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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. PATRONIS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 19, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JIMMY PATRONIS 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.

SHARIA IS DANGEROUS

(Mr. SELF of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, Islam is a culture with a patina of religion. Sharia is the law of Islam.

Sharia is dangerous. Western values form the basis for the founding of America, namely that rights come from our creator. Ours is a Christian-based culture. Sharia, on the other hand, is a culture of violence and domination, totally anathema to the concept of individual freedom.

The United States Constitution and sharia are fundamentally at odds with

one another. The Constitution begins with: "We the people." Sharia states: "Allah has said." Followers of sharia believe Muhammad received a divine legal code that stands supreme over all man-made laws.

While Western civilization has evolved, Islam has not. Islam is stuck in the eighth century, and if they succeed at imposing their beliefs upon us, we will be dragged back into the Dark Ages.

The contrasts are stark when comparing sharia to the strides made by the United States in 250 years.

The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolished slavery, but there has never been an abolition movement in Islam. The Koran and hadith even contain rules for slaves and the slave trade.

Sharia prescribes inhumane punishments viewed as normative. Stoning to death for adultery is common, as are public beatings of women, the amputation of the hand of a thief, and the execution of Christians and Jews in accordance with the Koran. Several hardline clerics have even issued fatwas for the assassination of President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu.

The Declaration of Independence states: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." That is not so in Islam. According to sharia, the testimony of a non-Muslim is not valid against a Muslim in a court of law. A woman's testimony is equal to one-half of that of a man. Non-Muslims living in majority Islamic societies are second-class citizens with few rights and little protection under the law.

The Sixth Amendment speaks of an impartial jury, but the testimony of a non-Muslim is deemed inadmissible. In an Islamic sharia court, the only testimony allowed is that of a Muslim. That is hardly fair and impartial.

Sharia prohibits marriage between a Muslim woman and a non-Muslim man.

A Muslim man may marry a Christian wife, but not vice versa. Sharia also gives the man, but not the woman, the unconditional right to divorce.

Freedom of religion is in our First Amendment, but freedom of religion in sharia means one is permitted to embrace Islam but one is never free to leave Islam. Abandoning sharia is an apostasy punishable by death.

Freedom of speech in America extends to expression not only of verbal communication but also in art, writing, the media, and action. Certain forms of expression are forbidden by sharia. Non-Muslims and moderate Muslims who openly criticize Islam, Muhammad, or the Koran face severe punishment. Remember Salman Rushdie, who was stabbed under a fatwa just for writing about Muhammad.

America was founded on a basic concept of freedom of the individual, self-governing under the rule of law. John Adams said: "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

We are witnessing the reality of Adams' wisdom in the clash of cultures as outsiders stream into our country without assimilating. A prominent Muslim attorney argued in the U.S. court: Islam is sharia; sharia is Islam. The two cannot be separated.

There are acceptable actions in sharia that are illegal in America: murder of family members who dishonor the family, child marriage, spouse abuse, to name only a few.

Our legal processes developed through centuries of Western civilization are not sufficient to confront the sharia influence spreading across America. Even legislation may not stop the encroaching danger. It will take more.

In the streets of New York City, a Muslim imam recently proclaimed: "We will not stop until Islam enters

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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every home." There is no denying Islam's intent to dominate Western civilization. Their stated objective is to destroy us from within.

All who serve in this Congress swore to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. This is a time for choosing. Either we defeat the sharia advances in America, or government of the people, by the people, and for the people may indeed perish from the Earth.

RECOGNIZING SHAE PARKS

(Ms. MCBRIDE of Delaware was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shae Parks, a teacher in Milford, Delaware, one of just three teachers in the entire Nation to receive the American Civic Education Teacher Award.

In her classroom, Ms. Parks is teaching young minds more than just facts and dates, but the strength and power of our democracy. This honor recognizes educators who spark curiosity about the Constitution, government, and civic life.

At Milford High School, Ms. Parks is shaping the continued strength of our democracy by preparing her students to enter the world with critical skills of engagement. She describes the importance of civic education as imperative to the future of our democracy and believes "students need to enter the world with the ability and willingness to engage in civic discourse with everyone around them, not just those they agree with," something this Chamber could use more of.

It is through model educators like Ms. Parks that Delaware pushes students to expand both their knowledge of and engagement with the mechanisms of government.

Milford is proud of her. Delaware is proud of her. I am proud to stand here today and lift up this dedicated educator.

Like Ms. Parks, I urge my colleagues to support civic education wherever it is happening because our democracy depends on it.

RECOGNIZING FRANK COVERDALE

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Kent and Sussex Counties' most committed neighbors, Frank "Fresh" Coverdale.

Fresh has been described as the ultimate ambassador for the Food Bank of Delaware, where he spent 22 years delivering food to working families throughout Delaware.

A native of Harrington, Fresh has been giving back to his community for his whole life and is a friendly face to all that he meets, a trait that has earned him an endearing reputation among his neighbors.

For over two decades, he has been out on Delaware's back roads, delivering more than meals. He is delivering dignity. In a State where one in eight

of our neighbors faces food insecurity, that matters.

Fresh sees the need up close and responds the only way he knows how: with heart, with humor, and a can-do spirit.

Other than feeding his neighbors and connecting with those he serves, Fresh is famously a Philadelphia Eagles fanatic. Pulling up in his truck, people come out of their homes when they hear him because they trust him, and they look forward to the playful banter he brings along. They know that he knows their names, their stories, and their teams. They know he will make sure they leave with enough food for the week and maybe a little extra.

Fresh is the longest serving employee at the Food Bank of Delaware. He is a model for compassion, the kind that strengthens communities, especially when families are stretched thin.

Today and every day, Delaware is better because of Frank Coverdale.

I congratulate Fresh on his years of service, and of course, Go Birds.

CELEBRATING DELAWARE READING ASSIST

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Delaware Reading Assist, which last month was recognized on the world stage, selected as 1 of just 15 organizations worldwide honored by the Library of Congress for successful practices in literacy.

A remarkable achievement for Delaware, Reading Assist is a nonprofit built on a simple but powerful belief: Every child deserves the chance to read. Their AmeriCorps Fellows work every day in our schools, shoulder-to-shoulder with teachers, helping struggling readers build confidence, skills, and joy.

Their CEO said this recognition reflects the trust placed in them by educators, the hard work of their Fellows, and the resilience of the students themselves.

Moreover, Acting Librarian of Congress Newlen said the awardees this year had a particular focus on family and community, something Delawareans know is at the heart of our State's success.

Being 1 of only 15 honorees, alongside programs from States across the country, Kenya, and Scotland, shows that Delaware's approach is an international model.

Today, I am honored to congratulate Reading Assist for proving what is possible when we invest in our children and meet them where they are. That is how we close gaps and how we strengthen literacy and thereby strengthen communities, through investment in our children's potential.

HONORING JACK BILLMAN

(Mr. BAIRD of Indiana was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jack Billman, an invaluable member of our Greencastle community.

Jack has been married to his wife, Joan, for over 50 years, and they have three children and three grandchildren.

Jack and Joan Billman founded the Greencastle Defenders of Liberty in 2009, which brought in many Hoosiers and connected the people of Putnam County with their elected officials at the State and local levels to discuss current issues and solutions. Jack believes that an informed and active citizenry is very necessary to keep America free and productive.

Prior to his extensive community involvement, Jack Billman was an Army veteran, enlisting in the U.S. Army straight out of high school. He also had a career as a commercial pilot.

I am immensely grateful to Jack for his service to our country and the United States Army, as well as his service to and involvement with the community of Putnam County.

HONORING NORMAN VOYLES

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Norman Voyles, Sr., who recently passed away at the age of 87. He led a life that emphasized his love for farming and his outstanding service to his community.

Norman Voyles was a graduate of Martinsville High School in Indiana and served in the Indiana National Guard for 6 years. Norman Voyles also held many roles in local government, further underscoring his commitment to serving his country.

He served as a Morgan County commissioner, and he later took on roles on the Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Morgan County Farm Bureau Co-op, and as president of the Morgan County Farm Bureau.

Most importantly, Norman was a loving husband and father to three sons. I am praying for the comfort of his family during this difficult time.

May Norman rest in peace.

HONORING WARREN MACY

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Warren Macy, who has been a physician and an active member of the Greencastle, Indiana, community for over 50 years.

He received his bachelor's degree and completed his medical school at Indiana University before opening his own practice in Putnam County.

Last year, he received the 2024 Doc Hollywood Award at the Indiana Rural Health Association annual conference for his outstanding service and care to Hoosiers in rural communities.

Dr. Macy is also a devoted husband to his wife, Connie, and they have three children and two grandchildren.

I thank Dr. Warren Macy for his service to Greencastle and for the invaluable medical care he has provided to our community for decades.

CONGRATULATING YURI KUBO

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Yuri Kubo, a graduate of Purdue University and a native Hoosier who was 1 of just 10 candidates chosen for NASA's latest astronaut class.

Yuri Kubo earned his undergraduate degree in electrical engineering in 2008