

May Gene Vukelic rest in peace, and may we all strive to lead with his same sense of purpose and compassion.

HONORING CLARKE COUNTY GIRLS' TRACK AND FIELD

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with pride to honor the incredible athletes of Clarke County High School who for first time since 2009 are State champs in girls' track and field.

The Eagles won the 4x400 meter relay to surge past the competition and win the Class 2 State meet at James Madison University.

Led by seniors Teya Starley, who captured the 800-meter title and anchored the 4x400 relay; Reagan "Megatron" Myer, whose triple jump and 200 meter earned crucial points; and the ever-determined Abigail Cochran and Molly Husted, the Eagles soared to victory.

They were joined by their teammates Kendall Harman, Grace Gerenski, Kenedy Money, and Mia Timberlake, who each gave it their all.

None of this would have been possible without Coach Andre Kidrick, a true leader in his 18th and final season. His legacy, built on heart, toughness, and unity, will echo through Clarke County for generations.

He was assisted by Coaches Jamie Starley, Gary Wymer, Nancy Specht, Regina Downing, and Jeff Webster in a true team effort.

Please join me in congratulating these young women, their coaches, and the entire Clarke County community on this remarkable achievement. Go Eagles.

HONORING GLENVAR HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLANDERS BOYS' SOCCER TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Glenvar High School Highlanders boys' soccer team. They are the 2025 Virginia Class 2 State champs for the third straight year.

Led by Head Coach Josh Jones, Captains Kian Fisher, Jake Williams, Aidan Hylton, and a remarkable roster: Grayson Shepherd, Tyler Shannon, Jackson Jones, Alan Vu, Kees Van Gerven, Gavin Miller, Tyler Curfiss, Seth Nichols, Levi King, Zack Brown, Heath Russell, Luke Farmer, Parker Doolan, Avery McClanahan, Cooper Mullins, Zach Adams, Henry Schruth, Griffin Geddes, Adam Saunders, James Housh, Alex Rottkamp, Ryder Francisco, Evan Harris, Wesley Feliciano, and Connor Magruder, this squad delivered perfection with a 23-0 record.

They outscored their opponents 134-3, dominating with 20 shutouts and trailing for only 4 minutes all year.

In the June 14 final, goals from Hylton and Saunders secured a 2-0 win over Bruton, claiming their fifth straight Region C and Three Rivers District titles. They also extended a 61-game unbeaten streak of 98-3 and 2 ties since 2021.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the entire coaching and support staff, as well as

school leadership, for guiding these young men to excellence. We congratulate the Glenvar Highlanders. They have made Glenvar and the Roanoke Valley proud.

CELEBRATING VIRGINIA POULTRY FEDERATION'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Virginia Poultry Federation, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

In August of 1925, a group of poultrymen gathered at Virginia Tech for the first poultry field day where they organized the Virginia Poultry Federation and began a century-long mission to strengthen and support the poultry and ag industry.

For the past 100 years, the Federation has served farmers, processors, and businesses through effective advocacy, youth programs, scholarships, and vital partnerships.

□ 1020

From education and outreach to supporting 4-H, FAA, and ag in the classroom, its contributions extend far beyond the farm.

Today, more than 1,000 farm families depend on this thriving industry which generates billions of dollars in wages and economic impact across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Nowhere is this more evident than in Virginia's Sixth Congressional District, the birthplace of the modern poultry industry and the top producing region in Virginia today. The continued strength of the poultry and egg industries in the Shenandoah Valley and across the Commonwealth is a testament to the federation's enduring commitment to its mission.

I commend President Hobey Bauhan and the Virginia Poultry Federation on a century of service, leadership, and success, and I wish them many more years of growth and innovation.

MAKING D.C. SAFE AGAIN

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance of commonsense policies that put public safety first. For too long, we have seen soft-on-crime approaches that let repeat offenders walk free, putting law-abiding citizens at risk. However, recent data from Washington, D.C., shows that when we take crime seriously, communities become a safer place.

Since President Trump took decisive action to tackle crime head-on in our Nation's Capital, burglaries have dropped by nearly one-half and car thefts have fallen 36 percent. These are not just numbers on a page. They represent families who can walk their neighborhoods with greater peace of mind. They represent small business owners who feel more secure about opening their doors. They represent children who can play outside without the same fear of violence.

This is what happens when we adopt commonsense policies. Holding criminals accountable works. Protecting communities works. Supporting law enforcement works.

D.C.'s progress should serve as a model for the rest of the country. The American people are tired of failed policies that prioritize criminals over victims. We should reject those failed approaches and instead double down on strategies that deliver results for America.

HONORING HARLEM HELLFIGHTERS

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I am a proud son of Mount Vernon, New York. I was born there. I went to school there, and it shaped the person who I am today. My roots run deep in that community, and I carry its values with me every day in my work here in Congress.

During World War I, 22 fellow sons of Mount Vernon answered the call to serve and joined the fight to defend freedom abroad. These men became part of the legendary Harlem Hellfighters, the 369th Infantry Regiment of the New York Army National Guard.

The Harlem Hellfighters hold a remarkable and important place in our Nation's history. Comprised primarily of Black Americans, this unit was among the first African-American regiments to serve with the American Expeditionary Forces during the First World War, and a later version served in the Second World War. Mr. Speaker, because the U.S. Army remained segregated at the time, these men were assigned to fight under French command.

They spent nearly 200 days in front-line trenches, more than any other American unit. They faced unimaginable hardship but never wavered. They suffered the most casualties of any American regiment with nearly 1,500 men making the ultimate sacrifice.

Yet, despite their heroism and service, they returned home to a country that did not afford them the recognition they earned. Today that changes.

This afternoon, these brave men, our Harlem Hellfighters, will be honored with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award Congress can bestow. This long overdue recognition honors their extraordinary valor, their unwavering service, and their critical place in American history.

The men of the 369th embodied courage, resilience, and patriotism in the face of adversity. They are more than deserving of this distinction.

In a few hours, I will join their descendants in laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We will pay tribute to those who served and sacrificed and whose names were too long left unspoken.

Their legacy lives on in Mount Vernon, in New York, and across this Nation that they helped defend.

We honor them today and remember them always.

HONORING LOLA DANIELS HUNTER

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the life and achievements of Lola Daniels Hunter, who served our community as president of the White Plains Greenburgh Branch of the NAACP, as a board member of the Greenburgh Police and Advisory Committee, and as a leader of the North Elmsford Civic Associations.

For over 50 years, Lola was a member of Bethel Baptist Church in White Plains, serving in board leadership. She showed her professional skills in the Westchester Department of Service Services, having achieved a B.A. degree from the College of New Rochelle and an M.B.A. from Pace University. She is survived by her daughter, Priscilla "Ann" Daniels, and legions of friends and neighbors in Greenburgh, White Plains, and Mamaroneck who loved her as she loved them and the community.

She is with the Lord now, but we are all better for her time with us.

Rest in power, Lola.

CONGRATULATING DAN HOUSTON

(Mr. FEENSTRA of Iowa was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend and fellow Iowan, Dan Houston, on his retirement from Principal Financial Group after 41 years of service.

From starting his first job with Principal in 1984 to eventually becoming chairman, president, and CEO, Dan exemplifies the power of hard work and dedication. His decisions have helped more families achieve financial security and plan for tomorrow.

Dan has also committed himself and Principal Financial to philanthropic causes in Des Moines and across the State of Iowa.

Under his leadership, Principal donated generously to United Way and the annual Principal charity golf classic which raised millions of dollars for Iowa youth. The Principal Foundation awards grants to worthy causes including disaster recovery, affordable housing, and small business development.

Dan has always prioritized the people whom Principal Financial serves, putting families and our communities first.

In his retirement, Dan will have more time to focus on the things that truly matter most: spending time with his wife, Joanie, his children, and his grandchildren, and devoting his talents to causes and organizations near and dear to his heart.

I thank Dan for his incredible contributions to Iowa and wish him and his family the very best in his next chapter of life.

FY 2026 EDUCATION CUTS

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, students across the country have started to head back to school this week.

For many, school is so much more than just a place for learning. For 13 million food insecure children, it is a place where they can rely on having a meal twice a day.

Yes, even six decades after Michael Harrington published the great book, "The Other America," which became a blueprint to fight poverty and hunger in America and was published by Michael Harrington during the Kennedy administration, hunger still exists in America.

School is also a place that provides after-school programming that keeps students engaged and off the streets. It is a place where students are able to receive medical care during and through school-based health clinics so that if a student gets an asthma attack those first critical minutes will be attended to at a school-based clinic. Schools are so much more than just a place for learning.

Unfortunately, Republicans have introduced a Labor-HHS and Education bill that will cut the Department of Education funding by \$66.7 billion.

These cuts will be devastating to the academic achievement of kids and students across the country. Republicans want to have it both ways. They want to eliminate title III English acquisition grants for English language learners. While the rest of the world is pushing to have their children and their students master and be proficient in more than one language so they can be competitive across the planet, these cuts are being implemented. They want English to be the only language, an English-only country, making it less competitive than other countries that want their children to be proficient in several languages.

They want to lower crime, but they are cutting vital funding like the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers which provide after-school funding that keeps kids off the streets and out of trouble.

While the National Guard is being deployed right here in D.C., they are cutting these programs that will help young people stay off the corner. They want America to have a stronger economy with the most advanced workforce, but they are cutting title I funding that helps all kids, especially ones who come from low-income backgrounds, have the best chance for success.

Student academic achievement is the cornerstone of national security, but fewer than one-third of our students nationwide can read at an appropriate grade level.

These academic achievement gaps will only be exacerbated as Republicans and the Trump administration continue their campaign against the immigrant community as parents are afraid they will drop their kids in school and never see them again.

We must continue to invest in education and educational programs that will help all students get back on track. We must bring back the invest-

ment and pride that at one point made America the envy of the world and the American public school system the great equalizer for kids all across the country.

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NO PLACE LIKE HOME

(Mr. MANN of Kansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, over the August in-district work period, I had the privilege of meeting with Kansans all across our district, from Salina to Great Bend, Hutch to WaKeeney, Hoxie to Jetmore, Hays to Hill City.

It is the honor of my life to represent the Big First District of Kansas in Congress, and I was grateful to spend time with Kansans while I was able to be home. For the fifth year in a row, I visited all 60 counties in the Big First District, and I had the chance to hear about the impacts the One Big Beautiful Bill Act will make on our families and communities.

As I visited companies and families across the Big First District, stop after stop, my fellow Kansans expressed their appreciation for the wins the bill delivered for Kansas families. They are relieved that we were able to prevent the largest tax hike in American history for working- and middle-class families. They are grateful to have a Congress and White House that embrace pro-family policies and our commitments to doubling the child tax credit and expanding 529 education savings accounts. These are commonsense policies that promote and strengthen families across the Nation, and they are yet another promise made and promise kept.

Small business owners and family farms shared how monumental our legislation is for their families. We were able to make the 199A small-business deduction permanent, allowing agricultural and small business families to keep more of their hard-earned dollars. Farm families were relieved that they no longer have to fear being forced to sell land when they lose a loved one. By expanding the death tax exemption, we brought the tax code in line with today's farm economy and allowed more farm families to keep their operations in the family. This is life-changing for millions of families across the country and throughout the Big First District.

Farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers were also grateful that our legislation restored a decades-old standard that exempts the value of assets found on family farms and small businesses from being assessed as part of a family's net worth.

Over the past few years, net farm income has decreased by nearly 25 percent. When young people from these families are applying for higher education financial aid, the assets tied up in the family farm or the small business should not count against them.