

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.

□ 1015

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

where it belongs. Many seniors will be impacted by ending the double taxation of Social Security. These deductions to their Social Security taxation will benefit 88 percent of seniors.

Under the Working Families Tax Cut Act, seniors age 65 and older can now claim a \$6,000 individual deduction, while married couples filing jointly can claim \$12,000, significantly reducing and for most seniors effectively eliminating Federal taxes on Social Security benefits.

After a lifetime of contributing to our communities and our country, seniors deserve real peace of mind, and this deduction helps deliver exactly that.

**CELEBRATING AMERICA'S INDEPENDENCE
AT LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY**

(Ms. PELOSI of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, as this year unfolds, the year of the 250th anniversary of our great country and the signing of the Declaration of Independence, I had the privilege yesterday of speaking at Loyola Marymount University in California to start, from our standpoint and theirs, this celebration. It was such a joy to behold the enthusiasm of the young students for our country, its heritage, and its founding.

President Thomas Poon welcomed me there. I met with the administration as well as the teachers, but of course, all of us were there to celebrate the students and their enthusiasm about how they wanted to take the lead as we go forward, recognizing that so many of our Founders were very young people. Lafayette—not an American, but a Frenchman—was 19 years old when he first started helping in our revolution.

I bring this to the attention of my colleagues because this is something that is not just about the 250th anniversary and the vision that our Founders had for this great country. It was the first time in the history of the world that a country was founded on the equality of people, and again making pursuit of happiness part of that Declaration.

We have a Constitution that was so wise, it recognized that we couldn't do it all there, so it was made amendable. In the history of our country, over time, freedom became even more broadly enjoyed, whether it was the abolition of slavery, the voting rights for Black men, women having the right to vote, and then, of course, Roe v. Wade and marriage equality and the rest. For the first time, though, we acknowledge that now our freedoms are being limited, and that is part of the discussion that we have to have now.

It was a glorious occasion. I was saying to the students that there is nobody in the history of the world like them. They need to know the power they hold, and they should be ready, know why they would want to be in-

involved in politics, in government, and the rest, because we really need them to be there. However, they should also appreciate the education they have at this Jesuit institution which is there for the glory of God as its value system. It is not just about the education, but about the values that are being conveyed and exchanged, listening to the students, learning from them, those that we strive to teach and mentor, but also hearing what they have to say.

I am grateful to them for giving me the opportunity to have this as one of my first events to observe publicly the anniversary of our Declaration of Independence and everything that flowed from that.

I thank President Poon and I thank the university. It was so impressive to see the enthusiasm that Loyola Marymount University has for our great country.

SUPER BOWL HALFTIME PERFORMANCES

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, on another note, though, the day before—and I call this to the attention of some who may not be aware—as the world knows and acclaims, we had the performance of Bad Bunny at the Super Bowl halftime.

I rise with pride in that because we take pride in the San Francisco Bay Area hosting. Even though we didn't have a team in the game, we had responsibility for hosting. Our mayor of San Francisco said his main responsibility was the weather, and the weather was beautiful. We were so happy to see all the patriotism and the songs that were sung throughout. We had the flag, and the military were present with the planes that flew over, and then the beautiful performance by Bad Bunny. At the end of it, he said: God bless America.

It is interesting to see the reaction to it when people said: Well, he is not American. Yes, he is. He is a Puerto Rican, and he is an American.

I was recalling to friends in 2002, when I was in New Orleans for the game between—at the time it was the St. Louis Rams versus the Patriots. The Patriots won, I think, their first Super Bowl, first in a long time anyway under Tom Brady and Belichick. Anyway, at that one, the half-time performance was Bono and U2. They are Irish. They are not Americans. They are Irish. It was received so beautifully by everyone.

The point I want to make, Mr. Speaker, is that during the performance of U2 and Bono in the stadium in New Orleans, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations was behind him. That spirit existed Sunday in our stadium in the San Francisco Bay Area when Bad Bunny performed. God bless America.

**MARK BURNS INDUCTED INTO
LIVING LEGENDS OF AVIATION**

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Mark Burns, president of Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, on his induction into the 23rd annual Living Legends of Aviation.

Founded in 2003, the Living Legends of Aviation awards recognize individuals who have significantly impacted the aviation industry. This includes entrepreneurs, innovators, industry leaders, astronauts, record setters, pilots turned celebrities, and celebrities who have become pilots.

A Savannah native, Mr. Burns earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Georgia Southern University and began working at Gulfstream Aerospace in 1983. Over the course of more than four decades, he has served in numerous leadership roles across the company, including engineering and customer support.

In July 2025, Mr. Burns was named president of Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, proudly leading the organization since then, contributing significantly to its growth and success.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Burns on his leadership in both the aviation industry and his induction into the Living Legends of Aviation.

□ 1030

**HONORING FORMER UGA PRESIDENT MICHAEL
ADAMS**

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Michael Adams, the former president of the University of Georgia.

Unfortunately, Dr. Adams passed away on January 25 at the age of 77.

From 1977 to 2013, he served as the University of Georgia's 21st president, transforming our State's flagship university into one of the Nation's most prominent public institutions.

Under his visionary leadership, enrollment grew from nearly 30,000 to 35,000 students, Federal research expenditures nearly tripled, and the endowment more than doubled.

Dr. Adams oversaw more than \$1 billion in campus construction and renovation, creating vital facilities for teaching, research, and student life. His success as a university administrator was recognized by more than 50 higher education awards. He deeply believed in the transformative power of higher education, and his stewardship directly strengthened Georgia for generations.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Adams has left an enduring legacy that will forever touch the soul of our beloved State.

**HONORING COLONEL STEPHEN "TRACKER"
THOMAS**

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Stephen "Tracker" Thomas, who is retiring from command of Georgia's Combat Readiness Training Center at Savannah Air National Guard Base.

Since assuming command in 2023, Colonel Thomas has led this premier training hub with unmatched commitment and devotion.