

resolve our differences. Let's figure this out for the sake of all those folks that are working every day to protect our Nation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE MONTH

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, this year marks the 250th anniversary of America's founding, and this year should be a celebration of our Nation and all those who have made it what it is. The story of our Nation is a story of diversity, of people of different races, religions, and national origins coming together to build something bigger than any one of us.

That story should be told in its totality, but we have a regime that fears diversity and is trying to erase it from our history. From directing the National Park Service to remove aspects of American history from exhibits, such as slavery, to targeting immigrant communities across the country, to its all-out war on diversity and inclusion, Trump's regime is attempting to rewrite history and create a White America that never existed in the first place.

The Native peoples were here first. This country would not be what it is today without the social, economic, and cultural contributions and the many sacrifices of historically marginalized but important communities.

As we celebrate 250 years of America, it is critical that we tell their stories—stories that are central to the country and truly define our communities. One such story is the revitalization of Native languages, including the Hawaiian language.

Since 2023, February has been recognized by the State of Hawaii as Mahina Olelo Hawaii, or Hawaiian Language Month. Following the colonization of the Hawaiian Islands by English-speaking westerners, the Hawaiian language, also known as Olelo Hawaii, was nearly driven to extinction. After the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1893, a law was enacted effectively barring the teaching of Olelo Hawaii across the islands. As a result, the use of Olelo Hawaii sharply declined, and the language came close to extinction.

Thankfully, cultural practitioners, educators, and community members like Mary Kawena Pukui, author of the Hawaiian language dictionary, kept the language alive until interest in learning Hawaiian increased during the Hawaiian cultural renaissance in the 1970s.

In 1978, Olelo Hawaii was finally recognized as an official language of the

State of Hawaii—quite the contrast to President Trump's Executive order designating English as the language of our country.

Olelo Hawaii has been reintroduced to the public education system, and Hawaiian language immersion schools have been established throughout the State to continue to revitalize and protect this important aspect of Hawaiian culture.

The designation of February as Mahina Olelo Hawaii serves as a testament to the resilience of the Native Hawaiian community and the importance of Hawaiian history and culture.

Indigenous languages are an important part of our country's history and fabric. A curriculum similar to what is used in our Hawaiian immersion schools has also been used by other indigenous groups to foster and revive their languages. In 2016, for example, a group of Hawaii educators from our Aha Punana Leo immersion schools in Hawaii traveled to the Midwest and mentored a language institute of the Ojibwe Tribe. There, the group shared their methodology and curricula to support the institute's program and help preserve the Ojibwe language.

I am really proud that the resurgence of Native Hawaiian language is used as an example for other Native groups to learn how they can use similar programs to preserve their very special Native languages. Celebrating the survival and revitalization of these indigenous languages helps to preserve and strengthen the cultural diversity of our communities because, while much has changed since the founding of our Nation, the through line of America has always been our diversity.

So Trump and Republicans can continue to tell their cherry-picked version of American history, but they cannot erase the truth of our diversity.

As we celebrate our Nation's 250th anniversary, we reaffirm our commitment to upholding and fostering that diversity, to protecting the culture of communities that were here before us, and to ensuring the stories of our country and the Americans who make it so great are told in full.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BANKS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. BANKS. Mr. President, before we leave for the weekend, I wanted to take a moment and just come down to the floor and give the President a lot of credit for a great State of the Union speech on Tuesday night.

It was my eighth State of the Union speech. I spent 8 years in the House,

and this was now the second State of the Union speech I have heard as a U.S. Senator for Indiana.

It was truly the best State of the Union speech that I have ever heard. And it was especially special for me to have my younger brother—10 years younger than I—Bradley Banks, from Columbia City, up in the Gallery in the House to watch the State of the Union speech. He, too, loves President Trump and what he stands for, and to have him be my special guest was a special moment for me and for him to experience a great speech as well.

As President Trump said 2 nights ago, the state of the Union is strong, and that is thanks to President Trump and his great leadership. It has been incredible to see what a difference just 1 year makes and what a difference President Trump has made in this first year of his second term, especially after 4 disastrous years with President Joe Biden in the White House.

President Trump listed a number of reasons why the state of the Union is strong, but just to name a few of those reasons and give President Trump a lot of credit: Because of him, our border is completely secure. What a night-and-day difference that is from what it was just a little over a year ago when President Trump came back into office. Inflation is at its lowest level in more than 5 years, thanks to President Trump. Gas prices are down below \$2.30 in most States. Incomes are rising again. The stock market has set 53 all-time record highs since President Trump's election in 2024. Fentanyl moving into our country is down 56 percent. The murder rate has had its single largest decline in American history. And America is respected on the world stage, perhaps unlike ever before, because of President Trump's incredible leadership.

As President Trump said at the State of the Union, our country is winning again. I loved hearing that from him. It made me so proud to be a U.S. Senator serving with President Trump in the White House once again.

And while President Trump was celebrating our country, while he was saying that we have "achieved a transformation like no one has ever seen before and a turnaround for the ages," Republicans stood to applaud while Democrats sat in their seats. It was really shocking to see Democrats refusing to stand up and cheer for American greatness. It was shocking to me. I couldn't believe it.

While President Trump asked Congress to stand up and show support if they agreed that "the first duty of the American government is to protect American citizens—not illegal aliens," the Democrats sat in their seats. They refused to stand up and cheer and stand with President Trump with all of us on the Republican side and agree to that simple statement. None of them agreed—not a single one of them. Not a single Democrat in the House Chamber, House Members or Senators on the

Democratic side—none of them agreed that the American Government should prioritize their own people above everyone else, especially those who come here illegally—what a disgrace.

I will never forget that moment, standing and agreeing with President Trump and clapping and cheering in agreement with him that it is our fundamental duty—the first duty that we have in this government—to put our own citizens over those who come here illegally.

Democrats would rather be spectators to America's demise than champions of American greatness. That is what it told me when I saw them sitting in their seats and all of us standing in agreement and cheering for American greatness and what makes this country great as expressed by President Trump.

President Trump urged Congress to pass the Delilah Law, which I introduced in the Senate yesterday. What the bill does is it keeps our roads safe from illegal immigrant truckdrivers. Delilah, a beautiful 7-year-old girl, up in the audience, in the Gallery, with her dad—when she was 5 years old, she was hit by an illegal immigrant driving a semitruck and seriously injured. She has made a remarkable recovery but is still injured to this day. When President Trump called on us to pass the Delilah Law to stop illegals from driving on our roads and driving a semitruck with a trailer, when he called on us to pass a simple, commonsense bill to take CDLs away from illegal immigrants, Democrats once again refused to stand up and acknowledge that that is the right thing to do, that that will save lives in our country by getting illegals out of semitrucks.

They couldn't stand and applaud for a lot of other things either. The President of the United States, in his speech, talked about lowering prescription drug prices. Republicans stood in agreement with him, and Democrats sat on their hands. The President talked about no taxes on tips, a big part of our signature "tax cuts for working families" bill that we passed last year.

I can remember distinctly on the campaign trail Democrats talking about no taxes on tips, and then every one of them voted against it. And when President Trump championed it in his State of the Union speech, Republicans stood in agreement and Democrats sat on their hands.

The President talked about passing the largest tax cut in American history for working class families, like yours and mine, a tax cut that is significant.

In Indiana right now, by the way, early tax returns for Hoosiers, a 10.9-percent increase in those tax returns from a year before. That is real. That is significant money in the pockets of hard-working Hoosier families, people who go to factories every day or work in hourly wage jobs, the real hard-working men and women that make my State and this country great.

When President Trump talked about that and how significant that is, Republicans stood in agreement and cheered for it, and Democrats sat on their hands.

The President talked about banning radical transgender operations—again, commonsense. Republicans stood in agreement and cheered in support of President Trump's commonsense policies to protect our kids; Democrats sat on their hands.

He talked about so many other issues. It was one issue after another that puts the American people, the American workers, American families first and in a better position. Republicans stood in agreement; Democrats sat on their hands.

As a son of a retired factory worker—my dad worked at Dana Corporation in Fort Wayne. He made axles. He got up early every morning. Sometimes he worked the third shift, all night long. He belonged to a union. He was a hard-working, union man all of his working life at the factory and put food on the table, provided for our family.

As a son of a factory worker and the grandson of a union coal miner who was an FDR Democrat, right—I mean, my grandpa, my family, they thought the Democrat Party represented the working man.

It is clear to me now that this is not my grandpa's Democrat Party.

My brother Bradley who works for the Columbia City Street Department, gets up every morning. He happens to have a CDL. He drives the snowplow. He works hard to keep our small hometown in northeast Indiana clean and the streets taken care of.

He doesn't wake up like you and I do every day and think about politics and what is going on in Washington, DC. He wakes up every day and thinks about working hard to provide for his family.

When he sat up in that Gallery on Tuesday night and watched this historic State of the Union speech—the longest State of the Union speech ever, but the best State of the Union speech that I have ever seen—he couldn't believe it.

He had a view from the Gallery watching this speech, watching the President talk about how great our country is, putting people like him in a better position to take care of his family, and the Democrats sat on their hands. They couldn't even cheer on the greatness of America and the good things that are happening in this country.

It is clear to me that the Democrats just can't handle the truth. They can't handle the truth that 250 years after this Nation's founding, we have so much to be proud of. We are proud of the gold medal U.S. Olympic hockey team who brought golden glory back to the United States 46 years after the "Miracle on Ice."

We are proud of our heroic soldiers like CW5 Eric Slover and the 100-year-old Navy fighter pilot CAPT Royce Williams, who both received the Con-

gressional Medal of Honor during the State of the Union speech. What a great moment for us to experience on the floor of the House on Tuesday night.

We are proud that the greatest Nation in the history of the world will celebrate its 250th birthday in just a few months. The state of our Union is strong because President Trump is putting Americans first.

Mr. President, 250 years after a small group of brave men founded the greatest Nation on Earth, the United States remains the best and strongest country ever. We are still a nation of builders, warriors, and champions; and thanks to President Trump, we are stronger than we have ever been before.

That is worth getting out of your seat and standing and applauding and cheering and being in support of. I thought the President of the United States gave an incredible State of the Union speech. It was great. It made me very proud to be an American, and I am grateful for his leadership.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

APPOINTMENTS CORRECTION

Mr. BANKS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a correction to an appointment made on February 24, 2026, be printed in the RECORD. For the information of the Senate, this correction is clerical and does not change membership of the United States Commission of Civil Rights made by the appointment.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 98-183, as amended by Public Law 103-419, appoints the following individual to the United States Commission on Civil Rights, for a term of six years: Sara Frankenstein vice Gail Heriot.

AMENDING THE DIGITAL COAST ACT TO IMPROVE THE ACQUISITION, INTEGRATION, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF DATA OF THE DIGITAL COAST PROGRAM AND TO EXTEND THE PROGRAM

Mr. BANKS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 310, S. 2245.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2245) to amend the Digital Coast Act to improve the acquisition, integration, and accessibility of data of the Digital Coast program and to extend the program.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had