

escaped. The pioneers would stay in residence, building houses, planting gardens and fields, and then move on after 2 years to ensure all of their number had enough time and resources to make the trip West. Afterwards, the improvements would belong to the Omaha.

This vanguard party of 148 pioneers, who had been on the road for 111 days, followed Brigham Young down Emigration Canyon into the Salt Lake Valley.

They immediately began organizing a community, diverting water for irrigation, plowing fields, and planning their first city, Salt Lake City, our State's capital. Salt Lake was founded that very day. Denver wasn't founded until 1858 and so was Carson City. Phoenix was founded in 1867, Boise in 1863, and Helena in 1864. Of all Western States' capital cities, only New Mexico's, Albuquerque, is older than Salt Lake.

From that small beginning of 148 souls, a city and metro-area population of over 1.2 million and a State population of over 3.5 million have grown. From that small beginning, a mighty State has grown with an annual GDP of over \$234 billion. Utah has three research universities, four regional universities, and other great institutions of higher education. Utahns value education, and we are good at it.

The Salt Lake City metro area has professional sports teams competing at the highest level, with basketball, the Utah Jazz; soccer, Real Salt Lake; and hockey, the Utah Mammoth. They have already hosted the Winter Olympic Games and are set to host another in 2034.

If you travel across the State, Mr. Speaker, you will find communities with baseball fields, football fields, soccer fields, pickleball courts, tennis courts, swimming pools, ski resorts, and golf courses. Utahns value sports, and we are good at them.

Utah is an international center for technology, including space tech. Just south of Salt Lake City is a business park called Silicon Slopes. About 100 miles north of Salt Lake City is the Space Dynamics Laboratory. Utahns value technology and research, and we are good at them.

Utahns may leave Utah, but they take Utah with them wherever they go. The football coach who takes the job in the Big Ten, the medical school graduate who interns at Brigham and Women's, the ROTC grad who learns to fly in Enid, Oklahoma, and the mother of five who gets that promotion and follows her work to Seattle, all of them take a piece of Utah with them.

□ 1040

On July 24, you may just see every one of them pulling kids in a wagon in a neighborhood parade or hear them singing a pioneer song or making the trek downtown to the shelter to drop off bedding and clothing. Each in his own way honors July 24, and I ask you today to honor those long-dead pio-

neers as well as those whose hearts hold Utah close.

This place west of the Great Divide and east of Salt Flats, north of the Grand Canyon and south of the lava flows and potato fields of Idaho is my home. I wasn't born in Utah. In fact, my father wasn't even born in this country. I am a pioneer like my brother and sister Utahns. Just like those 148 brave and desperate souls, I have made this place my home.

I, like Brigham Young and those other 3.5 million souls, came to this place, saw that it was good and said: "This is the right place. Drive on."

SUPPORTING OUR COAST GUARD

(Mr. COURTNEY of Connecticut was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House of Representatives will be taking up H.R. 4275, the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2025. That is legislation that updates and codifies changes and reforms to America's oldest continuous maritime service, the Coast Guard. It is actually called the first fleet because technically, actually the Coast Guard is older than the U.S. Navy.

This bill contains many good, bipartisan provisions that are addressing many of the challenges that the Coast Guard faces every day, whether it is drug interdiction, obviously doing the work in terms of our coastal, littoral regions of the country, and making sure we have safe passage of commercial and civilian maritime activity.

Included in this bill is a provision to reach out to our great ally Finland to update and modernize our icebreaker fleet. Our *Polar Star* large icebreaker is now 50 years old, and it is long past due, particularly with the challenges in the Arctic with Russia and China, to make sure we update and modernize our Coast Guard and icebreaking fleet.

This bill also contains a long overdue provision to reform the Coast Guard statutes regarding protecting victims of sexual assault and harassment both within the Coast Guard service and also the Coast Guard Academy. I represent New London, Connecticut, which is home to the Coast Guard Academy that is an outstanding institution that builds future leaders for the Coast Guard. It actually has a large international contingent of allies such as Iceland and Pacific Island nations that come to learn at the cutting edge institution in terms of coastal activities that are there.

Like all the military academies, there has been a shadow of, unfortunately, activity regarding female cadets over the years that have had to put up with totally unacceptable conduct and forcing them into almost an impossible position in terms of reporting this activity over the years.

The bill includes a safe-to-report policy, which will protect members reporting sexual assault. Again, some-

times incidents occur where there may be minor misconduct issues where both the victim and the perpetrator are involved, and that risk of being punished for those minor misconduct has really inhibited people to come forward and report sexual assault. This is an issue which was the subject of exhaustive hearings at the Oversight and Government Reform Committee over the last 8 years. Our dear, late Congressman Elijah Cummings conducted many of those hearings. There were brave whistleblowers that came forth, such as Dr. Kim Young-McLear who is now a retired commander from the Coast Guard. She testified before that committee and talked about, again, some of the hard experiences that she went through.

Other military academies, such as West Point and Annapolis, have actually adopted safe-to-report policies, and tomorrow's bill will get the Coast Guard Academy in line with those institutions.

This bill also extends the safe-to-report policy to the entire Coast Guard personnel, the entire service. That was done administratively by the last Commandant of the Coast Guard, Linda Fagan, who, again, I think was very focused in terms of making sure that the safe-to-report policy was going to be in place to eradicate activities that really harm the readiness and effectiveness of the Coast Guard.

Women Coast Guard officers are some of the finest, most talented people who are doing the important work of the Coast Guard, and we need to make sure that there is a statutory structure in place to make sure that with this type of activity, people will be able to report it and get a remedy and a response, in some cases punishment to, again, make sure people are not hindered because of this unacceptable conduct.

Tomorrow when we take up this bill, those brave women who came forward to testify and report their experience—and sometimes watched their dreams and their careers end because of the fact that they were subjected to unacceptable pressure and retaliation for reporting—will see that by law that is now going to be a thing of the past. It is long overdue, and, again, I just want to take a moment to publicly thank Commander Young-McLear and her colleagues for having the courage to step forward and make sure that the Congress is aware of this situation and will end it in the passage of tomorrow's bill.

WITHHELD EDUCATION FUNDS

(Ms. BONAMICI of Oregon was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to demand answers, answers from the Department of Education and the Office of Management and Budget. Today, it is July 22, and the Trump administration continues to withhold

more than \$5 billion in critical K-12 and adult education funding that should have been released by the July 1 deadline.

More than 150 Democratic Members of the House of Representatives joined a group of 42 Senators, including 10 Republican Senators, in calling on Secretary McMahon and Director Vought to release the funds by July 15. That date has obviously passed, but we have received no answers.

Although the administration did release the 21st Century Community Learning Center grants yesterday, they are a small percentage of the outstanding funding, and there is still no word on any of the other grants.

School districts across the country are scrambling to make decisions, but they have unclear information and severely constrained budgets. Many districts have already been forced to lay off educators and staff who will not be paid without the Federal funding.

For many students across the country, the new school year starts in a few weeks, and schools are now in an all-out crisis. As one administrator told me, it is a "five-alarm fire."

Funds authorized under the Every Student Succeeds Act are not a luxury. They are part of what closes opportunity gaps. They are a critical part of our effort to provide students across the country, regardless of income or ZIP Code, with a world-class education. Yes, this is about civil rights. Every single dollar is a good investment in students and in our future.

State administered title I, part C grants, which have been around since the 1960s, support migrant students. These grants help children of mobile farmworkers and fishers, people who are harvesting our crops and putting food on our tables, meet academic standards and graduate from high school, preparing them to become responsible citizens and productive employees.

Title II grants provide essential support to recruit, prepare, and retain high-quality teachers and school leaders. These grants address the growing educator workforce shortage and provide professional development for educators to improve teaching and student outcomes.

Title III grants provide English language learners with the integrated academic support they need to learn English and meet State standards.

Title IV, part A grants are designed to give students access to a well-rounded education. That is what students need: to improve school safety and to create better conditions for student learning and engagement. These grants fund critical music and arts programs and integrate technology into the classrooms so students can develop digital literacy skills.

Finally, Adult Basic and Literacy Education grants help provide integrated education and training services that promote essential skills for the 21st century workforce.

These are all programs that Congress authorized. Again, these are programs that Congress authorized, yet the Trump administration is refusing to release the funds.

Mr. Speaker, 10 Republican Senators were brave enough and principled enough to request with the Democrats that the administration release these funds for their intended purposes, yet we have heard nothing, nothing, from House Republicans about the illegal and unconstitutional withholding of these congressionally appropriated dollars.

Is there a fear of President Trump keeping them from their commitment to the millions of students in the school districts that they were elected to represent?

I tell my colleagues that everyone can show that they care about the kids in their districts, that they care about education. Everyone should join us in demanding answers.

Secretary McMahon and Director Vought must release these funds immediately. This is about our Nation's children, our students, and our future leaders. They deserve better.

□ 1050

RECOGNIZING CORNWALL CLEANUP CREW

(Mr. RYAN of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cornwall Cleanup Crew for their commitment to environmental preservation and education in the town of Cornwall and across the Hudson Valley of New York State.

Since 2023, this grassroots group has worked with community members to clean up litter and illegal dumping around the town and educate the public on the importance of conservation and environmental protection.

Started by a high school student and a group of community members, within its first year, the organization amassed a team of more than 1,500 volunteers, managing to clear over 10,000 tons of litter and illegally dumped material in Cornwall.

Cornwall Cleanup Crew has become a popular community service opportunity for students, including at The Storm King School and Cornwall High School, whose students both contribute to the cleanup efforts and learn about the importance of environmental protection.

Finally, after a multiyear, lengthy process, the Cornwall Cleanup Crew has earned their official 501(c)(3) nonprofit certification, allowing them to expand their important environmental work into other communities in Orange County and across the Hudson Valley.

I have been out there with this crew and seen them work in the cold and the heat. Their relentless efforts to combat littering and to really bring our community together in a positive way

while doing so is a truly commendable pillar of selfless service.

On behalf of our entire community, I thank them and join in celebrating this certification that will allow them to continue to expand on their important work.

CONGRATULATING ZOE MESUCH

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate recent Wallkill High School graduate Zoe Mesuch on concluding a truly remarkable high school basketball career and on her appointment to the United States Naval Academy, where she is now undergoing her summer training.

I was proud to nominate Zoe to represent the Hudson Valley at the Naval Academy in this year's newest class. With more than 2,000 career points, Zoe has been named Daily Freeman Player of the Year 3 years in a row, a record for the award.

This year, Zoe was also named Player of the Year by the New York Basketball Coaches Association and was selected as a top player in the Mid-Hudson Athletic League's American Conference by all the league's coaches.

Zoe is known by her teammates, coaches, teachers, and family as an exceptionally hard worker and team player. These are assets that will be of great service to her and our country as she now serves in the military.

Zoe plans to continue her basketball career at the Naval Academy, where she will also study oceanography in pursuit of becoming a surface warfare officer.

I must tell Zoe, as I think she knows, that I am an Army fan, so I can't say that I will be rooting for her team in the Patriot League this year. Yet, our entire Hudson Valley is rooting for her, and we cannot wait to see all that she will accomplish.

RECOGNIZING ELDER JIM CHILDS

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elder Jim Childs, a pillar of our Kingston community, for his decades of service to St. Clara's Church, to his and my home city of Kingston, and to families across the Hudson Valley.

Elder Childs was born and raised in Kingston, New York, the very community that he continues to serve to this day. He graduated from Kingston High School, my alma mater, before beginning his career working for IBM. He worked initially as a mail clerk and took every opportunity to advance his education and training, further his knowledge, and move up within the company.

Additionally, a fellow Army veteran, Elder Childs served his country in uniform while also deepening his faith and love of fellow man, a lesson that would stay with him throughout his life.

When Elder Childs was first appointed pastor of St. Clara's Church of God in Christ in Kingston in 1969, he admitted that he didn't know if he was ready. Yet, he was called to serve his community, which he has done faithfully for the past 56 years.