

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

between 1940 and 1971 to prevent miscarriage.

As early as 1953, there was evidence it didn't work. Nevertheless, it was prescribed for decades because the FDA waited years to alert doctors that something was wrong.

Since then, we have learned DES is an endocrine disrupter that leads to rare cancers and birth defects across generations of families, including among men and women who call themselves DES sons and daughters and who are leading the charge for more awareness and a formal apology.

One of my constituents, a DES daughter herself, Caitlin McCarthy, has been a leader in this effort. She is joined today with Dr. Gwendolyn Mink, Karen Fernandes and Andrea Gardner, also leaders in this effort.

Despite years of false starts and half apologies, the FDA has still not actually said sorry for failing to warn the public in time.

Mr. Speaker, these people deserve that formal apology. Until then, Congress ought to pass my resolution, H. Res. 342, which establishes DES Awareness Week and urges the FDA to fund a follow-up study and issue an apology. An apology will not undo the damage, but it will set us on the path to making things right.

TRUMP DELIVERS FOR FAMILIES

(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, Americans are grateful that under the leadership of President Donald Trump, America is beating inflation, leading to lower costs, higher pay, and job creation.

American families are experiencing a 7.5 percent increase in real income, more than three times the pace of last year under the Biden administration. Gas prices have fallen nearly 3 percent in May alone, and everyday costs are also down over the past month, including those for meat, poultry, and eggs.

President Trump is succeeding in creating jobs for families, increasing opportunities, and defeating inflation. These achievements reflect the goal of President Trump and the Republican-led Congress to put America First. Promises made, promises kept.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstituting existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength, revealing that war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump, mocking Trump, with Moscow dismissing today Trump issuing a "theatrical ultimatum" as Putin murders civilians in Ukraine and even in Russia.

Our sympathy on the death of National Committeeman Glenn McCall, a devoted American patriot.

□ 1210

DEI POLICIES BUILD STRONGER FUTURE

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, this administration's open hostility to programs involving diversity, equity, and inclusion is built on deep-seated prejudices that have no basis in constitutional principles, economic realities, or morality.

Our Constitution has been amended specifically to advance inclusion, equity, and diversity, granting freedom to Black Americans from slavery and ensuring their right to vote, and establishing the right of women and those over 18 to vote, as well—free speech, assembly, and religious practices for all.

Economic growth recognizes the buying power of all of our citizens and the rising tide that allows women, people of color, and those of every demographic to grow businesses and buy services and products that expand our economy and make us competitive in worldwide markets.

Then, there is the morality of helping others. The Good Samaritan stopping by the roadside to help a beaten stranger not of his own religion is a testament to: "Who is my neighbor?" It is not just the person who shares my skin color.

Policies to eliminate all DEI efforts are a vestige of the prejudiced past, not a prescription for a stronger future America.

RECOGNIZING TAWANDA DICKENS ON HER RETIREMENT FROM U.S. CAPITOL POLICE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Tawanda Dickens, who is a civilian employee with the United States Capitol Police.

Ms. Dickens, as most of us call her, will be retiring in August after many years of remarkable service. Her work is often unseen, as she covers the late-night shift within the Capitol complex, but I, along with many others, agree that her work makes a real positive difference to those of us who know her.

I am so fortunate that Ms. Dickens not only helped me often, but, as she did with many, many others, she befriended me. She is someone who is a friend to many here in the people's House, and she is respected by all who know her.

I congratulate Ms. Dickens on her well-deserved retirement. May God continue to bless her and her family as she enters this new and exciting chapter of her life.

CONDEMNING REPUBLICANS' BIG, UGLY LAW

(Ms. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn Republicans' big, ugly law, which decimates food assistance for 42 million Americans, including millions of children, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities.

Erica from Wilson, North Carolina, had this to say about SNAP: "As a grandmother who is having to raise my granddaughter, this program helps me. I survived three heart attacks, yet [I am] still able to make sure my granddaughter is taken care of."

At a time when so many families are struggling to put food on the table, why would we take away a lifeline that millions of Americans rely on?

This past weekend, I visited Christ the King Lutheran Church in Cary, North Carolina, where I saw firsthand indispensable work to combat food insecurity in our own community.

Republicans have abandoned vulnerable, hungry people to pay for tax cuts for billionaires. It is shameful and un-American.

RECOGNIZING CENTRE COUNTY CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a major milestone in Centre County: the graduation of the 500th first responder from the Centre County Crisis Intervention Team Training Program.

Since 2011, this initiative has brought together law enforcement, EMS, corrections officers, and mental health professionals for 40 hours of specialized training.

These first responders are now better equipped to recognize mental health crises, use deescalation techniques, and connect individuals with appropriate care.

Prior to my time serving in Congress, I spent decades as a volunteer firefighter and cross-trained as an EMT. I recognize and value the commitment these individuals have to their communities and understand firsthand the vital role that they play in ensuring public health and safety.

These graduates are more than professionals. They are pillars in our community, working each day to ensure public safety with compassion and understanding.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Centre County CIT team for their dedication and congratulate all 500 graduates for their service to our community.

MASS STATE DEPARTMENT LAYOFFS

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, our National Archivist, our National Security Advisor, and our