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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. FINE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 22, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RANDY FINE 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.

FEDERAL RESERVE INDEPENDENCE

(Ms. PELOSI of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of one of the bedrock principles of our economy: the independence of the Federal Reserve Board.

For more than a century, the Federal Reserve has served as a cornerstone of the economic system of our country, tasked with safeguarding price stability, maximizing employment, and

preserving the health of our economy, independent from political pressure, insulated from partisanship, and rooted in data and discipline.

When I first came to Congress, Mr. Speaker, I was a member of what was then called the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, now the Financial Services Committee. At that committee, as it is today under the new name, we heard from the Chair of the Fed on the specific amount of time required by Congress on two subjects. According to the Humphrey-Hawkins law, they would report to us on inflation and employment/unemployment, and that was part of the purview in their communication with Congress that was required on a regular basis.

I heard one of the Chairs of the Fed say unemployment is dangerously low. It scared me to death. How could it be? He was reporting as to its impact on inflation. That was when I was a new Member.

When I was Speaker, our Members said frequently: Why don't we have the Fed be more accountable to us?

I said: It has to be independent. They have their own funding. They don't have to depend on us for that because their independence is essential.

Any of us who had economics in college or beyond knows that independence of the Fed is essential to the respect that our country commands in terms of our own economy throughout the world. The Chairman of the Fed is the Chair of the central bank and serves as the Chair of the central banks globally. It can't be a party hack. It can't be somebody who is there because the President wants to create interest rates. That is not what the President's job is, to create interest rates. It is the Federal Reserve Board that does that. It is really important.

I come to you on this day to say this because of the rumors that we hear of the flirtation with making the Fed just a handmaiden of the Presidency. It

would be wrong to do. It would be wrong to do, and we would be viewed disrespectfully if we were ever to go down that path.

Now, this comes at a time when we are observing the 15th anniversary of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. As some of us here know who served with Barney Frank, he was the chair of the then Financial Services Committee and a master of his agenda there. Senator Dodd from Connecticut was on the Senate side with that.

It was necessary, Mr. Speaker, because of what was happening in the financial community. I mean, it was awful. It was horrible. We all know that in September of 2008, we were told that our financial system was melting down. It was doing so because of—well, I have written about it in my book, and I won't go through the whole thing right now—what was happening terribly in the financial system by the banks and financial institutions.

What happened? Millions of people lost money, trillions of dollars from the wealth of the country. Millions of people losing their jobs, so many losing their homes, losing their savings, and the rest. Therefore, this bill was necessary.

Of course, after the bill was passed and to this day, still the banks and other financial institutions try to undermine it and weaken it. The Volcker Rule, named for a former Chair of the Fed, was a provision in Dodd-Frank relating to the security of our economic system.

These notions that they are putting forth of making the Fed Chair a party hack is just so very wrong. I will just say this, again: In school you probably learned of fiscal policy, and that is what the Congress of the United States does. We create the budget of the United States. Fiscal policy is here, and monetary policy is at the Fed, establishing the rates in terms of relating to inflation.

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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Let's rid ourselves, disabuse ourselves of notions. Instead, we need serious ideas about how to make our economy work for the American people.

HONORING MARTIN L. GRABER

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS of Iowa was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce I am introducing legislation to designate the United States Postal Service facility located at 1019 Avenue H in Fort Madison, Iowa, as the Martin L. Graber Post Office.

Martin served our country for 32 years in the Iowa National Guard. He was a devoted public servant, a principled legislator, and a man of deep faith who lived to serve others. He always put southeast Iowa first and made everyone around him feel seen, heard, and valued.

Alongside his beloved wife, Coni, Martin helped lead one of Fort Madison's most iconic traditions and events, the Tri-City Rodeo. Together, they were the heart and soul of that event, which draws visitors from not only across the region and the tristate area, but across the country, and it showcases the best of our community.

Their dedication to the rodeo reflects the same commitment they brought to everything they touched—family, service, and community.

I thank Coni, their daughters, and granddaughters for sharing Martin with all of us. His legacy of service and leadership in Lee County, and in Fort Madison in particular, has left a mark that won't fade. Naming the Fort Madison Post Office in his honor is a small but lasting tribute to a man who gave so much to the place he loved.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say happy birthday to Blake Dickerson and wish him a very wonderful day. Happy birthday, Blake.

HONORING U.S. ARMY SPECIALIST JAVIER VILLANUEVA

(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 U.S. Army Specialist Javier Villanueva, a patriot, a son, a husband, a father, and an American hero.

Javier Villanueva lived a life defined by character, integrity, and selflessness. These values were instilled in him from an early age, especially by his father, U.S. Army veteran Wilfredo Rivera.

During a recent visit to Puerto Rico, I had the honor of meeting with Wilfredo, and we spoke about the extraordinary young man Javier was. We talked about his moral compass, his commitment to service, and the strength that shaped his life and sacrifice.

In 2003, Javier followed in his father's footsteps and joined the Army where he served with distinction in Company H, 2nd Battalion, 11th Infantry. He was later deployed to Iraq where he served with honor until his life was tragically cut short on November 24, 2005.

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Mr. Speaker, Javier embodied the very best of who we are as a nation. His sacrifice is a solemn reminder that the freedoms we hold dear come at an immense cost. He gave everything for people he would never meet and for ideals we must never take for granted.

Javier is survived by his wife, Felicia; daughter, Taliyah; his parents, Christine and Wilfredo; his brothers, Command Sergeant Major Wilfredo Rivera and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Carlos Rivera.

As a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I carry stories like Javier's with me every day. They remind me of the sacred obligation we have to support every veteran who comes home and honor every fallen hero with the dignity that they have earned.

Specialist Villanueva's courage, leadership, and selflessness will never be forgotten. May Javier Villanueva rest in peace. May God protect his family. May God bless the United States of America.

HONORING JAMES M. KAPSIK

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of James M. Kapsiak, a proud Buffalonian, a devoted educator, and a beloved pillar of our community, whose life was defined by service.

Jim was the embodiment of selflessness, whether in the classroom, on the basketball court, or in the pews of his church. After earning his master's degree from the University of Buffalo, Jim dedicated 33 years to Emerson Vocational High School where he taught physical education, health, and computer technology.

Outside the classroom, Jim was a leader on the court and the field, coaching numerous sports at Emerson and leaving a lasting legacy as a proud coach of the girls' basketball team.

With every student, he brought patience and compassion, meeting them where they were and helping them to grow. His passion reflected a deep commitment to helping young people build confidence, discipline, and a belief in themselves that would carry them through life.

Jim's service didn't stop at the school doors. He served with distinction as a representative for the Buffalo Teachers Federation and remained active in civic life through his work at the Erie County Voter Registration Office.

As a deacon, mentor, coach, and friend, Jim gave his time and heart generously to those around him. Above all else, he was a family man. He is survived by his devoted wife, Mary Ruth;

his children, Jennifer and Bradford; and his grandsons, Noah, Aiden, and Blake. Each are a testament to his love and his legacy.

Jim's decades of service were rooted in love for his community, and his impact will be felt for generations. On behalf of our entire western New York community and a grateful nation, may Jim Kapsiak rest in peace.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SARAH DOXEY

(Mr. BAUMGARTNER of Washington was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sarah Doxey, a devoted wife, mother, and respected healthcare leader in Spokane, whose life was tragically taken last week while out for her morning jog.

Sarah served as chief operating officer of CHAS Health and spent her career lifting up others. From her work at Providence to CHAS and beyond, she led with vision, compassion, and a deep commitment to her community. She made a lasting impact on healthcare in eastern Washington.

Sarah is survived by her husband, Erick, and her two teenage children. Their loss is unimaginable. It is a loss felt deeply by the entire Spokane community. May her memory live on in the lives she touched.

FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF AGRICULTURAL LEADERS

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the privilege of meeting with a group of outstanding students from the Washington Future Farmers of America.

These young leaders come from diverse agricultural backgrounds: one from a grain farming family, one a dedicated cattle showman, and one an experienced horse rider. All are deeply rooted in rural Washington.

Our conversation highlighted how growing up in farming communities shapes their values. With hard work, responsibility, and a strong connection to the land, their experiences keep them grounded and committed to preserving the future of agriculture.

The Future Farmers of America plays a critical role in educating and inspiring the next generation of agricultural leaders. It was inspiring to hear firsthand how these students are embracing that responsibility with humility, passion, and purpose.

I truly valued our conversation and look forward to strengthening this connection and championing the FAA's mission to inspire and empower the next generation of agricultural leaders.

HONORING BRYAN BRAMAN

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Bryan Braman, a true Spokane legend, whose life was as inspiring as it was beautiful. It was a long way from his tough upbringing in eastern Washington.