry this history forward. Little Saigon, home to the largest Vietnamese diaspora in the world, is a beacon of hope and a reminder of the resilience that has defined our community.

I stand on the shoulders of the Vietnamese leaders in California and across the country who have paved the way for future generations to succeed. I am proud to be the third Vietnamese American ever elected to Congress, following Congressman Joseph Cao of Louisiana and Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy of Florida.

I am reminded every day of our strength, our determination, and our unyielding commitment to preserving our history and to ensuring that no Communist regime can rewrite our history.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in not only remembering the hardships we face, but also in celebrating the incredible resilience of the Vietnamese people. Let us honor the lives of those who sacrificed everything for freedom: The United States Army veterans and the veterans of the former Republic of Vietnam. As we commemorate this solemn milestone, let us reaffirm our commitment to the values that matter most: democracy, human rights, and our unshakeable will to be free.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF VAISAKHI

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, to Sikhs both in America and around the world, I wish everyone a happy Vaisakhi.

For those who don't know, Vaisakhi marks the beginning of the harvest season. It is a momentous occasion in the Sikh community.

Over the weekend, I had the privilege of joining the Sikh Center of Virginia to celebrate in Manassas, Virginia. The event brought together community leaders, local leaders, and elected officials, signifying the strength of our growing Sikh community in northern Virginia and across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to continuing to partner with our Sikh Americans here in Virginia and all across the country as we celebrate Vaisakhi this year.

#### DUE PROCESS FOR FANNIE MAE EMPLOYEES

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise out of concern today over the recent firings at Fannie Mae, firings that have impacted many of my constituents, especially in the Indian-American community, constituents who have been dedicated employees for years with exemplary performance reviews.

Without any advance notice, these employees received word of their termination over alleged fraud and ethics violations. I spoke to many of them, and they said that they were fired for contributing to Indian-American-run charities. Yet, some of them didn't even contribute to those charities at all or were encouraged to donate to those charities.

There was no investigation, no due process, and no chance to correct the record or provide their side of the story. Employees simply received a we-will-get-back-to-you message when they contacted HR. Without a proper and official investigation, I am concerned that these firings are another pretext for making indiscriminate cuts to our workforce in northern Virginia.

If these employees were targeted because they are Indian American, national origin being a legally protected class, then that might have been illegal and unconstitutional, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I demand answers to understand why these terminations really took place, and we are going to continue to put pressure until we get those answers.

#### SHARING OF CLASSIFIED AND SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of grave concern over our leadership at the Pentagon right now. In just a few short months, the Department of Defense has been overtaken by chaos because of Secretary Hegseth's leadership.

Mr. Speaker, classified and sensitive information is being shared over Signal. The Secretary has a nonsecure internet line in his office. Seemingly every day, there is a new story about firings, backstabbing, and so-called shake-ups in the highest levels of leadership.

This leadership is not making our country or our troops safer, but don't take it from me. I have had many veterans and military families reach out to me. One military parent is so scared that the sharing of classified information over nonsecure channels will put their son at risk.

She wrote to me:

That our Nation's top Defense officials shared sensitive troop movements over a commercial social media platform, without verifying who was on the other end, is not only reckless, it is terrifying. Our servicemembers and their families deserve leaders who treat their safety with the gravity it demands. This breach not only endangers lives