

HONORING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE GLADYS TONEY BRANSFORD

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the Honorable Gladys Toney Branford.

Gladys was born in the Jim Crow South in Madison County, Alabama. To grow up in that era and go on to serve as a judge is truly remarkable.

In 1986, then-Mayor Kathy Whitmire appointed her to the bench in Houston, and I had the profound honor of swearing her in.

She was a great judge, Mr. Speaker, proud and fair, and always giving everyone a full hearing in their day in court.

She built shores of sisterhood as a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta and through her decades in The Links, Incorporated.

Above it all, Judge Branford often said that her greatest joy was her family: three accomplished children and six beautiful grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Branford was a friend and a dear colleague, and it is especially an honor for me to be able to lift her life here today and on the floor of the United States Congress.

HONORING DR. STEVE HURTE OF TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH IN ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

(Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor an extraordinary man of God and a true pillar in our community. Dr. Steve Hurte is the pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Anderson, South Carolina, and I am blessed to call him my pastor. This year, he is celebrating 50 years in ministry.

Dr. Hurte felt the call to preach at the early age of 8, and by 20 years old had devoted his life to serving the Lord.

Since 2013, Dr. Hurte has faithfully pastored at Temple Baptist Church. Though he carries himself with humility and gentleness, when he speaks from the Word, there is a strength and an authority that can only be described as God working through him. He is unafraid to speak the hard truths of Scripture even when they are unpopular.

Dr. Hurte is proof of what God can do with a life fully surrendered to Him. He has touched thousands of lives, including mine, and South Carolina is better because of his faithfulness.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in celebrating Dr. Steve Hurte for 50 years of unwavering service.

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

(Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, when I came to Congress in 2019, I knew it was a time of great tension, yet I was motivated all the more to do this work.

In the almost 7 years since, our empathy and our common humanity has been tested in unimaginable ways.

The latest is the horrific murder of Charlie Kirk.

Beyond the horror of such a vile act is the pervasive ugly rise in political violence.

We have witnessed it in my home State of Pennsylvania with the attempted assassination of Donald Trump in Butler; and, again, with the arson attack on Governor Josh Shapiro's home on Passover with his family sleeping upstairs; and again in Minnesota with the murder of House Speaker Emerita Melissa Horton, her husband, Mark, and their dog in their home; and now, again, at Utah Valley University.

We must condemn political violence in all its forms and in all its twisted motivations and perverse ideologies.

We must, instead, commit ourselves to civic engagement and education, commit ourselves to decency, dignity, and the truth for the good of this Nation, our neighbors, our families, and most especially our children.

□ 0910

WHAT I LEARNED FROM CHARLIE KIRK

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, 9 days ago in my district, a loving husband and father of two children, a public figure who debated vigorously conservative values and a representative for free speech, was assassinated by a deranged coward who felt that violence was the only way to deal with voices that he opposed.

Mr. Speaker, from Charlie Kirk's example, I have learned that we should live boldly, without fear. We should address and confront the cowards of the world who will oppose with violence those who seek to destroy free speech.

I have also learned from Charlie Kirk that we should debate vigorously, that we have opinions, and in this Hall, this sacred Hall, we can debate those opinions with respect and vigor.

Mr. Speaker, I have also learned that we should love completely. Charlie Kirk never degraded an individual that he debated. He always approached them with respect. With a loving approach, he tried to push forward his views and offer them as an alternative to those who debated him.

Mr. Speaker, I also point out that a widow and two amazing children are now left without a husband and a father.

To Erika and those children, I will just say that God has a special place in his heart for the widows of the world. Since ancient times, such as the widow Zarephath with Elijah, the mite that the widow cast into the temple treasury, as well as Jesus Christ's own mother, Mary, a widow, whom Jesus on the cross, while He suffered and died for all mankind, offered that widow, his mother, to His most beloved apostle to take care of for the rest of her life and make sure that she was cared for.

For Erika and her children, I will say that God has a special place in his heart for the widows and for the orphans. They also have a special place not only in my heart but in the hearts of millions as they suffer through the loss of her husband as well as the father of her children.

Mr. Speaker, I am inspired by Charlie Kirk and his example and the fact that his life now transcends not only his life and his message, but he stands for something more important now, which is freedom of speech, a constitutional privilege that our Nation will fight vigorously to protect.

I join with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to shun and eschew violence and to pursue freedom of speech through the rest of my days.

God bless America, Charlie Kirk, and his widow as we move forward.

LIFESAVING FOOD AID

(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, I rise for the 43rd time today to call on the Trump administration to restore lifesaving food aid for starving children around the world.

Edesia Nutrition, an organization in my district, in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, manufactures Plumpy'Nut, a nutritional supplement that is needed to get starving children back to health. When kids are starving, their organs break down, and they cannot digest conventional food.

Millions of lives have been saved by this product, and now there are thousands of boxes sitting in a warehouse in Rhode Island because the Trump administration has stopped this program.

They continue to promise that they are going to bring it back online. Over and over again, they have said that this program will continue. They have even named the organization in my district. They have said that it will continue, but it has been 9 months, and we are still waiting.

We are about to debate and vote on a budget. What is the purpose of passing a budget if the administration will just ignore it?

I have spoken on this floor about the humanitarian necessity to restore this program, the national security necessity to restore this program, but it is a constitutional necessity as well because the legislative branch has the authority to pass budgets and the executive must execute on them.

I will continue to speak on this floor every day until this program is restored.

HONORING DR. JOHN THOMAS

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend and brother in Christ, Dr. John Thomas, a devoted husband, father, and community leader, who dedicated his life to serving his neighbors in west Texas and those around the world.

Dr. Thomas was a skilled surgeon, but his true calling was healing hearts and lifting souls.

In 1999, he founded Operation HOPE, a nonprofit that deployed teams of healthcare professionals to underserved areas across the globe.

His faith was his compass, Mr. Speaker, as he lived the words of Jesus to love thy neighbor and to do unto the least of these through his tireless medical missions, disaster relief efforts, and unwavering advocacy for the sanctity of life.

For Keri and Andrew and the entire Thomas family, our hearts and prayers are with them.

I can assure you that Dr. Thomas' light will continue to shine through the countless lives he touched and especially and most of all in his wife, Keri, and in his beloved son, Andrew. May God comfort them.

PROTECTING RURAL HEALTHCARE

(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 rise to share concerns I have heard from people back home.

I have traveled across eastern North Carolina, and residents have pulled me aside. They have texted our office. They have called or emailed, and many conveyed the same concern about rural healthcare.

We have already seen the closure of Martin General Hospital. We are working hard to reopen it as a rural emergency hospital.

Eastern North Carolinians face some of the greatest healthcare disparities in our State. Nearly 70,000 in my district rely on the Affordable Care Act premium tax credits. People in rural America are struggling. Many are trying to do everything just to make ends meet while raising children.

Every time it seems like we take one step forward, we are taking two or three backward. No matter if it is healthcare, trade, or infrastructure, Congress must not leave rural America behind.

WHAT CHARLIE KIRK STOOD FOR

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, it seems hard to believe that it is not even 10 days since Charlie Kirk was assassinated.

We all know why he was assassinated. He was assassinated in part because he stood by our Constitution and believed in the limited government that our forefathers wanted. He was also killed for his Christianity. I have come to realize he was far more of a religious leader than he was a political leader.

We have to now follow what he would have wanted, had he survived. I think that is two things. First of all, in America right now, church attendance was down. We can all be wonderful Christians without going to church, but it is a bad sign that church attendance was going down.

Let's all redouble our efforts to support our local churches. Look for Bible-believing churches, as Charlie Kirk wanted, and hopefully they will grow and thrive.

In Congress, let's try to get back one more time to the limited government that our Constitution so clearly demanded and stop asking the Federal Government to add another program after program after program, but instead, have the type of government that encourages self-reliance and strong families.

□ 0920

CELEBRATING EL SALVADOR'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate El Salvador's Independence Day, a day marking the end of Spanish colonial rule 204 years ago.

This week, El Salvadorans across the globe celebrated with music, parades, and cultural traditions. I celebrated with food. I am honored to represent a vibrant and growing El Salvadoran community in Virginia.

"God, Union, Liberty"; "Dios, Union, Libertad."

Happy Independence Day to El Salvador.

EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER VIOLENCE AGAINST MINORITY COMMUNITIES

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express deep concern over the recent reports of violence against minority communities, including Hindus in Bangladesh.

In the aftermath of Bangladesh's change in government, we have heard, including from my constituents, accounts of looting and vandalism of homes and damage to religious sites like temples.

These acts represent a pattern of violence against communities around the world. While we continue to work toward stability in places like Ban-

gladesh, we simply have to acknowledge what is going on and not turn a blind eye to it.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VAN ORDEN) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 18, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Following my appointment to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I hereby resign from the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, effective today.

Sincerely,

MAXWELL ALEJANDRO FROST,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2026

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 722, I call up the bill (H.R. 5371) making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 722, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5371

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2026".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. SHORT TITLE.

Sec. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Sec. 3. REFERENCES.

DIVISION A—CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

DIVISION B—MISCELLANEOUS EXTENSIONS

DIVISION C—HEALTH EXTENDERS

Title I—Public Health Extenders

Title II—Medicare

Title III—Human Services

Title IV—Medicaid

Title V—Food and Drug Administration

Title VI—No Surprises Act Implementation

DIVISION D—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXTENDERS

Title I—Health Care Matters

Title II—Benefits

Title III—Housing

Title IV—Other Matters

DIVISION E—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to "this Act" contained in any