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No. 122

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 16, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARLIN A. STUTZMAN 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 ST. MICHAEL MAYOR KEITH WETTSCHRECK

(Mr. EMMER of Minnesota was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Michael Mayor Keith Wettschreck who is retiring later this month.

For nearly 20 years, Mayor Wettschreck has been a fixture in the St. Michael community. After serving in the United States Navy for more than 26 years, Keith returned home to Minnesota determined to continue

driving positive change in his community.

Keith's service in local government began with a role on the city's planning and zoning commission. He was later elected to the city council where he served until being elected mayor in 2020. Throughout Keith's time in office, he has been a staunch defender of fiscal responsibility, having slashed the city's debt in half. He has also been an invaluable partner as we have worked to fund transportation and infrastructure projects in St. Michael and the surrounding communities.

Thanks to Keith's leadership, St. Michael has flourished. His dedication and vision over the years have made the St. Michael community a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, we are deeply grateful to Mayor Wettschreck for his service to the St. Michael community. We wish him and his wife, Tracy, and their two children, Michael and Anne, all the best in the next chapter.

THE STORY OF BRAD AND DONALD LANG, SR.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, "diversity" has become a bad word here in D.C., but diversity has never been a weakness. It has always been our greatest strength.

Without the calculations of Katherine Johnson, a Black mathematician at NASA, American astronauts may never have successfully returned from space.

Without the code talkers, Native Americans who turned their indigenous language into an unbreakable code, American soldiers may not have been victorious in the Second World War.

Without the bravery of the Tuskegee Airmen who courageously flew into battle abroad, despite facing discrimi-

nation at home, the freedom of all Americans might have been at risk.

Throughout this Nation's history, countless people have had to fight for their right to be included. My good friend Brad Lang, and his father, Donald, are powerful examples of that fight.

In 1942, Donald W. Lang, Sr., enlisted in the Army with dreams of becoming a pilot. Like many men at the time, Donald felt it was his duty to serve his country, but despite scoring well on the aptitude test, he, like many other qualified Black men, was forced to wait while White pilots were fast-tracked for training.

By the time he was accepted for pilot training at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama in 1945, the Second World War was coming to a close.

While he never made it overseas, Mr. Lang rose to the rank of master sergeant at the Army Air Corps, received three medals for his service, and served directly under Colonel Noel Parrish, the commander of the Tuskegee program.

Mr. Lang didn't open up about his military service until his son, Brad, showed an interest in aviation in the 1970s. On Sundays after church, Donald would take his family to Newark Airport to watch flights take off and land. That is where Brad's fascination with airline flying began.

A decade later, he achieved what his father couldn't do. Brad earned his pilot's license in college before enrolling as the only Black student in Purdue University's aviation program. At a time when Black pilots were still rare, he became a captain for Delta Air Lines.

Through it all, he never forgot to pay homage to those who made his career in aviation possible. He volunteered with a Commemorative Air Force Red Tail Squadron for 29 years to ensure that his father's legacy and that of the Tuskegee Airmen is preserved and shared.

□ 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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In 2015, Brad participated in the arsenal of democracy flyover to mark the 70th anniversary of victory in Europe. He flew a P-51C Mustang "Tuskegee Airmen" over the Capitol in a tribute to our Nation's first Black military pilots.

He once said about his father: "His experience at Tuskegee was a paramount experience for him in terms of directing his life after the military. He would always relate to the discipline and the moral integrity that was part of the esprit de corps that was at Tuskegee. . . . He was motivated to see other people like himself, motivated to aviate and also fight for the country. They all had that common core experience."

Brad and his father, Donald's, story is an American story. It is a story of a father whose dreams were denied and a son who honored his legacy by breaking barriers of his own. It is a story of persistence, pride, and progress. Brad captured it best when he said: "No matter what the circumstances that you are up against, it is possible to rise against adversity, just like the airmen did, and succeed in life."

Their story is a reminder that American progress has also depended on those who persevered in the face of prejudice. Their story shows that diversity is not a threat nor a weakness. It is a competitive advantage. It is a source of national strength. It has driven innovation, expanded opportunity, and is a common theme throughout our shared American story.

In a time of rising division, these stories call upon us to remember who we are at our best: a nation that does not just tolerate differences but draws power from them.

DEMOCRATS' BIG MISTAKE

(Mr. MCCLINTOCK of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the big, beautiful bill is now the law, so it is no longer a theoretical discussion about what the bill might do. We are about to find out what it will do.

The Democrats have succeeded in frightening Americans into lopsided opposition. On the day it passed the House, one poll registered just 29 percent public support for it compared to 55 percent opposition.

This has encouraged Democrats to double down on their hysterical warnings of societal collapse, warnings they hope will continue to resonate with the public.

What they don't seem to grasp is that you can't spin the economy. Everybody knows in their own lives exactly how the economy is doing and any politician who tries to tell them otherwise just looks foolish.

Remember when the Democrats were telling us for years that Bidenomics was working. The only economic indicator that matters is the answer Americans give to this question: Are you

better off today than you were 2 years ago?

Now, Americans may never realize that this bill protected them from a 22 percent income tax increase that was set to take effect on January 1. A family making \$75,000 a year won't feel its taxes rise \$1,500, so it won't feel relief from this provision. We don't feel what doesn't happen.

Democrats are counting on this fact while stoking class resentments over tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires, but millionaires and billionaires don't work for tips. They don't get paid overtime. They don't rely on Social Security. Working families do, and for the first time, the big, beautiful bill shields these earnings from being taxed. In addition, residents of high tax States will feel a big reduction in their Federal income tax bill.

Further, businesses get relief, too, those awful millionaires and billionaires, mainly in their ability to deduct 100 percent of their expenses for manufacturing purchases. That means that manufacturers of every variety will add equipment to their plants, increasing the productivity and the pay of existing workers, and adding new jobs to make that equipment.

□ 1010

By opening America's vast energy resources, domestic production is about to rev up, a declaration of American energy independence that will echo throughout the entire economy, then add the completion of the border wall and the removal of millions of illegal aliens that the Democrats allowed into our country.

Under Biden, most of the new jobs were snapped up by foreigners, and real wages fell. Under Trump, most jobs are going to Americans, and real wages for Americans are rising again, as employers are forced to pay a market rate for labor.

The Democrats' mantra that millions of destitute Americans will lose their Medicaid coverage is about to be challenged by reality. The fact is that the only groups losing coverage are able-bodied grownups who refuse to get off the couch and look for work, illegal aliens who refuse to go home, and fraudsters.

What happens when millions of legitimate Medicaid recipients who have been terrified by the Democrats realize that their benefits are untouched? Well, we are going to find out.

Will the national debt balloon? Only if you accept the assumption that the economy will grow at an anemic 1.8 percent next year. The average 20th century growth rate, including the Depression, was 3.3 percent. A mere 3 percent growth rate will generate \$4 trillion of new revenues, and that doesn't include hundreds of billions of dollars collected from imports or saved by eliminating waste identified by DOGE.

How will average Americans fare? They will be paying significantly lower taxes than they are today, especially if

they work for tips or overtime, are over 65, have children, or live in high-tax States. Wages, long undercut by cheap illegal labor, are already rising. Factories that make or buy equipment will be making and buying a lot more of it.

No one unable to work will lose their Medicaid benefits. Their neighborhoods will be safer as criminal illegals are deported and not allowed to return. Their energy bills will be lower.

If all this relief creates just average economic growth, the deficit will begin to shrink, which brings us back to the simple question that we will put to people next year: Are you better off today than you were 2 years ago? Obnoxious protests, hysterical rhetoric, and doomsday trolling won't change that simple and self-evident answer.

One party will have been proven undeniably right and the other mendaciously wrong, and I think that is what the Democrats fear the most.

HONORING LADY ZANDRA LEWIS ON HER 75TH BIRTHDAY

(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 75th birthday celebration of the first lady and co-pastor of Miracle Missions Full Gospel Church, Zandra Lewis, a remarkable woman of faith, service, and compassion.

For over five decades, she has faithfully ministered alongside her husband, Pastor Dr. James A. Lewis III. Together, they have built a spiritual home grounded in prayer, love, and community, but Lady Zandra's impact goes far beyond the pulpit.

Lady Zandra is a counselor to women and teens in crisis, a tireless advocate for our most vulnerable, and, above all, a selfless spiritual resource for those who need it most. Lady Zandra leads not just with words but through action, meeting people where they are, loving them as they are, and lifting them up with boundless grace and compassion. She lives her life grounded in faith, forgiveness, and a deep sense of joy.

For Lady Zandra, family is everything, and nothing is more important. She is the proud mother of four, grandmother to eight, and great-grandmother to six, but her love doesn't stop there. Over the years, she has opened her heart to so many others who now lovingly call her mom. That says everything about the type of person that she is.

As we celebrate her 75th birthday, we give thanks not only for what she has done but for what she will do in the many years ahead. We look forward, with gratitude, to all that is yet to come.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank Lady Zandra Lewis for everything that she does for our community. Happy 75th birthday.

HONORING ARTHUR "DUKE" SEROTTE

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the