



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025

No. 193

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WIED).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 17, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TONY WIED, 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 1:50 p.m.

IMPROVING DOMESTIC ENERGY MARKET

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week, we will vote on legislation to improve our domestic energy market and to support President Trump's agenda on U.S. energy dominance.

In my home State of Pennsylvania, we have abundant natural gas reserves. We can utilize this resource that is under the feet of my constituents to provide tremendous economic benefit

to our country and support the energy needs of our allies.

Unfortunately, over the last 4 years, energy policy has stalled the necessary development of pipelines and export facilities. This has hindered natural gas production and prevented us from fully realizing the benefit of this critical resource.

The United States' ample energy resources are a distinct advantage over our global competitors. We can leverage this advantage to the benefit of my constituents and the benefit of all Americans by advancing this important legislation and putting energy policy in this country back on track.

As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I was proud to work to advance this legislation to the House floor, and I look forward to seeing it passed through Congress on the way to being signed into law by President Trump.

COMMEMORATING 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF JAMES E. VAN ZANDT VA MEDICAL CENTER

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join in commemorating the 75th anniversary of the James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center in Altoona, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, 33 years after the VA medical center in Altoona was opened, Congress renamed the facility in honor of the former U.S. Representative James E. Van Zandt, who was the catalyst for the establishment of the VA medical center in Altoona.

Representative Van Zandt was born in Altoona, elected to 11 terms in the U.S. House, served with the United States Navy in both World War I and World War II, and was a national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars from 1934 to 1936. He retired as a rear admiral from the United States Navy Reserve in 1959.

The legacy of devoted service that distinguished the life of Representative Van Zandt remains as a source of inspiration for all.

I am proud that my longstanding ties to the Van Zandt VA Medical Center include my service as a consultant serving our veterans. On behalf of everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate the James E. Van Zandt Medical Center on this important milestone and express my personal gratitude for the excellent healthcare that has been provided to the veterans there, continuing today and into the future.

HONORING CENTURY FARM DESIGNATION OF BLACK'S WILLOW RUN FARM

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor four generations of the Black family in Tyrone Township, Blair County, Pennsylvania, on the designation of their farm as a Century Farm by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

James Black purchased the farm in December 1920 at a cost of \$28 per acre for 140 acres. He raised chickens on the farm.

Family ownership was passed down through the years to Samuel Black, who transitioned the operation from a poultry farm to a dairy farm, and then to Samuel's son Bob Black, who chose to focus on crop farming.

Today, Black's Willow Run Farm is owned by Bob Black's son, Clinton, and his wife, Jessica. Crops grown on the farm include corn, wheat, soybeans, and alfalfa.

On behalf of everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I offer heartfelt congratulations to all members of the Black family on this notable recognition and express gratitude for their enduring commitment to one of Pennsylvania's most vital industries, and that is agriculture.

RECOGNIZING KRISTA PONTIUS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Krista Pontius on her selection as the recipient of the 2025 Pennsylvania Golden Owl Award.

□ 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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Krista is a longtime agriculture teacher and the FFA adviser at Greenwood High School in Millerstown, Pennsylvania. With pride, Krista notes that she has devoted nearly 30 years to creating an FFA family at the high school.

The Golden Owl Award is one of the most prestigious forms of recognition in agricultural education. Presented at the Pennsylvania FFA State Convention, the award honors teachers in the State of Pennsylvania who dedicate countless hours to improving the lives of their students.

Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russ Redding described Krista as a natural teacher whose dedication makes a lasting impression on students in our communities.

Most certainly, Krista is a source of pride for the entire district. On behalf of everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Krista and look forward to the continuation of her education for the community.

CONGRESS MUST TAKE ACTION ON TARIFFS

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, after months and months of President Trump insisting that his tariffs are not paid by Americans, insisting that tariffs don't drive up prices, insisting that there will be no exclusions on exemptions from his liberation day tariffs that he imposed back in April, on Friday afternoon the White House very quietly released a statement that they, in fact, are exempting and carving out tariffs for a number of goods, which were blindingly obvious were going to be costing more because we do not produce any of those goods here in this country.

Included in his order are coffee, tea, fruit juices, tropical fruits, spices, bananas, oranges, and tomatoes. Obviously, if you talk to anybody who has been in a grocery store lately, the prices for all of those products have gone up by large margins, again, in the wake of the April tariffs that were put into place.

Coffee is up 19 percent. Bananas are up 7 percent. Oranges and lettuce are up 3 and 4 percent.

Again, it was so clear to anyone who was actually connected to the real world that grocery prices were going up and that we had to take steps to carve out exemptions for the sake of American consumers, our working families, and the middle class.

It was amazing to see how the President, in October, was actually giving speeches where he said prices have come way down and that we have gotten prices way down for groceries. That is the mentality which is in that White House. Again, these were tariffs that he imposed unilaterally without consulting Congress.

The question, though, is whether it is good that again there is going to be some price relief for some of these items, which never should have been tariffed to begin with. It begs the question about the rest of the economy that is getting harmed by tariffs.

The National Association of Home Builders announced after the tariffs were announced that it would raise the average cost of a new home by \$11,000 because of the fact that so many parts and pieces that go into new home construction are imported. That is just a reality in our economy.

When we talk about the cost of living and affordability, if anything is close to maybe groceries, it is the cost of housing in terms of rents and getting new construction restarted.

What about that, Mr. President? Why don't we also look at what is clearly happening in our economy right now and provide relief for the American people who are groaning under the high cost of living?

The President has to look no further than the conservative Tax Foundation, which again is a right-of-center economic think tank. Its analysis is that, by October, tariffs have raised retail prices on all goods by nearly 5 percent relative to their pretariff trend line.

Instead of solving high inflation, the Trump tariffs have continued it and, in some instances, increased it. This includes a 6 percent increase for imported goods and 4.3 percent for domestic goods because a lot of our domestic goods incorporate items that, again, are imported from overseas.

The fundamental problem here is that this President believed in his mind that he himself had the power to impose these tariffs. Let's be very clear. A tariff is a tax on imported goods. It is a tax.

I am from New England. Remember the Boston Tea Party? It was about a tariff on tea that the British Government was trying to force the American colonists to pay.

A case was argued just a couple of weeks ago before the U.S. Supreme Court, where, again, the plaintiffs powerfully stated that the President did not have the authority to impose those taxes back in April. That is an Article I, Section 9 authority in the Constitution for the Congress.

For the sake of reestablishing the checks and balances in our country and for the sake of the American economy, where issues like tariffs, which require a lot of analysis, are very complex, and require Congress to be part of that decisionmaking—in fact, we are the decisionmakers, according to the Constitution—those tariffs should be struck down. We should go back to basics, which is that when we deal with tax policy, it is the power of Congress that prevails in terms of making those kinds of decisions.

The harm that has been done to the economy, the middle class, and working families because of the Trump tariffs, which, again, were just unilaterally

ally and indiscriminately imposed against some countries that we actually have trade surpluses with, has to be rolled back.

There was an admission on Friday by the administration that their tariff policy has failed, and it is time for Congress to stand up and do its job to rebalance our economy.

HIGHLIGHTING CRITICAL INVESTMENTS

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS of Iowa was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, speaking of taxes, the tax on the economy and the detriment to the economy over the Democratic shutdown over the past 6 weeks makes me delighted to be back here in Congress, doing the work of Iowa and the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a critical investment for Iowa families, the \$2.78 million in community project funding I secured for the Newton YMCA childcare expansion.

This funding will allow the Y to open 50 new childcare slots, giving working parents in Jasper County the reliability and support they urgently need.

Access to childcare is not just a family issue. It is a workforce issue. When parents can't find childcare, they can't work, which hurts local businesses and the entire economy.

The Newton YMCA is a pillar of its community, and this expansion will allow it to serve more families, strengthen the workforce, and keep Newton and Jasper County growing.

I am proud to have secured this funding and will continue fighting for projects that support families and build a stronger future for Iowa's First District and Iowa.

HIGHLIGHTING COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the \$2 million in community project funding I secured for Jones Regional Medical Center in Iowa to build a permanent, state-of-the-art medical simulation lab.

For the past several years, JRMC has trained nurses out of two temporary trailers. Despite those challenges, their program continues to produce highly skilled providers who are urgently needed across Iowa, especially nurses and EMTs.

This funding will create a 1,700-square-foot advanced simulation center that will allow more students to graduate each year and expand training for high-demand medical fields.

This investment strengthens Iowa's healthcare workforce, supports our rural hospitals, and ensures communities across Jones County have access to trained, qualified healthcare providers.

I am proud to have secured this funding and remain committed to strengthening healthcare access and workforce training across Iowa.