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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. MOORE of Utah).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC.

July 15, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BLAKE D. MOORE 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 DR. OLGA KARMAN

(Mr. KENNEDY of New York for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with both deep sorrow and immense gratitude to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of my dear friend, Dr. Olga Karman, who passed away last week after a courageous battle with leukemia.

Dr. Karman was a poet, a professor, an immigrant, an activist, a mother, a grandmother, and a mentor.

She profoundly shaped my life and the lives of countless others across the globe.

Dr. Karman was born in 1940 in Havana, Cuba, where she graduated from the distinguished Ruston Academy in 1958 and attended Santo Tomas de Villanueva University.

By 1960, she left Cuba, immigrating to the United States for a better life.

After settling in rural Connecticut, she resumed her education at Connecticut College, graduating in 1966 *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa.

Powered by her fierce intellect and passion, she received a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship to study at Harvard University, earning her a Ph.D. in Latin American literature in 1976.

Later that same year, Dr. Karman arrived in Buffalo, where she would spend the rest of her life enriching the city's cultural, academic, and civic fabric. She taught Spanish at Nichols School, and in 1980, she joined the faculty of D'Youville University, my alma mater, where she spent the next 27 years teaching generations of students.

At D'Youville, Dr. Karman taught Spanish and helped to establish the D'Youville-Da Vinci High School partnership. Her impact as an educator was immeasurable. I was one of the many students lucky enough to sit in her classroom.

In 1997, I participated in the study abroad trip to Panama with Dr. Karman. As we visited the rainforest and met with the people of the region, she turned to me and out of the blue asked me: "Have you ever thought about getting involved in politics?" I said: "I think about it every day, but I don't know how."

She gave me a one-word answer that changed my life forever: "volunteer." That moment was a true turning point for me and led me to where I am today.

That story, so simple yet so profound, speaks to who she was: a woman who saw people clearly and believed in them completely.

She believed that politics is personal, that poetry can be protest, and that identity is not a limitation but a calling. Her own life was proof.

As a lifelong author, Olga's work was widely published and deeply personal. Her memoir, "Scatter My Ashes Over Havana," captured the pain of her exile and the complexity of her return to Cuba. Her poems appeared in *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *The Buffalo News*, and even on public artwork throughout Buffalo's West Side where she lived and wrote until her final days.

Dr. Karman's commitment to service extended far beyond the classroom or the written word. She was relentless in her advocacy for our community and for people. She served on the Governor's Advisory Committee for Hispanic Affairs. She was a founding member of western New York's Hispanics and Friends and helped shape Hispanics United of Buffalo.

She spent her later years as a certified interpreter for the board of parole, all while continuing to write poems and short works.

We lost Dr. Olga Karman last week on July 9. She passed away just as she lived: surrounded by family. She is survived by her children, Carla and Nathaniel, and her lifelong companion and twin brother, Roberto Karman.

Olga's greatest joy in life was being a grandmother to Gregory, Woodrow, Nicholas, William, Hugh, and Mika; and a proud great-grandmother to Ayla, Penelope, Avery, and Lincoln.

She leaves behind a grateful community and countless friends, too many to name, but just to name a few: Michelle Swygert-Seay, Raul and Geno Russi, Mayor Tony Masiello, Judge Raul Figueroa, Assemblyman Sam Hoyt, and of course, her entire D'Youville University family.

Our Nation is a better place because of Dr. Olga Karman. I am forever grateful that our paths crossed. We honor

□ 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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Dr. Olga Karman's legacy today knowing that her spirit lives on through her writings and the lives she touched, including my own.

Dr. Olga Karman will be deeply missed. May she rest in peace.

"Thank you very much, my good friend. We love you";

"Muchas gracias mi buena amiga. Te queremos."

CONGRATULATING JOE JENSEN

(Mrs. FISCHBACH of Minnesota was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Joe Jensen on a successful 50-year career serving as a 911 dispatcher. Joe started his career at the Marshall Police Department as a dispatcher and is wrapping it up with Lyon County.

His calm voice put people at ease, even during one of the scariest times of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Joe for his courage, positivity, and service throughout the years. The community will miss him, but they are grateful to him for making it a better place. May he enjoy his well-deserved retirement and the next chapter of his life. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Joe.

CONGRATULATING OFFICER SARA VANLEEUEWE

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Officer Sara VanLeeuwe on a successful 30-year career at the Marshall Police Force. From the time she was a teenager, Sara knew she wanted to be a police officer, starting her career as a part-time officer.

Over her 30 years, Officer VanLeeuwe has had a huge impact throughout her community and especially loved the work she did in the schools. She taught antidrug classes to hundreds of students and served for 19 years as the Marshall School resource officer.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Sara for her courage, compassion, and service. I know Marshall will miss her presence on the force. May she enjoy her well-deserved retirement.

CONGRATULATING 2025 MEEKER COUNTY FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the 2025 Meeker County Farm Family of the Year: the Ahlgrens. Along with their six children and a few part-time employees, Rick and Sarah Ahlgren run the Ahlgren Dairy. The farm milks 220 cows and raises replacement heifers in Ellsworth Township.

While the farm has been in the family for generations, since Rick and Sarah purchased the operation in 2018, the family has invested in new robotic equipment, cover cropping, and a new heifer barn. The family is also active in their community, participating in educational events and even hosting a live nativity scene for the public each December.

I am proud to have a family so committed to both responsible agriculture

and their community. It is because of family like theirs that our rural communities thrive.

AMERICANS HAVE A RIGHT TO A QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION

(Mrs. MCBATH of Georgia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the attack on every American's right to a quality public education in this country.

Families have been promised the right to send their kids to good public schools, regardless of where they live, how much money they make, or their child's disability. However, the careless actions of Secretary McMahon and the Trump administration continue to threaten that promise.

From canceling programs dedicated to teaching children with dyslexia, autism, and other disabilities in the middle of the school year, to cutting teacher pay and illegally withholding billions of dollars meant for after-school programs, President Trump and Secretary McMahon are choosing to make it more difficult for your child to get the attention and high-quality education that they deserve at school.

□ 1010

They are choosing to miss deadlines and hold your tax dollars hostage, tax dollars meant specifically for our children.

This funding is typically released every year before July 1 to ensure that schools are ready to go for the school year that is about to start the next month. It represents at least 10 percent of Federal K-12 funding in every State and almost 15 percent in my home State of Georgia, almost \$225 million.

These dollars appropriated by Congress are meant to improve student learning and empowerment, as well as their achievement, operate before- and after-school programs, train teachers, and help adult learners go back to finish high school.

A few weeks ago, on the evening of June 30, the Department of Education sent out the following message to States:

"Given the change in administrations, the Department is reviewing [the funding for these programs], and decisions have not yet been made concerning submissions and awards for this upcoming academic year. Accordingly, the Department will not be issuing grant award notifications obligating funds for these programs on July 1."

In their own words, they knew this deadline was coming and missed it anyway. They chose to wait until the last second to notify States and schools that the funding your family relies on to educate your child for the school year that is starting in a few short weeks is not where it is supposed to be.

Instead of being in your child's classroom, your money is sitting in Wash-

ington because the Secretary of Education could not be bothered to meet a deadline that is the difference between a school having an after-school program or not. This is funding that is the difference between a child having a safe place to go while they wait for mom or dad to get off work and come get them or not.

The Trump administration's failure to release this funding on time is disrupting school and district planning, jeopardizing the education of millions of students, and forcing layoffs, program delays, and cancellations for students and their families. It is wrong, and it is completely unnecessary.

Last week, I led a letter to the administration signed by 150 Members of the House demanding that the administration follow the law and release this funding. House Democrats will continue to do everything that we can to make this right for the families who are counting on us every day.

There is no legitimate reason that any child or family in this country should have to personally deal with program closures and larger class sizes. That is what the Secretary and President are demanding of parents every single day that they fail to meet this incredibly basic responsibility.

My son, Jordan, was, unfortunately, killed in a shooting in 2012, and I miss him every single day. While my son may be gone, I will never stop being his mother. I will never stop fighting for every child who isn't getting what they truly deserve from our great country.

When I came to Congress in 2019, I promised I would never stop fighting to ensure that every kid who grows up here in the United States receives the skills necessary and stays alive long enough to live a decent life, a life that my son never got to truly fully explore or enjoy.

Time and time again, Secretary McMahon and President Trump fail to rise to the challenge, and the American people are the ones who continue to pay the price.

No more excuses. Secretary McMahon and this administration must follow the law and immediately release the funding meant for our schools, teachers, and families. It must happen.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GOLDA EISENBACH

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of little Golda Eisenbach, who was tragically taken from the Monsey community in June.

Golda was the beloved 4-year-old daughter of Spring Valley Trustee Yisroel Eisenbach, a dedicated public servant from a cherished Rockland County family.

Golda's life was cut short in a tragic accident caused by a drunk driver, a painful reminder of how one reckless