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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. 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.

### DELAWARE DAY

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

Ms. McBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a most hallowed occasion in the history of our Republic: Delaware Day, which falls on this Sunday, December 7.

On that momentous day in 1787, the greatest State in the Union became the first State in the Union, boldly seizing the mantle of leadership by ratifying the United States Constitution before any of our hesitant sister States dared to do so.

Officially declared a State holiday in 1933, Delaware Day invites each of us to reflect upon our State's central role in forging a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

We Delawareans celebrate being the first as any eldest sibling would; that is, obnoxiously and with great relish. It is with no small measure of delight that I stand here on the House floor to celebrate my beloved home State and the noble citizens who keep its spirit alive.

What we lack in size, we make up for in endless discoveries. While December

7 may technically be Delaware Day, it is always Delaware Day in my heart.

To all Delawareans, may their Delaware Day be filled with cheer, with history, and with the profound satisfaction of knowing that we beat everyone else to the punch.

Today and every day, it is good being first.

### HONORING SUE RYAN

Ms. McBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sue Ryan, who is retiring after 10 years of extraordinary service as the executive director of the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

For a decade, Sue has been the steady, principled voice behind a coalition that works every day to prevent domestic violence and support survivors across our State.

With more than 25 years in nonprofit service as an attorney, advocate, and administrator, Sue has devoted her life to advancing justice for people who are too often overlooked: survivors of violence, impoverished families, refugees, and those experiencing homelessness.

It has been an inspiration to watch Sue lead the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Her integrity, compassion, and quiet strength have shaped the way I think about this work and what it means to serve with purpose.

Delaware is safer, stronger, and more compassionate because of Sue Ryan's leadership. We thank her for her vision, her courage, and her unwavering commitment to dignity and safety for all.

I congratulate Sue on a well-deserved retirement.

### WE NEED SOLUTIONS

Ms. McBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Delaware families who are still catching their breath after Thanksgiving—a holiday that should bring joy, not undue anxiety over the cost of a single trip to the grocery store.

Last week, too many Delawareans told me that the price of their holiday

meal felt heavier this year, and they are right. Delaware families are paying an average of \$8,745 a year, or 14 percent of their income, just to put food on the table.

Those grocery bills aren't rising in a vacuum. Across The First State, shoppers are seeing coffee up 21 percent and beef up 11 percent. Flour, sugar, and canned fruits are each up more than 30 percent. These are costs that hit parents, seniors, and working people the hardest.

At Our Daily Bread, a food bank in Middletown, they are now serving 240 meals a day, up from just 200 a few months ago. This is a clear indication of how my neighbors are being squeezed by rising prices.

Delaware families are being hit from every direction—by inflation, yes, but also by policies coming out of the Trump administration that are pouring fuel on the fire. Tariffs are driving up grocery prices even higher and contributing to price uncertainty. The one big, ugly bill imposed the largest cut to food assistance in U.S. history. Premium hikes will cost Delawareans an average of \$6,000 more a year in healthcare. Cuts to energy investments are pushing up electricity bills. New limits on student loan repayment hit working people hardest. Interest rates are so high that they put the dream of a first home further out of reach.

Delawareans deserve better than a government that increases their costs while taking away the lifelines that keep them afloat. No matter our politics, we all want the same thing: the ability to feed our families, put a roof over our heads, and find a job with dignity.

That is why I am proud to be a sponsor of legislation that would restore some common sense by banning the President from imposing tariffs without congressional approval, capping the cost of childcare, expanding health coverage, creating new pathways to

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homeownership, raising the minimum wage, and expanding tax deductions for working-class people.

Mr. Speaker, after Thanksgiving season, where so many families felt the strain, the message from Delaware is clear: We need solutions, not tariffs and cuts to healthcare but policies that make life more affordable.

#### RECOGNIZING PELLA MARCHING DUTCH

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pella Marching Dutch for their outstanding 2025 season and their well-earned invitation to perform at the celebration of our Nation's 250th birthday in Washington, D.C., next year.

This remarkable ensemble consists of 226 students who represented their community with excellent success, competing across multiple prestigious competitions. The Marching Dutch delivered their strongest performance at the Band of America Regional Competition, where they claimed first place in Class 2A and earned the Outstanding General Effect award.

They advanced to the open class finals and placed tenth overall. They celebrated competitive success in Iowa's largest class size for the first time in the program's history.

Their invitation to perform on the 250th birthday of our great Nation is a tremendous honor. I am proud of all of the members of the Pella Marching Dutch and look forward to watching them represent Iowa at this historic celebration.

#### RECOGNIZING MARLEY MORRIS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary young Iowan, 8-year-old Marley Morris, whose kindness and compassion are making a meaningful difference in the lives of children battling cancer.

Marley has turned her passion for crafting handmade bracelets into a mission of hope and joy, donating 100 of her creations to young patients at the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital.

Marley began making bracelets at just 3 years old, and she continues today to use that talent to brighten the lives of others. Her generous spirit and heartfelt efforts reflect the very best of Iowa.

Even at such a young age, Marley reminds all of us that one person, no matter how small, can have a powerful impact on their community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Marley Morris for her inspiring generosity, for leading by example, and showing what it means to serve others.

#### RECOGNIZING COREY LEONHARD

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding Iowan, Corey Leonhard of Muscatine, on his induction into the Special Olympics Hall of Fame.

For more than four decades, Corey has been a proud representative of Iowa in athletic competitions at every level, from local meets to the world stage.

Corey's accomplishments are remarkable. At the 2003 Special Olympics World Games in Dublin, Ireland, he earned a Bronze Medal in the 100-meter dash and a Silver Medal in softball.

Mr. Speaker, 4 years later in Shanghai, China, he brought home a Gold Medal in the long jump, a Bronze Medal in the 400-meter dash, and placed fourth in the four-by-four relay.

Mr. Speaker, Corey's impact extends beyond athletics. In 2015, he served as cocaptain for the United Relay Across America, helping carry the torch from Washington, D.C., to Los Angeles.

Today, he remains active in Special Olympics Muscatine, embodying the values of perseverance, dedication, and sportsmanship.

I congratulate Corey, who is an inspiration to all Iowans, and his legacy of excellence and determination is well deserving of this honor.

#### HONORING JULIE HUMES

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Julie Humes of Donnellson, Iowa, a flight nurse with Air Evac Lifeteam and a recipient of the American Ambulance Association's prestigious Star of Life award.

For over 30 years, this award has recognized the best of our EMS professionals, those who go above and beyond the call of duty. Julie was nominated by her peers for her heroism during a severe car accident, volunteering in dangerous icy conditions to help save the lives of multiple trauma victims. Thanks to her quick thinking and courageous actions, every victim survived.

Julie's service is a shining example of the bravery and selflessness of our first responders, and they demonstrate this every day. It was an honor to meet Julie and hear about her incredible dedication firsthand.

I congratulate Julie and thank her for her steadfast commitment to saving lives and protecting Iowans.

#### RECOGNIZING GEORGIA CLARK

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Georgia Clark, a student from West Liberty, Iowa, who represented our State with pride and excellence at the 2025 National Civics Bee.

Competing against top middle schoolers from across the country, Georgia placed in the top ten, a tremendous achievement.

Held in Washington, D.C., on Veterans Day, the National Civics Bee celebrates civic knowledge and encourages young Americans to engage with their communities and understand their government.

Georgia was 1 of only 39 State champions invited to participate, representing the West Liberty community school district.

Georgia's dedication, leadership, and love of learning reflect the best of Iowa's youth. Her passion for civic en-

gagement and understanding of our Nation's founding principles are truly inspiring.

I thank Georgia for her commitment to excellence and for stepping up as a young leader with ideas that will strengthen our community and our country. Her achievement makes all of Iowa proud.

#### PEARL HARBOR DAY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I remark that Sunday, December 7, is the 84th anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day, the day that will live in infamy.

Like 9/11, we must never forget. Always prepared, always ready.

I ask for a moment of silence for those whose lives were lost on that fateful day.

#### RECOGNIZING OMAIRA ANDINO

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the public service and accomplishments of Omayra Andino, who this week completed two terms, or and 4 years, as mayor of the village of Tuckahoe, with prior service on the village board as trustee.

Mayor Andino, in her professional career, has shown executive skill and leadership as CEO of the Institute for Applied Human Dynamics, an organization that supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, helping them to live their lives on their own terms.

Managing that team and its mission across Westchester would be a task enough for anyone, but Mayor Andino added the responsibilities of elected office in Tuckahoe, a village of over 6,000 people in one compact square mile.

Tuckahoe local government has all of the responsibilities of any municipal entity: police protection, sanitation, parks and recreation, planning and land use functions, and more. Her leadership as mayor, chairing the village and the board, and providing policy direction and oversight to the professional village staff brought Tuckahoe into a new era, an era of capital improvement and better service delivery.

Her achievements come as she was the first woman and, as a Latina, the first person of color to lead the village government. She did not seek a third term and has left Tuckahoe in the capable hands of her colleague, new Mayor Cara Kronen, who was sworn in this past Monday.

Omayra has earned the respect of all of us, and we salute her as she completes her exemplary service to the people of Tuckahoe.

#### FAIR PAY FOR ELLIE

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Transformation to Competitive Integrated Employment Act, which was recently reintroduced by Congressmen BOBBY SCOTT and PETE SESSIONS.

This bill is a long, overdue modernization of the Fair Labor Standards