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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. GREEN of Tennessee).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 15, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK E. GREEN 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 LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN FEROLETO

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

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a truly remarkable Buffalonian, John Feroletto. John passed away unexpectedly on April 6 at the age of 71.

John Feroletto was more than a distinguished trial lawyer, he was a devoted family man, a pillar of our community, and a shining example of the American Dream.

Growing up on Buffalo's West Side as the son of a construction worker and a beautician, John became the first in his family to attend college, working his way through school by starting his own house painting business at just 16 years old. His determination led him to the University at Buffalo School of Law, where he met his wife of nearly 45 years, Paula, who is now a highly respected State Supreme Court judge.

Together, they built not just a loving family but a legacy that has profoundly shaped all of western New York. For more than 35 years, John dedicated his career to fighting for his clients and standing up for those who couldn't stand up for themselves.

He established Feroletto Law, which grew into a family enterprise with his children John, Joel, and Kate all following in his footsteps as attorneys.

His son John was recently appointed to the Buffalo city court, while Joel represents the Delaware District on the Buffalo Common Council, and Kate is a renowned attorney at the family practice, Feroletto Law.

In the courtroom, John took on the most challenging cases not for personal gain but because it was the right thing to do, but his contributions extended well beyond the courtroom. He was instrumental in founding the New York State Trial Lawyers Association Western New York Chapter, serving as its second president.

He established a paid internship program with his wife to provide high school students from all backgrounds with legal experience, and he was a generous supporter of numerous community causes from collecting winter gloves for the needy to sponsoring fundraisers for organ transplant recipients and Down syndrome organizations.

While he achieved great professional success, John never forgot his roots or the importance of family. John was deeply proud of his Italian heritage and

kept traditions that had been passed down through generations of family alive, including making homemade wine.

John found joy in life's simple pleasures, tending to his vegetable garden, running marathons, and spending summers with his beloved grandchildren at their family cottage in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Western New York has lost an extraordinary advocate, mentor, and friend. John Feroletto's legacy lives on not just through his legal achievements but through the countless lives he has touched with his generosity, his compassion, and his unwavering commitment to justice.

I extend my deepest condolences to Paula; their children, John P., Joel, and Kate; and their six grandchildren. Western New York stands with them in remembering a life well-lived and a legacy that will inspire generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, may John Feroletto's memory be a blessing, and may his example of service and devotion to family continue to guide us all. May he rest in peace.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF MARC J. MEYERS

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Marc J. Meyers, a beloved husband, father, and grandfather, and a public servant who was taken from us too soon.

Born to the late Kenneth and Joan Meyers and raised alongside his siblings, Lisa, Tim, and the late Guy Meyers, Marc was the heart of his family and a steady presence in our community.

A longtime employee of the town of Cheektowaga and brother to Erie County Legislative Chairman Tim Meyers, he worked to make life better for his neighbors.

He found joy in the simple things: family vacations to Rhode Island, fishing, golf, Bills games, and quiet afternoons with his dog, Lambchop.

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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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Marc's kindness, humility, and dedication defined him, and his legacy will live on in all that knew him.

I send my prayers and deepest condolences to his wife, Pam; their children, Colin and Taylor; their six grandchildren; his surviving siblings; extended family; and all who loved him. Western New York has lost one of our finest. May Marc Meyers rest in peace.

HONORING SISTERS BOUTIQUE & GIFTS, INC.

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

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the Sisters Boutique & Gifts, Inc. in Floresville, Texas, as the SBA Family-Owned Business of the Year for the San Antonio District.

Thirty-five years ago, Sisters was founded by two sisters, Annette and Arlene. What started as a small town shop has grown into a successful small business with multiple locations in Floresville's downtown district, run by three generations of women and fueled by passion.

Today, their boutique and children's store is run by Annette's daughters, Stacy and her daughter, Katie. They are dedicated to creating a space where south Texas women feel empowered, celebrated, and inspired. They equally give back to Floresville by sponsoring youth sports teams, school fundraisers, and organizing charity fashion shows and events.

We are fortunate to have the incredible small businesses run by passionate owners here in deep south Texas. I congratulate Sisters on 35 years and thank them for supporting Floresville. We look forward to seeing your business continue to thrive for years to come.

HONORING THE BRAVE OFFICERS OF THE MCALLEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, today, during National Police Week, I rise in honor of the law enforcement officers who have gone above and beyond to protect our families and communities. They have stood as protectors and always answered the call without hesitation.

This week, with heavy hearts, we honor the brave officers of the McAllen Police Department in south Texas who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Their courage, dedication, and commitment to their duty reminds us of what it means to serve. They wore the badge not for praise but to make a difference, and they did so every single day.

Though they are no longer with us, their legacy lives on. Today, we honor their lives and dedication to south Texas. May their names never be forgotten: Officer Federico Saenz, end of watch, March 26, 1933; Officer Rosalin Suarez, Jr., end of watch, May 19, 1981; Officer Reynaldo Lopez, end of watch, July 10, 1993; Officer Edelmiro Garza, Jr., end of watch, July 11, 2020; Officer

Ismael Z. Chavez, end of watch, July 11, 2020.

Please join me in praying for our fallen officers and their loved ones. Their service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

NEARLY ONE IN FOUR DELAWAREANS RELY ON MEDICAID

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

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the Representative of the nearly one in four Delawareans who rely on Medicaid: families, children, seniors, and people with disabilities whose lives now hang in the balance.

Republicans in Congress have proposed not only the largest cut in Medicaid in American history but the single largest evisceration of healthcare in American history, period.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, this slash-and-burn proposal would strip health insurance from nearly 14 million people. That is not belt-tightening; it is life threatening.

Since the majority in Congress began advancing this plan, I have heard from hundreds of Delawareans who can't sleep, gripped by the fear of losing the care that keeps them or their kids alive.

Caroline, a young woman from Newark, has a rare condition that requires extensive medical intervention. Without Medicaid, she told me that she could die. Caroline tragically is not alone. If these cuts advance, people will die.

I have heard from doctors, nurses, hospital leaders, and community health clinics across our State. They all agree: Republican cuts to Medicaid will do irreparable harm, eliminating a lifeline for their patients, and putting further strain on our hospital systems that are already facing a workforce crisis.

Let's talk about what is actually in the Republican proposal. The majority party wants to impose needless and excessive paperwork requirements that serve no purpose but to push people off the rolls. They are importing the worst parts of the private health insurance industry, needless bureaucratic barriers and excessive paperwork into a lifesaving program to make it harder to qualify for care, all to pad the pockets of the ultrawealthy.

If that weren't enough, the bill also includes what can only be described as a backdoor abortion ban, prohibiting Medicaid funding from going to family planning clinics that provide abortion services, even if that funding isn't being used for abortion care.

This means shuttering access to trusted providers and family planning clinics, especially in rural areas where options are already scarce. They are doing all of this while forcing working families to pay more out of pocket. When you make working people pay

more for basic healthcare, that is a tax.

Republicans in Congress want to tax the healthcare of working people all to just partially pay for tax cuts for the wealthy. This administration and Republicans promised Americans three things last year: lower costs, cutting red tape, and bringing down the deficit.

Let's review what their budget will actually do: It raises costs for working families across the country through new out-of-pocket expenses, higher premiums, and loss in coverage. It creates new bureaucratic red tape for patients, providers, and State governments, barriers designed to trip people up and push them out. It adds \$3.7 trillion to the deficit, not to expand care or invest in working people, but to fund tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.

I didn't come to Congress to rubberstamp cruelty. I came to fight for the people I represent: the aging parents in Sussex County, the caregivers in Kent, and kids in Wilmington.

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Mr. Speaker, I am going to end with the words of another Delawarean, a single mom: "Without Medicaid, neither of us would have health insurance. My employer doesn't offer health coverage, and I can't afford the \$500 a month private plan with high deductibles and out-of-pocket expenses. If we lose Medicaid, we lose everything."

She added this: "P.S., I am a healthcare worker with a bachelor's degree. This isn't about being too lazy to work."

We owe her and millions of others better than this. I urge my colleagues to reject this cruel and catastrophic proposal.

CELEBRATING INCREDIBLE LIVES OF GUAM'S CENTENARIANS

(Mr. MOYLAN of Guam was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three extraordinary individuals from Guam who were honored today at the 2025 Guam Centenarian celebration: Ms. Victorina Dulay Robeniol, Mr. Frank Manangan, and Ms. Cerafina Fejeran.

Each of these individuals has reached or surpassed 100 years of age. This is a remarkable milestone on its own; but more than longevity, they represent a generation whose lives were shaped by some of the most defining moments in our island's history, including World War II.

As we approach Guam's 81st Liberation Day this July, we are reminded of the resilience, determination, and strength of those who endured the occupation of Guam during World War II and witnessed the delivery of freedom to our people in 1944. The centenarians lived through those difficult years and helped rebuild our island in the decades that followed.

Their lives are a testament to the enduring spirit of the people of Guam.