

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

projects there in the First Congressional District and will make a difference, a tangible, meaningful difference, a visual difference in what happens in the quality of lives of folks in the First Congressional District. It allows us, too, to make sure that we do the most basic job here and our constitutional duty of making sure that we appropriate in ways that advance the interest and improve the quality of life in our communities.

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HONORING ELANA MEYERS
TAYLOR

(Mrs. MCBATH of Georgia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, as we continue our celebration of Black History Month, I rise to recognize a Georgia trailblazer, Elana Meyers Taylor, a member of Team USA Bobsled. Elana is a mother of two and the only athlete from Georgia competing at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games in Milan.

Born and raised in Douglasville, Georgia, Elana attended George Washington University on a softball scholarship. She began bobsledding in 2007 and is competing in her fifth Olympic Games for Team USA. She has won five medals, making her the most decorated Black Winter Olympian in history.

Elana has won nine World Championship medals and four USA Bobsled and Skeleton Women's Athlete of the Year awards. She has also served as the president of the Women's Sports Foundation, giving a voice to women around the globe.

Elana's community is so proud of how she represents us on the world stage. On behalf of Georgia's Sixth Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives, we wish Elana all the best at the Olympics in Milan.

MANY CHANGES SINCE FOUNDING OF CBC

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, during Black History Month, a time of celebration and honoring of our ancestors, we cannot ignore the challenges we face as a nation.

As the daughter of civil rights trailblazers, I take pride in serving as a leader within the Congressional Black Caucus. I know we must move forward with faith that our Nation's best days remain in front of us, if we continue to lead by example.

I may have been just a child when the Congressional Black Caucus was formed, but its very founding embodied the spirit of what our dear friend, John Lewis, called "good trouble."

Following President Nixon's refusal to meet with the 13 founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus, our founders made national headlines when they decided to boycott his 1971 State of the Union Address. Their efforts secured an audience with the President, where they went on to present 61 policy recommendations. They sought this

meeting "out of a deep conviction that large numbers of citizens are being subjected to intense hardship, are denied their basic rights, and are suffering irreparable harm as a result of current policies."

It is striking to me to read these words because, out of context, one might believe that these are words to describe the way so many of the American people feel about this moment, about this Congress, about this President.

It is true that America has made remarkable progress since the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, but I wonder who among the original 13 members of the Congressional Black Caucus would have dared to imagine that less than 40 years after their founding that one of the CBC's members would be elected to the highest office in the land.

Yes, the world has changed for Black people in America. Despite our gains, we are still grappling with a backlash to that progress. We see it in obvious ways, like the hate and racism that spreads through social media posts. However, even more concerning is the way in which Federal policies exacerbate years of discriminatory practices against communities of color.

We see it in housing discrimination, healthcare disparities, and wage gaps. We see it when the extraordinary service of the Tuskegee Airmen is scrubbed from the Department of Defense websites in an effort to erase their service to our Nation. We also see it when the very teachings of Black history in our Smithsonian Institution are threatened by executive order.

Just as the Congressional Black Caucus of 1971 did, the Congressional Black Caucus of 2026 refuses to stand by in the face of these efforts to undermine the impact and the importance of Black men and women, and we stand against extremists that would rather erase our history than address our needs.

President Barack Obama said it best: "On the challenges of our times . . . on the threats of our time . . . members of the CBC have been leaders moving America forward."

Yes, we have. Yes, we will continue to do so.

DELIVERING FOR IOWA

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to share that over \$24 million in Community Project Funding is now coming home to southeast Iowa, funding that has been signed into law and will soon begin making a real difference on the ground.

This didn't happen overnight. It came after months of meetings with local leaders, carefully reviewing community priorities, submitting formal requests, and tirelessly advocating for these projects in Washington.

Thanks to that work, we are delivering \$6 million to replace the Cascade Bridge in Burlington, improving traffic safety and connectivity in the region, but most importantly, replacing this historic landmark. It is very much a community-desired project. We are paving hazardous schoolbus routes in Jefferson County, upgrading intersections in Coralville, and strengthening key emergency routes in Keokuk County. These are not abstract policies. They are practical, meaningful improvements that directly serve Iowans.

I am deeply grateful to the city and county officials who partnered with me on these efforts. I came to Congress to deliver for Iowa, and I will continue fighting to make sure our communities get the support they have earned.

WASHINGTON COMMUNITY THEATER CELEBRATES
50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Washington Community Theater.

Last week, the Washington Chamber of Commerce marked this milestone with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and Alive After 5 celebration, recognizing five decades of arts, culture, and community collaboration.

Since opening in 1976, the theater has served as a home for community productions and regional events, thriving because of community initiative and generous local support. Led by President Mike Jewell, the anniversary celebration honored the theater's boards and volunteers for their contributions and welcomed Mark Fischer, an experienced arts leader, as the new manager and technical director.

Showcasing local and regional Iowa talent, the Washington Community Theater has become an important part of the community. It is a place where Iowans come together to enjoy theater and put in the hard work behind every production. The Washington Community Theater's strong reputation and lasting legacy reflect the powerful impact the arts have on our communities.

TAX WIN FOR SENIORS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the historic win for Iowan and American seniors. This tax season, Iowa's seniors are finally seeing meaningful relief that reflects a lifetime of hard work.

Thanks to the Working Families Tax Cut Act, seniors now qualify for a \$6,000 Social Security tax deduction, giving them real financial breathing room and long-overdue peace of mind after 4 years of high prices under the Biden administration.

I recently enjoyed spending time in Pella with Iowa seniors and their families, many of whom are thrilled to be saving this tax season and were not aware of this provision. What mattered most was hearing directly how this new deduction will make everyday life better.

For seniors living on fixed incomes, every dollar counts, and this policy puts more of their own money back