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No. 101

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
June 12, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RALPH NORMAN 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.

### 2025 JUNETEENTH MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL EVENTS IN BIRMINGHAM

(Ms. SEWELL of Alabama was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge June 19 as Juneteenth. On June 19, this Nation will recognize Juneteenth with a Federal holiday. We will gather in the spirit of remembrance, resilience, and recommitment to celebrate a day of delayed liberation, but not undeniable triumph.

On June 19, 1865, more than 2 years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, with the news that the last enslaved Black Americans were finally free.

Freedom did not come easily. It came slowly, unevenly, and at a painful cost, but it came. Along with it, generations of Black Americans began the long, unfinished journey toward full equality through Reconstruction, through Jim Crow, through the civil rights movement, and through the voting rights movement even now in our time.

Juneteenth is not just about history. It is about truth telling. It is a reminder that freedom delayed is freedom fought for and that liberation means more than just the breaking of physical chains. It demands justice in our laws, equity in our institutions, dignity in our labor, and respect in our schools, in our neighborhoods, and in our Nation.

My district, Alabama's Seventh Congressional District, will honor Juneteenth with a host of activities. The NAACP in Tuscaloosa will kick it off with a parade on Saturday and a luncheon on Thursday. In Birmingham, we will have a variety of events including a unity breakfast on Friday hosted by DA Danny Carr and the League of Gentlemen.

We will also welcome Major League Baseball back to Birmingham, Alabama, for the second consecutive year. On June 19, 2025, Major League Baseball will return to the Magic City for the 2025 East-West Classic game at Rickwood Field. The game will pay tribute to the Negro leagues and honor Birmingham's important contributions to baseball history.

This year, we will also celebrate the ribbon cutting of the newly refurbished Willie Mays Park in Fairfield, Alabama. Thanks to the generosity of Major League Baseball and the extraordinary efforts of State Senator Merika

Coleman and numerous community partners, the Willie Mays Park will undergo major improvements and will now serve generations of aspiring young baseball players in Jefferson County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Major League Baseball for their continued investment in Alabama's Seventh Congressional District. We look forward to welcoming them back to the Magic City. Of course, we know how important baseball has been not only to the African-American community but to the American community writ large.

We are excited to welcome Major League Baseball back to Birmingham, Alabama. Thanks to their generosity and the generosity of so many, we will continue to play ball in Alabama's Seventh Congressional District.

Let's play ball.

### NATIONAL DAIRY MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, happy National Dairy Month.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of this occasion of National Dairy Month and to honor the hardworking men and women of America's dairy industry, especially those in my home State of Pennsylvania.

As the Representative of Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District and as chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, I know firsthand the central role that dairy plays in our economy, our communities, and our health.

Pennsylvania is an incredible dairy State. With more than 6,200 dairy farms, we rank second in the Nation in the number of dairy operations and eighth in milk production.

These farms care for nearly one-half million dairy cows and support more

□ 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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than 52,000 jobs, generating \$14.7 billion annually for our State's economy.

It is important that in addition to recognizing the success and strength of this industry, we also acknowledge the challenges it takes to produce the dairy products that we all know and love.

Rising costs, outdated Federal regulations, and policies that don't reflect the realities on the ground have all hurt this vital industry. That is why we must continue to fight for a modernized farm bill and for smart bipartisan policies that promote health and strengthen rural communities. In addition, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act we passed out of the House included key victories for our dairy producers.

The bill contains multiple enhancements to the Dairy Margin Coverage program such as increasing tier 1 eligibility from 5 million to 6 million pounds per farm, among other items.

One of those bipartisan policies is the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act which I proudly introduced alongside my colleague, Representative KIM SCHRIER, a pediatrician, and a bipartisan coalition in both Chambers of Congress. This bill is about returning whole and reduced fat milk to school cafeterias. It reflects updated science, addresses years of flawed Federal policy, and responds to what parents, schools, and health professionals across the country already know: Kids need access to milk that they will actually drink.

Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., has also voiced support for returning whole milk to school cafeterias. He recognizes its value as a nutrient-rich option that supports child development and academic success.

Milk provides 13 essential nutrients, including calcium, vitamin D, and potassium. These nutrients support bone health, immune function, and long-term well-being. However, today nearly three in four school-age children are not getting their recommended daily intake of dairy.

Since whole milk was removed from schools in 2012, we have seen declines in milk consumption, increased food waste, and growing concerns about childhood nutrition. This legislation is a commonsense solution that simply gives schools the option to serve whole and reduced fat milk once again.

I am pleased to report that the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act has already made significant bipartisan progress. It has passed the House Committee on Education and Workforce and most recently the Senate Agriculture Committee with strong support from both sides of the aisle.

With over 300 votes in the House last Congress, this bill is ready to cross the finish line.

Let me be clear. This is a win for everyone involved. It supports our children's health and gives a boost to our Nation's dairy farmers who work hard every day to provide safe, nutritious products.

Mr. Speaker, National Dairy Month is not just a moment of recognition. It is a call to action to stand with rural America, invest in the next generation, and ensure our food policies are rooted in science and not bureaucracy.

Let's finish the work we have started. Let's pass the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act. Let's deliver for our farmers, and let's keep making American agriculture stronger, healthier, and, yes, great once again.

#### CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

(Ms. PLASKETT of the Virgin Islands was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Caribbean-American Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the profound contributions of Caribbean Americans to our Nation's fabric.

From our kitchens come flavors that have influenced American cuisine.

Our music echoes across the mainland, starting with Caribbean-American children in the late seventies in the Bronx founding what became hip-hop and rap music.

Our entrepreneurs have built businesses. Our educators have shaped minds, and our artists have colored the American cultural landscape.

Our military and revolutionary mindsets have given Americans Haitian troops during the Revolutionary War, Denmark Vesey during slavery, Sidney Poitier and Harry Belafonte during the civil rights movement, and Colin Powell for his shock and awe.

We have produced judges, athletes, and public servants who carry forward the Caribbean values of hard work, family, and community.

During this Caribbean-American Heritage Month, we honor not just Caribbean Americans, but the enduring spirit of a people who transformed challenge into opportunity, who preserved culture while embracing innovation, and who continue to strengthen America's promise of diversity and inclusion.

#### RURAL HOSPITALS

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a critical healthcare crisis facing the Virgin Islands. The proposed budget cuts threaten to devastate our already fragile rural hospital system, putting thousands of lives at risk.

The Virgin Islands' remote geography makes our rural hospitals literal lifelines. When someone suffers a heart attack on St. John or faces a medical emergency on St. Croix, these facilities aren't just convenient options. They are the difference between life and death. Unlike mainland rural communities where one might drive 2 hours to reach alternative care, our residents face ocean crossings and weather-dependent transportation.

These proposed cuts would force closures of essential services. We are talk-

ing about dialysis centers, maternal health services, and trauma care that cannot simply be replaced by telemedicine or helicopter transport.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to remember that healthcare equity means ensuring that the ZIP Code, or in my case, the island I call home, doesn't determine whether you live or die. The Virgin Islands cannot afford to lose these vital healthcare anchors.

#### WOMEN VETERANS DAY

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the women veterans of the United States Virgin Islands on this Women Veterans Day. From the date that President Truman signed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act into law in 1948, Virgin Islands women have answered our Nation's call to service with unwavering dedication and courage.

These remarkable women have served in every branch of our military. I think of the great Ruby Rouss, the first Black woman to be assigned permanently to the staff of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, among so many others, past and present.

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Women veterans of the Virgin Islands and across our Nation represent the very best of our spirit. They have broken barriers, opened doors for future generations, and demonstrated that courage knows no gender.

On this Women Veterans Day, we say to every woman veteran in our Nation: Your service matters. Your sacrifice is remembered, and your continued leadership makes us all stronger.

#### HONORING DON GILLESPIE

(Mr. NORMAN of South Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate a special day for a very special person. On Sunday, June 1, at Westminster Presbyterian Church located in Rock Hill, South Carolina, Senior Pastor Mike Honeycutt called to the pulpit Mr. Don Gillespie.

Don has been an outstanding public servant and a devoted leader in both law enforcement and pastoral care. A man of deep conviction and humble service, Don has dedicated his life to protecting communities, building others up through coaching and ministry, and living out his faith.

Don was born and raised in Rock Hill, South Carolina, by loving Christian parents. He grew up attending First Presbyterian Church and has been a devoted member of Westminster Presbyterian Church since 1992.

From an early age, Don demonstrated a passion for sports, especially baseball and football. This passion carried him through his years at Newberry College, where he attended on a baseball scholarship and lettered all 4 years. During his sophomore year at college, Don was shared the Gospel by a close friend and accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.