

Park as we discussed her storied career in public life working for former Congressman Alan Grayson, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, the Democratic National Committee, Howard Dean, the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, and the Human Rights Campaign.

For this freshman Member of the House from Maryland in 2017, Julie quickly amassed a top-tier team and got our House office up and running. With my amazing district chief, Kathleen Connor, Julie saw my office through good times and bad, legislative victories and government shutdowns, the COVID-19 pandemic, the January 6 insurrection and the second impeachment trial, through sickness and through health, and all of the public and private trials and traumas of our days.

Julie has great political instincts and amazing historical awareness. She is unflappable. She is understated, and she is always kind. She has a marvelous sense of humor. She is quick to laugh. She always finds the time to help a friend or colleague in need, and she has been a mentor to generations of junior staffers. Countless young, eager public servants have sought her out for advice and insight. She has taken many of them under her wing and connected them with different ways to serve on Capitol Hill and our people in the government.

Finding someone like Julie is a very special thing on Capitol Hill. She can get almost anybody in Washington on the phone, but she always makes time for all of our constituents in Maryland's beautiful Eighth District.

I will miss her daily compassion, her wisdom, and her excellent advice. I will miss her irrepressible love for Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band. We went to several concerts together.

I know Julie has many new adventures ahead of her and many great battles to fight with her amazing wife, Dee, and their two fantastic kids, Carly and Natasha.

On behalf of the people of Maryland's beautiful Eighth Congressional District, on behalf of all of the members of Team Raskin past and present, I thank Julie Tegen for her remarkable service to our country, our Congress, our people, and our democracy. We wish her Godspeed in all of her projects ahead.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH AGENDA

(Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on the importance of the National Defense Authorization Act that I proudly supported on the House floor just last week.

This bill will implement President Trump's Peace Through Strength agenda by restoring our military's lethality and accountability. Components of the

NDAA will bring an end to the dangerous, leftwing ideologies that have been incorporated into our military. For far too long, woke-ism has been prioritized in our military. This bill signals the change that once again puts our servicemembers first.

Additionally, the NDAA secures made-in-America military equipment to provide our troops with the best tools that are made by hardworking American hands, not by foreign companies. This bill tackles our Nation's weak supply chains and diminishing manufacturing by bringing American industries back to the table.

This legislation will save billions of taxpayer dollars by reducing inefficient and unnecessary funding for defense programs. The NDAA builds on efforts started in the Working Families Tax Cuts Act to stimulate our economy and to bring jobs back home.

□ 1220

ADDRESSING MISLEADING ADVERTISING FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, President Trump took executive actions last week to address misleading prescription drug advertisements.

This action will direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to ensure that full and accurate information is available on the risks associated with prescription drugs. It works to prohibit pharmaceutical companies from promoting drug usage over lifestyle changes.

This will also eliminate the inappropriate intervention between a patient and the patient's doctor. Unregulated prescription drug advertising often misinforms the public about a drug's full risks and potential benefits.

This initiative by President Trump delivers on a promise to put Americans first by promoting a high degree of transparency. I strongly support President Trump's action to address this issue to ensure that patients can once again rebuild their trust in the American health system.

HONORING CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF FAYETTE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fayette Volunteer Fire Company of McAlisterville in Juniata County, Pennsylvania, for their 100 years of service.

The selfless spirit of the officers and members has characterized the company since it was founded in the summer of 1925. Whether responding to calls, participating in training, or sponsoring fundraising, these incredible volunteers engage at the highest level of commitment.

A faithful observance of duty has been the keystone of the Fayette Fire Company's mission. These initiatives will continue to positively influence current and future members.

On behalf of everyone in the 13th Congressional District, I congratulate the Fayette Fire Company of Juniata

County on its 100th anniversary and express my personal thanks for their distinguished legacy of community service.

RECOGNIZING 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF WILLIAMSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the milestone anniversary of the Williamsburg Public Library in Blair County, Pennsylvania, as they celebrate 75 years of service.

The methods that Blair County residents use to access information have changed since the library system was established in 1950. However, the mission of the library system remains the same: to provide materials and information services for lifelong learning, enrichment, and reading.

It has often been stated that libraries aren't about the books but about the people. Nowhere is that perspective more clearly evident, in form and function, than in the Williamsburg Public Library.

On behalf of everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate the residents of the borough of Williamsburg on this incredible milestone and express gratitude to the library team for their enduring commitment to promoting the joys of lifelong learning through reading.

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF CHARLIE KIRK

(Mr. LARSON of Connecticut was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, first and foremost, I rise today with our deepest condolences for the family of Charlie Kirk.

Violence of any kind, especially violence that we have seen in this country way too often, should never be condoned. Whether it is the Kirk family or the families of the kids who were shot in Colorado, it is gut-wrenching and sorrowful that our Nation continues to go through this plague of gun violence.

Madam Speaker, it has been 13 years since Sandy Hook in my home State of Connecticut. It is long overdue for Congress to have a vote. Universal background checks are a commonsense way that we can deal with this, and I see no reason why we can't pass this as a Congress. Frankly, I believe that we should ban assault weapons, as well.

Hopefully, people in this body will come to their senses and have Congress take a vote, at a minimum, for the families who were impacted and for our future. That is all that is required of us.

Again, our hearts go out to the Kirk family and, certainly, the families of the students at Evergreen High School in Colorado.

DEMANDING ANSWERS FROM DOGE

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning because Democrats have introduced a resolution of inquiry to get the information

from the whistleblower who has talked about what happened to the more than 300 million Americans who depend on Social Security. This impacts all 435 congressional districts.

Madam Speaker, you have 161,000 Social Security recipients in your district. I know that you do not stand for having their personal information gone through, looked over, and utilized for anything that was unintended, let alone having been taken from its secure position in Social Security and stored in a cloud that no one from the Social Security Administration has access to. That makes everyone's information vulnerable.

Democrats are calling for DOGE to come before the Committee on Ways and Means so that they can tell the American people, number one, why they needed to look at their personal data to begin with and, number two, what they are doing with it and why they took it from a secure location.

No one on DOGE has been vetted by the United States Senate or Congress. None of them are accountable for what they are doing. For the President to allow them to have access to every American's personal data is an outrage.

Democrats and Republicans should join together and do our responsibility as a separate branch of government and the branch of government that has control over Social Security to make sure that these DOGE individuals are held accountable.

Democrats demand answers, and I am proud to be joined by RICH NEAL in making sure that, on the Committee on Ways and Means, the committee of cognizance for Social Security, we have DOGE come before us. If they are doing such a great job and are exposing all of this fraud and abuse, why aren't they in front of Congress to tell us about it? Democrats demand that DOGE be held accountable for what they have stolen and put into a cloud.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

God of justice and love, You have told us what is good, that we are to love You, O Lord our God, with all our

heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind. This first and greatest commandment is written on our hearts. This day and always may we follow Your law.

But help us to see that to fulfill this law, we are obliged to follow with as much devotion the second law, to love our neighbor as ourselves.

These days, when neighbors are often our opponents, when loving them requires us to set aside our anger, when our own wounds bind our hearts from reaching out, help us to realize that to follow Your law is to reorient ourselves to what it means to love You.

As You have blessed us, sinners that we are, may we bless those who have sinned against us. As we stand in debt to Your mercy, may we show mercy to those who have taken something from us. And as we ourselves have violated Your law, yet You love us. May we love even those neighbors who have deeply offended us.

To Your laws we dedicate our lives, and in Your love may we live them.

In Your merciful name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CHARLIE KIRK: MARTYR FOR FREEDOM

(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, a consequence of liberal, hateful bias and bigotry in campus academia is deranged radicalization, leading to violence as "the ends justify the means."

In 2009, David Horowitz, in his book "One-Party Classroom," warned of indoctrination. The solution is mutual respect to disagree, ending liberal discrimination.

Sadly, I have endured liberal intolerance, with no philosophical diversity of faculty, where liberalism is dictated. Yelling "fascism" foolishly 3,000 times by liberals has resulted in the assassination of Charlie Kirk, as he courageously proclaimed God, family, country. He is a martyr for freedom.

President Donald Trump and his supporters are the opposite of fascist, national-socialist. Conservatives implement limited government, expanded freedom, and peace through strength, devolving power from Washington to the people.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstituting peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump, speaking lovely as Iranian-designed Russian drones invade Poland, also Romania Saturday, threatening American troops.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO THE UNITED STATES GROUP OF THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McDOWELL). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following Member on the part of the House to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly:

Mr. BOYLE, Pennsylvania

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE MEXICO-UNITED STATES INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h, clause 10 of rule I, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group:

Mr. CUELLAR, Texas
Mr. CORREA, California
Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ, Texas
Ms. ESCOBAR, Texas
Mr. CARBAJAL, California

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1500

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas) at 3 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.