

In 1980, he would go on to become the founder and chief apostle of the Bronx Miracle Gospel Tabernacle Word of Faith Ministry. He has uplifted countless lives through dynamic preaching, compassionate service, and inspired teaching.

Known as a teacher of teachers, Dr. Thompson has built a ministry rooted in love, empowerment, and transformation. His leadership extends far beyond the pulpit, establishing the Bronx Resource Community Center in 2008, mentoring clergy, and serving for two decades as a trusted liaison with the NYPD.

In a world too often defined by division, Dr. Thompson reminds us of the power of faith to unify. His legacy is not just in the honors he has received but in the lives he has changed.

HONORING REV. DR. PIERRE-ANDRE DUVERT

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rev. Dr. Pierre-Andre Duvert, a spiritual giant, and a community leader whose life of service has touched thousands across the Bronx and beyond.

Born in Haiti and ordained in 1991 at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Dr. Duvert has spent 34 years in ordained ministry, living out his calling with humility, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to justice.

As rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in the Bronx, one of the largest congregations in the diocese, he has not only shepherded his parish but also uplifted our broader community.

His dedication extends far beyond the pulpit, from instituting the Annual Police Appreciation Day, to serving on committees focused on reparations and shared mission, to mentoring the next generation of faith leaders.

With two doctorates and decades of academic and spiritual leadership, he exemplifies the intersection of faith, intellect, and service.

I thank Dr. Rev. Duvert for his lifelong ministry and for being a beacon of hope, healing, and unity in our community.

□ 1850

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF AUREO
IVAN CARDONA

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Aureo Ivan Cardona, a son of Puerto Rico, a child of the Bronx, and a giant in the fight for justice, dignity, and community.

Born in Arecibo and raised in Hunts Point, Aureo embodied the very best of our community, rooted in faith, driven by purpose, and committed to service.

Aureo often shared that he had a beautiful childhood. "I never knew we were poor because I was happy."

Aureo was a tireless advocate for justice, a fearless voice of the marginalized, and a champion of the underserved. His career began with the Model Cities Program, tackling urban poverty, housing decay, and racial inequality in New York City. He later became president of the South Bronx

Housing Corporation, tasked with rebuilding the community after the devastating fires of the 1970s.

Aureo never stopped believing in the power of people to transform their neighborhoods. He was a champion for youth, a builder of homes and hope, and the founder of the National Hispanic Housing Coalition. His legacy reaches from the Bronx to Miami, from Puerto Rico to Spain, and far beyond.

Aureo's voice echoed for the marginalized. His leadership lit the path for generations.

Aureo was more than an advocate. He was an artist, a mentor, a loving husband, a father, and a friend. His life was a master class in service, compassion, and joy.

To his beloved wife, Cookie; his daughter, Ralina; and his extended family, I say thank you for sharing him with us. The Bronx is better because your father and husband lived. May his memory be a blessing and a call to action.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND DR. RABBI KEITH
ELIJAH THOMPSON

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary spiritual leader and community pillar in the Bronx: the Reverend Dr. Rabbi Keith Elijah Thompson.

For over four decades, Reverend Dr. Rabbi Thompson has served the people of the Bronx with unwavering faith, humility, and purpose, a man of God who was known across the community as a leader who inspires, teaches, and instills hope in those around him.

Dr. Thompson started out by leading a small home-based Bible study for members of his community. In 1980, he would go on to become the founder and chief apostle of the Bronx Miracle Gospel Tabernacle Word of Faith Ministry. He has uplifted countless lives through dynamic preaching, compassionate service, and inspired teaching.

Known as a teacher of teachers, Dr. Thompson has built a ministry rooted in love, empowerment, and transformation. His leadership extends far beyond the pulpit, establishing the Bronx Resource Community Center in 2008, mentoring clergy, and serving for over two decades as a trusted liaison with the New York Police Department.

In a world too often defined by division, Dr. Thompson reminds us of the power of faith to unify. His legacy is not just in the honors he has received, but also in the lives he has changed.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF CHARLIE KIRK

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. SCHWEIKERT of Arizona was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, instead of an hour of another economics presentation, we need to have a conversation.

Is the evil winning? A couple of hours ago, one of my constituents lost his life. There is a 16-month-old whose daddy is not coming home. There is a 3-year-old little girl whose daddy is not coming home. Erika, the wife, can you just imagine what is going on right now? Do we really now live in a country where words take your life?

Last weekend, it was either Monday or the weekend—and Andy will know the proper name. There is a newspaper called the Beehive or something like that—forgive me for not knowing the name—and it actually did a whole expose on Charlie Kirk coming to universities in Utah to actually spread his message.

If you actually read it, it was a classic conservative message of hope, of loving people, of believing marriage and prosperity were really good for Americans, and a message for young people.

The other half of the article was about how many people in Utah hated this message and what they would do to stop him because, as you know, having a conversation now is—particularly, if it is conversation that doesn't support collectivism, the left, and some weird dystopian view of what America is—your kids don't have a dad that comes home.

Look, I am not here to try to make this a drama. Maybe we hyperpersonalized it a little bit. I have a 3-year-old little boy at home, and I have a 9-year-old girl. My little girl is scared to death. When she is home with mom, she has to walk through the house every evening and make sure every window and door is locked because we had someone attack us a couple of weeks ago in a Costco parking lot.

This is America. Great job.

I have asked a couple of my friends who knew Charlie Kirk better than I do—actually, my brother knows him better than I do. The morality of a life that is taken at age 31 that was actually just trying to make us better—and that cost you your life? What is wrong?

Every Member of this body, particularly on our side, I beg of us, understand and embrace this message of love, conservatism, prosperity, hope, and the morality of family. We have to make sure this legacy of a young man who was actually having a remarkable impact on a society that is lost—let's keep that message alive because it is worth fighting for.

The idea of someone losing their life for words—I am going to sit down. Andy, bail me out here.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS), my neighbor.

□ 1900

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, today we tragically lost a tremendous leader and a friend. We didn't lose him so much as he was taken from us.

Charlie Kirk was an inspiration to an entire generation, and I believe that his legacy will grow. He will be remembered as someone who changed the course of this Nation.

He was the founder of one of the most influential movements, political movements, of our time. We live in an interesting time. We see political movements. President Trump has fostered the MAGA movement, perhaps the most powerful in the history of the country.

However, let's just talk about what Charlie Kirk did in Arizona, and then we will talk about his most important contributions.

He founded an organization, Turning Point USA, and a whole group of related Turning Point affiliates. They are headquartered right there in Arizona. He was just absolutely remarkable.

Arizona is a battleground State. What did they do? In our State, Turning Point Action, together with other coalitions, actually turned out more than 300,000 low-propensity Republican voters, right? What is the difference? The difference was it made Donald Trump win Arizona. It helped Donald Trump win Arizona by the largest margin of any battleground State, 160,000 votes, a 5 percent, 5-point victory.

He fostered a movement. He fostered the movement because he was smart. He was erudite. He was passionate. He was generally calm, took on all comers, unafraid to talk with anyone about his message.

While we consider this movement, we know that people in his generation and younger are actually moving to the right. A lot of people say they are moving to the right because they have been disassociated by the left, they have been disillusioned by the left. I think there is probably some of that to it, but they don't move to the right unless there is an invitation. So he invited people to come and to share his love of freedom, family, faith, God, and country.

Charlie will be a historic figure. He really will be. He will be one more in a long line of those who are good whose lives are snuffed out by those who are evil, but his memory will remain strong.

I would suggest that the most important role that Charlie filled was as a loving husband, a father, a devout Christian who shared his faith unapologetically, without fear, with tremendous courage, charisma, and compassion.

My family invokes our thoughts and prayers on behalf of Erika and Erika and Charlie's two young children. We pray that God covers them with peace and gives them the comfort of the holy ghost.

Mr. Speaker, I want to just close with a couple things. We always say there is no place for political violence in this country, and there should not be. This assassination was meant to instill fear. It was an actual assassination, a political assassination.

What must we do? Well, we certainly speak peace, truth, and comfort, but we respond with courage because the message Charlie brought was there is a

good way. This country has much to offer everyone, so we will double down. We will reinvigorate and restart our engine.

Those who want to destroy this country, whether it be because they want to destroy our faith in God, whether they want to destroy our freedom, whether they want to destroy our education—David mentioned that—we will persevere because there is much to be learned from this young man.

Mr. Speaker, my family and I say may God bless Charlie and his family; may God bless the entire TPUSA team, who are in mourning and grieving; and may God bless the message of freedom that America stands for.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT) and I were talking in the back. I yield to her to please share her thoughts.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. SCHWEIKERT for reserving this time in the people's House to honor our friend, Charlie.

Today is a really hard day. This is unexpected, obviously, but the moment we heard that something had happened, I was able to get on the phone with faith leaders throughout the Nation, and instantaneously there were prayer groups formed, mighty men and women of God, faith-filled Christians, believers who stood in the gap and interceded for my friend, Charlie.

I thank God for that faith. The prayers were not in vain. God promises that His Word will produce what it says it will. I do not believe that Charlie's life being stolen in this manner is in vain. Charlie is a pioneer. A Greek word that God has brought to my remembrance each and every day for more than a decade is *archegos*. If you look it up in a Strong's Concordance, it is word number 747. In some way, God reminds me of this Greek word *archegos* on a daily basis. Even when I think I understand it, I still ask him to give me a deeper revelation. I believe today God highlighted exactly what it means. Charlie personified this word, and it is "pioneer" in the English language. It is one who pioneers a way, who makes a way for others to follow. They may not be the originator of the thing, but someone who fearlessly takes charge; who courageously goes into the unknown; who faces adversaries unafraid, unashamed, boldly; and influences others to continue down that path; that is exactly what Charlie Kirk has done.

Charlie Kirk was a husband, a father, a man who spoke more of family than he ever did politics. For those who didn't know him personally, they may just see him as a political figure. But to those of us who knew Charlie, who listen to his message on a regular basis, who attended his events, we know that rather than talking about tax rates and GDP, he was more talking about the nuclear family, talking about faith in God, talking about the value of marriage, how children need a father in the home, how they need both

parents, how you uplift one another rather than tear each other down, and that is exactly what Charlie did.

He would sometimes go into the enemy's territory, and he would give those who saw themselves as his enemy a platform to speak, and he would have debate. He never promoted violence. He condemned violence at every turn. He gave data, thoughtful responses, and he shared his faith each and every day. He was a pioneer who shared his love for Jesus, proclaiming the Lordship and reign of Jesus each and every day.

Faith comes by hearing, and by hearing the Word of God, and more literally, that second word "hearing" in Scripture means understanding. Faith comes by hearing and understanding the Word of God. I believe that Charlie Kirk was on a mission for America and the world to hear and understand the love of God, to have a revelation of the love of God so that they would know the hope of their calling, so that their intervening would be enlightened, and they would understand that there was a hope and a future, a desired outcome that God had purposed them with.

□ 1910

Charlie Kirk understood that you have to be a doer of the Word, that faith without corresponding action isn't faith at all.

Charlie took action each and every day. We heard that he was moving our youth to the right, but I think, more importantly, Charlie Kirk was moving our youth to God, to faith in God, to read the Scriptures. He lived exactly what he spoke each and every day, being the example, being the change that he wanted to see in America and beyond.

Charlie Kirk has a legacy, not only through the work that he has done, but through his wife, Erica, who I humbly ask each and every person to pray for her and their children. Those prayers right now mean so much.

Charlie Kirk is present with the Lord. He is in the fullness of joy right now, present with Jesus. He is not hurting. He is not suffering. We are the ones who are feeling loss. Erica and those children are the ones who are feeling loss, hurt, and pain. It is the Holy Spirit who I ask to surround them with his wraparound presence and bring them peace, peace that surpasses all understanding in this time, to guard their hearts, to heal their broken hearts. We know that joy will come.

There is a time of mourning, but that joy is not just a suggestion. It is the battle plan that will get them through each and every day of their lives.

In this moment, I want to quote one thing that my friend Charlie said. He has given so many of us an opportunity to speak truth. He has given us his platform, an ability to reach into the hearts and lives of millions of our youth, and beyond.

In a recent quote, he said: "You are commanded to go do something productive with your life, to go give and to

produce and to risk and to then go sow into other people. That is a Biblical idea that has made the world a profoundly better place.”

Charlie Kirk was a doer of the Word, risk-taker, and bold defender of truth, and he has sown into the lives of millions, and that harvest will produce 30-, 60-, and 100-fold.

Charlie, you have a legacy. Thank you for honoring our Father God. Thank you for proclaiming the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Thank you for expressing the fellowship and communion of the Holy Spirit.

We will not be silenced. That would be a dishonor to everything Charlie has done over the years. We will be bold. We will speak out. We will go forward. We will continue to move our youth closer to God. We will continue to press in and get a grip on God as he has a grip on us.

This day, September 10, 2025, truly marks a turning point in our Nation and throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, God bless Charlie Kirk, God bless Turning Point USA, Andrew, Tyler, Erika, and everyone who is a part of the team. God bless them.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Charlie. It has been such an honor to serve alongside him.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I have a challenge for everyone out there who thinks you know things. A little while ago, I was sent—and I hope this is either a bot or just someone who is having a mental health issue, who was putting out horrible, evil comments. You could tell this is a person who has never actually listened, never actually gave a moment.

Here is my challenge to particularly my brothers and sisters on the left, a lot of us on the right, and those who consider themselves populists everywhere else in between. I need to apologize. My world, I see the world through math. It is sometimes a little cold. Maybe I should learn to spend more time like Mr. Kirk, with just the morality of family, of prosperity.

My challenge to you is to go online, go actually watch some of the actual videos, not the interpretation of them, not someone who is offended because it is a violation of their collective dystopian view of the world, but the actual videos. Go find something where Mr. Kirk is basically saying here is the philosophy.

Here is my hope. Here is where I actually think that if we embrace this, all of us, our society would be better, more prosperous, more loving. I challenge you, before you start to actually think you understand—why is it some of us who sometimes are best of friends, sometimes we beat the crap out of each other, and we are all here saying the same thing to you?

Do words that I actually believe are based on what we are as Americans, based in our founding documents, should those words take your life? Should they leave a 16-month-old, a 3-year-old, and a wife without a father and husband?

□ 1920

Mr. Speaker, if the movement is going to work, if the movement is going to save our future, if the movement is going to give hope to a generation that in many ways has been crushed by so many things we have allowed to happen, it needs someone like Charles Kirk going out and saying: Look, there is hope. Here is a path.

Go watch the video. Go watch and read what is written. If we are going to have an opinion, make it based on actual information and not on some propaganda on social media.

This can't be what we have become, but it is. There is a pit in my stomach when I think about how STEVE SCALISE almost lost his life and when the President was shot at. I have heard stories from Members, which we try often not publicize, who have been assaulted and had a bullet through their office windows. I think about my own experiences with my children in my arms.

We are politicians. There is a certain risk and a certain insanity that goes with doing this. How many of us are out there who have built a very powerful and very successful organization but are also telling a story that is America? It is actually what made us.

Go read the actual documents. Go watch the actual videos. After that, if folks have an opinion, it is their opinion. They are Americans. We get to have a belief, but don't make it a belief based on ignorance.

For everyone in my community, in the Phoenix and Scottsdale area, Charlie's home, I ask them to please pray and extend kindness. I say to his family—Erika and his two children—he is not coming home.

Please, God, let's not make this what our future looks like. We have got to be better than this, even when the messenger that is ultimately a message of optimism and prosperity and morality and love takes a life.

Mr. Speaker, I come up here every week and talk about the economics and how terrified I am about the debt, deficits, and demographics. Maybe I should just be terrified of what our future looks like when we have someone at 31 years old, who has built a following just telling the truth—Mr. Speaker, I have to stop myself from rambling because I have a thousand thoughts going through my head. Many of them are quite angry. I promised myself I wouldn't come up here and do a tirade.

Let this be a moment of reflection and particularly for those who fill my text message, fill my emails, and fill my mailbox at home with hate. If there are people on the left who are full of burning hate, maybe now is a good moment of reflection for what those folks have brought to our society. Is this really what we are?

Actually take my challenge. Go actually watch and go read what Charles Kirk was actually trying to communicate. People might actually find out it is not that foreign to where their hearts are at.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 9 a.m.

OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

“I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.”

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 119th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

JAMES R. WALKINSHAW, Eleventh District of Virginia.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-1902. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Rescission of Workforce Investment Act Regulations [Docket No.: ETA-2025-0001] (RIN: 1205-AC26) received September 5, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

EC-1903. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Rescission of Nondiscrimination and Equal-Opportunity Provisions of the Workforce Investment Act (RIN: 1291-AA46) received September 5, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

EC-1904. A letter from the Supervisory, Program Analyst, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Delete, Delete, Delete [GN Docket No. 25-133]; Targeting and Eliminating Unlawful Text Messages [CG Docket