



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025

No. 44

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 10, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

RECOGNIZING LORIE TUDOR ON HER RETIREMENT

(Mr. HILL of Arkansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise to wish Lorie Tudor, the former director of the Arkansas Department of Transportation, a very healthy and happy retirement.

Lorie was with the Department of Transportation for over four decades and served as the director for the last 5 years.

She began her career at the department as a clerk-typist back in 1982.

After taking time away to earn an engineering degree from the University of Memphis, she returned to the department as a civil engineer in 1998.

In 2014, she was promoted to deputy director and chief operating officer, and she became the agency's first female director in early 2020.

Lorie guided the department through the challenges of COVID-19, played a pivotal role in the Connecting Arkansas Program, which included over 30 State highway construction projects and helped modernize the Natural State's transportation infrastructure.

She has left a lasting mark on the department and our State, and she has proven to be a tireless and effective leader.

I thank Lorie for her lifetime of dedication and her terrific perseverance to accomplish her personal goals and those of the department.

RECOGNIZING AUSTIN BOOTH

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Austin Booth, an exceptional Arkansan who recently completed his service as the director of our Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

A native of Scott, Arkansas, the outdoors and a passion for public service were integral to Austin's upbringing.

After witnessing the 9/11 attacks from his classroom at Catholic High School in Little Rock, Austin was determined to serve his country, ultimately becoming a Marine Corps officer and deploying to Afghanistan.

After his tour in Afghanistan, Austin came to Washington, D.C., where he would go on to work as an advocate for the corps on Capitol Hill and, later, a judge advocate.

He returned to Arkansas to serve in the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs and then as a director of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Under his leadership, the commission launched its strategic 5-year plan and Austin was instrumental in conserva-

tion projects that will benefit hunters, anglers, and conservationists for generations to come.

I thank Austin for his leadership, for our friendship, and for his unwavering commitment to Arkansas' natural treasures, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING BART LIKES, OWNER OF OL' BART SOUTHERN EATS

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bart Likes, the owner of Ol' Bart Southern Eats.

What started as a job at a hunting lodge has become a successful multi-location restaurant and catering business that serves customers across our State. Yet, Bart's contributions to his community are not confined to his successful business.

Since the tragic passing of his mother, he has been serving others in our State, including sponsoring local sports teams, feeding healthcare workers, and providing free meals to victims of domestic abuse.

Bart's story should remind us all that life has twists and turns but following your passions will never steer you wrong. It should also remind us that there is no greater obligation in life than to help those in need.

Madam Speaker, I applaud Bart for his success and thank him for his dedication to helping others.

CELEBRATING JOHN GILL

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a truly remarkable gift to higher education in Arkansas and honor the legacy of John Gill, whose name will now grace the newly renamed prelaw program at Hendrix College in Conway.

Thanks to a generous \$250,000 donation from George and Sallie Gill in honor of their brother and brother-in-law, this endowed program will help prepare Hendrix students for a legal career.

As a former president of the Arkansas Bar Association and member of the

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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American College of Trial Lawyers, John Gill has left an indelible mark on our State's legal landscape over his six-decade career.

From serving as a delegate to the 1969 Arkansas Constitutional Convention and shaping the Arkansas Supreme Court's Rules of Civil Procedure, John's legacy is one of integrity and mentorship.

Through this endowment, Hendrix will continue to enhance its already impressive prelaw program, which boasts an 87 percent law school acceptance rate.

Madam Speaker, I commend Hendrix College and the Gill family for their commitment to advancing legal education in Arkansas, and I look forward to seeing those students thrive in law school and beyond.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAINTERLAND SISTERS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the recipients of this year's Pennsylvania Dairy Innovator Award, Stephanie and Hayley Painter, the visionary founders of Painterland Sisters.

Growing up on their family's fourth-generation farm in Tioga County, Pennsylvania, Stephanie and Hayley were deeply rooted in the traditions of dairy farming. Their upbringing instilled in them a profound appreciation for the land, animals, and the farming community.

This foundation inspired their mission to bridge the gap between consumers and the origins of their food, leading to the creation of the Painterland Sisters brand.

In 2018, they embarked on a journey to transform their vision into reality. By March 2022, their organic skyr yogurt hit the shelves and, today, can now be found in all 50 States, with a production of approximately 270,000 units weekly. This remarkable growth is a testament to their dedication and entrepreneurial spirit.

The Pennsylvania Dairy Innovator Award recognizes an individual or business entity that has provided tremendous innovation to progress Pennsylvania's dairy industry towards a brighter future either by advancing the marketplace or creating new opportunities for innovation on the dairy farm.

This dynamic duo is a shining example of just that. The Painterland Sisters source milk from their farm and partner with 25 other Pennsylvania dairy farms. They ensure that their products are not only of the highest quality but also support local farming practices.

Beyond their product lines, Stephanie and Hayley have positioned themselves as leaders and advocates within the agricultural community. They actively engage with educational pro-

grams, mentor young agriculturalists, and collaborate with organizations such as the Center for Dairy Excellence and the Pennsylvania Organic Center for Excellence.

Their involvement extends to hosting farm tours, participating in community events, and serving on advisory committees. Their efforts have garnered significant recognition.

Along with this year's Pennsylvania Dairy Innovator Award, the sister duo earned a spot on Forbes' "30 under 30—Food & Drink" list in 2023.

Their accolades underscore their impact and the respect that they have earned within the industry. The Painterland Sisters' story is a powerful example of how passion, innovation, and a commitment to core values can drive meaningful change in the dairy industry.

Like many young farmers, the Painter sisters were looking for ways to carry on their family's agricultural legacy while making it their own. The Painter sisters' dedication and passion for their family farm and business have led to tremendous success.

Madam Speaker, the Painterland Sisters' commitment to making a difference sets an inspiring example for the next generation of dairy farmers and entrepreneurs. I congratulate them on this well-deserved recognition and thank them for their contributions to Pennsylvania agriculture.

HONORING THE HON. JAMES FREDRICK HAHN

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a dear friend and a former Iowa State Representative, James Fredrick Hahn.

James was a public servant who dedicated his life to bettering his community and the State of Iowa.

James was a true Iowan. He was a farmer in Muscatine County. He was hardworking, principled, honorable, and had impeccable integrity in the likes of John Wayne.

Throughout his time in the Iowa Legislature, James fought for the values that make our rural State great. He was a champion for rural communities, farmers, and agriculture, and supported policies that put Iowans first. His leadership and integrity left a lasting impression and impact on Iowans, and his legacy will never be forgotten.

Beyond his service in office, James was a family man and a friend to many. His kindness, wisdom, and dedication to serving Iowa will be remembered by all.

Mr. Speaker, my prayers are with his family, friends, and everyone mourning his passing. May we honor his memory by continuing to serve with the same commitment and passion that he did.

RECOGNIZING WILL RYAN

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an out-

standing young Iowan, Will Ryan, for his nomination for the Big Ten's prestigious Jackie Robinson Community Service and Impact Award.

Will is not only a standout junior on the University of Iowa's track and field and cross-country teams, but he is also a community leader. Will's commitment to giving back started early by volunteering to feed the homeless as a middle schooler. That spirit of service has not only grown but has continued. Today, when he is not setting records on the track, he is dedicating his time to the University of Iowa's Stead Family Children's Hospital.

His connection to Stead is personal. Having spent a week there in high school, he saw firsthand the incredible care and support that the hospital provides. This experience inspired him to give back, ensuring that other children received the same comfort and encouragement that he once did.

Will embodies what it truly means to be a Hawkeye. Will is determined, compassionate, and committed to making a difference.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the leader he has become, and I can't think of anyone more deserving of this honor. I congratulate Will on receiving this award.

CONGRATULATING FRED MILLER ON HIS BIRTHDAY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I wish my brother, Fred, a very happy birthday.

Happy birthday to Fred.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Lord, You know those who are Your own. On this day, as we grieve the loss of our brother Representative SYLVESTER TURNER, remind us that You wrote all of his days before the first one came to be.

And in Your providence, You allowed our lives' journeys to share the path of his own for a time, that we would be graced by his generous spirit, his affable presence, his devotion to You, and to the work You set before him.

Guide him now, Your good and faithful servant, to the springs of the water of life, that he may feast at the banquet You have spread before him, seated at table with all the saints.