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No. 28

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CLOUD).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
February 10, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL CLOUD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE THOMPSON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2026, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### HONORING CAROLYN GRIFFIN

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, today we honor a woman whose commitment to service has shaped Winchester for more than six decades. Carolyn Griffin began her community service 60 years ago with the Winchester Medical Center Auxiliary and has since become one of its most respected and enduring volunteers. From being a long-time participant in the hospital's Follies to comforting children and reading to visually-impaired patients, her compassion has touched countless lives.

As chairwoman of the Animal Assistive Therapy program, Carolyn leads more than two dozen dog handler teams who bring healing and joy to patients throughout the hospital. While one extraordinary year produced nearly 12,000 volunteer hours, the program typically provides two to three thousand hours of therapeutic support each year.

Her service reaches far beyond the hospital. Carolyn devoted 22 years to Winchester City Council, guiding the city with wisdom and heart. Her 60 years with the Apple Blossom Festival included serving 2 years as festival president, and she was honored with the Salvation Army's Certificate of Life Membership for five decades of service.

A small business owner, knitter, and active community member, Carolyn Griffin has made Winchester stronger, kinder, and better for all.

### HONORING MARK INGERSON

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mark Ingerson on his selection to the Virginia High School League Hall of Fame. This well-deserved honor reflects an exceptional career and a lasting impact on students at Salem High School and across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

During his 23 years as head coach of Salem High School's speech—formerly forensics—and debate teams, Mr. Ingerson built one of the most successful programs in VHSL history. His teams captured an astonishing 20 VHSL State championships, including a record 19 consecutive State titles in speech, an extraordinary achievement marked by sustained excellence and leadership.

He coached 103 speech State champions, 59 runners-up, and 5 individual debate State champions. Beyond competition, he expanded opportunities statewide through the founding of the Southwest Virginia Forensics League, service on VHSL advisory committees,

and the hosting of numerous tournaments. His two-time recognition as the National Federation of State High School Associations' Outstanding Speech and Debate Educator of the Year underscores his national impact.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mark Ingerson on his induction into the VHSL Hall of Fame, a career defined by excellence and a lasting commitment to empowering student voices.

### CONGRATULATING JAMES WOOD HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the James Wood High School Girls' Volleyball Team on their fourth consecutive VHSL State title and on finishing an incredible 30-2 season. This championship is especially meaningful for remarkable seniors—Kennedy Spaid and Brenna Corbin—who will graduate having won four State titles in four varsity seasons and had standout performances. Claire Keefer will graduate with three championships and anchored the team with key blocks and aces.

We also honor Head Coach Adrienne Patrick who closes her sixth and final season with yet another championship. From the relentless play of teammates Kylee Plumb, Kennedy Bower, Kylie Putt, Reese Justice, Bella Middleton, Kyla Wilhelm, Kyleigh Bly, and Macie Hewitt to the late surges and unstoppable teamwork, this group showed what it means to refuse to quit.

Today we honor not just a title but a legacy. James Wood became the first team in Frederick County history to win four straight State championships, a testament to tradition, excellence, and family these girls have built together.

Congratulations to the Colonels. They have made history and have done it with heart.

### CONGRATULATING THE GLENVAR HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Glenvar High School

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Boys' Cross Country Team on winning their first VHSL Class 2 State championship in program history on November 8, 2025, at Green Hill Park in Salem, Virginia, not far from their home campus.

Led by seniors Tyler Davis and Aldin Smith, the Highlanders delivered an outstanding performance, finishing with 80 points and edging out Clarke County and Stonewall Jackson High Schools. Tyler Davis earned All-State honors, while Aldin Smith also captured a Region 2C championship earlier this season.

The championship team includes seniors Tyler Davis and Aldin Smith; juniors Evan Harris, Asher Faught, Casey Weeks, Colin Graffeo, and Daniel Tozier; sophomores Jackson Wimmer and Cash Malcolm; and freshman Zach Davis.

This historic season was guided by first-year Head Coach James Osborne and Coach Rachel Millirons. I congratulate these student-athletes, their coaches, and the entire Glenvar community on an outstanding achievement.

#### RECOGNIZING DERRICK THOMPSON

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a milestone in the life of Derrick Thompson, city council president of the city of Mount Vernon on his 50th birthday celebrated this week. He will be doing the celebrating on Saturday night of his journey so far. He is a graduate of the Mount Vernon Public School System and now a professional in education in that very same school system. Twice-elected to the Mount Vernon City Council, he is serving for the second time as its presiding officer.

Happy Birthday to Derrick. There is much more ahead for him and the people he serves. We salute Derrick from the floor of the House of Representatives.

#### SALUTING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITE PLAINS

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, the city of White Plains, Westchester County's seat of government, is a dynamic city of over 60,000 people, with major corporations headquartered there, such as Heineken USA, Atlas Air, and Danone North America; a shopping mecca with major regional businesses; as well as small businesses and large national stores such as Neiman Marcus, Bloomingdale's, and Nordstrom's. There is a vibrant community with restaurants, entertainment, and more.

There is also a vibrant network of neighborhoods that link the residents of the community: Battle Hill, Fisher Hill, Gedney Farms, Rosedale, Reynal Park, Highlands, North Street, Carhartt, Gedney Meadows, and more. They are linked by an organization that is the envy of other communities in Westchester: the White Plains Council of Neighborhood Associations. The group meets monthly to discuss the

concerns of each of the diverse neighborhoods, and they meet with local elected officials to address the issues that arise. They link together for the active and festive elements of community life, and it reaches into the larger whole.

Let me salute the current leaders of the association: President Michael Dalton, Vice President Sharon Woodford, Treasurer Tom Osbeck, and Secretary Michael Sanchez, along with many other active local association presidents.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, we salute their community-minded activism.

#### RECOGNIZING TAJIAN NELSON

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I want to salute and recognize Ms. Tajian Nelson, who is Westchester's first African-American female commissioner of the County Board of Elections as she celebrate her 50th birthday this week. Tajian has been long active in government and the public arena in various leadership positions, and at her tender age she has many more years of advancement and achievement in success ahead of her.

Congratulations to Tajian. We are all part of her fan club right here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

#### RECOGNIZING JOE SCHUMACHER

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joe Schumacher for his 25 years of dedicated service to the great folks in Virginia's First Congressional District and to our Nation.

Joe first served as chief of staff and district director for my predecessor, Jo Ann Davis. He started with her in 2001 and then in 2007 came over and worked as a district director in our office.

Joe has been incredible, a great leader, a great servant leader. He is connected in every way, shape, or form to the district, to the folks that either knock on the door or call him on the telephone. In fact, he is proactive. He gets out there and interacts with folks to understand what is needed in our community. He also is making sure that we are a one-stop shop. Anything that comes in our office, we are going to help somebody. Even if it doesn't involve a Federal agency or there is a Federal nexus, Joe is going to make sure that we help those folks.

His pride in the First Congressional District extends to everything that he does, and it is that caring about people and about issues important to the district that really make a difference. He is very energetic, and his commitment to bettering the lives of Virginians and the folks in the First District is unparalleled.

I am deeply grateful to Joe for his years of service, his expertise, and his countless number of hours that he has spent—many, many hours of overtime out there working on behalf of the great folks in the First Congressional District.

He has had a profound impact not only on the district but on my work. I look to him to make sure we understand what needs to happen, and he is there to help motivate me to get those things done.

He is truly one of the finest leaders that I know, and I deeply appreciate his dedication to the great folks in the First District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing Joe Schumacher for his 25 years of service to Virginia's First Congressional District and to our Nation.

#### FUNDING COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I will speak briefly about community project funding. Through fiscal year 2026, the appropriations process, I was able to advocate and secure 20 million taxpayer dollars, money to come back to the First Congressional District. This is about making sure we do our job here and making sure those districts get the dollars that our constituents pay into the Federal system, making sure some of those dollars come back. I am proud to deliver results that matter to Chesterfield County, Matthews County, Bethel Manor Elementary School, the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority, the city of Williamsburg, Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and Colonial Behavioral Mental Health.

It is not just abstract investments. These are projects that have an impact on communities. Things like Collier Behavioral Health, where they are actually going to increase access, starting with primary care and enhancing behavioral and mental health services.

We are going to do things like protecting drinking water there in the city of Williamsburg, supporting working waterfronts to make sure our economy continues to grow with industries that rely on having access to these creeks. That means dredging the creeks to keep them open for boating traffic. We talked about the importance of access to mental health services but comprehensive healthcare, and investing in major infrastructure projects. These things have massive impacts on communities and are leveraged in many ways to as much as ten or twentyfold over the Federal dollars that come to these localities.

Community project funding, again, does the things that we are intended to do here in Congress, and that is bring back the dollars that our taxpayers pay to the Federal Government, bring them back to communities in ways that matter the most. Members of Congress that are elected to serve those people are the best judgment pieces or places where those decisions are made. It is our job to make sure we advocate for those projects.

I am proud to work on behalf of the Commonwealth to secure \$20 million that come back to these critical