

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

number one in the State of Florida by the Department of Education. Number one goes to Nassau County. Even more impressive is that every single school in the district earned an A rating from the Department of Education.

It is not just about grades, Mr. Speaker. It is a reflection of community vision, a commitment to excellence, and a belief in every student's potential.

I thank our teachers for sparking curiosity and building confidence. I thank our qualified administrators for their steady leadership. I thank our families and parents for their support at home and for making students do their homework. I thank the students. They are the future of Nassau County, America, and this great Nation.

With their hard work and determination, the future is bright as ever. Of course, Mr. Speaker, I will always be partial to the Pirates, but I know they are not the only champions in town. Here is to all of our 17 schools in Nassau County and all 12,000 of our incredible students.

Let's go Warriors, Hornets, Flashes, and Pirates. Their pride, passion, and pursuit of excellence make our county, our Nation, and our community much stronger.

BUILDING ON CLAY COUNTY'S STRONG
FOUNDATION

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, when people think of a strong foundation, they often think of something built on rock, not clay. However, in Clay County, Florida, we are proving them wrong. That is because here, the foundation that lasts is built on education.

Today, I rise, Mr. Speaker, to proudly recognize Clay County District Schools in northeast Florida for, once again, earning an A rating from the Department of Education.

This continued success reflects the dedication of students, educators, administrators, and families working together to achieve excellence.

Under the leadership of Superintendent David Broskie, a committed school board, and the tremendous support team, Clay County has built a culture of winning, where teachers are supported, students are challenged, and families are engaged.

I thank everyone who makes this success possible.

Clay County doesn't just aim for excellence. It delivers it.

I congratulate Clay County and Clay County Schools. Their achievement is a win that proves that excellence doesn't just come from stone. It is forged in Clay.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CLINE). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GILL of Texas) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, mighty Lord, draw back the curtain that separates us from You. In Your grace, reveal Yourself to us that we would see Your face and know that You are watching over us this day.

May we not hesitate to draw near to You with sincere hearts. Grant us the assurance that when we approach You in faith, You cleanse us of all our guilt and purify us of all unrighteousness.

Let such awareness of Your unconditional love and steadfast mercy change the attitude we may have brought with us into this place. Rather, let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, a hope in Your redemption and renewal at work in us and in the world.

For You, O Lord, are faithful. Your promises are trustworthy. Confident in Your provision and sure of Your salvation, we devote ourselves to Your perfect plan for this day.

In Your eternal and sovereign name, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. RASKIN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NORMAN
BENJAMIN SCHMELTZER, III

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Norman

Benjamin Schmeltzer, III, a proud son of Iowa and a remarkable American whose legacy of service and love continues to inspire.

Born in Davenport in 1949 and a graduate of Bettendorf High School, Norm never stopped representing the values of his home State. After earning a degree in criminology from California State University at Long Beach, Norm joined the U.S. Army Intelligence School, graduating first in his class. He then served as a special agent with the United States Secret Service.

Norm's passion for justice led him to Loyola University School of Law where he graduated third in his class before founding his own successful law practice.

He was a dedicated public servant, a devoted husband, and a proud father and grandfather.

Norm's journey was one of purpose and perseverance. He and his wife, Jane, both Secret Service agents, became the first two agents to marry within the agency. Being a fellow veteran and having a brother in the Secret Service, I know how challenging that is. Their 50-year love story is a testament to their shared courage and commitment.

To his family watching today, including his beloved sister Christine and his niece McKenna, who is here in the gallery today, please know that this Chamber recognizes Norm's extraordinary life and mourns his loss with you.

Norm embodied the spirit of honor, integrity, and service. He leaves behind a legacy of kindness and excellence that will not be forgotten.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members not to refer to persons in the gallery.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 283. An act to require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and the Administrator of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to develop a standard methodology for identifying the country of origin of seafood to support enforcement against illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and for other purposes.

S. 433. An act to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the National Manufacturing Advisory Council within the Department of Commerce, and for other purposes.

NO APOLOGY FROM FOOD AND
DRUG ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, diethylstilbestrol, or DES, is a drug that was prescribed to pregnant women