

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, everybody knows when it comes to ribbons, blue is the best color to receive. Our Department of Education gives out blue ribbons to the very best schools across the Nation, and that is exactly what they did for St. Michael's Academy of Fernandina Beach, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Michael's Academy for earning the highest honor an American school can achieve: the National Blue Ribbon Award.

With only 356 schools selected from a pool of over 100,000, St. Michael's has done it, and they have proven, once again, that they are an excellent, outstanding academic institution.

We already knew that Fernandina Beach was home to the best beaches and shrimp around, but now we know that education is also at the very top of its list.

Schools don't get this prestigious honor by having students with great test scores or just running the 100-yard dash very quickly. In order to win this award, schools need straight As in every category, and that is exactly what St. Michael's has done. They have managed to crush their report card.

I ask my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join me in recognition of St. Michael's Academy and their continued tradition of academic excellence.

May St. Michael's Academy keep up the good work, and let's keep the blue ribbons coming.

BRYCEVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, good teachers get apples, but great teachers get to work at Bryceville Elementary School.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bryceville Elementary School in Nassau County, Florida, for earning the highest honor an American school can achieve, the National Blue Ribbon Award.

Out of more than 100,000 schools nationwide, the Department of Education honored only 356 with the National Blue Ribbon Award this year.

The National Blue Ribbon Award is given to schools with not only the highest test scores, but also those that have closed the achievement gap, ensuring that every single student can succeed.

Bryceville Elementary School is a small school with big accomplishments. Their teachers and leadership work incredibly hard to deliver the best possible experience for their students, and now the whole Nation knows just how great Bryceville is.

I ask my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join me today in recognizing Bryceville Elementary School for their stunning example of northeast Florida academic excellence.

May they keep up the good work, and let's keep the blue ribbons coming.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 11 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GIMENEZ) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Rise up, O Lord, and show us Your compassion. Reveal Your steadfast love in our lives this day, that our eyes would be opened to Your abiding presence with us and in all that the day sets before us.

Be patient with us if we are slow to acknowledge and appreciate Your guiding hand in our comings and goings. Be tolerant of us and grant us Your wise counsel as we strive to be faithful in confronting the decisions facing us this season.

Don't abandon us, but in Your mercy wait for us to come to You. Wait for us as we come to realize that nothing we do today is more important than opening our hearts to receive the grace You want to lavish on us.

Nothing is more demanding of us than Your command to share Your love with those around us, that all would know of the justice and peace You desire to grant to Your people.

In Your righteous name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 13, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 13, 2024, at 3:38 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 2581.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 13, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

MR. SPEAKER: I hereby resign, as United States Representatives for Florida's First Congressional District, effective immediately, and I do not intend to take the oath of office for the same office in the 119th Congress, to pursue the position of Attorney General in the Trump Administration.

Enclosed please find the letter I have transmitted to Florida Governor Ron DeSantis.

Respectfully,

MATT GAETZ,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 13, 2024.

Governor RON DESANTIS,
State of Florida, The Capitol,
Tallahassee, FL.

DEAR GOVERNOR DESANTIS: I hereby resign, as United States Representatives for Florida's First Congressional District, effective immediately, and I do not intend to take the oath of office for the same office in the 119th Congress, to pursue the position of Attorney General in the Trump Administration.

Respectfully,

MATT GAETZ,
Member of Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Gaetz), the whole number of the House is 433.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

MILITARY FAMILIES MONTH

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize November as Military Families Month. With more than 5.2 million military families in the United States, this month is necessary to acknowledge the tremendous sacrifices our military families make.

These families are the unseen strength behind our Nation's military. While the focus is often on those in uniform, we must never overlook loved ones who carry the weight of their absence, move wherever duty calls, and keep life steady even when things around them feel uncertain.

In times of peace and conflict, these families stand as pillars of strength embodying the values of courage, dedication, and selflessness. Let's recognize the sacrifices they make—the birthdays, the holidays, and the milestones missed.

Let's thank them for their support and commitment to our country, and let's promise them our own support in return.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking our veterans, servicemembers, and military families for their service and sacrifice to our country.

May God bless our military families, our servicemembers, and our great country.

CONGRATULATING LOS ANGELES DODGERS

(Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers.

Last month, to most baseball fans' delight, our Dodgers completed a gentleman's sweep to defeat the New York Yankees in the World Series.

This season was nothing short of remarkable.

Shohei Ohtani's contract broke records, and he continued to break more in the Dodger blue.

Ohtani became the first MLB player to record at least 50 home runs and 50 steals in a season and broke Shawn Green's team home run record.

Just wait until he can pitch for us.

From Ohtani and Freddie Freeman playing through injuries to Walker Buehler's improbable return, this team battled and defied the odds to make history.

We are celebrating this team from L.A. to Korea to the Dominican Republic to Japan.

Haters can talk trash all they want, but there is no COVID season asterisk next to this one.

The L.A. Dodgers are your World Series champions, and we will run it back next year.

HONORING BRADEN DREILING

(Mr. LATURNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the pride of Hays, America, a dedicated staffer of 7 years, my longest-serving staffer, and my real life friend, Braden Dreiling.

Braden and I met when I was a State senator and he was a front desk staffer for the majority leader.

Our professional relationship rose from a Cracker Barrel lunch and grew into a true partnership. He has been my chief and my most trusted confidante. He is also always the first and the last in the room, always wanting and expecting the best from me. He always has a level head regardless of circumstances.

Braden and his wife have two beautiful daughters, and although his service in Washington is coming to a close, I know that he will make his friends and family proud as his service to Kansas will continue on.

INFLATION CRUSHES AMERICANS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the irresponsible policies of Biden and HARRIS have cost American families \$13,000 a year.

However, with the return of President Donald Trump partnered with Speaker MIKE JOHNSON and Senator leader JOHN THUNE, Republicans will drive down prices and increase jobs for American families.

Due to Kamalaflation, prices have risen over 20 percent—22 percent in South Carolina alone. Americans are spending more on everyday necessities compared to President Trump just 3 years ago. Eggs are up 69 percent. Gasoline is up 38 percent or more. Baby food and formula is up 31 percent. Chicken is up 25 percent.

Leading the Trump-Vance innovations will be the talented Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy co-leading the newly created Department of Government Efficiency.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators put all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent, as warned by the FBI. Trump will reinstate the existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength.

FEMA MUST PROVIDE AID TO EVERYONE IN NEED

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I want to discuss for a moment a recent report of a FEMA supervisor—and maybe

there is more than one—instructing workers to skip over certain homes with particular political signs or affiliations at their house. It really shouldn't matter what your political affiliation may be, but the idea of skipping over certain homes in a hurricane-ravaged zone or any other disaster is pretty offensive.

What we are hearing is that at least 20 people in this example in Florida—20 different homes—missed out on critical aid they should have gotten just the same as anybody else.

We know FEMA's mission is to assist any American that has been in a declared disaster area and help them through that difficult time regardless of any political affiliation or any other type of affiliation.

Under the Biden administration, the agency's priorities, at least with some staff, have shifted away from disaster preparedness and instead has shifted toward political discrimination.

We need to focus FEMA once again—and they have done a lot of good work on a lot of things, but if this is happening under an organization, not only should resignations or firings happen, but those that do such a thing should be prosecuted for this kind of discrimination. That needs to happen because people need to have confidence that FEMA is doing the right thing.

CRITICAL MINERAL CONSISTENCY ACT OF 2024

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1568, I call up the bill (H.R. 8446) to amend the Energy Act of 2020 to include critical materials in the definition of critical mineral, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1568, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources, printed in the bill, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 8446

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Critical Mineral Consistency Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. CRITICAL MATERIALS INCLUDED AS CRITICAL MINERALS.

Section 7002 of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)(A), to read as follows: "(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'critical mineral' means—

"(i) any mineral, element, substance, or material designated as critical by the Secretary under subsection (c); and

"(ii) a critical material as determined by the Secretary of Energy under paragraph (2)(A)."; and

(2) in subsection (c)(5), by adding at the end the following: