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No. 147

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 9, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DON BACON 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 DR. JOE LEE SMITH

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

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Joe Lee Smith, a beloved leader and friend in Brevard County, who passed away recently at the age of 89.

For 36 years, Dr. Smith faithfully served the people of Rockledge on the city council, including chairman and as deputy mayor.

Beyond city hall, he was a lifelong educator, coach, assistant principal, dean, and later provost at Eastern

Florida State College. He literally shaped a generation. He was a true gentleman who lifted everyone around him.

On a personal note, when I started my career back in 1993, he was a mentor and friend and always had a kind word for others. He was truly that leader that we need desperately in America today.

Mr. Speaker, on this day we recognize my good friend, Dr. Joe Lee Smith, for his amazing service to our country.

HONORING COLONEL CASPER BERGER

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Colonel Casper Berger, a decorated veteran whose service to our Nation spanned World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. A proud Jewish American, Colonel Berger earned the Legion of Merit for his extraordinary service to the United States Army.

For years, his daughter, Dr. Susan Berger, worked tirelessly to have her parents' headstone at Arlington National Cemetery corrected. When she reached out to our office, we were proud to assist her family.

Working with the Department of the Army, we ensured the replacement was made. Today, their headstone stands as it should, a lasting symbol of a lifetime of service and devotion to their country.

Mr. Speaker, may we always remember Colonel Berger's service and his legacy.

HONORING RON DIMENNA

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the life and legacy of Ron DiMenna, the founder of Ron Jon Surf Shop. Ron Jon is a landmark that has been a cultural center point in Florida's surf culture and has welcomed generations of visitors since 1963.

I have fond memories of bringing my own children there, just as many in our district and around the country know those famous signs along I-95.

Through his hard work and determination, Ron built something lasting and became a symbol of Cocoa Beach itself. On behalf of the people of the Space Coast, we extend our deepest condolences to his family and his loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, he made a real legacy in our community. More importantly, he created opportunities for others when no one else saw the vision. We thank him, and may Ron rest in peace.

HONORING ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to welcome the visit of a man who holds one of the most ancient and revered positions in Christendom, His All-Holiness Bartholomew, the ecumenical patriarch of Constantinople and the spiritual leader of the Eastern Orthodox Church.

His visit stands as a powerful symbol of the enduring role faith plays in a free society. It affirms the place of spiritual leadership in our world. It reflects the ongoing need to uphold religious liberty as a cornerstone of our constitutional order.

Mr. Speaker, I warmly welcome him to the United States and thank him for a lifetime of service.

HONORING JOHN BURTON

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express condolences and gratitude to the family of John Burton for sharing him and his leadership with the Nation. I join with my colleagues—Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, and Congressman MARK DESAULNIER—and so many others in expressing our appreciation to him.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell you about him. Working families have lost one of

□ 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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the most outspoken, ferocious, and unyielding champions our Nation has ever seen. John Burton was a towering and progressive warrior who for half a century never pulled a punch in his dogged fight for a fair future for our children.

Paul and I are heartbroken to hear of his passing, as he was my longtime mentor, close confidant, and dear friend. All who knew John knew that behind his sometimes profanity-laden language was a profound progressive voice for how to make real the promise of America.

As I wrote in the forward to his memoir in his book, "I Yell Because I Care," John yelled a lot because he cared a lot, especially about our most vulnerable neighbors.

He dreamed of a city without homelessness or hunger and a society dedicated to full equality, no matter the person or who they love. He also dreamed of an economy where every working family could succeed and a world at peace where every child could reach his or her fulfillment.

Guided by a big heart and aided by a brilliant, strategic mind, John was boundlessly effective in every arena in which he served, whether in the United States Army as a patriotic American; bringing the concerns of Californians to Congress; as a member of the California State Assembly; as a member and the president pro tempore of the California Senate, the Democratic leader of the Senate; or twice serving as the chair of the California Democratic Party.

He cultivated his friendships in politics, music, community, and sports, nurturing deep decades of long relationships and always engaging new people.

Personally, I will always be grateful to John for managing my very first campaign for Congress in 1987 to fill the seat that belonged first to his brother, Phillip, and then to his sister-in-law, Sala.

Someone just sent this to me. When we were in the Speaker's private office right before I was sworn in, John had felt overwhelmed and just left. Speaker Wright wouldn't start the ceremony without him because whether it was for Congress or the Assembly or the State Senate, the people who served with John knew the power of his legacy even more than he sometimes realized.

When I came to Congress, I told them: Sala sent me. I came here to fight against HIV and AIDS. Sala did send me, but it was John who helped me get here.

My campaign promise was: A Voice That Will Be Heard.

I am sure everyone can just imagine how he savored that when I became Speaker of the House. Enough about me. Let me get back to John.

For more than three decades in Congress, I was blessed to have John as a source of wise counsel, sound judgment, and brash humor. He always served as a constant reinvigoration of

my inspiration to carry on the fight for the people.

From the work of his foundation to end child homelessness, especially among homeless foster children, to a strengthened California Democratic Party fighting for our values to a new highway that was named for him to ensure future generations will know his name, it is fitting that the legacy of this legislative and legendary liberal lion will live on in our State in so many ways.

May it be a comfort to John's beloved daughter, Kimiko, or Kimi, as we call her; grandchildren Juanito and Mikala; and all of his loved ones that our State and, indeed, the entire Nation join his family in mourning during this sad time.

We all want John to rest in peace.

□ 1010

HONORING KANSAS STATE FAIR TRADITIONS

(Mr. MANN of Kansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, this week, thousands of Kansans across our State will travel to the Big First District to partake in the annual tradition of the Kansas State Fair.

I had the privilege to travel to Hutchinson this weekend for the fair. My wife, Audrey, and the kids will be there tomorrow, and there is truly nothing like it.

Typically, Congress is not in session during the first week of the fair, and I am able to spend a few more days there with my fellow Kansans. While I am saddened that I couldn't stay longer this year, I want to take a moment on the House floor to recognize the significance of this tradition and the people who make it possible.

The Kansas State Fair is one of the crown jewels of our State. For more than a century, families have made the trip to Hutchinson every September to celebrate agriculture, spend time together, and showcase the very best of our State. It is a place where urban and rural Kansans alike come together, where grandparents bring their grandchildren to see livestock shows, enjoy funnel cakes and candy apples, ride the Ferris wheel, and come together to honor agriculture as the backbone of our economy and culture. The State Fair is truly a reflection of who we are as Kansans.

In Kansas, agriculture is more than an occupation. It is a calling, a calling that is the heartbeat of the Big First District. The fair celebrates that and honors the men and women who devote their lives to feeding, fueling, and clothing the world.

From livestock shows to crop displays, the fair is a reminder of the faith, work ethic, and service that define our communities. It is also a place where we invest in the next generation by highlighting the accomplishments of FFA and 4-H students who will carry

our agricultural tradition forward and emerge as future leaders of agriculture in our great State.

On Saturday, I had the privilege of announcing the annual legislative showmanship competition alongside Mary McCurry, the chairwoman of the Kansas Fairgrounds Foundation board. This event is unlike anything else in the country. It gives lawmakers the opportunity to learn directly from Kansas FFA and 4-H students about how to show livestock and, more importantly, about the commitment and dedication it takes to care for those animals. These young people are the future leaders of agriculture, and I was inspired by their passion and knowledge.

I would also like to acknowledge Mary Kane with Kansas FFA and Ann Sankey with the Kansas State Fair Foundation board for putting on a great event again this year.

I congratulate this year's winners, and I am grateful for everyone who made the event possible.

I also had the opportunity to hear from our State's farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers and our industry leaders on Saturday morning. We reflected on how Congress delivered big wins for Kansas agriculture this summer through the working families tax cuts, but we still have more work to do.

Kansas farmers and ranchers still need a fiscally conservative 5-year farm bill that addresses the needs of today, not just those of 2018. My House Agriculture Committee colleagues and I are working hard to deliver a farm bill 2.0 to further support the men and women who show up every single day with the determination to feed, fuel, and clothe the world.

Mr. Speaker, the Kansas State Fair is about more than rides, exhibits, and shows. It is about honoring the Kansas families and traditions that make agriculture strong and investing in the next generation to maintain that leadership tomorrow. Kansans are proud of this tradition, and I am proud to represent Hutchinson and the Big First District, home of the Kansas State Fair, here in the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 452. An act to award 3 Congressional Gold Medals to the members of the 1980 U.S. Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at the 1980 Winter Olympics where, being comprised of amateur collegiate players, they defeated the dominant Soviet hockey team in the historic "Miracle on Ice", revitalizing American morale at the height of the Cold War, inspiring generations and transforming the sport of hockey in the United States.