

Krista is a longtime agriculture teacher and the FFA adviser at Greenwood High School in Millerstown, Pennsylvania. With pride, Krista notes that she has devoted nearly 30 years to creating an FFA family at the high school.

The Golden Owl Award is one of the most prestigious forms of recognition in agricultural education. Presented at the Pennsylvania FFA State Convention, the award honors teachers in the State of Pennsylvania who dedicate countless hours to improving the lives of their students.

Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russ Redding described Krista as a natural teacher whose dedication makes a lasting impression on students in our communities.

Most certainly, Krista is a source of pride for the entire district. On behalf of everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Krista and look forward to the continuation of her education for the community.

CONGRESS MUST TAKE ACTION ON TARIFFS

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, after months and months of President Trump insisting that his tariffs are not paid by Americans, insisting that tariffs don't drive up prices, insisting that there will be no exclusions on exemptions from his liberation day tariffs that he imposed back in April, on Friday afternoon the White House very quietly released a statement that they, in fact, are exempting and carving out tariffs for a number of goods, which were blindingly obvious were going to be costing more because we do not produce any of those goods here in this country.

Included in his order are coffee, tea, fruit juices, tropical fruits, spices, bananas, oranges, and tomatoes. Obviously, if you talk to anybody who has been in a grocery store lately, the prices for all of those products have gone up by large margins, again, in the wake of the April tariffs that were put into place.

Coffee is up 19 percent. Bananas are up 7 percent. Oranges and lettuce are up 3 and 4 percent.

Again, it was so clear to anyone who was actually connected to the real world that grocery prices were going up and that we had to take steps to carve out exemptions for the sake of American consumers, our working families, and the middle class.

It was amazing to see how the President, in October, was actually giving speeches where he said prices have come way down and that we have gotten prices way down for groceries. That is the mentality which is in that White House. Again, these were tariffs that he imposed unilaterally without consulting Congress.

The question, though, is whether it is good that again there is going to be some price relief for some of these items, which never should have been tariffed to begin with. It begs the question about the rest of the economy that is getting harmed by tariffs.

The National Association of Home Builders announced after the tariffs were announced that it would raise the average cost of a new home by \$11,000 because of the fact that so many parts and pieces that go into new home construction are imported. That is just a reality in our economy.

When we talk about the cost of living and affordability, if anything is close to maybe groceries, it is the cost of housing in terms of rents and getting new construction restarted.

What about that, Mr. President? Why don't we also look at what is clearly happening in our economy right now and provide relief for the American people who are groaning under the high cost of living?

The President has to look no further than the conservative Tax Foundation, which again is a right-of-center economic think tank. Its analysis is that, by October, tariffs have raised retail prices on all goods by nearly 5 percent relative to their pretariff trend line.

Instead of solving high inflation, the Trump tariffs have continued it and, in some instances, increased it. This includes a 6 percent increase for imported goods and 4.3 percent for domestic goods because a lot of our domestic goods incorporate items that, again, are imported from overseas.

The fundamental problem here is that this President believed in his mind that he himself had the power to impose these tariffs. Let's be very clear. A tariff is a tax on imported goods. It is a tax.

I am from New England. Remember the Boston Tea Party? It was about a tariff on tea that the British Government was trying to force the American colonists to pay.

A case was argued just a couple of weeks ago before the U.S. Supreme Court, where, again, the plaintiffs powerfully stated that the President did not have the authority to impose those taxes back in April. That is an Article I, Section 9 authority in the Constitution for the Congress.

For the sake of reestablishing the checks and balances in our country and for the sake of the American economy, where issues like tariffs, which require a lot of analysis, are very complex, and require Congress to be part of that decisionmaking—in fact, we are the decisionmakers, according to the Constitution—those tariffs should be struck down. We should go back to basics, which is that when we deal with tax policy, it is the power of Congress that prevails in terms of making those kinds of decisions.

The harm that has been done to the economy, the middle class, and working families because of the Trump tariffs, which, again, were just unilaterally

ally and indiscriminately imposed against some countries that we actually have trade surpluses with, has to be rolled back.

There was an admission on Friday by the administration that their tariff policy has failed, and it is time for Congress to stand up and do its job to rebalance our economy.

HIGHLIGHTING CRITICAL INVESTMENTS

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS of Iowa was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, speaking of taxes, the tax on the economy and the detriment to the economy over the Democratic shutdown over the past 6 weeks makes me delighted to be back here in Congress, doing the work of Iowa and the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a critical investment for Iowa families, the \$2.78 million in community project funding I secured for the Newton YMCA childcare expansion.

This funding will allow the Y to open 50 new childcare slots, giving working parents in Jasper County the reliability and support they urgently need.

Access to childcare is not just a family issue. It is a workforce issue. When parents can't find childcare, they can't work, which hurts local businesses and the entire economy.

The Newton YMCA is a pillar of its community, and this expansion will allow it to serve more families, strengthen the workforce, and keep Newton and Jasper County growing.

I am proud to have secured this funding and will continue fighting for projects that support families and build a stronger future for Iowa's First District and Iowa.

HIGHLIGHTING COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the \$2 million in community project funding I secured for Jones Regional Medical Center in Iowa to build a permanent, state-of-the-art medical simulation lab.

For the past several years, JRMC has trained nurses out of two temporary trailers. Despite those challenges, their program continues to produce highly skilled providers who are urgently needed across Iowa, especially nurses and EMTs.

This funding will create a 1,700-square-foot advanced simulation center that will allow more students to graduate each year and expand training for high-demand medical fields.

This investment strengthens Iowa's healthcare workforce, supports our rural hospitals, and ensures communities across Jones County have access to trained, qualified healthcare providers.

I am proud to have secured this funding and remain committed to strengthening healthcare access and workforce training across Iowa.

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RECOGNIZING KEOKUK AREA HOSPITAL PROJECT FUNDING

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the \$825,000 in community project funding I secured to restore critical healthcare access in Lee County through the Keokuk Area Hospital project.

Since Keokuk lost its hospital in 2022, residents have faced delays in emergency and specialty care. No community should be left without emergency services or forced to travel over an hour for lifesaving treatment.

This funding will help reopen emergency services and create outpatient specialty care, closing a major gap in healthcare access and restoring the safety net that Lee County deserves. The CEO of Insight said that it was pivotal in establishing these services. This is about saving lives, strengthening rural healthcare, and giving families peace of mind.

I am proud to have secured this investment and will continue working to ensure that rural Iowans receive the same quality care as any American, no matter their ZIP Code.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHERYL TATES MACIAS HAMBY

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Cheryl Tate Macias Hamby, a devoted public servant, community leader, and an example of what it truly means to live a life of service.

Whether working in Congress or the executive branch, she approached every challenge with integrity and the belief that public service is about improving the lives of others.

Cheryl's commitment to service extended far beyond her professional life. In Prince William County and across Virginia, Cheryl was a tireless volunteer and civic leader through her work with the Rotary Club, the Scouts, and numerous community organizations.

Cheryl also served as the chair of the Prince William County Democrats and brought people together, built bridges, and inspired others to lead with heart.

Cheryl's legacy and memory will live on through all of the lives that she touched and the communities she strengthened. My heart goes out to Cheryl's family. May she rest in peace.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF J. HAMILTON LAMBERT

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of J. Hamilton Lambert, a devoted public servant, a steady leader, and a Virginian who made lasting difference.

Through his many years of service, J. Lambert focused on making local government work better for the people it serves, and his service continued long after his government career.

Through his work with the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation, he helped create opportunities for young people, especially those training for careers in medical fields. Thousands of students have benefited from programs that he helped to grow, giving them the skills they need to build a brighter future.

Mr. Lambert carried himself with humility, sharp insight, and a quick sense of humor. He always, always put the people around him first.

Mr. Speaker, his legacy will live on in the people who he helped; the programs that he strengthened; and the communities across Virginia, especially in Loudoun County, that are better because of his service.

CONGRATULATING BRENTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL TEAM

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Brentsville High School girls flag football team on winning the inaugural flag football championship.

This fall marked the first year for girls flag football as a club sport in Prince William County, and girls flag football is part of a growing trend. It is one of the fastest growing sports in the country.

Mr. Speaker, 12 Prince William County high school teams competed in an eight-game season and a post-season tournament.

On Saturday, the Brentsville Tigers defeated Patriot High School 15-6, completing a perfect 11-0 season.

This victory for Brentsville High School reflects their teamwork and determination. They are really good. I actually checked out some of their highlights on YouTube. I encourage everyone to go to a game next year.

I congratulate the girls and Coach Baltimore on their undefeated season. They have made Brentsville and our entire community proud.

HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR SYRIANS

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a critical moment of hope and opportunity for the Syrian people.

For the past decade, Syrians have experienced civil war, mass destruction, hundreds of thousands of deaths, and millions of displacements. With the fall of the Assad regime and the transition to a new administration, today we have a window of opportunity to support the Syrian people as they seek to achieve a free and democratic future: a future defined by economic stability, a future strengthened by a robust infrastructure, a future fueled by thriving business, and a future free from repression.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support legislation that offers sanctions relief for Syria, opening the door to new investments from partners around the world. It is my hope that, together, we can turn this moment into a brighter future for the Syrian people and for Syrian Americans.

CONGRATULATING LIGHTRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Lightridge High

School marching band for being invited to march in the 2027 London parade.

This is a huge honor. This is a really big deal, and they were actually the first to be announced as being a part of that parade of all of the high schools.

They are really good. Actually, I had a chance to hear them perform live and be there when they were awarded this honor. They even played "Golden" from KPop Demon Hunters. My kids listen to that on repeat, and so I appreciate them doing that.

I appreciate them representing our community so well. I congratulate Dan Adams and the entire Lightridge community.

Good luck in 2027.

RECOGNIZING VETERANS IN TEXAS' THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

(Mr. SELF of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 22 of our Nation's finest veterans.

These individuals are exceptional American heroes who demonstrated selfless commitment to serving our Nation and their communities.

This is a moment to acknowledge those who have sacrificed much and devoted all to safeguarding our country. This year, Texas' Third District is saluting brave veterans who have exhibited remarkable service, leadership, integrity, and dedication. These veterans represent true role models within our community, deserving our utmost respect, acknowledgement, and honor.

The veterans from Texas' Third Congressional District receiving the 2025 Veteran Commendation Award are as follows:

Sergeant Christopher Acevedo, U.S. Army.

Captain Travis Mills, U.S. Army.

Major Gary Billings, U.S. Marine Corps.

Second Lieutenant Charles Neubecker, U.S. Army.

Master Sergeant Fernando Cruz, Jr., U.S. Marine Corps.

Senior Chief Petty Officer Vincent Riggs, U.S. Navy.

Senior Airman David Davis, U.S. Air Force.

Major Philip Shortino, U.S. Army.

Staff Sergeant David DuBay, U.S. Air Force.

Senior Airman Danny Stasik, U.S. Air Force.

Staff Sergeant Robert DuBay, U.S. Air Force.

Sergeant Willie Frank Stephenson, U.S. Army.

Master Sergeant Patrick Ervin, U.S. Air Force.

Captain Ean Sullivan, U.S. Marine Corps.

Sergeant Ayman Hatkwa, U.S. Army. Colonel Dick Thompson, Jr., U.S. Air Force.

Sergeant Paul David Hoch, U.S. Army.

Chief Petty Officer Michael Thompson, Jr., U.S. Navy.