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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. WILLIAMS of Texas).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 7, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROGER WILLIAMS 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.

### HONORING THE REMARKABLE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JIM AYERS

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

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a lifelong Tennessean and a good friend of mine, Jim Ayers, who recently passed away on April 1.

Throughout his life, Jim Ayers wore many hats: a loving husband and father, a successful businessman, and a generous philanthropist.

Originally from rural Decatur County, which is just outside of my district,

Jim's father was a lumberman and a farmer. His mother ran a fabric shop and managed duplexes. They were a family of very modest means.

From an early age, Jim and his siblings learned the value of hard work. At the age of 8, Jim decided that he was an entrepreneur. He shined shoes for 10 cents a pair and drove a tractor on the family farm.

In 1961, Jim began college at Memphis State University, which is now the University of Memphis. It was there that he got married and started a family. In the years after graduation, Jim started working in finance and accounting at a nursing home company in Memphis called Care Inns.

He quickly rose through the ranks and was eventually named as president. After selling the company, Jim started a nursing home in Parsons, Tennessee. American Health Centers grew from 40 nursing homes across the Volunteer State.

By the mid-1990s, Jim decided to sell the nursing home business to focus on his new growing interest: community banking.

Jim partnered with his friend to buy the Farmers State Bank in Scotts Hill, Tennessee, and eventually would go on to acquire First National Bank in Lexington. It was there that FirstBank was born.

Serving as chief executive officer and before becoming executive chairman of the board, he took the bank public on the New York Stock Exchange in 2016. Today, FirstBank is known across the State of Tennessee as a good bank, a good employer, and a good community partner.

However, it is Jim's work outside of the office for which he will truly be remembered. Jim was a man of deep faith. He firmly believed that, as the Scriptures state: "To whom much is given, much is expected." It was in that spirit that Jim started the Ayers Foundation with the mission of giving

back to Tennessee, especially to our children.

For over 25 years, the Ayers Scholars Program has supported more than 20,000 students in rural Tennessee. To help children, the Ayers Foundation has a footprint in 33 high schools across 21 of Tennessee's rural counties.

Mr. Speaker, Jim spent much of his life making sure that every child, no matter his or her financial status, should have the opportunity to receive a good education and build a good life.

In addition to the scholarship program, Jim established the Ayers Institute at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, the Jim Ayers Medical Tower at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, the Ayers Children's Hospital in Jackson, and the Ayers Institute for Teacher Learning & Innovation at Lipscomb University, among other entities.

I recently spoke with Jim's good friend, former Tennessee Highway Patrol Lieutenant Joey Hargrove, who traveled all across the State with Jim for about 30 years.

Joey remembers the one thing that remained constant through the years: Jim never wanted any recognition or acknowledgement for any of his good deeds. Joey told me that he learned a lot about being a good man from Jim Ayers. Whether it be a scholarship or getting treatment at a medical center, Jim never wanted you to know that it was he who made it happen.

The last time I sat down with Jim and his wife, Janet, who he loved and adored, was several months ago. Jim may have known that he was sick, but he didn't want that to be the topic of conversation. He wanted to focus on the future and what could be done for the community. It was never about Jim. He did everything out of the goodness of his heart and the genuine love for others.

In the years to come, Jim's legacy and that of Janet will live on in the

□ 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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children he gifted an education to, the patients he helped to receive care, and the families who will never know his impact.

Roberta and I continue to think about Janet; his son, Jon; and all the family and wish them the best during these challenging times. Jim Ayers will be remembered for a long time in Tennessee for all of the good that he did for so many people.

#### RECOGNIZING JESSICA SUAREZ NIETO DURING TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

(Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, during Teacher Appreciation Week, I rise to honor Jessica Suarez Nieto, a middle school teacher at Telpochcalli School, a dual language school, recently named Bilingual Teacher of the Year by the Illinois State Board of Education.

As a young immigrant child who didn't speak English when I arrived in the U.S., I knew firsthand the impact that teachers like Ms. Suarez can have on their students.

Ms. Suarez is a champion of dual language education. She uses language as a bridge to connect with families, affirm cultural identities, and empower students. She helps them feel seen, heard, and confident in classrooms where they are often told to shrink or stay silent. She teaches her students more than just math. She teaches them that they matter. She gives them a voice.

I thank Ms. Suarez for being an incredible teacher and for her work and deep commitment to her students.

#### CELEBRATING CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF LEYDEN HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a century of excellence in public education, the 100-year anniversary of Leyden High School District No. 212, proudly serving the western suburbs of Chicago.

What began as a 2-year school in a portable building has grown into a thriving, two-campus district, East Leyden and West Leyden, now serving more than 3,300 students with over 200 dedicated teachers.

Rooted in blue and gold and soaring under the banner of the eagle, Leyden's commitment to academic and artistic excellence has inspired pride, unity, and spirit across the district's communities.

True to its mission to educate, enrich, and empower, Leyden does more than reach; it uplifts. It lives by one simple, powerful motto: Do What's Best for the Kids.

I congratulate the students, teachers, alumni, and school leaders of this century of service. Here is to the next 100.

#### MIGRANT ABDUCTION

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm on a crisis threatening our democracy.

President Trump has defied a unanimous Supreme Court order blocking the return of Kilmar Abrego Garcia and, instead, vanishing him to a prison in El Salvador without a trial, without a hearing, and without a shred of justice.

This isn't just cruelty, but it is lawlessness. It is a direct assault on our values and the rule of law. He was abducted from his home and sent to a foreign prison infamously known for human rights violations. When the President defies the courts, he crosses the line into tyranny. He is even arresting judges whom he sees as standing in his way.

When tyranny takes root, no one is safe. Today, it is immigrants with tattoos, 2-year-olds, and even children with cancer. Tomorrow, it could be anyone who falls out of favor, even Republicans who don't clap long enough or make the pilgrimage to Mar-a-Lago to kiss the ring.

We have to stand up for our rights and for the rule of law not just for Kilmar but for the future of our Republic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

□ 1015

#### HONORING BORDER PATROL AGENT HECTOR MORENO, JR.

(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, set a high standard for his fellow agents by upholding their core values: service to country, integrity, and vigilance.

During Mr. Moreno's 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, hear from Border Patrol agents, and experience their day-to-day assignments to protect our communities.

Last summer, Mr. Moreno retired as the division chief for the Rio Grande Valley Sector. We are grateful for his honorable service and exemplary leadership to his fellow agents and our community. In his retirement, he continues to serve others as a criminal justice teacher at Nikki Rowe High School and leads the student criminal justice club in McAllen.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank Mr. Moreno for his selfless service, and I

congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

#### HONORING SMALL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH MATT'S BUILDING MATERIALS

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Matt's Building Materials as Texas' 15th District's Small Business of the Month.

In the wake of Hurricane Beulah in 1967, Matt's Building Materials, then known as Valley Cash & Carry Building Materials, was founded to help the community rebuild from the severe damage the hurricane caused in the Rio Grande Valley.

Several years later, Ira Matt took over the company and brought Danny Smith on board to manage their various locations. At the time, Matt's was the only lumberyard and building material store to cater to the Hispanic community.

Challenges were brought on throughout the decades, but the team at Matt's always stayed true to their values and dedication to faith, family, and service.

Four generations of Matt's have operated the business, and today, the business is run by Danny's son, Jeremy, alongside his brothers.

Their team goes above and beyond to help south Texans across our communities build and rebuild homes. By providing high-quality service and building materials, the family-owned small business has become an integral part of our south Texas community.

In 2022, disaster struck when their flagship location in Pharr caught fire. Their physical store was lost, but their commitment to community was strong. Through unwavering faith and teamwork, their service to the community was able to resume as the team rebuilt their Pharr location.

Today, their commitment to community lives on. Following the devastating flooding in south Texas earlier this year, the team immediately launched a flood relief program to help those who are rebuilding from the flood damage, just like they did over 50 years ago.

Through faith and hard work, no challenge is impossible to overcome, and we are so grateful to have businesses like theirs in south Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the team at Matt's for all they do for our community, for south Texas, and for our State.

#### CELEBRATING MOTHER'S DAY

(Ms. TLAIB of Michigan was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, as the chair of the Congressional Mamas Caucus and a mother of two incredible boys, I rise today to celebrate Mother's Day.

I recognize the strength and love that mothers bring to our families and our neighborhoods, yet too often mothers are left behind in this Chamber.

In the richest country in the world, Mr. Speaker, no mother should worry about feeding her children or affording