



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025

No. 196

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 20, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GARY J. PALMER 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. T. ANTHONY BRONNER

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

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, to God be all the glory. I rise today with a profoundly heavy heart to honor the life of Reverend Dr. T. Anthony Bronner, known to Buffalo's faith community as Bishop Bronner, who tragically passed away on Sunday, November 16.

Western New York, our State, and our Nation have lost a spiritual giant with Bishop Bronner's passing.

Personally, I have lost a dear friend, supporter, and mentor. He was a shepherd of souls and a North Star for our community, a man whose faith was matched by his integrity and whose integrity was matched by his love for all of God's children.

Bishop Bronner built a congregation deeply rooted in faith, compassion, and the unwavering belief that every single person is worthy of dignity, hope, and redemption.

When he founded Elim Christian Fellowship in 1999, Bishop Bronner did not just establish a house of worship. He created a place of refuge, a place of renewal, and a place for those searching for a spiritual home.

From the very first service at the old Buffalo Christian Center, where more than 700 community members stepped forward to join a vision rooted in Christ, Bishop Bronner understood that God was doing extraordinary work in western New York. He poured every ounce of himself into being a faithful servant to God.

Under Bishop Bronner's leadership, Elim's congregation grew each year, spreading the Gospel across our community. He oversaw the construction of new worship centers and affordable housing across our region and helped thousands of souls find Christ, purpose, and community.

He embodied fidelity to justice and walked the path of righteousness with conviction. Every morning, long before most were awake, Bishop Bronner led the Regional Morning Prayer Movement, a tradition that began decades ago and never stopped.

Through blizzards, a pandemic, and times of both tragedy and triumph, Bishop Bronner prayed. He prayed for Buffalo, for our Nation, for our leaders, and for our most vulnerable, whether they were in the pews or miles away. He prayed for people he knew and people he would never meet. He prayed because he knew that God hears us. He

prayed because he knew that prayer works, and his prayers and faith through action changed our community forever.

Bishop Bronner embodied service and selflessness. He showed up for his family, his congregation, and our community with humble strength and ceaseless joy. He challenged all of us to be better, to lead with compassion, to stand firm in our values, and to root our service in moral clarity and love.

Bishop Bronner's passing leaves a tremendous void, but his legacy will serve as a foundation for our future, a foundation built on faith and community that will continue to uplift Buffalo and beyond for generations.

As we mourn Bishop Bronner's passing, we reaffirm our need to live by his example. In moments like this, we are reminded of the comfort and strength found in the words he often turned to in Psalm 23: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Bishop Bronner lived these words every day, leading our community toward righteousness with courage, humility, and unwavering faith. Surely, he will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

To his beloved wife, Lady Linda King-Bronner; their daughters, Jordan and Nia Bronner and Tami Brown; their granddaughter, Taylor Lucas; his loving parents, Reverend Sylvia and Charles B. Walker, Sr.; and his siblings,

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H4821

Dale Walker, Charles B. Walker, Jr., and Chanda Jones, our Nation mourns with you.

May Bishop Bronner's work live on in each of us.

On behalf of a grateful community and nation, may Dr. T. Anthony Bronner rest in eternal peace.

RECOGNIZING JIM DECKER

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Decker as he retires from the Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry.

Jim's professional life is deeply intertwined with the economic vitality of Warren County, Pennsylvania. Since 1989, he has served in some capacity with the Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry.

Since 1997, he has led the WCCBI as president and CEO. He also serves as executive director of the Warren County Development Association.

Jim is a native son of Warren County and a 1975 graduate of Warren Area High School. He proudly raised his family in Warren. He and his wife, Kathryn, have three adult children and many grandchildren.

Jim's dedication to Warren County is second to none. His community involvement is extensive, and he is a board member of numerous regional and State organizations, including but not limited to the Northwest Commission, the Northwest PA Job Connect, and the Leadership Warren County Steering Committee.

Jim has been a driving force behind major economic and recreational initiatives in the county, including the facilitation of the Warren County Industrial Complex, which is a business incubator that supports a dozen small to large mid-sized manufacturing tenants and is the financial anchor of the Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry.

Jim also oversaw the development of the 300 2nd Avenue Bank Building project, a key venture that now houses the Northern Pennsylvania Regional College and is a multimillion-dollar economic development rehabilitation project in the heart of downtown Warren.

A strong advocate for expanded outdoor opportunities, Jim has worked to make Warren County a prime destination. He was instrumental in expanding the Trails at Jakes Rocks mountain bike system, which features 35.2 miles of premier hiking and biking trails in the Allegheny National Forest. This is a significant regional asset that has an economic impact of more than \$10 million annually.

Through Jim's efforts, Warren County has hosted major events, including the United States Canoe Association's national championships, Cabela's 3D Archery and Walleye championships,

and the International Bowhunters Organization tournament.

This year, the Pennsylvania Association of Chamber Professionals gave Jim the Keystone Award. Established in 1963, it is the highest honor for the PACP awards. It recognizes outstanding service in and contributions to the profession of Chamber management in Pennsylvania. It is not awarded annually but only when an individual has demonstrated outstanding achievements.

Mr. Speaker, Jim's longstanding dedication and leadership have shaped Warren County for the better. He is the kind of leader who brings his vision to life through hard work but makes it look easy.

Warren County has become a dynamic community and recreational hub thanks to Jim's leadership. Jim is a steadfast pillar of the northwestern Pennsylvania region, and his legacy will be felt for generations.

While it is bittersweet to see Jim retire, I know that we will still see him around Warren, probably on his mountain bike, enjoying the outdoors. I wish him the best as he starts this new chapter of life.

GENOCIDE IN GAZA

(Ms. DEXTER of Oregon was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, I visited the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum with my daughter. I had been before, but the timing of this visit was very intentional. I went to reflect on the horrific history of dehumanization and ethnic cleansing that ultimately led the world to create a new term to describe such an unfathomable evil. That word is "genocide."

During the Holocaust, 6 million Jewish people, 60 percent of those present in Europe, were brutally targeted, dehumanized, and systematically murdered. It is a crime that people, communities, and nations were aware of yet did little to nothing to stop the atrocities until it was far too late.

After the Holocaust, the international community made a commitment that such evil can never happen again to any people anywhere. "Never again," they said.

That is why I recently signed on to a resolution recognizing Israel's actions in Gaza led by the Netanyahu government as a genocide. I joined this resolution with a heavy heart. I understand the pain and the history of the word, and I signed on with the utmost respect for the Jewish people, especially those in my community who may feel abandoned or deeply harmed by my action.

I will also be crystal clear that my criticizing the policies and actions of the Netanyahu government does not detract from my steadfast opposition to anti-Semitism and my persistent support for our Jewish neighbors.

Many in this body have been reticent to call out the mass suffering, ethnic cleansing, and war crimes taking place in Gaza. I will not willingly continue to be part of that complicity.

As a United States Representative, my job is to stand up against the power and our resources of this country being used in such ways.

I am a physician. I am a mother. I believe in the sanctity, the universal worth, of human life. That belief does not change based on who you are or where you live.

Each of our lives has innate, incalculable value. Our shared humanity must be recognized and preserved, or we run the risk of rationalizing and accepting acts of cruelty.

This principle, that we share an accountability to stand up against dehumanization, cruelty, and marginalization across our communities, should be universal, but it is not.

It is my duty as an elected leader in the most powerful country on Earth to stand up for those most marginalized if I stand for anything at all.

It is foundational to how I chose to represent my community and how I will continue to represent my community in Congress.

History has and will continue to judge this body, not just for what it did but for what it failed to do.

Our children are watching. As parents, we know this to be true. As elected leaders, we cannot look away as they look on. We have an implicit accountability to the children of this Nation, to show them with our actions that we hold ourselves to a standard worthy of their respect.

I want my children to live in a country where our leaders can be relied upon to lead with courage, empathy, and moral clarity.

I urge every Oregonian watching to hold me accountable in a shared, unshakable belief in the sanctity of human life. We are our brother's keeper. I will do all I can to protect and defend each person's right to freedom, safety, and self-determination.

□ 1015

GOVERNMENT IS STILL THE PROBLEM

(Mr. MCCLINTOCK of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, Zohran Mamdani's winning message was affordability, that the necessities of life are increasingly out of reach for most people, and that government is the answer.

He said on election night: "There is no problem too large for government to solve."

Mr. Speaker, he is right about the problem, but he is completely wrong about the solution. As Ronald Reagan often warned: "Government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem."