

Today, we honor not only his achievements but also the values he championed and the example he set for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, may God comfort his wife, Erika, his children, and all those whose lives he touched. May we continue to carry forward his commitment to free speech and open dialogue that defined Charlie's remarkable life.

BOLSTERING AMERICA'S GRID RELIABILITY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, families and businesses in Virginia's Sixth District are paying the price for failed energy policies. Reliability has suffered and communities are left uncertain whether the lights will stay on. That is why I strongly support the GRID Power Act.

This commonsense bill cuts through red tape and empowers grid operators to prioritize power generation projects that actually improve reliability and affordability. For too long, unreliable energy sources have been propped up while reliable options in coal, natural gas, nuclear, and hydropower have been forced into premature retirement. Meanwhile, subsidies have been shoveled into wind and solar despite these intermittent sources being unable to fully replace the stability and affordability that traditional energy generation provides.

The facts are clear: More than 95 percent of projects in the interconnection queue are wind, solar, or battery storage, yet only 5 percent are ever completed. Meanwhile, critical projects face years of delay. Families should not have to pay for two grids: one for wind and solar and another backup system for when the wind isn't blowing and the Sun isn't shining. The GRID Power Act ensures we get back to building affordable and reliable energy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DOGE

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to discuss something that should alarm every American citizen.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, DOGE or so-called DOGE employees, have been rummaging through people's individual Social Security records.

For the general public's awareness, DOGE is the so-called Department of Government Efficiency, initially led by Elon Musk until there was a breakup of the bromance between he and President Trump, but DOGE still persists.

Mr. Speaker, as you know—and it has to be as much a concern to you as it is to me—having more than 127,000 Social Security recipients in your district whose information is private and secure, is being rummaged through by twentysomethings who have no accountability, have never been vetted, and who will not come before Congress.

I asked Chairman ESTES last week in our subcommittee meeting to bring

DOGE forward to please tell us what they are doing rummaging through everyone's personal data and information.

Ranking Member NEAL and I are going to introduce a resolution of inquiry to bring DOGE before Congress. Every Member, Republican and Democrat, should be concerned about this. Every American citizen should be aware that DOGE has taken all of that information and stored it in a cloud, a/k/a another site that is vulnerable, that anyone can hack into, and that the Social Security Administration has no access to. No one is allowed to look at that data who hasn't been vetted, as was testified before the Ways and Means Committee last week.

How is it that DOGE employees are exempt because they are above the law? It requires the United States Congress to call them in front of us. If they are doing such a great job with efficiency, and if that was their goal, clearly they ought to be able to come before Congress and testify as to what they have found.

Mr. Speaker, I think every American should be aware that what is really going on here is an attempt to get at your data and your information and to further attempt to privatize Social Security. That is the end goal.

When you look at the layoffs that have occurred at the Social Security Administration, when you look at what has happened to the regional offices, when you look at the basic phone service and the inability of people to contact and speak with a human being, it should astound and awaken every single American.

I hope that all Americans who may be listening to this or people in the audience who may be listening to this take to heart what is happening with their personal data and information.

Why should anyone, let alone unvetted, unaccountable DOGE people, go through your personal records? Why do they need that information? What does that have to do with government efficiency, and why did they steal them and put them in an insecure cloud that anyone could hack from the outside?

This is an abomination, and it needs to be corrected. It can very easily be corrected by the legislation that we have introduced calling to make sure that DOGE comes before Congress.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans need to stand up and call them to come before us.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 37 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YAKYM) at noon.

PRAYER

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

Holy and righteous God, You reign over all things. Your hand directs our steps, and Your Word determines the living of our lives.

Rule over this week and the legislation considered, the issues debated, and the answers sought. Place Your hand on our conduct and order our purpose. Reveal Your will that it would govern our actions and preside over our intentions.

With our whole hearts, minds, and souls, may we show our love for You by responding with every ounce of our emotion, every inclination of our will, to live according to Your revealed law.

May we ensure that our inner lives yield to Your control. May we take pains to conform our energy and reconcile our efforts to reflect to our children and our children's children, to our communities, and to our country that we owe everything to You. We serve You only, and so we dedicate ourselves to do what is right and good in Your sight.

In Your sovereign name, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. EZELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. EZELL 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING ABUNDANT LIFE EVANGELISTIC CHURCH IN BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

(Mr. EZELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable milestone for a cornerstone of faith and service in south Mississippi.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of Abundant Life Evangelistic Church in Biloxi, Mississippi. For more than three decades, this church has been more than a house of worship. It has been a place of hope, healing, and community for thousands of families on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Under the steadfast leadership of Bishop Jason Johnson and his wife, First Lady Kim Johnson, Abundant Life has grown into a vibrant congregation committed to spreading the Gospel of Christ and uplifting those in need.

From youth outreach to disaster relief and from mentoring programs to feeding the hungry, the church has never wavered in its mission to live out the love of Christ.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the entire church family for their 35 years of faithful service, and I pray for many more years of impact and growth.

God bless Abundant Life Evangelistic Church, and God bless the great State of Mississippi.

RELEASE FOOD AID SITTING FOR 9 MONTHS

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise for the 40th time to call on the Trump administration to restore lifesaving food aid for malnourished children.

When kids are starving to death, their organs break down. Even if we are able to feed them conventional food, they cannot digest it. It takes specialized nutrition to bring them back to health, including the nutrition manufactured by Edesia Nutrition in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, in my district, where thousands of boxes of emergency food aid have been sitting in a warehouse since Donald Trump and Elon Musk froze the program back in January.

They continue to promise that the program is going to come back online any day now and that those boxes will be shipped, but it has been 9 months.

Starving children cannot survive on promises. They cannot survive on words. They cannot survive on tweets, purchase orders, or RFPs. They need this food aid to move.

The administration needs to keep its word and act with urgency, and I will speak on this floor every day until they do.

HONORING CONSTITUTION DAY

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Constitution Day approaches.

The assassination of Charlie Kirk is a watershed moment for free speech. Charlie made a name for himself exercising his First Amendment rights. He was shot answering a question from a liberal influencer.

His assassination sends a message that if you disagree on the wrong issues, you might end up paying for it, even with your life.

Regardless of politics, Americans don't want a country where people are shot for their views.

Freedom of speech is under serious threat. From gender ideology to race, the far left has weaponized political correctness, punishing dissenters with social and professional consequences.

If we want the First Amendment to survive this moment, we must restore respect for the rule of law and confront the factors fueling division.

Charlie Kirk was reaching out to the other side when he died, and to honor his legacy, we should do the same.

PROVIDING STABILITY FOR FRANCHISES

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to welcome franchisors, franchisees, and suppliers to our Nation's Capitol as we connect Main Streets across America.

I highlight H.R. 5267, the American Franchise Act. Congress must provide stability for the franchise model of small business by aligning Federal statute with longstanding precedent.

In North Carolina, there are more than 30,000 franchises, employing more than 300,000 workers and generating over \$30 billion in revenue. That represents jobs, paychecks, and opportunities for families.

H.R. 5267 ends the uncertainty, ensuring owners have the clarity they need to keep hiring and investing in communities across our country.

It is about fairness, opportunity, and ensuring entrepreneurs from every walk of life have a real shot at living the American Dream.

PROMOTING PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

(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, I was grateful for the passage last week of the National Defense Authorization Act championed by Armed Services Committee Chairman MIKE ROGERS. The legislation supports over 45 executive orders from President Donald Trump and funds peace through strength.

Authorizations provide a 3.8 percent pay increase and improvement of housing and education, funds to fight drug traffickers and deploy troops to the

border, and funding to counteract the subversive activities of the Chinese Communist Party.

I appreciate initiatives to support funding for the defense research projects at the University of South Carolina and missions at the Savannah River Site.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war continues. Trump is re-instituting existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength; revealing war criminal Putin lies; insulting Trump and mocking Trump as Russian drones invade Poland, repeating history of September 17, 1939, 86 years ago tomorrow, when Stalin joined Hitler in invading Poland, murdering over 60,000 Poles.

Remember Charlie Kirk, God, family, country.

□ 1210

RURAL REPRESENTATION MUST BE HEARD

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues might have heard about the redistricting scam going on in California, which has set off a wave of a bunch of them around the country.

Indeed, what has happened is that about 15 years ago Californians put in place a commission to take the responsibility of making the new district maps out of the grubby hands of legislators. We see the current process they are doing, if we want to call it a process, is exactly why.

They have taken maps of who represents what parts of the State and have completely drawn them for partisan reasons. Basically, in this case it is in order to eliminate up to five Republican seats, drawing urban areas into the rural ones. What is really bad about that is that rural representation will no longer be heard. In those areas, we will have people who will only have their issues represented by urban people who want to take their water supply away from agriculture.

They keep introducing wolves into areas of the Northeast and the rural areas of California. This devastates wildlife and livestock. They let the timber burn so we have massive fires because they would rather kowtow to a few environmental groups in the urban areas. That is what we are getting with these district lines. We are only getting urban voices and not rural.

Mr. Speaker, I also ask everyone to please remember Iryna Zarutka. She was killed needlessly by a guy who had been released 14 times.

REMEMBERING GOVERNOR JIM EDGAR

(Mr. LAHOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1