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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

November 18, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID J. TAYLOR, 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 DR. THOMAS A. PARHAM

(Ms. BARRAGÁN of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Thomas A. Parham, president of California State University, Dominguez Hills, as he retires after an extraordinary career in higher education.

Affectionately known as Dr. P, he has been a visionary at Cal State Dominguez Hills since 2018, elevating academic excellence, expanding oppor-

tunity, and strengthening community partnerships across the South Bay and beyond.

Dr. Parham has inspired generations of students through his commitment to equity, empowerment, and educational success. Under his leadership, California State University, Dominguez Hills, has become more than a university. It has been a launching pad for dreams, empowering students to succeed academically and personally.

As Dr. Parham embarks on his well-deserved retirement, his legacy will continue to uplift the Toro community and the broader higher education landscape for years to come.

On behalf of California's 44th District, I congratulate Dr. Parham and wish him continued success, happiness, and fulfillment in this next chapter.

REMEMBERING JESSE MARQUEZ

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and legacy of an environmental champion in my district, Jesse Marquez.

Jesse was a passionate leader who fought tirelessly for environmental justice. As a student at Banning High School in Wilmington, California, he was a record-setting track athlete.

Tragically, disaster struck his neighborhood when explosions occurred at a refinery across the street from his family's home. Fortunately, Jesse survived the fatal incident, which injured over 150 neighbors. It led him to establish the Coalition For A Safe Environment in 2021, a community-based organization that successfully advocated for stronger rules to protect residents from pollution and chemical disasters.

Jesse also established the first community-led air monitor network in Wilmington, California, and he successfully prevented the expansion of highways and rail yards next to homes and schools.

I thank Jesse for his tireless advocacy for safer, healthier communities.

Rest in power.

PAYOUTS TO GOP SENATORS

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, Republicans in Congress shut the government down for 43 days to avoid spending a dollar on healthcare for hard-working Americans.

When they finally voted for a partisan spending bill, it lined the pockets of eight Republican Senators with millions of dollars in taxpayer funds.

This is corruption, plain and simple. If anyone else in government gave themselves millions of dollars in taxpayer money, they would go to prison.

It also speaks to the misplaced priorities of Republicans who cannot be bothered to support affordable healthcare for Americans, but they can find money to reward Senators over taxpayers.

Senators may not like to be treated like everybody else, but subpoenas and nondisclosure orders are a routine part of grand jury investigations. No one has an absolute right to be notified that their call records have been subpoenaed. No Senator should have a guaranteed right to self-deal themselves a million dollars if a lawful search happens.

Now, the American people may hear House Republicans say they will pass a bill this week to undo what they voted for last week, but talk is cheap. They could have stopped this corrupt provision before it became law, and they didn't. That was the action they took. It is now the law, and unless the Senate is going to take up whatever the House passes, if it does, the vote this week will have all been for show.

It is to save face, but it doesn't save taxpayers a dime from the payday coming to Senate Republicans. The Republican Senator from South Carolina said he is already preparing to sue so he can cash in.

Republicans did this at the same time they threw Americans off their healthcare. Imagine that, doing this at the very same time.

□ 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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While Republicans take away the lifesaving care you need and deserve, they are getting rich with your hard-earned tax dollars.

House Democrats will keep fighting to protect your healthcare and make life more affordable.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the Senate or individual Members of the Senate.

RECOGNIZING LISA YANNEY ROSKENS

(Mr. BACON of Nebraska was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lisa Yanney Roskens, a true leader whose vision, dedication, and compassion have touched the lives of tens of thousands of military families and veterans across our Nation.

As the chief executive officer of Burlington Capital, Lisa has spearheaded initiatives focused on affordable housing for veterans, contributing to programs designed to help individuals break the cycle of poverty and lead healthy, productive lives.

Lisa embodies what it means to lead with both intellect and heart. A proud graduate of Stanford University, where she earned her bachelor's degree and juris doctorate, Lisa brings not only deep business acumen but also a strong sense of service and purpose.

Lisa has guided Burlington Capital to become a national model for purpose-driven investment. This company demonstrates that you can achieve financial success while positively impacting communities and transforming lives.

Under Lisa's leadership, Burlington Capital has made an extraordinary commitment to those who serve the United States of America, both Active-Duty servicemembers and the veterans who have sacrificed for our freedom.

Lisa's belief has always been simple yet powerful: The people who defend our Nation deserve quality homes, supportive communities, and a true sense of belonging.

One of the most outstanding examples of this commitment is at Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue, Nebraska. There, Burlington Capital partnered with the United States Air Force to redevelop and manage the base's military family housing community. Through a long-term public-private partnership, Lisa and her team delivered \$240 million in redevelopment that transformed outdated housing into modern neighborhoods where military families can thrive.

The results speak for themselves. Nearly 2,000 obsolete units were replaced, and hundreds more were renovated. New homes were built to meet the needs of today's airmen and their families.

The community now known as Rising View was recognized for its strong

partnership, its service to tens of thousands of families, and its unwavering commitment to quality of life for those in uniform.

Lisa's impact doesn't end there. She saw another pressing need in our community, the need to provide housing and stability for our Nation's veterans, especially those who have faced homelessness.

In 2013, Lisa and Burlington Capital partnered with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to create Victory I Apartments, a community built on part of the former St. Joseph Hospital site. It provides 90 permanent, supportive housing units for formerly homeless veterans. This project was more than a renovation. It was the creation of a lifeline for men and women who once protected our Nation but returned home to uncertainty.

Building on that success, Lisa led the charge for Victory II Apartments, which opened in 2020. This second phase added 60 more apartment homes dedicated to veterans and their families who earn at or below 50 percent of this area's median income. These homes are designed with dignity in mind, paired with access to health, wellness, and job readiness services.

Together, Victory I and II provide 150 safe, stable homes for men and women who once wore our Nation's uniform. The apartments offer not only a safe place to live but also access to onsite supportive services from the VA and local agencies, helping veterans rebuild their lives with dignity and purpose.

Victory Apartments earned national recognition, receiving the Charles L. Edson Tax Credit Excellence Award for outstanding affordable housing that serves special needs populations. Just as importantly, it has become a model for how public, private, and nonprofit sectors can come together to change lives.

Lisa expanded that vision even further with the creation of Victory Park in Lincoln, Nebraska. On the VA campus, Burlington Capital developed 70 new apartments for veterans and partnered with the VA to deliver a new community-based outpatient clinic for Lincoln's veteran population. Victory Park combines housing, healthcare, and supportive services in one location, a community that restores independence, connection, and pride for those who once served our Nation.

Through efforts like these, Lisa Roskens has demonstrated what it means to not only be a successful business leader but also somebody who is deeply committed to making a difference in the communities where her organization operates.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANT VICTORY FOR COUNTLESS CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

(Mr. MAGAZINER of Rhode Island was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, after 9 months of delay, I rise today to rec-

ognize an important victory for the United States and for thousands of children around the world who have a new chance at life.

Finally, after months of advocacy and struggle, funding has been restored for global emergency food aid for children. You see, malnutrition is the number one cause of death for children under 5 globally, and when children are on the brink of starvation, their organs break down, and they cannot even digest food if it is given to them.

There is a proven treatment: ready-to-use therapeutic food, also known as Plumpy'Nut, a shelf-stable peanut paste. It does not need to be refrigerated. You don't need to add water. It has the nutrients that children need to survive and grow back from the brink of starvation.

Edesia Nutrition in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, is one of the two organizations that manufacture Plumpy'Nut. Since their founding, they have saved over 25 million lives.

Earlier this year, in January, funding for Plumpy'Nut was cut off by President Trump's DOGE initiative. New Federal orders were halted. Production ground to a halt. Boxes of lifesaving food aid sat in warehouses while children starved to death.

This was not just cruel. It was shortsighted.

America's reputation as a global leader suffers when we fail to deliver international aid. Our adversaries—China, Russia, terrorist organizations—fill the abyss when the United States pulls out.

A broad coalition of Americans fought back. In April, I made a commitment that I would speak on this floor every legislative day until funding was restored. I ended up speaking here 42 times in total to demand that emergency food aid for children be restored.

I wasn't alone. My colleague from Rhode Island, Representative AMO, made his voice heard on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Representative AUSTIN SCOTT from Georgia, whose district hosts the other organization that manufactures Plumpy'Nut, was a vital partner. Of course, Navyn Salem, the CEO of Edesia, never gave up her mission to help starving kids in need.

Last month, the administration finally listened, and the program was restored. A few weeks ago, Edesia was able to resume regular shipments. I was there at the loading dock in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, when the first new shipments went outbound for children whose small bodies were struggling on the edge of starvation and who now have a chance to survive and grow. I will never forget that moment.

This is proof that, even in these challenging times, it is possible to get good things done. This victory wouldn't have happened if it weren't for the advocacy of people at all levels, all across the country, making their voices heard. It is a monumental step toward