

The Panthers completed their perfect season with a sound defeat of a venerable Westlake Austin team in the title game 50–21, behind performances from senior receiver Quentin Gibson and senior quarterback Chris Jimerson, Jr.

Head Coach Ray Gates emblazoned the 817 area code on the helmets and turned this team into an instant contender, going 42–2 since he took over 3 years ago. This is the first time in 76 years that a State champion in Fort Worth received the highest division high school football championship, and that was my alma mater of Arlington Heights High School.

Our entire community could not be prouder of these young men for their achievement this season. I hope North Crowley keeps the momentum going and can bring home another State championship to Funky Town Fort Worth. Go, Panthers.

AMERICAN PATRIOTISM RENEWED

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Donald Trump was sworn in as President of the United States, and there is a feeling of patriotic renewal among Americans.

Don Feder with the Washington Times wrote an appropriate editorial yesterday titled, “Trump’s presidency heralds a patriotic renewal in America,” stating: “The most iconic image of the 2024 campaign came from the . . . Pennsylvania rally, where President-elect Donald Trump stood with blood on his face . . . shouting ‘Fight’. . . The moment seems to symbolize the patriotic renewal thanks to the [now] President.”

“Mr. Trump is perfectly positioned to lead a patriotic renewal. While others talk about patriotism, he acts.”

Mr. Trump understands that national security hinges on patriotic renewal. Secretary of Defense nominee Pete Hegseth, a combat veteran, agrees.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators puts all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent, as warned by the FBI. Trump will reinstate and is reinstating existing laws to promote American families with peace through strength.

TARBORO HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONS

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Tarboro High School football team for clinching our State’s 1A Championship and ending their season with a 14–1 record.

As the reigning champions, they own a whopping nine State titles. The Vi-

kings defeated a physical Corvian Community Cardinal team 45–24.

I am so proud to congratulate Coach Jeff Craddock, also known as the GOAT. I congratulate all of the coaches, parents, the community, and players, including Kamerin McDowell-Moore, who scored a sensational four touchdowns to secure the MVP.

Tarboro High School, in the heart of eastern North Carolina, has produced NFL greats such as Kelvin Bryant, Shaun Draughn, Donald Frank, Todd Gurley, Bill Hull, and Tyquan Lewis. Clearly, the Vikings are a powerhouse. If America didn’t know about Tarboro High School, well, now they know.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MILES TAYLOR

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of Miles Taylor, a cherished leader and beloved member of the Nyack community, who passed away suddenly at the age of 60.

A 1982 graduate of Nyack High School, Miles dedicated over 25 years as the school’s track and cross country coach, mentoring countless student athletes, and leaving an enduring mark on their lives.

Just this past October, he was inducted into the Nyack High School Athletic Hall of Fame, a testament to his exceptional contributions to the school and its athletic programs.

Beyond his commitment to athletics, Miles served his community as a life-long member of the Nyack Fire Department, joining at just 16 years old and eventually rising to the rank of chief.

His dedication to public service, both on and off the track, exemplified the spirit of selflessness and leadership. Miles Taylor’s sudden passing is a profound loss for the entire Rockland County community. May his memory be a blessing to those who knew him, especially his family, his student athletes, and the Nyack community.

PROTECTING OUR GREAT LAKES

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, freshwater is life. I rise to highlight the importance of the first piece of legislation introduced this year, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative by our bipartisan Great Lakes champions, the GLRI Act of 2025.

This Act was introduced earlier this month alongside my congressional Great Lakes co-chairs DAVID JOYCE, DEBBIE DINGELL, and BILL HUIZENGA. This bill is among our highest priorities for the Great Lakes region.

The district we represent traces much of the entire Great Lakes region,

but mine alone, the southern rim of Lake Erie, is the largest watershed in the entire Great Lakes. It is the largest body of freshwater on Earth.

We all know how important protecting our Great Lakes is for the generations to come. The GLRI provides instrumental funding to meet an enormous unmet need for our region and the millions of people who depend on the Great Lakes for their drinking water, livelihoods, and leisure.

Our legislation would provide an annual authorization level of \$500 million beginning in FY27. By the way, that is half as much as the West receives for the Bureau of Reclamation. They get well over \$1 billion.

In 2020, the GLRI contributed \$3.1 trillion to our economy. Mr. Speaker, there is nothing more important than our colleagues say than, let’s protect the Great Lakes and turn it over to future generations in better condition than we found it.

HONORING WILLIAM G. FALLIN

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of William G. Fallin who passed away on January 4, 2025, at the age of 92.

Mr. Fallin was born on September 9, 1932 in Thomas County, Georgia, and later moved to Moultrie where he graduated high school at just 15 years old. He went on to attend Georgia Military College and Mercer University, earning degrees in history and law.

He was married to his beloved wife, Barbara Vines, for 67 years, and together, they raised three wonderful children. A dedicated attorney, Mr. Fallin practiced law for over 60 years and cofounded the law firm Fallin & McIntosh. He also served two terms in the Georgia House of Representatives and chaired the Colquitt County Board of Commissioners for 12 years.

Mr. Fallin left a lasting legacy, helping the construction of Colquitt Regional Medical Center and preserving historic landmarks in his community. He was deeply committed to his faith, serving as a deacon, Sunday school teacher, and choir member at First Baptist Church. An avid sportsman and outdoorsman, he enjoyed tennis, golf, hunting, and fishing. His life was celebrated on January 8, 2025, at First Baptist Church in his hometown.

FOCUS ON INNOVATION

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, on day 1, President Trump took bold action to revoke the unrealistic Biden mandate that aimed for 50 percent of all new cars to be electric by 2030, only 4½ model years from now.

This decision protects Americans and industries from being sacrificed on the altar of radical environmentalism. Automakers can now focus on innovation and consumer desires, rather than being forced into a one-size-fits-all EV agenda that stifles competition and choices for real people.

Gavin Newsom's California has been a cheerleader for these extreme policies, pushing mandates that hurt working families and drive up costs to meet their California goals.

President Trump's move rejects that failed approach, puts common sense back in the driver's seat. That is part of a broader effort to restore energy independence, roll back harmful regulations, and ensure America isn't crippled by radical climate agendas.

Today's actions are putting the needs of Americans ahead of an out-of-touch environmental elite. Instead of empty-handed promises by Gavin Newsom, we have President Trump who is focused on a forward-moving approach on real solutions, leading the way to support our economy, our workers, and our future.

HONORING TRACIE POUGH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, before I yield to other Members, Mr. Speaker, I will begin with my own remarks regarding my longtime chief of staff, Tracie Pough.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a woman who, as much as anyone in my adult life, has been a true partner, mentor, counsel, confidant, and quite frankly, like the sister that I never had. I do have a great brother, though.

I rise to honor my chief of staff, Tracie Pough, who is retiring after 20-plus years of service in the House, which has spanned my own 20 years representing my community in our beloved home State of Florida.

Rarely, Mr. Speaker, are any of us blessed with someone who can see our inner self with just a glance, someone who without one word knows exactly where you stand, someone who is truly your natural alter ego.

Throughout all of my time in Congress, and even before that, in my time

in the Florida Legislature, I leaned on no one more than my chief of staff, Tracie Pough.

We often joke in my office about how the two of us share one brain. I can't tell you how many nights I leaned on her for advice, knowledge, and insights, not just on how to make life better for the people that I represent, but how to navigate through life.

Anyone who knows her has benefited from her Tracie-isms, wisdom that comes with its own vocabulary. She is a staff leader who has mentored and trained dozens of staffers on our team, many of whom are watching C-SPAN. I know I am breaking rules referring to people in the gallery, but many are also joining us in the gallery tonight.

She is a staff leader who is sought out by other staffers, as well as chiefs, for her guidance. She is widely respected on both sides of the aisle, and her political acumen is legendary. Tracie is and always has been a trusted voice, an empathic voice to all who seek her counsel.

Her amazing political instincts, unmatched relationships, and her highly structured leadership of my office is something I have come to rely on for two decades.

When former staffers reached back to me with their thoughts about her leadership, many shared how Tracie was an invaluable mentor to them over her 21 years in Congress.

She has been both my top general and that ever-reliable shoulder to cry on. She has been there with me through it all. Tracie helped lift me to my highest of highs, and she was right there to pick me up in those low times.

It is during these times that you find out who you can really count on, Mr. Speaker, who has the courage, the passion and temperament and loyalty to continue to help you take steps forward, never back.

I have a couple of items that I want to recall, one of which was the story behind my passage of the first bill that I ever passed as a Member of Congress all the way back in 2005, which created Jewish American Heritage Month.

It is a lengthy story, but suffice it to say, you want to find yourself—to the new Members who may be listening to these remarks—you want to find yourself a chief of staff, a team leader, who knows the intricacies of the legislative process, who actually picks up the daily calendar, who looks closely at it, and then figures out what plays need to be made to get your legislation to the floor.

I can comfortably say that we would not have just celebrated the 17th year of Jewish American Heritage Month this past year in May if not for Tracie Pough's acumen, her strategic incite, and her relationships. As a freshman, I can tell you, I would not have been able to carry that ball by myself.

Tracie has also been an incredible generational bridge, which both of us have very much needed as the evolution of the age and generations of my

staff have gotten younger than we are today.

I was elected to Congress, Mr. Speaker, when I was 37 years old, and suffice it to say, that I had several staffers that were older than me back then. No longer. If anyone has dealt with the challenges—and I am now a parent of Gen Zers, three Gen Zers, whom I, like every parent, struggle to understand—but now I have an entire team, almost an entire team of staff who are either Millennials or Gen Zers, and Tracie and I have enjoyed helping raise them up.

Under her leadership, we taught them how to actually pick up the telephone and call other people, rather than just shoot them a text or send them an email. When they are sitting there wondering why someone hasn't gotten back to them, or they are ready to throw their hands up, and say, you know, it is time to move on, Congresswoman, Tracie will say, why don't you have Debbie actually go talk to that Member on the other side of the aisle.

Lo and behold, when I take the opportunity to do that, the logjam and the dam breaks. Human interaction is so incredibly important, and with the explosion of technology that the next generation of staffers and children and kids grow up with, she has been an incredible guide to ensuring that old school remains new school.

As with all wonderful relationships, this one will now evolve. She is prepared to move on and start that inevitable new chapter. Her impact on me, our staff, and the people that I represent runs so deep.

Through her tireless work, Tracie has made life better for millions of people across Florida, across my congressional district, and this entire Nation. She is someone who there aren't words to describe the depth of my feeling about her departure, but I will so miss working with directly and spending time with her each day. Although, I am confident that we will probably talk almost every day, at least for the foreseeable future and much to her dismay, probably.

She is someone to whom I will forever remain attached to. Tracie Pough is family to me, and I cherish her friendship and the time we have spent together more than I can ever put into words. As I always say, when a trusted and valued team member goes on to the next stage of their career, they will always be on team DWS, but she will technically move to the concentric circles of our family. She will always remain in the center as a trusted adviser, dearest friend, and sister.

On behalf of so many here today, and so many others, I thank her. I am honored to have her by my side and to celebrate her work, her character, and the indelible mark she has left on all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN).

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Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me the time.