

I extend my sincere appreciation to the town commission, along with Town Manager Lawrence and Police Chief Hunt, for their leadership in making this milestone possible. My thanks also go to every department, volunteer, and community partner who helped make that celebration unforgettable.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to represent the residents of Lady Lake in Congress. Here is to another 100 years of community connection and tradition.

#### RECOGNIZING CITY OF FLAGLER BEACH

Mr. FINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Flagler Beach, which celebrated its 100th anniversary this year, marking a century since its official incorporation. Though it would not become an official city until 1963, Flagler Beach's history stretches back even further, when it was originally known as the town of Ocean City.

The iconic Flagler Beach Pier quickly became a gathering place for residents and visitors alike, and the existing A-frame carrying the city's name remains a treasured piece of that early history. My office will continue working with FEMA and our State, county, and local partners to assist with the pier's restoration, ensuring this landmark endures for future generations.

Flagler Beach has always been defined by its close-knit community, small businesses, and the enduring spirit that makes this city truly unique. I extend my sincere thanks to the Flagler Beach City Commission and the staff for their leadership and dedication in preserving this community and its heritage.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to represent the people of Flagler Beach in Congress. Here is to 100 more years of community, resilience, and a bright future for this coastal gem.

#### RECOGNIZING LAKE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT DIANE KORNEGAY

Mr. FINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Diane Kornegay for her selection as Florida's 2026 Superintendent of the Year.

Ms. Kornegay is a seasoned educator with more than 35 years of experience. Under her tutelage, Lake County Schools have made significant strides in academic performance, achieving an A grade from the Florida Department of Education in 2025 for the first time since 2008, which is no easy task.

Since the beginning of her tenure, Lake County Schools have also seen notable increases in proficiency, including 15 percentage points in algebra 1 and 7 percentage points in English language arts for grades 9 and 10.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Kornegay is committed to serving her community and ensuring academic excellence for her students. Lake County is fortunate to have such an excellent servant, and I am honored to congratulate her on receiving this award.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JULIUS "JULES" KWIATKOWSKI

Mr. FINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Commissioner Ju-

lius "Jules" Kwiatkowski, a faithful public servant who served as commissioner of the East Flagler County Mosquito Control District for 17 years.

We have a lot of mosquitoes in Florida. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Kwiatkowski helped guide the district through major accomplishments, including the expansion of mosquito control services to meet the needs of a growing community. His service to the community was so exemplary that he was honored with the unveiling of the "Jules the Turtle" statue to celebrate his enduring community spirit.

Even before his election as commissioner, Mr. Kwiatkowski was a dedicated community servant. Upon moving to Florida, he volunteered with Palm Coast Fire and Police and served during the 1998 Flagler County wildfires.

Beyond his service, Jules was a dedicated husband and father. Flagler County was incredibly fortunate to have such an excellent man serve the community. May his memory be a blessing.

#### RECOGNIZING VOLUSIA COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT CARMEN BALGOBIN

Mr. FINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Superintendent Carmen Balgobin of Volusia County Schools for her selection as 2025 Superintendent of the Year by the National Association of School Superintendents.

Superintendent Balgobin's leadership of Volusia County Schools has been transformative. Under her watch, the district received its first A rating in 16 years from the Florida Department of Education, achieved a 93.7 graduation rate, and eliminated all D-rated schools in the county. Her innovative approach of focusing on college and career technical pathways programs, which specify teaching students practical skills for their next steps, has paid dividends for the education of all Volusia County students.

Mr. Speaker, Superintendent Balgobin is committed to serving her community and ensuring academic excellence for her students. Volusia County is fortunate to have such an excellent servant, and I am honored to congratulate her on receiving this award.

#### CELEBRATING LEE COUNTY, IOWA

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a major milestone for Lee County in my district. With a critical \$2.1 million grant in community project funding, the Meller Family Health Center and Lee County EMS facility became a reality and officially opened. I am proud to have secured these funds for the EMS bay improvement project, but also for the Lee County Public Health Department, which has its first independent base of operations in more than three decades

and will save on rental income for the county.

This new health center and EMS facility will strengthen our public health infrastructure and improve emergency response for families across the region. This project has long been important to both the community and to me, and I am grateful to support investments that restore, maintain, and enhance essential public health services, enhance emergency response capabilities, and help Lee County continue to grow.

Mr. Speaker, the opening of the Meller Family Health Center marks a new chapter of progress and preparedness for our community.

#### RECOGNIZING EASTON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Easton Valley High School team for earning first place at the 2025 Clinton Community College Academic Quiz Bowl. The team, led by Coach Jenny Knutsen, included Captain Tyson Tubbs, Lucas Kunde, Tyler Kunde, and Nizhonia Schmidt.

Each year, high school teams compete by answering questions across a wide range of subjects, including math, history, science, language, literature, government, music, arts, sports, and current events, sort of like Trivial Pursuit.

Clinton Community College awards a trophy to the winning school, and the Sharar Foundation further supports these students with a \$1,200 scholarship for graduates who choose to attend Clinton Community College.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Easton Valley team on their dedication, hard work, and commitment to learning. They have made their school and community incredibly proud.

#### CONGRATULATING EXECUTIVE CHEF TESSA CARDOZA

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tessa Cardoza on her impressive victory in the Iowa Restaurant Association culinary competition.

Ms. Cardoza, the executive chef at Maxwell's On the River in Muscatine, Iowa, is known for her exceptional culinary skill and creativity. In collaboration with the Iowa Beef Industry Council, Choose Iowa, and Lola's Fine Hot Sauce, another entrepreneurial product made in Iowa, she crafted an outstanding entree featuring a locally sourced beef tri-tip roast that truly impressed the judges.

Chef Cardoza plans to return to the competition next year as the defending champion, ready to showcase her talents once again. Her determination, passion, creativity, and expertise reflect a lifelong commitment to fulfilling her childhood dream of becoming a chef.

Iowa is fortunate to have such a talented and inspiring individual who turns the incredible ingredients produced in our State into award-winning dishes. I am going to have to make another trip to Maxwell's On the River.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Tessa Cardoza on her achievement that

makes Muscatine and all of Iowa proud.

# RECOGNIZING RICHARD NIXON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

(Mrs. KIM of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, in just a short time, our Nation will celebrate America's 250th birthday. This is a moment to reflect on how far we have come as a nation and the shared ideals that have carried us through challenge and triumph.

America 250 is not simply a milestone on the calendar. It is a call to remember the innovation, perseverance, and sacrifice that have shaped our Nation, and to keep fighting for the American Dream that has stewarded freedom for generations of Americans.

I rise today to recognize the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda for helping lead this nationwide commemoration. Its new exhibit, "America 250: A More Perfect Union," invites visitors to walk through the defining chapters of our shared history, not as distant events, but as living lessons about who we are and who we aspire to be.

The Nixon Library has long been a cultural and educational cornerstone in California's 40th Congressional District, enriching our community through its commitment to historical stewardship and civic education. As America prepares for this anniversary, the Nixon Library is once again stepping up to inspire reflection, unity, and renewed purpose.

Today, I encourage Americans of all ages to take a moment to engage with our history, to remember the courage of those who came before us, and to ensure the spirit of 1776 continues to guide our path forward.

## SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH ALOPECIA AREATA

Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the millions of Americans, including many in my district, who live with alopecia areata. It is an autoimmune disease that causes hair loss and often comes with significant emotional and mental health challenges.

Alopecia affects people of every age and background, and for many, the journey can feel isolating or misunderstood. No one should face this condition alone. Raising awareness helps ensure that patients and families receive the understanding, compassion, and support they deserve.

Today, I recognize the strength of those living with alopecia and the loved ones who stand beside them. Their resilience reminds us of the importance of community and the need to continue fostering empathy and inclusion for all who are navigating visible and invisible health challenges.

## SUPPORT FOR RURAL SCHOOLS

(Mr. BAUMGARTNER of Washington was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 356, the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2025, which will be considered under suspension of the rules this week. I urge its swift passage so it can be sent to the President's desk without delay.

For generations, the Secure Rural Schools program has been a lifeline for rural communities and school districts across America. Since 1908, Federal law has required the U.S. Forest Service to share 25 percent of revenues from Federal forest lands with local governments to support public education.

As timber revenues declined due to foolish Federal regulations and reduced harvests, Congress acted in 2000 to create the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, preserving vital funding for most rural counties. When last reauthorized in 2023, this program delivered more than \$281 million nationwide to help keep teachers in classrooms and students on the bus.

I represent rural counties like Pend Oreille, Stevens, Ferry, and Columbia Counties, where school leaders tell me how essential these funds are to keeping programs running.

This is not a partisan issue. It is a promise to rural America. Let's reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2025 and keep faith with the communities that steward our national forests.

## RECOGNIZING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP IN OUR FORESTS

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the timber industry and the harvest of trees in our forests.

When I was growing up, my father was a forestry professor at Washington State University and my uncle was a smokejumper. I served in the U.S. Forest Service.

Years of fear and hesitation around commonsense tools like select timber harvest and controlled burns have left many of our forests dangerously overgrown and chronically undermanaged. We need to harvest more timber for the economic revenue it produces and for the reduced fire danger it creates.

Good environmental stewardship means empowering these professionals to be part of the solution and to help manage our Federal forest lands responsibly for today and generations to come.

□ 1245

## GRAY WOLF POPULATION REDUCTION IN WASHINGTON STATE

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, with gray wolf populations reaching over 400 in Washington State and Oregon, I rise today to warn of the danger they continue to pose for hunters, farmers, and livestock.

Gray wolves can consume up to 7 pounds of meat a day. Their primary

food sources include deer, elk, and cattle. In August 2025 alone, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife reported that three calves were killed and two injured in just one 30-day period.

Folks in our region know why our grandparents worked so hard to control the gray wolf population. They understood that balance must be kept between wildlife preservation and the livelihoods of those who live and work the land.

With a significant number of these wolf packs now concentrated in northeastern Washington and with no signs of their growth slowing, Congress should take careful note of our ranchers' perspective. Their continued loss, emotional toll, and frustration caused by inconsistent State and Federal protections demand attention and action. A one-sided policy of unchecked expansion is not the answer.

Gray wolf populations have recovered. Now it is time to ask whether our current path reflects balance, fairness, and common sense for rural America. As everyone in rural America knows, particularly in Washington State, if there were wolves in Bainbridge Island or in the suburbs of Seattle, the wolf population in Washington State would be a little different.

Mr. Speaker, we need to bring common sense and balance back and reduce our wolf population in northeastern Washington.

## CHASING BAD CARBON POLICIES

(Mr. LAMALFA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, lately we see a lot of the usage of the word "affordability" around Washington. We hear it on both sides of the aisle. Let me say that Republicans were about affordability before affordability was cool.

We see that the cost of everything has been driven by policies that are due to these regulations. Because of the regulatory load that has been put in place by Democrat policies in my home State of California and in Washington, D.C., then it is no surprise we have these very costly regulations for fuel.

We are expecting to see fuel in California go up to \$8 next spring because we are losing two refineries, plus possibly a third one, and a pipeline that goes from north to south and is losing money. There is also another regulation that will be put in place to regulate the fuel on how it is formed to make lower carbon.

That brings me to my next thought.

CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is only this little, tiny wedge right here. It is 0.04 percent. Check it out. In 1970 and 2025, it is the same proportion. It has barely changed from the whole picture of the makeup of the atmosphere. Yet, we are spending trillions and trillions and displacing our economy. We are sending our economy to other places because of this chase over CO<sub>2</sub>.