

Some of us in the Chamber, including myself, have worn the uniform and sworn an oath to protect and serve our communities. We understand the inherent risks, split-second decisions, and unwavering commitment required.

On July 13, while on vacation with his beloved family in South Carolina, Mr. Childers jumped into action to save another family who were caught in a rip current. Mr. Speaker, they were total strangers. They were not his own family but total strangers.

Thanks to the courageous and selfless acts of Mr. Childers, the family of five made it back to the shore safely. Tragically, Mr. Childers did not.

Mr. Childers' heroic actions serve as a reminder that heroism isn't confined to a uniform or a specific profession.

May his memory be a blessing, and may his actions inspire us all to lend a helping hand to other families, friends, neighbors, and, in this case, total strangers.

God bless Mr. Childers and his loved ones. My family and I are praying for his beautiful wife and three children during this very difficult time.

TART WARS

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, there is so much upheaval and so much concern that is going on in our country right now—unemployment, Medicaid cuts, all the things that are happening. Yet, in the Virgin Islands this weekend, on my home island, we had our annual Tart Wars.

The Tart Wars brings together the Virgin Islands community to celebrate and showcase our rich culinary traditions, placing fans of pineapple, guava, and coconut tarts in a fierce competition.

Mr. Speaker, coconut tart did win this year. It is not my favorite, but I would have you note that Virgin Islanders, the grand dames of Frederiksted, Claire Roker, Betty Lynch, and even LaVerne "La La" Joseph, are all Team Guava.

WELCOMING GRAHAM THOMAS BLACKWELL

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, July 18, 2025, Columbia, South Carolina, was blessed as Leah Grace Denny Blackwell and Matthew Blackwell joyfully welcomed their handsome son, Graham Thomas Blackwell, into the world, a very special gift just 2 days ahead of Leah Grace's own birthday.

Born at Prisma Health Baptist Hospital at 2:03 a.m., weighing 6 pounds, 9 ounces, and measuring 19 inches long, Graham has entered a loving, prominent, and nurturing home.

I am grateful for Leah Grace, who is a dedicated long-term staff member in the Washington office, serving as senior policy adviser, while Matt is a former staff member who is now at Duke Energy.

Graham is blessed to be born into a home that will guide him through a bright and fulfilling future encouraged by his wonderful grandparents, Tony and Beverly Denny and Bart and Paula Blackwell, who are all appreciated as devoted statewide community leaders.

On behalf of my wife, Roxanne, and our entire family and staff, I extend the warmest congratulations to the happy Blackwell family. May the years ahead be filled with joy, love, and blessings.

God bless Graham Thomas Blackwell.

TIME TO DELIVER RESULTS FOR AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, Americans expect Congress to complete the basic work of government before leaving town for recess, not the least of which is passing the 12 funding bills for fiscal year 2026. Having passed only two bills, it is absurd that Republicans have decided to pack it up early.

Meanwhile, millions fear what Republican cuts to Medicaid will mean for their families. Shoppers are tightening their belts because of record prices for chicken and beef. Businesses are stymied by President Trump's on-again, off-again tariffs. "Taco or not taco" is the question they are asking.

Why are Republicans rushing to take the break when so many Americans can't even catch a break? Simply put, Republicans are running scared of a titanic Presidential temper tantrum over releasing the Epstein files.

My Democratic colleagues and I are here to work to lower costs and grow our economy, to build healthier and safer communities, and to ensure strong national security and national defense.

I implore my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join us. Let's get back to work and deliver the results that the American people sent us here to achieve.

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

□ 1210

REMEMBERING THOMAS JOHN "TJ" COSTELLO

(Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of TJ Costello, a leader of the Char-

lotte community, who unexpectedly passed away on July 8, 2025.

Mr. Costello's life was marked by sacrifice and service, first to his country as a marine leading combat operations in Iraq and then to our local community as a business leader and faithful church volunteer.

He also served my district by guiding hundreds of young North Carolinians through the nomination process at the U.S. Naval Academy of which he is a proud alumnus.

A devoted family man, TJ married his high school sweetheart, Julia, and had three beloved children, and I will remind them that 1 Corinthians declares: No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagines, what God has prepared for those who love Him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues today to join me in celebrating the wonderful life and legacy of TJ Costello.

IMPACTS OF THE BIG, UGLY BILL ON MASSACHUSETTS

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, Donald Trump and this Republican Congress just enacted the largest transfer of wealth in history. They cut 15 million people off of their healthcare and decimated food assistance for working families to give tax breaks to billionaires.

Last week, I joined my dear friend Representative AYANNA PRESSLEY and Project Bread in Boston to hear directly from people experiencing food insecurity about how the big, ugly bill will make their lives more difficult.

We heard from hungry moms, grandmothers, food pantry leaders, and local officials. Each and every person who participated in the roundtables spoke about how the big, ugly bill will increase hunger. If Trump and Republicans in Congress would spend 5 minutes listening to anyone living paycheck to paycheck, they would know how devastating these cuts are.

In Massachusetts, we are crafting a plan to prevent families from going hungry amid these reckless Federal cuts. Governor Maura Healey, her administration, and local advocates are forming the Anti-Hunger Task Force to adopt long-term solutions to support families in Massachusetts and work to finally end hunger now.

INVESTIGATION INTO THE FIREAID CONCERT IN LOS ANGELES

(Mr. KILEY of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I have asked Attorney General Pam Bondi to open an investigation into the

FireAid concert that took place in the aftermath of the devastating Los Angeles fires.

What we have learned has happened is absolutely beyond belief. In the aftermath of these fires, which destroyed 18,000 homes and tragically killed 30 people, there was a FireAid concert in which a number of high-profile musicians generously agreed to perform and people responded in an amazing way. Tens of thousands of people donated, raising \$100 million for what they were told was direct relief for the victims. Now we have learned that this money didn't go to the victims at all. Instead, it went to non-profits, some of which have nothing to do with fire relief, where they promote things like voting and civic engagement and multigenerational power building. Some of them aren't even located in L.A.

I have asked the Attorney General to open an investigation in order to restore the intent of the donors, make the victims whole, and to bring accountability.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BOB STEIN

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Bob Stein: a friend, a teacher, and a brilliant mind, who passed away last week after living an equally brilliant life.

I had the privilege of knowing Bob throughout my entire public service career. When he wasn't cycling, Bob was a professor at Rice University, where he spent 46 years being a leading voice on elections, disaster response, and local government, but to call Bob just a professor wouldn't capture who he truly was.

His classroom extended far beyond Rice. He had a remarkable habit of turning local officials into students, and I was proud to be one of them.

Bob Stein spent his whole life helping this Nation live up to its promise. To his wife, Marty, and his children, I thank them for sharing him with us. Mr. Speaker, you know that if you planned to run for office in Houston, you had to sit down and talk to Bob Stein.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful city and a grateful nation, I thank Bob. May he enjoy his cycling in Heaven. God bless.

HONORING THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA

(Mr. HARIDOPOLOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of Indian River County, Florida, founded on June 29, 1925.

For a century, this community has stood as a jewel on the Treasure Coast, a place where history, culture, and natural beauty come together in extraordinary ways.

It has grown from humble roots to a thriving community, celebrating a strong economy, welcoming neighborhoods, and stunning environment. From the pristine shores of Vero Beach to the citrus groves of Fellsmere, Indian River County embodies the very best of Florida living.

Mr. Speaker, today, we recognize and celebrate a century in paradise. I congratulate the people of Indian River County on their 100th anniversary and 100 remarkable years.

MEANWHILE

(Mr. LATIMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, the news is louder than a toddler with a kazoo at a Metallic concert. While the headlines scream, the internet screams even louder with a monologue known as meanwhile.

Meanwhile, Paramount settles a lawsuit with President Trump over a dispute that could have been easily dismissed, which is defended as freedom of the press, or not.

Meanwhile, Paramount CBS is seeking a multimillion-dollar merger with Skydance Media that requires the approval of the very same Trump administration. Coincidence? Surely not.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration calls for media fairness, the kind perhaps shown by FOX, OAN, and Newsmax. Maybe.

Meanwhile, Stephen Colbert, host of the show "Late Night," number one amongst hosts in his slot and a Trump critic, has his show canceled by CBS, a financial decision it is said. Oh, yeah.

Meanwhile, CBS' great news leader, Edward R. Murrow, rolls over in his grave.

ONGOING MASSACRE IN GAZA

(Ms. DEXTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a mother, a physician, and a Member of Congress horrified by the ongoing massacre in Gaza.

This is not a humanitarian crisis in abstract. It is the result of choices, choices leading to preventable famine.

While bombs are leveling entire cities, the only so-called aid group allowed in, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, is annihilating the very principles of neutrality and humanitarian relief.

Now, we are hearing reports that aid will be contingent on a cease-fire.

Let me be clear: That is morally bankrupt.

You do not negotiate over food. You do not bargain with medicine. You do not turn aid sites into deathtraps.

Palestinians in Gaza deserve safety, dignity, and the right to self-determination, not starvation.

Oregonians have been clear: The United States has a moral obligation to use its power to end this tragedy. A critical step is demanding the U.N. Relief and Works Agency is immediately reinstated in Gaza for large-scale aid delivery.

□ 1220

CONGRATULATING AMPHENOL AEROSPACE

(Mr. RILEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RILEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, in upstate New York, we make things. This past weekend, we made history when Amphenol Aerospace celebrated its 100th anniversary in Sidney.

Amphenol's is a century-old story of resilience, a community that rebuilt after floods, coming back stronger than before.

It is a century-old story of American innovation, with the world's most cutting-edge technologies rolling off our factory floor.

It is a decades-old story of the power of labor, a true partnership between Amphenol and the Machinists Union, with good jobs, good wages, and a strong middle class.

It is a century-old story of American strength. Amphenol's work defends our homeland.

Above all, though, we are celebrating 100 years of a close-knit manufacturing town of less than 5,000 people where the thing that matters most is not whether you have got an R or a D next to your name, but whether you show up for your shift, do your job with pride, treat each other right, take care of your family, and love this country.

My family and I were honored to celebrate 100 years with everyone at Amphenol this weekend, and we are all in for the next 100.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILL of Texas) laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES, Democratic Leader:

JULY 23, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: Pursuant to Section 2(b)(4) of P.L. 118-144, the Commission to Study the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution Act, I am pleased to appoint the following individual to the Commission to Study the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution.