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No. 153

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 18, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GABE EVANS 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 THE LIFE OF KENNETH JOHN BERMUDEZ, JR.

(Mr. LAWLER of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Kenneth John Bermudez, Jr., of North Rockland, who passed away earlier this year at just 15 years old from hypoplastic coronary artery disease.

As known to those who knew him best, Kenny J. was an extraordinary young man. At Fieldstone Secondary School, he was an honor roll and prin-

cipal's list student. He was also a devoted member of the Haverstraw Fire Department, proudly serving as a junior firefighter.

For someone so young, Kenny's commitment to community and service spoke volumes about his character.

Kenny's family and friends remember the joy he carried with him, the bond he shared with his mother and brothers, and the light of his faith that touched everyone around him.

This week, the community will dedicate a memorial bench at Fieldstone to honor his memory, ensuring that generations of North Rockland students will know the story of a classmate who lived with such heart and purpose.

On behalf of New York's 17th District, I extend my deepest condolences to the Bermudez family. Kenny's spirit, service, and example will live on in North Rockland.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LARRY BRISSING

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Larry Brissing, a lifelong North Rockland resident who passed away on September 13 surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Tomkins Cove in 1949, Larry spent his early days helping at Snuffy's Restaurant, the family business, before going on to build one of his own. After years as a heavy equipment operator, he founded L.R.B. Excavating and later served the people of Stony Point with distinction as superintendent of highways for 19 years.

Larry's commitment was recognized when the town named the street leading to its highway department in his honor.

Beyond his work, Larry was deeply devoted to his faith, his community, and, above all, his family. A devoted husband to his late wife, Ewa, a proud father of four, and a loving grandfather of seven, Larry lived a life defined by service, kindness, and love.

May his memory be a blessing and his legacy continue to inspire North Rockland for generations to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOANNE M. ROSAMOND

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Joanne M. Rosamond, of Bedford Hills, who passed away on September 6.

For over 50 years, Joanne dedicated herself to her family, her community, and the people of Westchester County. She served as confidential secretary to the town supervisor of North Castle and gave countless hours of her time to civic, political, and charitable organizations.

Whether as chairwoman of the women's advisory committee to the Westchester County Board of Legislators, president of the Bedford Hills Women's Club for 14 years, or as a leader in the Westchester County Federation of Women's Clubs, Joanne was a tireless advocate for others.

Joanne's work earned her recognition from the Westchester County legislature and the New York State Senate and Assembly, but her true legacy is the love she gave her family: her husband, George; their children, George Jr. and Dori; and her grandchildren, Eliza, Daniel, Zuzanna, Scarlet, and Phonze.

Joanne's life of service and devotion will not be forgotten.

I will miss you, my friend.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW I OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome to the United States His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople, the spiritual leader of more than 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, including my wife, and the head of the second largest Christian church in the world.

He comes to our country at a historic moment, having been awarded the distinguished Templeton Prize, joining

□ 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 ranks of past recipients such as Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

For decades, Patriarch Bartholomew has been a bridge builder between faiths and a global voice for environmental stewardship and human dignity. His visit is a moment of pride for Greek Orthodox Christians across America, including many of my constituents in New York's 17th District.

On behalf of this Congress, I extend a warm welcome and safe return home to His All-Holiness and offer gratitude for his life of service and his witness to faith, peace, and reconciliation.

RECOGNIZING FIREFIGHTER KENNY BECK

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize firefighter Kenny Beck, who has retired after 25 years of dedicated service to the Lake Mohegan Fire District.

Kenny spent his entire career on shift three, beginning at headquarters and later serving at Station 2 in Jefferson Valley.

Over those years, he became known not just for his reliability on calls, but for the way he has mentored other firefighters, passing along lessons that will outlast his time in uniform.

Kenny was there for his community in its most difficult moments, including his service during the attacks of September 11. His commitment to helping others continues beyond the firehouse through his work with the My Brother Vinny organization, supporting veterans and families in need.

Kenny's retirement marks the end of a remarkable career that will leave an impact on the fire service for years to come.

ICE AND DHS LOST CREDIBILITY

(Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we begin Hispanic Heritage Month, I want to honor the millions of Latinos and Latinas who make this country strong. We celebrate our culture and sacrifices.

This year, it comes with urgency because we are under attack. Last week, the Department of Homeland Security attacked me on X, insisting they deport only criminals. If you walk the streets of my district, Mr. Speaker, you see the truth, and it looks nothing like their tweets.

Last Friday, in Franklin Park, a suburb in my district, Silverio Villegas-Gonzalez left his home like any other day. He was a restaurant worker, and he enjoyed cooking. He was a devoted father. He never came home. ICE agents stopped him, and within minutes of dropping his kids off at school, he was shot and killed in broad daylight that morning.

First, they said that he drove at officers. Videos show otherwise. Then, they said that he dragged an officer. We have yet to see the evidence. They said that the officer feared for his life,

but neighbors' videos capture gunshots and then a car coasting. Silverio was already incapacitated before crashing into a semitrailer.

Those same videos show officers, including the one supposedly seriously injured, smashing the window, dragging Silverio's lifeless body out, slamming him onto the pavement, and handcuffing him as he bled out.

Silverio didn't make it. DHS' story doesn't add up.

A man is dead. A family is shattered, and the agency responsible keeps hiding behind masked thugs and unmarked cars. I use that term because that is how so many agents are acting, either voluntarily or not.

ICE and DHS have no credibility, and neither do their stories. They have lost it.

□ 1010

Reports indicate that officers involved were not wearing body cameras. This is not law enforcement. This is becoming an American gestapo.

Silverio's tragedy is not alone. It affects families every day now. That same day, in Little Village, ICE arrested William Gimenez, a day laborer, as he walked into a barber shop with his wife. William was a lead plaintiff in a lawsuit against Home Depot and local police for abuse. ICE retaliated.

We all saw the Cicero case: children were left crying on the side of an industrial road after the parents were taken away by ICE. That is state-sanctioned cruelty against children, the President's specialty.

DHS insists they target criminal immigrants, yet in Elgin, in the dead of night, ICE staged a reckless raid with helicopters and armored trucks parading detainees for cameras. Secretary Noem showed up for 5 seconds of fame and rushed to declare: Mission accomplished.

The reality is two U.S. citizens were detained. They were not criminals; not even immigrants.

To quote the President: They don't know what they are doing.

What we see are workers punished, children traumatized, U.S. citizens abducted in their sleep, and a father, Silverio Villegas-Gonzalez, shot dead. There are hundreds, if not thousands, of cases like this.

We celebrate Hispanic heritage, but we also issue a warning. Today it is Latinos and other immigrants under attack. Tomorrow it will be others. Once institutions are built to target and control, they don't surrender power, they expand it.

Like the military-industrial complex, they find new enemies and new missions, new excuses to keep the money flowing and the machinery of fear alive.

That is why we will not look away. This is bigger than one community and bigger than one city. It is about the kind of country we are becoming.

Chicago will not be intimidated, and I will not stop demanding truth and

dignity for Silverio, William, or the children in Cicero, and for every family who deserves to live free from state terror.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE KIRK

(Mr. LANGWORTHY of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Charlie Kirk, a husband, a father, a follower of Jesus Christ, and a proud American who devoted himself and his life to awakening civic courage in a new generation.

Charlie's faith was central to who he was. He did not shy away from declaring it, nor did he compromise it for the sake of convenience or applause. He was a proud believer in Jesus Christ. We take comfort knowing that today, he is with the Lord.

Charlie celebrated the Judeo-Christian values on which this Nation was founded: faith, family, freedom, responsibility. He reminded us that without those values, America would lose the very foundation of its strength.

Charlie built his life's work around inspiring others, especially young people, to embrace their responsibilities as American citizens. He told them to get involved, learn your history, speak your mind, and stand firm in your beliefs. He taught America's college students that you could stand up for your values, even if you dared to be a conservative on a liberal campus where your beliefs were vilified.

He told them to flex their First Amendment rights, to debate honestly, and to speak boldly, even if professors and campus culture declared them wrong for rejecting socialist or Marxist teachings. Charlie knew America was the greatest country in the history of the world, and he gave students the backbone to defend that truth.

He made complex issues clear, and he welcomed debate because he trusted the American people to recognize truth when they heard it. He insisted that free speech was not a partisan slogan but the lifeblood of our free society.

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible to ignore the cruel fact that Charlie's life was cut short by a coward who murdered him in cold blood. But let me be clear: That act of violence did not silence Charlie's voice. It amplified it. Millions and millions of Americans and countless more around the world now know what Charlie stood for, what he worked for, and ultimately what he died for. His legacy is not diminished by his death; it is magnified. The ideas he championed and the courage he displayed are now reaching more hearts and minds than they ever have before.

Beyond the public stage, Charlie held the most important roles any of us can claim, that of being a husband and a father. He loved his family very dearly, and he drew strength from his faith. He reminded us that the real work in America doesn't happen in the halls of