

enslaved people who lived in the hills of Christiansted and what that heritage meant to each one of us.

Gerville's belief that architecture is a vessel for culture and memory continues to guide us. His mark is visible through the Virgin Islands but particularly on St. Croix, in the buildings he restored, the spaces he reimagined, and the lives he touched. I am grateful that my own son, Christian, was able as a young architecture major to have interned and been mentored by Gerville.

My heartfelt condolences go out to his family, especially his mom, his friends, and his colleagues. May his memory live forever. May his legacy inspire us to continue building with purpose, pride, and love for our Virgin Islands.

Mr. Speaker, he will be deeply missed by his circle of friends, family, and the entire Virgin Islands community. We are thankful for his lifelong contributions to preserving the character and soul of our home.

CELEBRATING SUPPORT FOR RURAL AREAS

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

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the final passage of S. 356, the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2025, which will now be sent to the President's desk.

This much-needed legislation was one of my priorities in coming to Congress. It will give our rural areas the support they need for their schools, and it brings much-needed certainty to rural communities and school districts that have depended on this program for generations.

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

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

I represent rural areas like the counties of Pend Oreille, Stevens, Ferry, and Columbia, where school leaders tell me how essential these funds are to keep programs running. With this reauthorization, those communities finally have the stability they need to plan for the future.

This is not a partisan issue. It is a promise to rural America. By reauthorizing Secure Rural Schools and sending this bill to the President's desk, we are

keeping faith with the communities that steward our national forests.

HONORING AMBASSADOR ASIF CHAUDHRY

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate one of the bright lights of eastern Washington. In my view, eastern Washington is truly the home of the American Dream. From the mountains of the Colville region to the rolling hills of the Palouse, our region embodies the values of opportunity, hard work, and perseverance that define America at its best.

This week's shining example of that spirit is my friend, Ambassador Asif Chaudhry. Born in Pakistan, U.S. Ambassador Asif Chaudhry earned his bachelor's degree there, followed by a master's degree from the American University of Beirut. We might say this is a unique and perhaps unusual path for an American Ambassador, but it represents what is possible with the American Dream.

After leaving the Middle East, like so many who have come to our Nation in search of a better future, he found his way to Pullman, Washington, and to Washington State University where he pursued his Ph.D.

From a small college town in eastern Washington, and then marrying into a local farm family, he decided to enter the U.S. Foreign Service after receiving his citizenship. He went on to serve our Nation with distinction in postings around the world including Cairo, Poland, and Russia. He later served as the United States Deputy Administrator to the Foreign Agricultural Service and rose to become the United States Ambassador to Moldova, dealing with complex issues in the former Soviet Union.

Throughout his career, he held key positions that advanced America's interests abroad with integrity and purpose in service of America's national security. When his diplomatic service abroad concluded, he returned home to Pullman, where he served as vice president of International Programs at Washington State University, preparing the next generation of global leaders and strengthening the bridge between our local communities and the world.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Chaudhry's life is a powerful testament to what the American Dream is all about. No matter where we begin, with hard work, dedication, love of the United States of America, and a commitment to the values of the United States of America, we can achieve extraordinary things.

His story reminds us the American Dream is not a relic of the past. It is alive and thriving in eastern Washington. We thank Ambassador Chaudhry for being a role model to all of us who believe America remains a land of limitless possibility.

GIVING FULL RECOGNITION TO THE LUMBEE TRIBE

(Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, for decades, the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina has sought full recognition, a goal has that has eluded them despite their profound contributions to our State and Nation.

With nearly 60,000 members, the Lumbee people form a vital part of my district and the fabric of North Carolina.

One of the first bills I co-led in Congress, the Lumbee Fairness Act—now included in the National Defense Authorization Act—is on the verge of passage, bringing us closer than ever to delivering justice.

I am deeply grateful to President Trump for his steadfast support of the Lumbee Tribe, from his campaign promises to his actions in Congress and collaborating across both Chambers to secure the full recognition and benefits the Lumbee rightfully deserve.

Mr. Speaker, let us vote "yes" today and finally end this long fight, affirming the recognition they have earned and so richly merit.

ILLEGAL ALIENS FLOCK TO NORTH CAROLINA

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it seems illegal aliens have flocked to North Carolina because they know sanctuary politicians will protect them and allow them to roam free on American streets. In fact, there are reports that over 100,000 illegal aliens are in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, alone. Just last week, one of these illegals drew national headlines.

Oscar Solorzano is a twice-deported Honduran, illegal alien with a lengthy rap sheet. This past Friday, he stabbed a 24-year-old man in the chest on a Charlotte light rail, the very same transit light rail where Iryna Zarutskaya was murdered.

What was Charlotte's response? The Democrat-run city council rubber-stamped \$3 million to "enhance the perception" of public safety for the light rail. Did they actually do anything to make it safer? Of course not. There are now two victims of the Charlotte Blue Line rail, and what they have in common is the Charlotte pro-crime Democrats have failed them.

Iryna Zarutskaya was killed by a 14-time repeat offender. Kenyon Dobie, the Good Samaritan who stood in the gap, was stabbed this past Friday with life-threatening injuries by a twice-deported illegal alien.

There is a crime wave happening in Charlotte with a full laundry list of crimes occurring each day. Since Charlotte Democrats won't do anything, it is time to intervene. It is time to do what we requested of our Governor several weeks ago: Send in the National Guard.

□ 1100

BIG INSURANCE IS SWIMMING IN MONEY

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, big insurance is swimming in money, swimming in your taxpayer dollars, and swimming in the money that is supposed to be helping patients. ObamaCare is a broken system that

has allowed insurance companies to rip off the American taxpayers and simply drive up costs.

If Congress wants to talk healthcare, then let's talk, but we must let these COVID-era subsidies expire first. Biden's COVID credits are a pandemic policy that has done nothing to lower insurance costs. Premiums are rising because ObamaCare has failed to keep its promise of making healthcare affordable.

Not only are Biden's COVID credits failing to keep costs down and paid straight to insurance companies, but they will also cost taxpayers over \$400 billion in the next decade.

Mr. Speaker, with a country facing \$39 trillion in debt, this is, again, a reason to let these COVID subsidies expire. However, letting Biden-era COVID subsidies expire is just a drop in the bucket when it comes to broader reform.

ObamaCare was recently exposed for rubber-stamping 96 percent of fake applications, all paid with our tax dollars going down the drain. When taxpayers pay and insurers profit, that is not healthcare. That is a hustle. It is time to find a real solution. Let's begin by letting the Biden COVID-era subsidies expire.

HONORING MRS. ROWE'S RESTAURANT AND BAKERY

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a cherished institution in our community, Mrs. Rowe's restaurant and bakery in Staunton, Virginia, and to express our deep gratitude for the decades of service it has given the Shenandoah Valley.

Founded in 1947 by Willard and Mildred Rowe, affectionately known as The Pie Lady, the restaurant quickly became a local treasure. Using her own family recipes, Mrs. Rowe built a reputation for warm hospitality, home-cooked meals, and fresh-baked pies that generations of Virginians and travelers alike came to love.

That legacy was carried forward with equal devotion by her son, Mike DeGrassie; his wife, Mary Lou; and her grandson, Aaron DeGrassie. For three generations, the family kept alive the values and traditions that made Mrs. Rowe's a landmark.

We were saddened to learn that Mrs. Rowe's restaurant and bakery will close its doors at the end of December. While we will certainly miss the meals, the desserts, and the familiar warmth of a place where so many gathered, today we also celebrate what this restaurant has meant to the valley and to all who passed through its doors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Rowe's restaurant and bakery. Nearly 80 years of hard work, family tradition and community spirit have left an enduring mark on Virginia's Sixth District, one that will not be forgotten.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. JIM DAVIS

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. James A. "Jim" Davis, a visionary leader, devoted educator, and beloved husband, father, and friend.

Jim served as President of Shenandoah University in Winchester for 26 years, transforming it from a small college into a vibrant, world-class university. His vision, faith, and integrity touched the lives of countless students, faculty, and community members. Under his guidance, Shenandoah grew in size, stature, and spirit. He built not only new buildings and programs, but also a belief that education could change lives and strengthen communities.

Beyond his remarkable career, Jim's greatest legacy was his family. He is lovingly remembered by his wife, Janet, and their children, Barclay, Andrew, and Stephanie Davis Landes, whose love and support grounded his life of service.

Jim Davis taught us that faith, vision, and compassion can shape institutions and hearts alike. Today we honor not just what he built, but who he was, a man whose kindness and commitment will forever be part of Shenandoah University, Shenandoah Valley, and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

CONGRATULATING THE GLENVAR HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION CHEER TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Glenvar High School Highlanders Competition Cheer Team which made school history by securing its first-ever VHSL State championship. The Highlanders delivered an outstanding performance, earning 241.25 points to finish ahead of Graham High School, securing their place at the top.

This achievement followed their combined region 1C/D and 2C/D championships, capping an extraordinary season. Head Coach Sarah Hatfield, along with Assistant Coaches Desirae Bowles and Alex Powell, praised the team's determination, perseverance, and grit, qualities that pushed them beyond their comfort zones and brought the championship home.

The title-winning athletes are seniors Kayelynn Dickson, Morgan Gaines, Carter Graffeo, and Addison Snead; junior Elle Graffeo; sophomore Taylor Goldfield; and freshmen Audree Frantz, Jillian Roberts, Claire Shrewsbury, and Abby Woods. Special congratulations to Addison Snead, the Combined Region Cheer Athlete of the Year, and to Coach Hatfield, named the Combined Region Coach of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the Glenvar Highlanders Competition Cheer Team on this historic and inspiring accomplishment.

REPUBLICANS ENSURING ENERGY RELIABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, electricity demand in the United States is growing rapidly and is at risk of exceeding what we can supply. The growth of AI data

centers across the country and the shift to electric vehicles and appliances all mean our country needs far more reliable power. The challenge is that while more power is needed, dependable baseload plants that keep the grid steady have decreased. Environmental regulations under the Biden-Harris administration have contributed to the early retirement of some coal, natural gas, and nuclear plants.

In many States controlled by Democrats, plants have been closed and a shift to wind and solar has decreased the integrity of the supply. A recent Department of Energy report indicated that rising demand and reductions in baseload generation may increase the risk of widespread power outages by 2030, even in our Commonwealth of Virginia.

When the grid becomes less reliable, families pay the price. Higher costs hit working households the hardest, and many are already struggling with rising electricity bills. Reliable and affordable energy is not a luxury. It is something every American needs and deserves.

This week, House Republicans are advancing the State Planning for Reliability and Affordability Act, ensuring that States include always-available power in long-term planning. This idea puts families first by keeping electricity affordable and the grid strong.

OBAMACARE ISN'T WORKING

(Mr. JAMES of Michigan was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise for the families in my district and across America who are getting crushed by medical bills they never saw coming. Enough is enough. It is time we put patients back in charge of their own healthcare.

Let me tell you what is happening out there, Mr. Speaker. The average family health insurance premium now tops \$24,000 a year. That is more than a lot of folks pay in their mortgage or rent. That is insane.

Barack Obama stood right here in this Chamber and promised us affordable care. He said that if we like our doctor, we can keep him; and if we like our plan, we can keep it.

That was determined to be the biggest lie of 2012.

What we got instead was the most expensive healthcare system on the Earth with hospitals and insurance companies cashing in while working families foot the bill.

In the last 25 years, medical costs have gone up over 121 percent, and since ObamaCare passed, healthcare spending has exploded another 60-plus percent. Even BERNIE SANDERS admits that the status quo isn't working.

Just last week Kelly from St. Clair Shores called my office. Her family of four is staring at a \$40,000 bill because of a medical emergency under the so-called Affordable Care Act. Eileen in