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No. 107

## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BEGICH).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
June 23, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable NICHOLAS J. BEGICH, III 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 1:50 p.m.

### OPERATION MIDNIGHT HAMMER SUCCESS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate President Trump and our incredible servicemembers who planned and perfectly executed Operation Midnight Hammer to destroy the nuclear enrichment facilities in Iran.

President Trump has made it clear since he first ran for President in 2015 that Iran can never become a nuclear

power. This weekend, that promise became a reality.

The Iranian regime has supported terrorist groups throughout the Middle East that all have one goal in common: to destroy the United States and our allies in the region.

A nuclear-armed Iran is a threat to our servicemembers in the region and a threat to the entire Western world. President Trump's decisive action this weekend stomped out the threat of an unstable nuclear power. For that, the world is grateful for his leadership.

It is now time for the Iranian regime to negotiate in good faith, bring peace to the region, and end the conflict with Israel.

### PROMISES MADE, PROMISES KEPT

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues in the U.S. Senate will vote this week on President Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act, moving President Trump's agenda one step closer to being signed into law.

This is critical legislation that will prevent the largest tax hike in history by extending President Trump's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, which ushered in historic economic growth for our country.

The legislation also provides rural Americans with much-needed tax relief by extending immediate expensing to help our Nation's farmers secure the most up-to-date technology and by delivering relief from the death tax to more than 2 million family-owned farms, which ensures that the next generation of American farmers can continue to feed this great Nation.

In November, the American people voted for a change in leadership and a return to the prosperity that our Nation enjoyed during President Trump's first term.

I now urge my colleagues in the Senate to support this legislation and deliver on the promises that we made to the American people.

### SUPPORTING VETERANS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the House will vote on our 2026 appropriations bill for the military construction and veterans affairs programs.

Our Active-Duty servicemembers and our veterans have given so much to our Nation to ensure that we remain safe and free. It is now our duty to support them.

This critical piece of legislation fully funds veterans' benefits, healthcare, and other VA programs that so many of our veterans need. This legislation also furthers President Trump's goals of removing waste and abuse from our government by codifying his executive orders to end funding for ridiculous DEI and pro-abortion VA policies.

Additionally, this legislation ensures that programs to fight veteran homelessness are fully funded. It also supports the Veterans Crisis Line and other VA suicide prevention programs.

This is critical legislation to ensure that our Nation's veterans have the support that they deserve.

### HONORING BETTE SLAYTON

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of the president and CEO of the Bedford County Development Association, Bette Slayton.

Bette is retiring after 35 years as the senior executive of an organization that recruits new businesses to move into Bedford County and helps existing firms expand.

Recognized as the 2021 Economic Developer of the Year by the Pennsylvania Economic Development Association, Bette played vital roles in the restoration of the beautiful Bedford Springs Resort, the recruitment of the Walmart and REI distribution centers, and the construction of new business parks and business centers.

Under Bette's leadership of the Bedford County Development Association, economic growth has facilitated job

□ 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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creation, increased public revenues, and fostered collective hope for future prosperity throughout Bedford County.

On behalf of everyone in the 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Bette on her retirement and wish her the best.

### WE SAY NO

(Ms. STANSBURY of New Mexico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say:

No to endless wars.

No to a President who breaks the law daily.

No to a Republican Congress that is so weak and so spineless that they refuse to stand up.

No to Congressmen and -women who refuse to do their jobs.

No to a Republican Congress that is attempting to rob the American people of healthcare, food, and public lands.

No to lawmakers who refuse to speak out as this administration undermines the rule of law, due process, and American democracy.

No to Members of this Chamber who have been so kowtowed by Donald Trump that they are failing to stand up for the American people, their own people who elected them in good faith and sent them here to defend this country and uphold the Constitution and the rule of law.

We say no.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today as Donald Trump has taken us to the precipice—the precipice of war, a constitutional crisis, and millions living in fear and marching in the streets.

Mr. Speaker, 3 days ago, the President ordered a unilateral military strike against Iran and notified the majority of Congress and the American people, essentially, by tweet, using a social media post on Truth Social.

Days later, the world is in chaos because we have a President who is acting unilaterally. Authoritarianism is on the rise across the planet, and a region has been destabilized by conflict and violence, putting millions of people at risk, not only in this country but across the world.

American troops are in harm's way.

Iran is seeking help from our adversaries in Russia.

To date, we have had exactly zero—zero—briefings here in this Chamber from the President or the White House about their strategy or intent, or on what they know, what they planned, and how they are going to protect our troops, our bases, and the American people.

This follows on days of Donald Trump attacking the American people on our own soil by deploying United States marines, as combat troops, and the National Guard against our own people.

His own DHS Secretary and Federal agents handcuffed and pushed a United States Senator to the floor.

His U.S. attorney indicted a United States Congresswoman from this Chamber for doing her job.

A New York City official was arrested in a Federal courthouse.

I ask my colleagues: Is this the America that you swore your oath to and that you raised your right hand to defend, an America where the President is making hundreds of millions of dollars in a cryptocurrency bribery scheme; an America where the President is soliciting foreign governments for private gifts, including a \$400 million jet in exchange for favors; and who is systemically dismantling programs that feed and house our people? He is trying to gut our healthcare systems and saddle generations of our people with trillions of dollars in debt so that he and his billionaire friends can have a few more tax breaks and a few more toys in their collection.

Is that what you stand for? Is that why you ran for office? Is that what the GOP and the Republicans in charge of this Chamber ran for and stand for?

You are the people who decide what moves on this floor and hold the keys to accountability. You are the ones who know that what is happening right now is wrong.

I ask how you can sit idly by and watch as your President dismantles the systems that uphold our democracy and the rule of law.

How can you sit here and watch as he recklessly deploys the military at home and abroad, threatening the safety and security of our people?

How can you sit idly by and watch as children starve across the world, including in Gaza and Sudan?

How can you justify a man who cozies up to our foreign adversaries and turns his back on our allies?

It does not have to be this way. You control this Chamber. You decide what happens, and Donald Trump is not a king.

I call on my Republican colleagues to find your backbones, find your moral compass, find your resolve, do what is right, and do your jobs.

I say to the American people: Keep marching. Keep speaking.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired. The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

### RECOGNIZING UGA 2025 BOREN AWARD WINNERS

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Georgia and its remarkable students for achieving a national distinction in international education.

UGA now ranks second in the Nation for the prestigious Boren Awards, a testament to its academic excellence in global engagement.

These awards help support students who are studying languages and cultures critical to national security and U.S. interests. In 2025, seven UGA students were selected, securing funding for their education and creating a pathway to public service.

I congratulate Jack, Nicholas, Sara, Sadie, Madison, Mark, and Jessica on their well-deserved achievement.

Their work embodies the values and work ethic of the University of Georgia. The university's success reflects the amazing work of its faculty, staff, and students.

### CHEERS TO NIC WALLACE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nic Wallace, whose talent and creativity have earned him national recognition as the 2025 World Class U.S. Bartender of the Year.

Mr. Wallace, the bars and spirits manager at the Sea Island Resort, received the highest honor in American mixology, awarded through a rigorous competition that tests the Nation's top bartenders on skill, storytelling, and hospitality.

Among 30 national finalists, Mr. Wallace emerged as the champion after a series of challenges, including speed rounds, signature cocktail pairings, and original recipe presentations.

As Georgia's sole finalist, he embraced that responsibility with pride and excelled in all aspects.

For more than a decade, Nic has pursued this title with determination and focus. As he himself said: "No matter how much you want something, no matter how long it takes, you can get it."

Nic will now represent the United States in the global finals in Toronto later this year.

I congratulate Nic on this achievement.

□ 1215

### HONORING A REMARKABLE VETERAN: ANDREA "FEARLESS" SMITH BROWN

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran from Savannah, Georgia, Ms. Andrea Smith Brown, known by many as "Fearless."

Andrea is a 60-year-young Army veteran whose journey of healing from PTSD has taken a courageous and inspiring turn.

For decades, she had been healing but found a breakthrough in her recovery in an unlikely place. What began as a hobby has become her therapy and a safe place where fear has turned to freedom. She uses her motorcycle as the vehicle for her fearless healing.

She defended her nickname by conquering the Pikes Peak summit, completing the 18-mile trek more than 14,000 feet in the air.

Last month, she undertook a solo cross-country ride, her travels stretching over 5,000 miles. She is now one of only 16 people worldwide to complete the I-10 End to End Ride alone.

"Fearless" isn't just her nickname. It is a legacy she is building with every mile.