

to military academies of any district in the country.

These young men and women were able to get through our rigorous progress by demonstrating leadership, patriotism, and a commitment to service.

We thank the students for their dedication, their courage, and their willingness to answer the call. We look forward to seeing the incredible impact they will have as future leaders of our Armed Forces.

MEDICAID PAPERWORK RED TAPE

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, we keep hearing the same thing about the big, ugly bill the President signed last week. We hear we are keeping Medicaid for the people who need it and only kicking off able-bodied people. This is simply not true.

These cuts to people's benefits are a little sneaky. It is not a work requirement. It is a paperwork requirement. They want to inundate people who need Medicaid as a lifeline with paperwork that will be difficult for them to do.

These are folks with health issues, folks on Medicaid with disabilities, mothers and fathers with multiple jobs and kids, or without access to reliable broadband in a few cases.

The red tape imposed on Medicaid by this bill isn't meant to be a flaw. It is the whole point. That is why they have pushed it forward past the next election.

We have seen this before. In Arkansas and Georgia, they promised to save taxpayer money with "work requirements." All they did was kick people off who actually needed it the most. Unemployment rates didn't go up. Why? Many people on Medicaid are already working.

Who is better at paperwork? Is it someone on disability who Medicaid was intended for or someone who wants to defraud the system?

Most of the waste, fraud, and abuse in Medicaid is actually from providers and not from the folks who need it. No, the real fraud is this paperwork requirement. We need to get rid of it.

CONCERN FOR EDUCATIONAL FUNDING

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of deep concern for students across Virginia and the country. Right now, this administration is withholding nearly \$7 billion in congressionally approved education funding.

This is money meant for public schools. These fund after-school programs, teacher training, literacy training, and more. Without warning, the administration froze them. The result has been delays and potential cuts and layoffs. School districts, including the ones that I represent, are now scrambling to fill unexpected budget gaps.

I have heard directly from educators in my district whose jobs will be on the line and whose students risk losing vital support if this funding isn't restored.

It is our students who will pay the ultimate price, but it doesn't stop there. The Department of Education has been

painfully slow to respond to those seeking help.

My constituents have been waiting for months for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness that they are owed. Others have been placed on incorrect student loan payment plans and subjected to poor treatment from loan providers. They are left frustrated and financially strained.

The administration must release K-12 funding and allow the Department of Education to continue their work. Our students deserve better than this waste and red tape.

CONGRATULATING MADISON WHITBECK

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to former Ms. Loudoun County, now Ms. Virginia, Madison Whitbeck.

Madison is a proud graduate of Riverside High School in Loudoun County where she cultivated a love for the arts. Madison will spend the year traveling to over 70 elementary schools, teaching students curriculum on making health choices relating to drugs and alcohol.

She will begin her work on the Arts for All initiative, as well, seeking to expand access to the arts for students across the Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, we congratulate Madison, and we look forward to seeing all the great things that she does.

U.S. EMBASSY VISA UNCERTAINTY

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a concern I have heard from many constituents about the delays and uncertainty in the visa process at U.S. Embassies, particularly in Islamabad.

Families in my district have cases stuck in administrative processing with no clear timeline. These delays are keeping families apart, creating needless anxiety and making it impossible to plan for the future.

Just last week, this administration announced the firings of 1,300 staff at the State Department. That is 1,100 civil servants and 246 Foreign Service officers.

While these cuts may not directly impact those embassy operations, they are only going to have a domino effect that is going to hurt every single embassy around the country and around the world.

At a time of heightened conflict and global uncertainty, we should invest in our diplomatic and consular capacities, not reducing them. I hope that the work in Islamabad has improved so that our constituents can be served better.

CONGRATULATING THE WATERVILLE HOTEL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize The Waterville Hotel, a cherished institution in Waterville, Pennsylvania, as it

marks two centuries of service to the Pine Creek Valley community.

In 1825, Abraham Harris founded what was then known as the Harris Hotel, strategically positioned on Route 44 overlooking Little Pine Creek.

It quickly became more than a simple roadside stop. It provided rest, refuge, and warmth for lumberjacks, hunters, fishermen, travelers, and politicians traversing our rugged Pennsylvania Wilds.

As the logging and lumber industry flourished in the 19th century, so did the hotel's significance. It hosted community meetings, business affairs, social gatherings, and even served as a way station for elected officials, becoming an integral part of the region's political and civic fabric.

Through wars, Prohibition, economic strangulation, and the decline of rail, The Waterville Hotel pressed on. Under the stewardship of generations, most notably under Jess and William Smith from 1933 to 1945, it reinvented itself, evolving along with its patrons and the purpose it served, the Pennsylvania Wilds.

Fast-forward to 2023, when local residents Jason McConnell and Vanessa Brown, whose families had roots and ownership of the adjacent country store, joined forces with longtime friend Brad Wyland to revitalize both the hotel and the restaurant.

Their vision has been rooted in pride and preservation, honoring family ties and restoring beloved menu items including a throwback menu featuring The Original Mountain Burger, a culinary emblem of community heritage.

Today, The Waterville Hotel stands as a vibrant hub, serving hearty fare from burgers and fries to vegetarian dishes, complemented by local craft beers and wines. The interior is filled with photographs spanning generations, each snapshot a testament to traditions, memories, and the moments shared.

For many, this hotel is far more than a place to eat or sleep. It is a community gathering place. It is their own Cheers, as longtime staff member Dan Collar described. It is a place where locals and visitors alike return year after year, bound by a shared experience of belonging.

□ 1040

The Waterville Hotel serves as a gateway to the spectacular Pine Creek Valley, the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon, and the Pine Creek Rail Trail.

From summer activities like biking, hiking, kayaking, and fishing to winter pursuits such as snowmobiling and snowshoeing, guests make the hotel their base for outdoor adventures throughout the seasons.

As we celebrate 200 years from its humble origins in 1825 to its enduring cornerstone status today, we honor not just a building but a living legacy woven into the heart of Waterville.

It has cultivated community, supported local economies, and preserved a connection across generations.

Looking ahead, under the stewardship of McConnell, Brown, and Wyland, and buoyed by devoted staff and loyal patrons, the Waterville Hotel embarks on its third century with the same spirit of resilience, innovation, and community pride that has carried it this far.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the Waterville Hotel's bicentennial, a symbol of heritage, community, and hope.

May its doors open to new chapters for generations to come.

CONGRATULATING CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL WOMEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the Central Falcons softball team for their first-ever State championship title.

The heart of this historic victory was the junior left fielder Hadley Witherow, who made the catch of her life to seal the 4-1 win over King William for the class 2 State title.

The Falcons were led by Coach Timmy Wakeman and Assistant Coach Jamey Mantz, who instilled belief in players like Kristen Hockman, whose bat sparked the offense; Veronica Gordon, who delivered key hits; and Keriana Stottlemeyer, who set the tone with her patience at the plate.

Serenity Burnshire and Carsyn Burton added crucial doubles, and Vanessa Gordon's sacrifice fly RBI in the bottom of the fifth created another scoring play.

While in the circle, Lexi Burkholder and Liz Bilbow combined for a stellar performance, supported by the steady glove of Emily Finks behind the plate. Together, they held off King William's powerful bats.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating this remarkable group, the Central Falcons softball team, and their unforgettable championship run.

RECOGNIZING PRESIDENT'S CUP WINNER CHRISTENDOM COLLEGE

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor Christendom College, which has, once again, shown that excellence on the field can go hand in hand with achievement in the classroom.

The United States Collegiate Athletic Association named Christendom the winner of the 2025 President's Cup, recognizing the Nation's top academic-performing athletic department. I commend Director of Athletics Patrick Quest and Assistant Athletic Director Joe Dotson for their outstanding leadership.

Christendom's varsity teams posted a 3.51 GPA, with the senior student athlete class achieving a 3.61 average. A total of 45 student-athlete sophomores, juniors, and seniors earned USCAA and NCR National Academic All-American honors. The 20 senior academic all-Americans are Josie Belleville, Regina Bonvissuto, Cate Brezinsky, Jude

Burkett, Sean Corcoran, Joshua Cruz, David Echaniz, John Gunthorpe, Miranda Keller, Colleen Kosten, Bridget McCaughey, Mary Noble, Mary Sabados, Lizzie Scarchilli, Andrew Snyder, Catherine Thomas, Michael Townsend, JP Tsakanikas, Christopher Usher, and Nicholas Ward, many excelling in multiple sports. Twenty-five sophomores and juniors were also recognized for their academic excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Christendom on this fourth President's Cup in 6 years, which reflects a deep commitment to forming student athletes who excel both intellectually and athletically.

RECOGNIZING SALEM HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' LACROSSE TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the Salem High School boys' lacrosse team, which made history this year by capturing their first-ever VHSL State championship.

They capped an incredible 2025 season with an 11-7 victory over Loudoun County. Along the way, they won the Region 4D championship with a 14-3 win over Jefferson Forest and claimed the Tommy Girani Cup, achieving all three of their goals.

Their journey was defined by resilience and determination. After falling short in last year's quarterfinals, they returned to defeat Broad Run 9-4 and upset three-time defending champs Atlee in a hard-fought 7-5 semifinal.

This historic run was powered by standout performances. Jackson Jones led with 37 goals and 47 assists. Holden Custer added 45 goals and 21 assists. Parker Dallas scored 42 goals with 36 assists. Jackson Winingier contributed 24 goals and 26 assists.

On defense, Ronnie Frith, Brayden Hall, and Carson Garland combined for over 120 takeaways and 180 ground balls, while goalie Richard Hof made 125 saves. Face-off specialist Ryan Warren won nearly 70 percent of his draws. Remarkably, seven players earned first team all-State honors.

I commend Coach George Revercomb, his staff, and Athletic Director Drew Barrett. This championship reflects the spirit of Salem, a city that rallies behind its youth.

I congratulate the team, their families, and the Salem community.

PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM FINANCIAL SURVEILLANCE

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act. This critical legislation aims to safeguard financial privacy and freedom of the American people.

A central bank digital currency may sound like innovation, but under Federal control, it becomes a powerful and dangerous tool for surveillance. This allows unelected bureaucrats to monitor and potentially restrict how Americans spend their hard-earned wages.

Recently, we have seen alarming examples of this kind of overreach, from the Chinese Communist Party using its digital currency to track and control

citizens to Prime Minister Trudeau in Canada freezing the bank accounts of peaceful protesters. That kind of government power has no place in the United States.

The Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act ensures the Federal Reserve cannot issue a CBDC without explicit authorization from Congress. It protects financial privacy and upholds the constitutional rights of every American.

CELEBRATING DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Duuual.

Mr. Speaker, football fans across the Southeast will recognize that as the rallying cry for the Jacksonville Jaguars. You may wonder how many u's are in that rallying cry. The answer is: No one really knows. How about that?

Everyone knows that there is one "a" in that rallying cry, and that is the reason, Mr. Speaker, I want to focus on that "a" because, for the first time ever, Duval County schools received an A grade from the State of Florida Department of Education.

It is a big deal. It is a big deal in northeast Florida. This momentous accomplishment reflects the hard work and unwavering commitment of our students, educators, administrators, families, and parents. It reflects years of progress, innovation, and a community-wide effort to achieve educational excellence.

Under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Christopher Bernier, the school board, and the steadfast efforts of teachers and staff across the district, Duval County has not only met the State's rigorous standards, but it has surpassed them, Mr. Speaker.

To the parents who have stayed involved, to the students who rose to the challenge, and to every member of Team Duval, I thank them. Their success is a shining example of what happens when a community believes in its children and backs that belief with action.

I congratulate Duval on this well-deserved recognition. Duuual—I can't say it enough.

HONORING NASSAU COUNTY PIRATES

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am a Pirate, arrgh.

Mr. Speaker, you might think of a pirate as someone who takes what isn't theirs, but in Nassau County, Florida, a Pirate is someone who earns everything they have with grit, heart, and honor.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, as a proud Pirate, a graduate of Fernandina Beach High School, and a product of Nassau County Schools. Today, Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pride to recognize a historic achievement. Under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Kathy Burns, the Nassau County School Board, and a tremendous support team, Nassau County Schools has been named