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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STUTZMAN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 8, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARLIN STUTZMAN 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 CHIEF KEITH JOHNSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. SUBRAMANYAM of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, as Chief Keith Johnson prepares to retire this month, I rise to honor his distinguished career in service to Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System.

Beloved in our Loudoun County community, Chief Johnson is a fourth-generation firefighter who began his fire service in 1982. His career led him to

the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department where he ascended to the rank of deputy chief in 2009.

After 30 years in Fairfax County, Chief Johnson was appointed as chief of the Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System in 2018. During his tenure, he led a department of nearly 500 career personnel and more than 1,500 volunteer personnel, oversaw the implementation of a collective bargaining ordinance, created a 24-hour operation shift commander program, and formed a behavioral health section. To cap off his career, Chief Johnson was named Career Fire Chief of the Year in 2024.

Congratulations to Chief Johnson on his exceptional career. We thank Chief Johnson for all his service to our community, and we wish him a happy retirement.

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY WINTER GUARD'S 2025 SCHOLASTIC STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Independence High School Varsity Winter Guard's 2025 scholastic State championship.

This year, their hard work and perseverance paid off. Not only did they place first in their class but they also received the highest overall score out of 60 Virginia high schools that competed.

They made history as the first Loudoun County public high school to ever win a Scholastic A1. I also heard the team's stuffed animal mascot, Thleebuss, deserves a little bit of credit.

We congratulate Coach Harrington, Coach Young, the Winter Guard, and the Independence High School community on their championship.

HONORING RICHARD MARTIN ON HIS 700TH PLATELET DONATION

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Martin of Sterling, Virginia, who reached a re-

markable milestone last month, his 700th platelet donation. This isn't just a number. It represents lives saved and hope restored.

Richard's journey began in 1982, inspired by his father who donated an incredible 17 gallons of whole blood. For over four decades, Richard has visited his local blood donation clinic every 2 weeks. He is a familiar face to the staff, always bringing his cheerful demeanor and unwavering commitment to the cause.

Today, we celebrate Richard's altruistic spirit and dedication as a platelet donor. He is a shining example of what it means to serve one's neighbors and community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHANDRASHEKAR NAMAGONDLU

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Chandrashekhar Namagondlu. A devoted husband, father, son, and brother, Chandra was the embodiment of joy and a well-lived life. He was a pillar of every community and organization that he was a part of.

He began his career as a network engineer before transitioning into cybersecurity. Over the past 20 years at Visa, he rose to become director of cybersecurity, where he not only was a respected leader but a beloved manager and colleague known for his generosity, mentorship, and unwavering support.

Most of all, his love for his family was insurmountable and deeply felt by all of those he cared for, especially his wife Sreelatha and his daughter, Priya. His memory will live on with those that were touched by his presence.

PROTECTING ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today less than 1 week after the administration proclaimed April 2 as Liberation Day, a day filled with tariffs that sparked a trade war.

What sort of liberation have we seen since then? In my district alone,

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.



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wineries in Warrenton, Virginia, a rural town just down the road, may have to close. A small perfume business, which can only import materials from the U.K., is bracing for skyrocketing costs.

Breweries in my district are being hit. The owner of one small Virginia brewery said that because of tariffs on his aluminum, steel, and other ingredients, they have to raise the price of a six-pack to \$19.

The President proclaimed Liberation Day as a declaration of economic independence, but this is doing nothing to protect the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The only thing these tariffs will liberate are rent money and mortgage payments from bank accounts, kids' college savings from investment accounts, and retirement savings from 401k's.

It is not too late to change course and declare Liberation Day as a poorly constructed April Fools' joke.

HONORING LIFE OF OFFICER OSMAR RODARTE

(Mr. LAMALFA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this is a moment that you don't wish to ever have to do here, but it is time and it is proper that we recognize a fallen officer from the northern California town of Marysville.

Police Officer Osmar Rodarte was a dedicated law enforcement officer. He was a U.S. Army veteran. We lost him in the line of duty in just recent days. He was a loving husband and father. He made the ultimate sacrifice while serving with the Marysville Police Department. Officer Rodarte was taken from us at the tender age of just 27 years old.

He was a proud graduate of Rio Linda High School, class of 2016. He answered the call to serve, enlisting in the United States Army before returning home to the law enforcement role that he loved. As an officer, he was known for his dedication and professionalism.

On the day he was taken from us, Officer Rodarte was participating in a multiagency operation targeting transnational drug trafficking organizations which has been horrific on the lives of so many Americans. He was trying to make a big difference on that, doing critical work and helping keep our communities and our streets safe from the scourge of fentanyl and other drugs.

His sacrifice reminds us of the risks law enforcement officers are always up against. Each day when they go out the door, kiss their spouse, and go out on duty, they know that risk, as does their family. The reality is still way too harsh when it happens to one of our own.

Of course, Officer Rodarte was much more than a public servant. He was a father, husband, brother, and friend. His fellow officers called him a true

hero, and those who knew him best spoke of his deep dedication to his family.

In the aftermath of this loss, the people of Marysville, Rio Linda, and the entire north State have come together in mourning, offering prayers and support to his family. He leaves behind a wife and child facing this unimaginable loss. No words can fully ease the grief.

We must ensure his sacrifice is not forgotten. His service in uniform and in life is a testament to his character and his sense of duty. We honor Officer Rodarte's bravery, service, and legacy.

To his family, his fellow officers, and all who knew him, our prayers are with them. May he rest in eternal peace. God bless him, his family, his friends, and his fellow officers.

LISTENING TO OUR CONSTITUENTS

(Mr. POCAN of Wisconsin was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the special election that we had in Wisconsin last Tuesday for the Wisconsin Supreme Court. It was an overwhelming rebuke of the Trump-Musk agenda of cutting Medicaid, healthcare, long-term care, education funding, and food assistance to pay for a transfer of wealth of \$4.5 trillion from the middle class and those aspiring to the wealthiest in this country.

It wasn't just a 10-point win that mattered. In fact, more than the win was the turnout. We rivaled a midterm congressional election turnout in a spring nonpartisan election. People are pissed, they are scared, and they are feeling unheard. So they came out to vote to be heard.

I know GOP leadership is telling its Members to ignore their constituents and not have townhalls, but I think that is backfiring. In fact, that is what we heard with that Wisconsin election.

I have had multiple townhalls, both in my district and in neighboring congressional districts in Wisconsin. We have had record turnout.

In Belmont, Wisconsin, population 1,000, we had over 200 people show up; and we had to turn people away. People were watching the townhall through the windows. In Viroqua, a town of 4,500 people, 300 to 400 people showed up to voice their displeasure with the Republican agenda. When we go home for this coming Easter break, I will do more townhalls, both in my district and in Republican districts, to make sure that people are being heard.

This is not winning for the American people. Trump's tariffs are taxes on working people. He is crashing the stock market and making costs go up. This is the opposite of what he had promised.

People don't want their services cut to fund a tax cut for the most wealthy. They don't want people who work for veteran hospitals or Social Security to have their jobs cut just to pay for Elon Musk and Donald Trump's tax cuts.

They want the Federal Government's hands off the programs they value.

They are rightfully afraid that the Republicans are going after their Social Security, after Musk called it a Ponzi scheme, after Trump lied about the program over and over in the state of the Union, and after the Secretary of Commerce said people could go a month without their Social Security check unless they were fraudsters.

It is their money. Leave it alone. That is the pledge. Mr. Speaker, Republican Members of Congress can ignore their constituents, but listen to the lesson from Wisconsin at your own peril. Figure out how to listen to your constituents or get a discount card at Costco so you can buy Depends by the carton. Those are pretty much your choices.

People don't support what is going on. Represent them, not Donald Trump and Elon Musk.

CONGRATULATING THE GRAND OLE OPRY

(Mr. ROSE of Tennessee was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true American treasure that I have the privilege to represent here in Congress. This year marks 100 years since the Grand Ole Opry first introduced audiences around the world to country music and to Nashville, Tennessee.

My home State of Tennessee is known for many things. If I had to list some of the most prominent, I might think of the Great Smoky Mountains or Elvis Presley. I would most certainly include the Grand Ole Opry.

Nashville is known around the world as Music City, USA. That would not be the case had it not been for the Opry. The longtime show isn't exclusive to Tennessee's story. No, it is part of American culture.

The Opry was around before the Great Depression and World War II. It has seen a lot, endured a lot, and served as a beacon of hope decade after decade. The program's venue has moved within Nashville a few times, but it is primarily known for two locations. They are the Ryman Auditorium off Broadway, downtown, and its current location on Opry Mills Drive. Both locations enjoy hundreds of thousands of visitors every year.

Without the Grand Ole Opry, we would likely not know names like Hank Williams, Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn, or Willie Nelson. Heaven forbid, we might not even know Dolly Parton, had it not been for the show.

□ 1015

WSM, those are its call letters, was one of the first radio stations to connect urban and rural culture. The Opry was also a first to transform a hobby into a marketable and lucrative industry. Crossover artists are not uncommon today, but they were virtually