

□ 1215

CONGRATULATING ADAM BELL

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Adam Bell of State College, Pennsylvania.

Adam accepted a fully qualified appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Adam is the son of Elizabeth and Jayce Bell, the grandson of E. Ann Wortman and the late Jerry Wortman, as well as Janie and Roy Bell.

As a student at State College Area High School, Bell is involved in his high school's culinary program and has represented his school in competitions. He is a varsity athlete in three sports, diving, wrestling, and track, and participates in Model U.N.

Whether in the kitchen, on the field, or in the classroom, Adam excels in every area.

Bell will continue his athletic pursuits while at the Naval Academy as a pole vaulter for USNA's track and field team. His drive for success will help him excel at the Naval Academy. I wish Adam good luck as he begins the next chapter of his life as a midshipman and student athlete in Annapolis.

Mr. Speaker, it was an honor to nominate these young students. Their dedication to serving our country is inspirational. I look forward to seeing their successes in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I thank them all again for their commitment to our Nation.

PREVENTING BLACKOUTS IN PUERTO RICO

(Mr. HERNÁNDEZ of Puerto Rico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, Puerto Rico faces an energy crisis. In anticipation of a generation shortfall this summer, which was announced months ago, the government said that it would pursue the option of deploying barges to provide temporary energy generation.

I am no fan of fossil fuels but an even lesser fan of blackouts, so I supported the government's decision.

However, a few weeks ago, the government walked back that plan. It cited objections from Federal agencies, claiming the barges were not viable because they couldn't withstand hurricane-force winds. Based on that, the proposals were disqualified from the bidding process.

Then began the rumors of irregularities, lobbying, and conflicts of interest. The discomfort made its way to Washington, and some of my Republican colleagues crossed the aisle to share with me their concerns.

Soon after, one of the companies disqualified from the bidding process issued a public statement calling for transparency. They pointed to political ties and potential undue influence.

I believe that a demand for transparency is fair and that a demand for transparency should be nonpartisan.

That is why, yesterday, I joined my Republican colleague, Chairman MARK GREEN of the Homeland Security Committee, in sending a bipartisan letter to multiple Federal agencies. We are requesting explanations for the rejection of the barge proposals and the decisionmaking process behind it.

Let me be clear: This is not about siding with one company over another. It is about transparency. It is about oversight. It is about whether Federal agencies, knowingly or not, were used to manufacture a pretext to favor certain interests.

The people of Puerto Rico don't deserve blackouts, and we need to make sure that there are no deals being made in the dark during those blackouts.

Mr. Speaker, in the interest of my constituents, I will repeat my remarks in Spanish.

(Spanish translation of the statement made in English is as follows:)

Señor Presidente, Puerto Rico enfrenta una crisis energética. Ante la proyección de un déficit de generación eléctrica para este verano, el gobierno había anunciado que buscaría suplir las necesidades energéticas mediante barcazas temporadas.

Yo no soy fanático de los combustibles fósiles—pero soy menos fanático de los apagones. Por lo tanto, respaldé esta iniciativa del gobierno.

Pero hace unas semanas, el gobierno dio marcha atrás. Alegó que las agencias federales habían señalado que las barcazas no eran viables porque no resistirían vientos huracanados. Y con ese argumento, las propuestas fueron descalificadas del proceso de subastas.

Fue entonces cuando comenzaron los rumores—sobre irregularidades, sobre cabilderos, sobre conflictos de interés. Y la incomodidad llegó hasta Washington. La incomodidad causó que varios colegas republicanos cruzaran el pasillo de este hemisiciclo para expresarme directamente sus preocupaciones.

Nosotros entendemos que, si una de las compañías descalificadas, luego publicó una declaración pública exigiendo transparencia, lo menos que podemos hacer es exigir transparencia.

Esa compañía señaló posibles vínculos políticos e influencias indebidas de cabilderos. Por eso, ayer me uní a un colega republicano, el presidente del Comité de Seguridad Interna, MARK GREEN, para enviar una carta bipartidista a varias agencias federales solicitando explicaciones sobre la descalificación de la propuesta de las barcazas y el proceso de evaluación que se siguió.

Ahora quiero ser claro: esto no se trata de favorecer a una compañía sobre otra. Se trata de transparencia. Se trata de supervisión. Se trata de saber si agencias federales fueron utilizadas—con o sin su conocimiento—para fabricar un pretexto para descalificar estas compañías para favorecer ciertos intereses.

El pueblo de Puerto Rico no merece apagones. Pero el pueblo de Puerto Rico tampoco merece que se hagan acuerdos a oscuras durante esos apagones. Y este congreso está disposición de averiguar si las cosas se están haciendo correctamente y del lado correcto es que estaremos siempre.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Puerto Rico will provide a translation of his remarks to the Chair.

CALL EVIL BY ITS NAME

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

Mr. FINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today not just as a Member of Congress but as the father of two Jewish boys. I speak for all the Jews across the country, millions of them, who today go to the grocery store, their jobs, and school and live their lives afraid of what might happen to them.

Eighty years ago in Germany, Jews were burned in ovens for being Jews, and on Sunday, as I sat at home with my children watching TV, we saw that here in the United States, in 2025, Jews are being burned again.

You see, Mr. Speaker, it feels like open hunting season on Jewish Americans. I wear a kippah not because I am a proud and observant Jew. I am not all that observant. I wear it out of respect for all the Jews around America who do not feel safe wearing theirs today. That is because, by wearing it, they feel they literally have a target on their heads.

We have heard for 18 months that the intifada should be globalized. We have heard "resistance by any means necessary." On Sunday, and again 2 weeks ago, we saw what that looked like.

In this country, we have a hard decision to make. We have to make a decision about whether we are going to continue to be afraid or whether we are going to call evil by its name.

I have news for you, Mr. Speaker. When someone chants "Free Palestine," what they are calling for is the destruction of the only Jewish state in the world.

When someone says, "From the river to the sea," what they are calling for is the genocide of every Jew who lives in Israel and abroad.

We have to make a decision as a country: Are we going to call evil by its name, or are we going to continue to live in fear?

There are things that we can do, things that we must do, and things that I will be working here to make happen.

We must join Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Bahrain and declare the Muslim Brotherhood and all of its affiliates the terrorist organization that it is.

We must tackle the anti-Semitism that we have seen at our universities, and I have a bill that will deal with that. That is because when people hear lies that come from the universities that they believe are truthful and honest, and when they hear lies about what is going on in the world, it inflames them and leads to the actions that we have seen in the past couple of weeks.

The murderer—I don't know that he murdered anyone, so I apologize. The attempted murderer in Colorado was someone who is here illegally. That is the worst kind of crime because it is done by someone who shouldn't even be here. We need to do everything possible to back President Trump in getting these people out of this country.

There is no right to come to the United States if a person is not a citizen. It is not a right. It is a privilege. If a person does not share our values and if they do not believe in this country, then they should not be here.

I call on every one of these illegal immigrants to either get out or for us to get them out.

Lastly, as it relates to visas, I am a huge believer in immigration. America is a country of immigrants. Immigrants are what have made us great, but it is the immigrants who wish to come here and build us up, not those who wish to come here and tear us down.

For those who come to this country and go to our universities and work in other places, and their job is to undermine and defeat what has existed for 249 years, it is time for us to revoke those visas and to send them home.

The most important thing, Mr. Speaker, is that we must not be afraid to tell the truth.

HONORING BRENTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the remarkable achievements of the Brentsville High School class of 2025 in Prince William County. I was honored to join the graduates at their ceremony this past weekend.

Whether on the athletic field, in band performances and concerts, or in the classroom, each of the graduates has contributed to a Tiger legacy that will be remembered. As they step into the next chapter of their lives, I hope they carry on the spirit and pride of Brentsville.

I am very excited. I know many of the parents were so excited and so proud.

I thank the graduates for all that they have done, and I am sure that they will thank their teachers and parents, as well.

I congratulate the Brentsville High School class of 2025.

CONGRATULATING OSBOURN PARK HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate the graduates of Osbourn Park High School's class of 2025 in Manassas, Virginia.

The graduates have taken on challenges and risen to the occasion, whether on the basketball court with the girls' State champions, in the classroom with so many of them, 40 percent, getting a graduation GPA of 3.5 and higher, and even on the stage or elsewhere, and many are going on to either serve our country in the military or in trade schools and apprenticeships.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the graduates, again, on all their achievements. To the entire class of 2025 at Osbourn Park High School: Once a Yellow Jacket, always a Yellow Jacket.

I look forward to seeing all that they accomplish.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS OF BATTLEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the achievements of Battlefield High School's class of 2025 in Prince William County.

I was honored to be there this past week to celebrate the 555 Bobcats, who packed Eagle Bank Arena with a lot of proud parents and teachers.

I was really blown away by all of their accomplishments. Almost 70 percent of the students will be attending a 4-year college, and 20 percent will be attending a 2-year college. Others are joining the workforce, trade schools, apprenticeships, and even the military.

I congratulate, again, the Battlefield High School class of 2025. I am looking forward to seeing all that they accomplish.

HONORING GAINESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, today, I also rise to honor and congratulate the graduates of Gainesville High School's class of 2025.

To the graduates, as they become Cardinal alumni and take the big step into their future endeavors, they can remember the lessons that they have learned: how to be a leader, how to care for the community, and how to leave each place better than where they found it.

These lessons will stick with them as they embark on their next journey. They all have taken on the challenges in every aspect of their high school career, whether it is on the football field, in the classroom, or on the stage, and overcome all these challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Gainesville High School class of 2025 graduates. I am excited to see the future and what it has in store for them.

CONGRATULATING MANASSAS PARK HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor and congratulate the graduates of Manassas Park High School's class of 2025 from the city of Manassas Park.

I was honored to be there to celebrate on the football field with them. I am glad it didn't rain on us.

The graduates have faced the pressures of growing up in an ever-changing world, and they have done so with determination and heart. That says a great deal about who they are and even more about who they will become.

Many of the parents were so proud, and the teachers, as well. They had big smiles on their faces.

I look forward to seeing all that the graduates accomplish.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate, again, the Manassas Park High School's class of 2025. I believe in their potential, and I look forward to seeing what they will accomplish.

□ 1230

INDUCTEES OF THE LOUDOUN COALITION ON WOMEN AND GIRLS' HALL OF FAME

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the seven new-

est inductees of the Loudoun Coalition on Women and Girls' Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame recognizes women whose leadership, advocacy, and achievements have contributed to a stronger and more prosperous community.

Here are the newest inductees:

Rae Mitchell, who devoted nearly three decades to improving education in Loudoun, Fairfax, and Newport News Public Schools;

Kim Tapper, who directed numerous music and dance performances while incorporating movement therapy to support mental health;

Crystal Lily-Wheeler, who dedicated countless hours to community service while also serving on the board of National Capital Treatment & Recovery;

Danielle Nadler, who focused on fostering academic success at Loudoun County Schools and staff through the Loudoun Education Foundation;

Breana Turner, who advocates for Black women's health and research solutions to health inequities;

Jennifer Montgomery, who led efforts to combat food insecurity and created a simplified system coordinating human services; and

Finally, Lisa Jones who amplified domestic violence survivors' voices, organized trainings, and connected survivors with resources and support. Lisa has done an amazing job.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate each and every one of the honorees and express my deep thanks to these women for enriching the lives of our community, including the next generation.

RECOGNITION OF RICHARD "DICK" WALLACE

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Richard "Dick" Wallace.

Dick was a man who led a captivating life growing up in Alexandria, Virginia. From a young age, he exhibited an exceptional musical talent, often playing intricate pieces by ear on multiple instruments.

Dick was an Eagle Scout, God and Country, and Order of the Arrow in Boy Scouts.

He was passionate about educating students about the Federal Government, playing an instrumental role in implementing the Presidential Classroom, a program teaching high school students about the U.S. Constitution and the workings of Washington, D.C.

In 1975, after the birth of his child, Richard Austen, the family fell in love with and then moved to Savannah, Georgia.

As a people person and proud citizen of Savannah, Dick served the community in many ways, including as a YMCA soccer coach, head of the Military Civilian Affairs for the Savannah Chamber of Commerce, and president of Ardsley Park Neighborhood Association, among countless other accomplishments.