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No. 126

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
July 23, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TRENT KELLY 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.

### CELEBRATING RAY DOERR'S LEGACY

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very important person in my life, who is actually a distant cousin. His mother was actually a Bost, a cousin of my grandfather. His name was Ray Doerr. He is from Vergennes, Illinois. He passed away on July 12 at the age of 98.

Ray gave back to his community in big ways and small. He served as a trustee in Vergennes for 67 years and as

mayor for 10 years. He was the chairman of the Republican Party of Jackson County for 24 years.

He was a friend to Governors and Senators, but he never let politics change who he was. He stayed grounded. He stayed loyal to his roots.

Mr. Speaker, I will say, personally, I stand here today because of Ray. He was one of the first people who encouraged me to get into public service. He saw something in me early on and never stopped offering his advice. When I say "early on," I was 23 years old when he encouraged me to get involved in local politics. I will always value our friendship.

Ray was a proud Navy veteran who answered the call to serve our country during World War II. He enlisted at just 17 years of age, serving in the South Pacific, including during the invasion of Okinawa.

When he came home, he married his wife, Ime, and began a life rooted in faith, hard work, and service to others.

He worked in the mines. He delivered gas to farmers. He was a sales manager for Massey Ferguson. He farmed. He served as an auditor for the Illinois Secretary of State, and he was an auctioneer for 80 years. He was one of the hardest working men I have ever known.

He and Ime were married 68 years at the time of her passing in 2012. Together, they raised a son, Jeffrey. Jeff built a family business and shaped a community.

Ray's legacy is not just titles he held, but the lives he touched. He was a mentor, a friend, and a man of his word. He loved southern Illinois and served it every day of his life. We are all better for having known him.

May God bless Ray Doerr and may He bring comfort to his family and all his loved ones.

### RACISM INFUSED IN TEXAS POLITICS

(Mr. GREEN of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, a liberated Democrat, unbought, unbossed, unafraid; censored, but not silenced.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to address the topic of racism infused in Texas politics.

Mr. Speaker, I have in my hand a letter from the Justice Department. It is a letter that has as its reference Unconstitutional Race-Based Congressional Districts, and then it cites the districts: Texas District 9, occupied by a person of color; Texas 18 was occupied by a person of color, who is deceased, to be filled soon; District 29, occupied by a person of color; District 33, occupied by a person of color.

Now, this letter goes on to infuse race into the conversation. The last sentence in the last paragraph reads: "If the State of Texas fails to rectify the racial gerrymandering of TX-09, TX-18, TX-29, and TX-33, the Attorney General reserves the right to seek legal action against the State, including without limitation under the 14th Amendment."

Race has been infused into this letter. It was sent to the Honorable Greg Abbott, the Governor of the State of Texas, and the Honorable Ken Paxton.

Dear friends, at the end of the day, if they can fulfill what they proclaim in this letter, there will be more White representation in Congress from Texas and less Black and Latino representation. This is nothing more than an attempt to silence many of the voices that are emanating from communities of color in the State of Texas. It is racist.

Now, in this country there seems to be a problem with people saying "racism." It is okay to say "anti-Semitism," but don't say "racism." Racism has not received the same amount of

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acclaim when it comes to dealing with racist issues that anti-Semitism has received when it comes to dealing with things that are anti-Semitic.

Well, I am not afraid. I am going to speak truth to power and about power. Here is the truth: Under this President, Republicanism is eroding and devolving into racism. This President has declined to allow persons from countries of color to come into the country when he has opened the door to Anglos from South Africa. This President has found a way to circumvent what would ordinarily be a society that appreciates and respects people of all colors, and he is turning society against people of color.

This letter, if they succeed with this, will be the equivalent of having a mid-decade redistricting without the empirical evidence necessary to do it with a sense of justice. They will do this, and in so doing, it is comparable to having the halftime at a basketball game, and one team decides, because they have the power to do so, to remove two players from the other team and let that team proceed with three players, and they will now proceed with five. Oh, no, wait, you have to have 10 players on the floor, so what they will do is they will just take those 2 players and add them to their team. They will play with seven, and the other team will play with three.

They are diminishing the amount of representation that people of color will have in the State of Texas. Republicanism is being equated to racism too often in this country, and that is not the case. Republicanism has always been about conservative policies, but now they are about racist policies.

This President is infusing, injecting racism into Presidential policy. It is unconstitutional. I am going to fight it, but more than that, I am going to tell the truth about it. If I happen to be one of those who is extricated, who is removed, evicted, I will be bloodied but unbowed.

Mr. Speaker, nobody is going to silence me. You can come after me, but you won't stop me. You won't silence me. I refuse to allow Republicanism in the form of racism to dictate the policies in the State of Texas without my voice being heard.

Finally, this: I say to my friends that I have on my Texas tie. I am proud to represent my State. I am proud to say I stand against Republicanism as racism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

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#### MAY BEAM CONTINUE TO LIGHT THE WAY

(Mr. BEAN of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, a beam is a ray of light, a symbol of

hope. For more than 40 years, BEAM in Jacksonville Beach, Florida, has been that light, delivering hope and help to northeast Floridians in need.

It started in 1985 by representatives of local churches who saw people needing a hand up.

Today, I rise to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry, BEAM, a lifeline for families facing hardship in eastern Duval County, places like: Mayport, Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach, Atlantic Beach. From keeping the lights on to filling the pantry, supporting seniors and single parents, BEAM continues to show up with compassion and care.

Mr. Speaker, I know what you are thinking. They are 40 years old, and they don't look a day over 29. That is true. What is also true is their volunteers and benefactors are everyday heroes, quietly providing critical services to thousands of neighbors each year.

As our community has grown and changed, BEAM has remained a constant source of light, guiding families through tough times with warmth, direction, and hope.

Today, we celebrate more than a milestone. We celebrate that ray of light that is never dimmed. May BEAM continue to shine, lighting the path forward for those who need it most for years to come.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF CARROL EUGENE FRANKLIN

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a heavy heart but a grateful spirit to honor the life of my friend, Commissioner Carrol Eugene Franklin, who passed away peacefully in Hilliard, Florida, at the young age of 76.

Born in Booneville, Mississippi, Carrol lived a life shaped by hard work, deep faith, and a quiet but profound dedication to others. He was a proud combat veteran who served in the U.S. Army's 9th Infantry Division during the Vietnam war.

That same courage and resolve stayed with him throughout his life, whether it was in service to his country, in business, or in leadership with the Nassau County Ocean, Highway & Port Authority.

Carrol was a man who showed up, not just when it was easy but when it was needed. He believed in faith, integrity, and perseverance. He loved his family dearly. For 42 years, he stood side by side with his beloved wife, Judy, raising their sons, Garrett and Greg. They also cherished their granddaughter, Diana Del.

To his church and to his church family at First Baptist of Boulougne; his brothers and sisters; and his many friends, nieces, nephews, and neighbors who knew him, Carrol was the kind of man whose legacy is etched not in headlines but in the lives he lifted.

Mr. Speaker, we say goodbye to a veteran, a man of character, a family man, and my friend. It hurts because that is the impact that Carrol made on so many.

May his memory continue to inspire us all to serve with heart, live with purpose, and love without hesitation.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF KAREN LEWIS

(Mrs. RAMIREZ of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Karen Lewis, a tenacious organizer, a teacher, and truth-teller.

Long before she became known to many as the president of the Chicago Teachers Union, or CTU, Karen dedicated 20 years to serving Chicago students as a chemistry teacher including at Lane Tech College Prep High School in Illinois' Third.

As president of CTU, Karen built an intersectional solidarity movement rooted in love, in justice, and in the radical belief that working-class Black and Brown children deserve fully funded public schools.

In 2012, she courageously led her union in a successful and historic 7-day strike for a fair contract that captured the Nation's attention and brought new life into Chicago's labor movement.

Today, we invoke Karen, both her wisdom and her vision, to guide us as we stand opposed to all the forces of austerity, division, fear, and hate.

May her memory continue to fuel our fight, and may she rest in peace and power.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MARION STAMPS

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and the legacy of Marion Stamps, a Chicago civil rights icon and tenant organizer.

Marion moved to Chicago in 1963 at a time when public housing residents were denied the full measure of dignity that they deserved. Marion was an organizer. She cofounded the Chicago Housing Tenants Organization, and she took on the Chicago Housing Authority, demanding respect, safety, and a seat at the table for tenants in Cabrini-Green and beyond.

Marion built people power from the ground up, participating in the first and only successful national rent strike against HUD, exposing the corruption and holding Chicago city leadership accountable.

Today, we invoke Marion, both her blueprint and her audacity to challenge those in power, to guide us as we challenge an administration that would deprive us of affordable housing and deepen housing inequality.

May Marion's courage and her spirit, which lives in her daughters, Karla, Tracy, Guana, Justice, and Commissioner Tara Stamps, guide us to organize tenants, challenge systems, and never ask permission to make our voice heard.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN PENNYCUFF

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of LGTBQ+ activist John Pennycuff, a proud gay