

**FORT THOMAS HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL WINS 1A STATE TITLE**

(Mr. CISCOMANI of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Fort Thomas High School boys' basketball team on winning the 2026 1A State championship.

The Apaches won their first title since 2020 with a score of 77–45 in the championship game. Nearly 10,000 fans were in attendance to cheer on Fort Thomas, making their victory that much sweeter.

Senior Damarae Dosela led the team, scoring 26 points, including three consecutive three-pointers at the end of the third quarter. His performance earned him the championship's MVP vote.

With this victory, the Apaches took home their 13th State title. Coach Matthew Dona, having led the team to this year's championship title, was named the Boys' 1A Conference Coach of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Coach Dona, the whole team, and everyone who made this win possible. Their hard work has made their school and our community very proud. I hope the Apaches enjoy their victory. They earned it. Here is to another successful season and many, many more.

**PIMA HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL WINS 2A STATE TITLE**

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pima High School boys' basketball team on winning the 2026 2A State championship title. The Roughriders took home the State title in a 40–29 victory over North Valley Christian, thanks to an incredible defense.

This victory marks the second State championship title the Roughriders have taken home in the last three seasons, after winning in 2023, as well, and their 12th overall.

Senior Keegan Corona scored 16 points, helping secure the win for Pima. Corona was also named the 2A East Region Offensive Player of the Year.

This victory caps off a 21-year career for Coach Cliff Thompson, with an impressive 475–173 record. This puts Thompson at 17th overall in Arizona history.

I congratulate Coach Cliff Thompson, the whole team, and everyone who made this win possible. Their hard work has made their school and our community very proud.

Roughriders, enjoy your victory. You have earned it. Here is to another successful season and many, many more.

**PALO VERDE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL WINS 3A STATE TITLE**

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Palo Verde High School boys' basketball team on winning the 2026 3A State championship title.

The Titans made school history with this victory, taking home their first basketball State championship in school history. They earned the title with a score of 52–41 against Coolidge High School.

Junior Rashad Ortiz led the team with 19 points and was chosen as MVP for the 3A State tournament.

□ 1030

This amazing win comes after the Titans reached the 3A championship just last year.

Coach Anthony Smith has led the team since 2021, coaching the Titans to a State championship, a State runner-up, and a 96–40 record.

I congratulate Coach Smith, the whole team, and everyone who made this history-making win possible. Your hard work has made your school and our community very proud. May the Titans enjoy their victory. They have earned it.

Here is to another successful season and many, many more.

**CELEBRATING JOHN McDERMOTT DURING NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING MONTH**

(Mrs. RAMIREZ of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, this morning I rise to celebrate a longtime Chicago leader, an organizer for housing justice, my mentor, and a dear friend, John McDermott.

John's legacy fighting for affordable housing is written across our city. From his work as the executive director at the Lakeview Action Coalition to his tenure at the Palenque LSNA, and his work to protect and preserve affordable and public housing at Lathrop Homes, there are few people whose names are as synonymous with housing justice as John's McDermott's.

Because of his mentorship and organizing, the Preserve Lathrop Campaign secured the replacement, rather than the demolition, of 925 public housing units and the preservation of historic buildings.

But John's impact extends beyond any one single campaign. John's mentorship has built housing justice leaders, many of whom serve now as Chicago's public servants today. I count myself among them.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my sincere honor to commend John McDermott for his lifetime of contributions in the fight for housing justice and affordable housing for all.

I congratulate John.

**HONORING FELICIA DAVIS BLAKLEY**

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Felicia Davis Blakley for her service to community, her commitment to women and families, and her fierce leadership.

A self-described girl from the South Side, Felicia has worked at the intersection of public policy and community

equity and inclusion for over three decades. Her notable and impactful career in nonprofit leadership and public service has blazed trails for women and girls across our entire city of Chicago.

Currently serving as the chief executive officer of Primo Center, Chicago's largest provider of services for families experiencing homelessness, Felicia's leadership is empowering families and creating equitable and sustainable communities across the city of Chicago.

As president and CEO of the Chicago Foundation for Women, she completed a historic \$45 million campaign, expanding critical resources for women and their families, and launching the SHEcovery initiative at a moment of profound need in response to COVID.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is truly my privilege to commend Felicia Davis Blakley for her radical authenticity, her unparalleled passion, and inspirational vision which she uses to shape initiatives that address the root causes of instability.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Felicia. Her name and the impact she has made throughout the city of Chicago and Illinois is now permanently entered in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

**RECOGNIZING MAYOR MIKE LEONHARDT**

(Mr. MOORE of Utah was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a man who has been a fixture of northern Utah for decades, who unfortunately passed away recently with a short but hard-fought battle with cancer.

It is hard to think of a man more dedicated to his community than Garden City Mayor Mike Leonhardt.

Mayor Mike spent his life serving his Garden City as a city council member, fire chief, Bear Lake County Search and Rescue volunteer, and most recently as a three-term mayor. When he wasn't serving his community, Mike was often found riding his Harley with his wife, Tami, and enjoying the scenic backdrop of northern Utah.

It has been an honor to serve Garden City alongside Mayor Mike, and I will miss him at the next Raspberry Days.

My heart is with Tami, his 7 children, 24 grandchildren, and the entire Rich County community as we remember and share our fond memories of Mayor Mike.

**CONGRESSIONAL BASKETBALL GAME**

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, on a court just blocks from here, Republicans and Democrats put aside the political divide, laced up our shoes, and went to battle.

The 26th Annual Congressional Basketball Game supports kids in our communities and stands as a reminder of what this place can be at its best.

I will be honest, the Members, a.k.a. the good team, the good guys, took a tough loss, 50–48. Yes, the lobbyists, a.k.a. the bad guys, are already talking

as if they had won a world championship. We will let them have their moment, and it will be brief.

Here is what matters. When we were down, this team didn't quit. Members rallied, a 10-0 run late in the fourth quarter, defense, hustle, and heart, the very opposite of what the opposing team stands for, which mostly consists of overwhelming the refs with their aggressive fouling and other shenanigans down in the paint that leaves many Members of Congress sore for weeks after, as I have experienced.

For a moment, you could feel it, though. We were right there late in that fourth quarter. But why do we do it? Not for bragging rights, not even for the win. We do it for the kids in our community, kids who need support, opportunity, and someone in their corner.

That is the side of Capitol Hill people don't always see, where competition meets compassion. For one night, we come together not as Republicans or Democrats, but as teammates.

I will just say this to team swamp—I mean, team lobbyists—enjoy the win. We will see you next year.

#### HONORING DEPUTY SHERIFF ANTONIO ALEMAN DURING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

(Mr. VASQUEZ of New Mexico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to voice my support for those who keep New Mexico safe.

It is National Police Week, and this week the House is considering a bipartisan resolution to honor law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives in the line of duty.

I strongly support this bipartisan resolution. One of the heroic officers honored in the resolution is Deputy Sheriff Antonio Aleman.

Deputy Sheriff Aleman was tragically killed in an on-duty crash while serving his community on July 8, 2025. He was with the Dona Ana County Sheriff's Office since 2021. He is remembered by his colleagues as a valued member of the department who will be deeply missed. Deputy Sheriff Aleman is survived by his wife and two children.

His service and sacrifice deserves to be honored by this body, along with the courage of all those who wear the badge honorably. That is what National Police Week should be about—honoring our law enforcement officers who have made the sacrifice to keep their neighbors safe and our families safe, listening to the concerns of those currently serving, and taking concrete steps to give them the additional funding and support to ensure that they can come home safe to their families every night.

That is why I have taken the asks that I have gotten from law enforcement in New Mexico and turned it into over \$3 million in direct investments to public safety.

I am also leading bipartisan bills to protect our officers, strengthen officer safety and retention, expand funding for bulletproof vests, and protecting first responders from exposure to dangerous substances such as fentanyl. I am proud that we are able to continue to work across the aisle on these issues.

Our law enforcement officers put on the uniform every day knowing the risks. They miss holidays. They respond to the toughest of calls. They comfort families in crisis, and they run toward danger to keep us safe.

They deserve police stations that are safe and functional, modern technology that helps them respond to crime quickly and safely, training that protects their physical and mental health, and leaders who listen when they tell us what they need.

I promise to keep listening and delivering results for New Mexico's law enforcement community.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

(Ms. JOHNSON of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize National Nurses Week and honor the extraordinary nurses serving North Texas and communities across our country.

Every single day, nurses are there for us in life's most difficult and vulnerable moments. They are the first hand a newborn feels, the calm voice in an emergency room, and a compassionate presence beside patients and families facing uncertainty.

Nurses do far more than provide medical comfort. They advocate for patients, comfort families, educate communities, and hold together a health system that too often asks them to do more with less.

Over the past several years, we have seen nurses carry unimaginable burdens, from staffing shortages to burnout, while continuing to show up for their patients with professionalism and compassion. They deserve more than our gratitude. They deserve safe working conditions, fair pay, mental health support, and investments in our own healthcare workforce.

To every nurse serving in hospitals, clinics, schools, veterans' facilities, nursing homes, and community health centers, I thank you. Congress and your country honor your service, your sacrifice, and your unwavering commitment to caring for others.

#### KEEPING VIOLENT OFFENDERS OFF OUR STREETS

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Republican Keeping Violent Offenders Off Our Streets Act.

Let's be clear about what this bill does. It does not make our communities safer. It does not meaningfully address violent crime. What it does is continue a failed approach to a criminal justice system that punishes Tex-

ans in poverty instead of protecting public safety.

We have already seen the consequences of this approach in Texas and across the country. Cash bail systems have created a two-tiered justice system where wealth determines freedom. If you are rich, you can buy your way out of jail. If you are poor, you can sit behind bars for weeks or months before ever being convicted of a crime.

In Texas, we have watched State leaders exploit fear around bail reform while ignoring deeper problems in our justice system. County jails are overcrowded. Courts are backlogged. Public defenders are overwhelmed. Too many people accused of low-level, nonviolent offenses are trapped in jail simply because they cannot afford bail.

This bill attacks charitable, non-profit organizations who provide bail assistance. Whether you are eligible for bail should depend on the nature of the offense, your flight risk, and your prior criminal history, not whether you have the funds to post it.

If this Congress truly wants to address violent crime, then we should invest in evidence-based solutions: funding mental health services, reducing court backlogs, supporting victims, strengthening community violence intervention programs, and ensuring judges have the resources to make individualized decisions based on actual risk, not a person's bank account.

This bill ignores those solutions in favor of political talking points and fear-mongering. Americans deserve a justice system that is fair, constitutional, and focused on real public safety, not one that criminalizes poverty and expands mass incarceration.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

#### IMMIGRATION

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for too long, this Republican Congress has failed the American people on immigration. We have allowed a broken system to remain broken: one that is too slow, too chaotic, and too unfair for everyone involved.

The American people deserve an immigration system that is fair, fast, and final—fair for families seeking safety and opportunity, fast enough to reduce years of backlog that leave people in limbo, and final so that decisions are made efficiently, transparently, and with integrity under the rule of law.

We will not fix our immigration system by abandoning our constitutional values. We will not restore order by stripping away due process rights or criminalizing people without giving them a fair hearing before the law.

That is why I voted against the Lakin Riley Act and the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act. While supporters claim these bills are about safety, they expand mandatory detention and enforcement powers in ways that undermine due process and threaten our basic constitutional protections.

In this country, we do not decide guilt or innocence without a hearing or