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No. 208

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 10, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CRAIG A. GOLDMAN 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.

COMMENDING OMAR MARTINEZ GONZALEZ

(Mrs. RAMIREZ of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Omar Martinez Gonzalez. Omar is an advocate fighting for the resources that immigrant, Black, Brown, and underserved communities need and deserve to prevent, treat, and end the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

As a queer Latino immigrant, Omar has experienced firsthand the impor-

tance of high-quality, culturally competent healthcare and HIV prevention services. His experience has motivated him to build a world where no one is denied quality healthcare services because of their background, citizenship status, identity, or circumstance.

For almost two decades, from Chicago to Boston, this young man has implemented and coordinated health programs to increase access to HIV testing and prevention. He has fought for the rights and dignity of our neighbors living with HIV or AIDS, including our LGBTQI+ community and undocumented neighbors, and has advocated to protect and expand the funding necessary to end the HIV epidemic.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my honor to commend Omar Martinez Gonzalez for his work to ensure that our neighbors, no matter their sexual orientation, gender expression, ZIP Code, background, HIV status, or citizenship status receive every single thing they need and deserve to live healthy, thriving lives. I congratulate Omar.

HONORING MARIO VEGA

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mario Vega for his work to create spaces that uplift our young people and build safe and thriving communities.

Mario has transformed his own personal experiences, growing up in Chicago, to realize safety in our communities by investing in our city's young people.

Through the establishment of the Chicago Youth Boxing Club, and as the director of mentoring at New Life Centers, Mario understands that building community and building relationships are the recipe for safer neighborhoods. Through his mentorship of young people, including those in my own community of Humboldt Park, he sees, values, and affirms young people and supports their journey to find their confidence and purpose.

Mario's work has been recognized in "Beacons of Hope: Stories of Strength from Chicago," but the true measure of his impact is seen in the violence epidemic he interrupts and the young people who, as a result, chart a new path for themselves full of possibilities.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my honor to commend Mario Vega for reminding us that when we invest in our youth, we are actually investing in peace. I congratulate Mario.

RECOGNIZING RITA KOLLIAS

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, during this holiday season, which has been so difficult for so many families, I rise to recognize the joy and hope that Rita Kollias facilitates in DuPage County in Illinois' Third Congressional District.

After serving for 10 years in the United States Marine Corps, Rita has dedicated over 20 years of her life to coordinating the Marine Corps Reserve DuPage County Toys for Tots program. The program distributes thousands of toys to more than 25,000 children via a network of local nonprofit organizations, churches, and community agencies.

Whether she is coordinating drop-off sites, recruiting volunteers, or searching for donated warehouse space, Rita's logistical skill set matches her passion and her dedication.

Rita has described her late hours and working weekends with the Marine Corps Reserve DuPage County Toys for Tots program as an obsession, one she pursues as an expression of care for her local community and area families. For her neighbors, her obsession ensures that children in our communities feel seen and valued.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District and this House of Representatives, I acknowledge that these holidays are more brightened because of Rita. It is my honor to commend Rita Kollias. I thank her for her service.

□ 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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HONORING GENE DODARO

(Mr. COMER of Kentucky was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Gene Dodaro, the Comptroller General of the United States and head of the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

Mr. Dodaro will complete his term as the Nation's eighth Comptroller General at the end of 2025. This year will conclude Mr. Dodaro's distinguished 52-year career at GAO, Congress' nonpartisan investigative arm.

For over more than five decades, Mr. Dodaro has worked tirelessly to help safeguard American taxpayers from fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement, and to strengthen efficiency and effectiveness of Federal programs.

Mr. Dodaro directed the first-ever audit of the Federal Government's consolidated financial statements in the 1990s. This was a landmark effort that underscored the need for better financial management and accountability governmentwide.

Throughout his career, Mr. Dodaro has testified before Congress more than 200 times and has played a pivotal role in advancing major reforms. These reforms include the Government Performance and Results Act, the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act, the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act, the Fraud Reduction and Data Analytics Act, and various other governmentwide improper payments and financial integrity reforms.

Under his leadership, GAO estimated its work has produced more than \$1.2 trillion in financial benefits for the American people and driven tens of thousands of improvements in Federal operations and programs.

Having spent more than half his career as either the Comptroller General or GAO's Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Dodaro has shaped the GAO into the institution that Congress depends on every single day. He strengthened the agency's science, technology, and cybersecurity expertise, ensuring GAO remains well positioned to oversee Federal investments in these emerging and rapidly evolving fields.

Under his stewardship, GAO's High Risk List and duplication reports became an essential roadmap for congressional oversight and reform. The Oversight Committee has relied upon this expertise to enhance its monitoring of agencies' progress toward addressing Federal IT acquisition reforms, preventing improper payments and fraud, and the Department of Defense's financial management practices, among other efforts.

Mr. Dodaro embodies GAO's values of nonpartisanship, objectivity, reliability, and professionalism. He is deeply respected across the government and the oversight community for his integrity, candor, and dedication.

His knowledge of Federal programs and operations has made him one of

the most trusted and sought-after witnesses before Congress. Time and time again, he has impressed Members with his ability to explain complex issues, often without a single note in front of him. Yet, despite his immense expertise, he remains one of the most humble public servants.

Mr. Dodaro's leadership has also inspired a culture of excellence within GAO. The agency has consistently ranked among the best places to work in the Federal Government throughout his tenure as Comptroller General. This is a reflection of the loyalty and admiration he has earned from the GAO workforce.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Gene Dodaro, who truly defines what it means to be a public servant. For more than half a century, he has helped Congress fulfill its constitutional responsibilities with integrity, honor, and steadfast commitment to the American people.

On behalf of Congress, I thank Mr. Dodaro for his remarkable service to our Nation.

CONGRATULATING BOYLE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
REBELS

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the Boyle County Rebels, a football powerhouse in Kentucky's First Congressional District, upon winning the Class 4A State championship, marking their fifth straight title in the last 6 years.

This remarkable accomplishment is a testament to the program's hard work, discipline, and excellence, both on and off the field. Under the leadership of Coach Justin Haddix, the Class 4A Coach of the Year, and standout player, Seneca Driver, the Class 4A Player of the Year, the Rebels overcame an early-season setback to finish strong and capture another State title. Their perseverance and focus exemplify the spirit of champions.

I congratulate the players, coaches, faculty, and supporters of Boyle County High School on this extraordinary milestone. The Rebels have built a legacy of excellence that continues to inspire pride and unity throughout the Boyle County community.

FINDING SOLUTIONS TO BRIDGE
STRIKES

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss my new bill to tackle the issue of bridge strikes.

Throughout the country, highways and local roads with low-clearance bridges are vulnerable to strikes by large trucks. In my home State of New York, there were 350 bridge strikes in 2024 alone, including many in Westchester and the Bronx. However, these strikes are preventable, and I am committed to reducing incidents.

As Westchester County Executive, I worked with State and local leaders to find creative solutions to this problem, but Federal action is necessary.

My bill, the Bridges Not Bumpers Act of 2025, would direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a Bridge Strike Working Group whose work will provide recommendations to prevent future strikes. It will also create a national clearinghouse to serve as a central location for data collection and circulation of best practices to prevent strikes.

I thank Congressman BRESNAHAN for his partnership in developing this commonsense, bipartisan solution. We have both Republican and Democratic cosponsors to this bill. I look forward to moving this proposal forward with my colleagues.

HONORING JILL AXELROD

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the public service contributions of Jill Axelrod, who has completed two terms and 8 years as the Town of Rye's councilwoman. A resident of Rye Brook with her husband Brett and two daughters, she is a lawyer by profession and has been a member of the executive team of the Westchester County Board of Legislators.

Elected in 2017 to the town council and reelected in 2021, Jill led the town board's important legislation and law committees, playing an integral role in all facets of local laws from development to passage. Her intergovernmental roles in county and town government have helped provide wise counsel to the Town of Rye as part of an effective team.

Her public service continues. We recognize her current and past achievements and await the next chapter of her service.

EXCHANGE CLUB OF YONKERS HONOREES

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I salute the honorees recognized at the recent Awards Gala of the Exchange Club of Yonkers.

These individuals have given exemplary service to the people of Yonkers as recognized by one of the most outstanding organizations in the city:

Dr. Jim Bostic, senior pastor and author recognized with the Literary Achievement Award;

Dr. Rosalba Corrado DelVecchio and Carol McEwen Daly, designated Women of Distinction Awards;

Alan R. Gray, Jr., Esquire, Exchangeite of the Year;

Yosef Unger from the San Souci Rehabilitation and Nursing Center received the Distinguished Service Award;

Ann Muro, the longtime president of the Exchange Club of Yonkers, Outstanding Leadership and Community Service Award.

All of these individuals deserve our respect and our congratulations. We wish them all the very best as they are honorees this year.

□ 1015

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF RYAN WHITEHOUSE

(Mr. BOST of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)