



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025

No. 45

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DE LA CRUZ).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 11, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MONICA DE LA CRUZ 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 11:50 a.m.

CONGRATULATING JUUSO YOUNG ON MILITARY ACADEMY APPOINTMENT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Juuso Young of Port Allegany, Pennsylvania.

Juuso recently accepted a fully qualified appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York. Juuso is the son of Ink and Andrew Young and the grandson of Pat

and Paul Young of Clearfield, Pennsylvania.

As a student at Port Allegany High School, Young is active in the classroom, on the athletic field, and on the stage. He is the senior class president, a member of the chorus, a varsity athlete in two sports, the captain of the varsity football team, and a member of the Keystone Boys State.

Outside of the school, Juuso is an active volunteer with the YMCA, earning him the Youth Volunteer of the Year Award.

I thank Juuso for his commitment to service and wish him the very best of luck as he embarks on this exciting phase of life at West Point.

CONGRATULATING AVARY POWELL ON NAVAL ACADEMY APPOINTMENT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Avary Powell of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.

Avary recently accepted a fully qualified appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Avary is the daughter of Melissa and Mark Powell, and she is the granddaughter of Margaret and David Young of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, and Carol and Gary Stonbraker of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.

Avary is a senior at Punxsutawney Area High School, where she has excelled in and out of the classroom. As captain of the varsity basketball and softball teams, Avary is a strong leader. She also serves as the senior class secretary and vice president of the National Honor Society.

Avary is an outstanding young woman who excels academically and demonstrates strong leadership in her community. Her dedication and work ethic as a student will undoubtedly serve her well as she embarks on her military career at the United States Naval Academy.

Madam Speaker, I wish Avary the best in Annapolis, and I look forward to seeing all that she achieves.

CONGRATULATING CORY MATEJOVICH ON AIR FORCE ACADEMY APPOINTMENT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Cory Matejovich of Howard, Pennsylvania. Cory accepted a fully qualified appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Cory is a senior at Middletown Valley Academy. He is the son of Elizabeth and Todd Matejovich. He is the grandson of Marlene and Terry Matejovich of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and Judy Fredericks of Huntington Beach, California.

Cory is a cadet colonel with the Civil Air Patrol. He is also a licensed private pilot, an Eagle Scout, and a member of the cross-country and swimming teams. Cory is also one of only 2,567 individuals to earn a Spaatz Award since its inception in 1964.

Colonel Matejovich's years of hard work, discipline, and leadership have exemplified the core values of the Civil Air Patrol and will serve him well at the academy.

Madam Speaker, I thank Cory for his commitment to the Nation, and I wish him the best of luck in Colorado Springs.

Madam Speaker, it was an honor to nominate these young students. Their dedication to serving our country is inspirational. I look forward to seeing their successes in the years to come.

I thank them all again for their commitment to our Nation.

COMMUNITY LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF DELAWARE

(Ms. MCBRIDE of Delaware was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

H1071

Ms. McBRIDE. Madam Speaker, on the evening of February 27, the Community Legal Aid Society of Delaware, CLASI, was informed that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development was immediately terminating their fair housing enforcement grant at the direction of DOGE.

This funding, which amounts to nearly half a million dollars, represents roughly 4 percent of CLASI's entire annual budget. It is a devastating blow to a well-respected, beloved, and vital organization that has been the sole enforcer of Federal fair housing laws in Delaware for decades.

Since 2004, CLASI has been a critical player in protecting Delawareans from discrimination in housing transactions, whether they are buying, selling, renting, or simply trying to secure a safe place to live.

For many of our most vulnerable residents, including individuals with disabilities, survivors of domestic violence, and low-income families, CLASI has been a beacon of hope and a lifeline in pursuit of safe, quality, and affordable housing.

Before CLASI began receiving HUD funding, much of this mistreatment went undetected, with only a small number of complaints filed and investigated each year. Yet, in just the first 2 years of receiving HUD support, the number of discrimination investigations in Delaware doubled. That number only continued to rise as CLASI expanded their work.

Let me share some recent examples of the vital work of CLASI. This is work that has now been jeopardized by President Trump's cuts.

A Delaware woman was injured in a horrible act of domestic violence. As she missed work for medical appointments and struggled financially, her landlord threatened eviction. CLASI stepped in, preventing the eviction, securing funds for the landlord, and ensuring this survivor of domestic violence was able to remain safely in her home.

Another Delaware woman was facing life-threatening harassment from an abuser. She was in urgent need of a safe place to live but was trapped by a landlord refusing to let her end her lease. CLASI was able to negotiate an early termination of her lease and helped her preserve her section 8 voucher, enabling her to escape her abuser and find a safe home for herself and her children.

There is an elderly woman who, after becoming wheelchair bound, was confined to her apartment on the third floor of a building that lacked an elevator. For nearly a year, she struggled to get the building to address her need for a safer, accessible unit. It wasn't until CLASI intervened that she was able to secure a transfer to a ground-floor unit, finally allowing her to live with dignity and safety.

These are just a few of the examples of the impacts that CLASI has had on individuals and families in Delaware.

Across the country, other fair housing organizations are facing the same fate, the same heartbreaking cuts by this administration.

As of the current grant year, CLASI has handled 163 fair housing cases. That is 163 families, individuals, and neighbors who are able to access support and the protections guaranteed by Federal law. That is 163 instances where CLASI's expertise and commitment have kept someone in their home or ensured that they could have housing that met their needs.

Since the actions of President Trump took effect, all of that is at risk. At a time when the American Dream remains unaffordable and inaccessible for many and when housing, even basic shelter, remains out of reach for working people, this administration's actions make that problem worse. The termination of this funding is not just a fiscal hit. It is an attack on the principle of fairness.

Housing isn't a luxury. It is a basic need. I will continue to fight to restore these funds. I will fight for the future of CLASI and other fair housing programs, and I will fight to ensure that every person in Delaware and across the country can rent or buy a safe, quality, and affordable home.

The Delawareans' lives touched by CLASI's work should know that I stand with them. I will fight for them. Together, we will continue the work of guaranteeing fair housing for all.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LUTTRELL). Members are reminded to refrain from trafficking the well while other Members are under recognition.

CONGRATULATING HECTOR MORENO, JR., ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Ms. DE LA CRUZ of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Border Patrol Agent Hector Moreno, Jr., for his 27 years of service.

Born and raised in McAllen, Texas, Mr. Hector Moreno, Jr., pursued a career of selfless service to our community. He joined the Border Patrol in 1997 and, for nearly three decades, has set a high standard for his fellow agents by upholding their core values of service to our country, integrity, and vigilance.

During his tenure, he successfully led specialized operations in the Rio Grande Valley to combat transnational crime and tackle illicit drug trafficking at our southern border.

I had the opportunity to join Mr. Moreno in south Texas to participate in a ride-along and hear from Border Patrol agents and experience their daily work of protecting our communities.

Last summer, Mr. Moreno retired as a division chief for the Rio Grande Valley Sector. We are grateful for his honorable service and exemplary leadership to fellow agents and our commu-

nity. In his retirement, he continues to serve others as a criminal justice teacher at Nikki Rowe High School in McAllen, Texas, and leads the Student Criminal Justice Club.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Moreno for his selfless service. I congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM B. TRAVIS

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, we celebrated Texas Independence Day and the brave efforts of Texas revolutionaries and Tejanos who fought to secure their independence from Mexico.

I rise today to recognize the heroes of the Texas Revolution and share the brave words of Lieutenant Colonel William B. Travis to rally the Texans' army at the Alamo nearly 200 years ago:

"Bejar, February 24, 1836.

"To the people of Texas and all Americans in the world.

"Fellow citizens and compatriots:

"I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannonade for 24 hours and have not lost a man.

"The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken. I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, and our flag still waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender or retreat.

"Then, I call on you in the name of liberty, of patriotism, and everything dear to the American character to come to our aid with all dispatch. The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily and will no doubt increase to 3,000 or 4,000 in 4 or 5 days.

"If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor and that of his country.

"Victory or death.

"William Barret Travis, Lieutenant Colonel Commandant.

"P.S., the Lord is on our side. When the enemy appeared in sight, we had not three bushels of corn. We have since found in deserted houses 80 or 90 bushels and got into the walls 20 or 30 head of bees.

"Travis."

Though we know Texans lost this battle, Lieutenant Travis' words were heard for miles.

"Remember the Alamo" became a battle cry, and revolutionaries joined the Texan forces to win the war and secure freedom for Texas.

I rise today to proudly honor our great State and the brave men and women who built Texas on values of family, faith, and freedom.

□ 1015

MOURNING THE LOSS OF MICHAEL "MICKEY" HARMON AND JORDAN CELOTTO

(Mr. KENNEDY of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)