

Coach Renee Favaro and the entire Botetourt community. They have made their school and Virginia's Sixth Congressional District extraordinarily proud.

Go Lady Cavs.

CELEBRATING FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF
ROANOKE'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th anniversary of First Baptist Church of Roanoke, a beacon of faith, service, and resilience, since its founding as Big Lick Baptist Church on May 16, 1875.

From just 20 charter members in a small village, this church has grown alongside the city it calls home. As Roanoke emerged as a railroad hub and flourished, so too did First Baptist, driven by a people focused on God, devoted to discipleship, missions, and the community.

From their first sanctuary in 1878 to today's impressive 300,000-square-foot campus spread over 11 acres, First Baptist Church of Roanoke has faithfully expanded its reach, and they have held onto their heritage, including the original pulpit from their 1891 sanctuary, a powerful symbol of enduring faith.

For 150 years, they have been a light in the valley, feeding the hungry, sending missionaries, broadcasting the Gospel, and transforming lives.

May God continue to bless First Baptist Church of Roanoke for generations to come.

MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, on this Memorial Day, we do more than remember. We honor the men and women who gave everything for this Nation. We remember the fallen, those still missing in action, those lost at sea, and the thousands who now rest beneath our flag, having paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

These heroes answered the call to defend liberty, knowing it could cost them their lives. Because of them, we live in a country where freedom still rings and the American Dream endures.

Their sacrifice is not just a chapter in our history; it is the foundation of our Republic. We are duty-bound to remember them, to honor them, and to ensure that their service is never forgotten.

May God bless the memory of our fallen warriors, and may He continue to bless the United States of America and all who wear the uniform in its defense.

PROTECT THE AFGHANS WHO SERVED US

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose the Department of Homeland Security's termination of temporary protected status for Afghans. TPS has provided a lifeline to

Afghans who supported U.S. national security efforts and risked their lives to support our missions.

We offered them protection here because when allies stand with us, we have a responsibility to stand with them. This principle is a national security imperative. It helps build trust and helps build more allies. That trust gets undermined when we turn our back on those who protected us.

Now, with the termination of TPS, we are sending our Army's allies back to the Taliban. These individuals and families were given just weeks to make an impossible choice: face deportation to return to Afghanistan under Taliban control where they will likely be suffering or even die.

Many of these families live in our community here in Virginia.

Take the story of a former captain in the Afghan National Army. He worked with the U.S. military, and his brother was shot by the Taliban. His entire family now fears for their lives. Abandoning Afghans now not only turns our back on those who risked their lives to protect us but puts our current and future global partnerships on the line.

We have an incredible Afghan-American community in Virginia, and we have to stand up for them and stand up for the Afghans who have come here and who served us there.

I urge the administration to reverse course.

□ 1045

CELEBRATING RAJDHANI MANDIR

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, from celebrating holidays to hosting community events, the Rajdhani Mandir temple is a cornerstone of the Hindu community in our region.

This year, we will mark an important milestone of the temple's 25-year anniversary, years of bringing people together at events, festivals like Holi, Diwali, and Navratri, and for children's programming, too, including regular Sunday classes.

The temple also puts out programs for seniors and does incredible philanthropic work to provide food and resources to our community.

I am honored to celebrate this milestone with the temple this weekend. I congratulate the Rajdhani Mandir temple on a successful 25 years, and I am looking forward to the next 25 years of work.

CONGRATULATING STONE HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the students of Stone Hill Middle School, in Ashburn, Virginia: Avee, Neil, Vibhav, and Aarav; and their teacher, Pardeep, for placing third in the National Space Sustainability Competition.

This competition allows students to address the need for sustainable practices in space by developing an engineering solution, creating a business plan, and submitting a video pitch for consideration.

Their project, the Orbital Ecosystem Engineers, was pitched as an aerospace

technology company to manage and remove space debris, which is a big problem right now. The technology used includes satellites, drones, and AI to find the best route to locate debris and the focus of the power of the Sun's rays to destroy the debris.

I am eager to see what our students continue to do with their company in the future, and I wish them the best of luck in tackling sustainability in space.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL EMS WEEK

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National EMS Week.

Since 1974, we have set time aside each year to honor the critical work of our Nation's emergency medical services professionals. These brave men and women are often the first line of defense in moments of crisis, responding to emergencies with speed, skill, and selflessness.

Whether it is an accident on a rural road or a medical emergency in a busy town center, EMS professionals are there to ensure that help arrives when it is needed most.

These individuals provide more than just medical assistance. They offer calm in chaos, hope in despair, and life-saving care under pressure. They work long hours, often in physically and emotionally demanding environments, yet continue to serve with unwavering dedication.

The job requires technical skills, physical strength, deep compassion, and a calling to serve others.

EMS providers are vital to maintaining the health and safety of the public, especially in rural communities like my district, where resources can be limited and the stakes are high.

As someone who has spent more than three decades on the front lines as a volunteer firefighter and EMT, I have seen firsthand the extraordinary courage and commitment of EMS personnel. I have been privileged to work alongside them during some of the most challenging moments a person or community can face. I can say with certainty that these professionals are heroes in every sense of the word.

Here in Pennsylvania, we are especially proud to recognize one of our own. Chief Fred Ferguson of Moshannon Valley Emergency Medical Services was recently named the recipient of the 2025 Pennsylvania EMS Educator of the Year Award. This prestigious honor is awarded to an EMS educator who has demonstrated excellence in preparing the next generation of emergency responders.

Chief Ferguson has more than 30 years of experience as a paramedic. He holds multiple instructor certifications, including basic life support, pediatric advanced life support, advanced cardiac life support, Stop the Bleed, and first aid.

Throughout his career, Chief Ferguson has trained thousands of students, instilling in them the knowledge, skill, and integrity that the profession demands.

Chief Ferguson's impact extends beyond the classroom. He was recently appointed EMS Chief at Moshannon Valley EMS, where he continues to lead with distinction.

In 2019, he was also honored with the Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health Community Star Award, recognizing his contributions to improving rural healthcare.

Chief Ferguson holds a bachelor's of science in microbiology from Penn State University and multiple degrees in emergency medicine, underscoring his deep commitment to both science and service.

Mr. Speaker, National EMS Week is about more than recognition. It is about gratitude. It is about coming together as a nation to thank the EMTs, paramedics, dispatchers, trainers, and supervisors who stand ready every day and every night and in every corner of this country.

I congratulate Chief Ferguson and thank every EMS professional for their courage, care, and commitment to saving lives. America is stronger, safer, and more resilient because of them.

EARTHQUAKER DEVICES SOUNDS THE ALARM

(Mrs. SYKES of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to lift up the voice of Julie Robbins, a small business owner from Akron, Ohio, who is sounding the alarm on behalf of hardworking Americans across the country.

EarthQuaker Devices is a homegrown success story in downtown Akron, located in Ohio's 13th Congressional District. They manufacture guitar effect pedals, which are sold across the world, and everything from design to assembly is done right here in the United States.

EarthQuaker Devices employs 34 workers and offers premium health insurance, paid sick leave, a 401(k) match, and competitive wages.

In 2019, they were recognized as the SBA Exporter of the Year. In 2022, after decades of success, they invested in a state-of-the-art automated production line.

This is what American manufacturing should look like, and it is the kind of manufacturing that helped build the middle class in Ohio and across the heartland.

When we talk about supporting American businesses, EarthQuaker is who we should be talking about, and that is why I am talking about them today.

Today, they are facing devastating consequences. Mr. Speaker, you may ask why. It is because of reckless tariff policies.

EarthQuaker Devices imports raw materials because there are no domes-

tic suppliers for the specialized electronic components that they need, but they export even more than they import. That means they bring in more money to our economy. They create jobs right here at home and in my district.

The President's tariffs have increased their cost of goods by \$500,000. Let me be more specific. The cost per pedal that currently costs \$0.02 would increase to \$12.80 by the end of the year, according to an article in the Akron Beacon Journal. That is a 640 percent increase in costs.

With no relief in sight, they are being forced to raise prices, cut staff, and halt domestic innovation, all because of a policy that was supposed to help American manufacturing.

Julie wrote to me earlier this year, and she said: "Our effective tax rate has skyrocketed, with no explanation or benefit to us. . . . Where is the relief for businesses? Does the government truly not understand the impact of their actions, or is it their goal to destroy us?"

She goes on to say: "For the first time, I am considering offshoring our manufacturing. This had never been an option for me, but these changes imposed on American businesses make it extremely difficult to manufacture here."

Mr. Speaker, think about that for a moment. The President's tariff policy, which he alleges is meant to drive domestic innovation and manufacturing, is causing a small but mighty business in Akron to consider offshoring their manufacturing.

This doesn't help Ohio's 13th District and the State of Ohio, and it does not help the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, let's be very clear. Tariffs are a useful tool to level the playing field, and, when properly implemented, they can create jobs and spur manufacturing. As someone from northeast Ohio, I have seen the consequences of bad trade deals and the impact of NAFTA. We are also home to President William McKinley, who the President often quotes and references in his trade policy, but it is 2025, and it is not making America great again to push American manufacturing offshore.

Ohio exports more to Canada than its next six largest foreign markets combined. This country slapped tariffs on our allies. They retaliated, and it is our workers, businesses, and communities who pay the price. Foreign governments are not paying for these taxes, as the President has claimed.

In 2023, Ohio exported over \$58 billion of goods and services. That is not just trade. It is opportunity, jobs, and growth, and it is all being put at risk because of impulsive executive orders and a Congress that refuses to check and balance the administration.

If our goal is to stop offshoring and revitalize American manufacturing, why are we punishing the companies that are driving innovation, the ones who are footing the bill?

EarthQuaker Devices isn't some multinational conglomerate dodging taxes and hiding profits offshore. They are a small business that turned a passion for music and creativity into a business. They are our neighbors. They care about our community, and they give back. We should make it easier for them, not harder.

To lower costs, let's go after the price-gouging billionaires and corporate monopolies, not small business owners keeping our communities alive.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to listen to the voices of our constituents like Julie. Julie closed her letter to me with a plea not just for her business but for future generations and for the future of manufacturing in this country.

Let us not fail them. Let us not fail Americans.

RECOGNIZING ALHAMBRA THEATER & DINING

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, they say all the world is a stage, but in Jacksonville, Florida, the best seat in the house comes with dinner and a standing ovation.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great excitement that I rise today to recognize the Alhambra Theater & Dining in Jacksonville, Florida—are you ready for this, Mr. Speaker?—for being named the Best Dinner Theater in America by USA Today's Readers' Choice Awards.

Since opening its doors in 1967, the Alhambra has brought Broadway to Florida's First Coast, hosting a wide variety of shows, musicals, comedies, and tribute acts.

Under the visionary leadership of my good friend, Managing Partner Craig Smith, the Alhambra has evolved into a unique destination where art, entertainment, and culinary excellence converge to create an unparalleled experience.

Mr. Speaker, the Alhambra isn't just a destination. It is a source of community pride, a cultural beacon, and a testament to the power of community and the arts.

As we celebrate this incredible honor, I look forward to more captivating performances, more incredible meals, and more nights filled with the joy that only the Alhambra can provide.

When Craig is there, and he is most nights, he personally welcomes each audience. When you step through the doors, Mr. Speaker, you are not just attending a show. You are stepping into a legacy, one that continues to shine brighter with each curtain call.

Earning this recognition is no small feat. I congratulate Craig and the entire Alhambra team on this well-deserved honor, and here's to many more standing ovations.

HONORING SERGEANT BILLY O'LEARY

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we are all in a hurry. We rush through life, and sometimes, we don't know the impact we have on others.