

□ 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:

Receive us into this new week, O God. We have much to do and much we hope to accomplish. We have planners filled with appointments and dockets boasting desired outcomes, and yet, in all honesty, we do not know what today will bring, let alone tomorrow.

In the context of the eternity that You have fashioned, over which You are Lord, we are but mist. Like the breath we try to catch as we run from task to task, our lives are ephemeral in the grand scheme of Your divine design.

Reorient us then this day to Your grace plan. Rather than counting on our own ability to get things done, may we appeal to You, and to Your wishes, as to how we are to live and what it is we ought to do.

Humble us in our arrogance and disavow us of our self-sufficiency. In Your Mercy, uphold us in Your righteousness, that we would boast only in You.

In Your sovereign name, we pray.

Amen.

JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. 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.

TRUMP DELIVERS ON PROMISES

(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, Americans continue to benefit from the wins accomplished by the first 100 days as President Donald Trump took back the White House by election mandate. He and the Republican-led House, with Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, and the Senate will continue to fight on behalf of American families.

In just 100 days, the Trump administration has secured the borders, stop-

ping terrorists and child predators; restored energy independence; begun peace through strength; reduced duplicative regulations; and brought massive investments, creating jobs and making America competitive again.

President Trump and the Republican-led House are making the country strong, safe, and secure with promises made, promises kept with the Trump mandate.

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 is reinstituting existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength, revealing that war criminal Putin lies as, this weekend, the Moscow dictatorship reiterated Ukraine does not exist, justifying mass murder of Ukrainians by war criminal Putin.

COMMENTS ON PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I watched the President's interview on "Meet the Press" yesterday. I was shocked at the lack of understanding that the man has of his job.

He takes an oath to protect, preserve, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and he says he is not sure if the Fifth Amendment is applicable to people in this country and is not sure if he will stand up and protect the Constitution. This is unfathomable.

Then, he comes up and tells us he wants to have a parade that will cost over \$90 million on his birthday, which happens to coincide with Flag Day and the birth of the United States Army, neither of which have ever merited a parade in the past—\$90 million with airplanes, tanks, and troops to appease a man's ego, to let him think for a while that he is Genghis Khan or Napoleon.

He is not Genghis Khan. He is not Napoleon. He is not the Pope. He is the President of the United States, who works for us, the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WILSON of South Carolina). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NURSES DAY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Nurses Day to thank the women and men across our country who care for the sick, comfort the hurting, and keep our healthcare system running.

I began my own medical career as a nurse. My sister was a nurse, and my husband was a nurse. I understand the long hours, emotional toll, and deep re-

sponsibility, commitment, and gratification that come with the job.

Today, we face a nationwide shortage of nurses, especially in rural areas like many in Iowa. This isn't just a workforce issue. It is a public health crisis.

We must do more to strengthen nursing by expanding training opportunities, reducing burnout, and investing in the future of care.

Nurses don't ask for recognition, but they sure deserve it. Mr. Speaker, on National Nurses Day and every day, I thank all nurses, and I promise to keep fighting for nurses in Congress.

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, May 1, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
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 May 1, 2025, at 3:40 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 307.

That the Senate passed S. 616.

That the Senate passed S.J. Res. 31.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.J. Res. 42.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.J. Res. 75.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 9.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES, Democratic Leader:

MAY 1, 2025.

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

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: Pursuant to section 703(c) of the Public Interest Declassification Act of 2000 (50 U.S.C. 361 note), I hereby appoint the Honorable Valdez Butler Demings of Orlando, Florida to the Public Interest Declassification Board.

Sincerely,

HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Democratic Leader.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES, Democratic Leader:

MAY 5, 2025.

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

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: Pursuant to section 18(c)(2)(A)(i)(VIII) and (IX) of the Reforming Intelligence and Securing America

Act (Public Law 118-49), I am pleased to appoint the following Member to serve as a Commissioner to the FISA Reform Commission:

The Honorable James A. Himes of Connecticut

I am also pleased to appoint the following individuals to serve as Commissioners to the FISA Reform Commission:

Ms. Sharon Bradford Franklin of Bethesda, Maryland

Mr. Glenn Steven Gerstell of Washington, District of Columbia

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Democratic Leader.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES, Democratic Leader:

MAY 5, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to Section 214(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20944), I hereby reappoint Mr. Brian Michael Lemek of Potomac, Maryland to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission Board of Advisors.

Thank you for your attention to his appointment.

Sincerely,

HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
House Democratic Leader.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION BOARD OF ADVISORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 214(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20944), and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following individual on the part of the House to the Election Assistance Commission Board of Advisors:

Mr. Donald F. McGahn II, Potomac, Maryland

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1440

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO) at 2 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

ACES ACT

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 530) to provide for a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on the prevalence and mortality of cancer among individuals who served as Active Duty aircrew in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 530

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 "ACES Act".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL ACADEMIES STUDY ON PREVALENCE AND MORTALITY OF CANCER AMONG INDIVIDUALS WHO SERVED AS ACTIVE DUTY AIRCREW IN THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (in this section referred to as the "National Academies"), under which the National Academies shall conduct a study on the prevalence and mortality of cancers among covered individuals.

(2) DEADLINE.—

(A) DATE.—The Secretary shall finalize the agreement under paragraph (1) by not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary enters negotiations with the National Academies with respect to such agreement.

(B) REPORT; BRIEFINGS.—If the Secretary fails to satisfy the requirement under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

(i) submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report that includes—

(I) an explanation of the reasons the Secretary failed to satisfy such requirement; and

(II) an estimate of the date on which the Secretary will finalize the agreement under paragraph (1); and

(ii) not less frequently than once every 60 days after the date on which the Secretary failed to satisfy such requirement, provide to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a briefing on the progress of the Secretary toward finalizing such agreement.

(b) STUDY.—The study required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) identify exposures associated with military occupations of covered individuals, including relating to chemicals, compounds, agents, and other phenomena;

(2) review the literature to determine associations between exposures referred to in paragraph (1) and the incidence or prevalence of overall cancer morbidity, overall cancer mortality, and increased incidence or prevalence of—

- (A) brain cancer;
- (B) colon and rectal cancers;
- (C) kidney cancer;
- (D) lung cancer;

- (E) melanoma skin cancer;
- (F) non-Hodgkin lymphoma;
- (G) pancreatic cancer;
- (H) prostate cancer;
- (I) testicular cancer;
- (J) thyroid cancer;
- (K) urinary bladder cancer; and

(L) other cancers as determined appropriate by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the National Academies; and

(3) determine, to the extent possible, the prevalence of and mortality from the cancers specified in paragraph (2) among covered individuals by using available sources of data, which may include—

(A) health care and other administrative databases of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, and the individual Services, respectively;

(B) the national death index maintained by the National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

(C) the study conducted under section 750 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283; 134 Stat. 3716).

(c) REPORT.—At the conclusion of the study required under subsection (a), the National Academies shall submit to the Secretary and to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report containing the results of the study described in subsection (b).

(d) COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term "covered individual" means an individual who served on active duty in the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps as an aircrew member of a fixed-wing aircraft, including as a pilot, navigator, weapons systems operator, aircraft system operator, or any other crew member who regularly flew in a fixed-wing aircraft.

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF PENSION.

Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "November 30, 2031" and inserting "December 31, 2031".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MCGARVEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 530, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 530, as amended. The bill was introduced by my friend and fellow veteran, Representative PFLUGER. This bill would ensure there is trusted medical research available to pave the way for toxic-exposed military pilots and air crew to assess their VA disability compensation benefits.

As someone who served as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam, I am troubled by how many times I have heard from my fellow aviators that military pilots