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No. 209

House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. McDOWELL).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 11, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ADDISON P. McDOWELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, how vast and wide is Your bounty. Your generosity to us knows no end. Just as You set the limits of the vast oceans and separated the waters from the loftiness of the heavens and divided the light from the darkness, so, too, by the presence of Your Holy Spirit have You set before us boundaries that we may live as You desire and enjoy Your abundant grace to its fullest.

Set that hedge around us this day, O Lord. Sanctify our lives and set them apart for Your purpose, that we would share in Your vision for a life that is good, right, pleasing, and perfect in Your eyes.

If that means we must draw a line that does not allow us to pursue selfish desires nor to lie, hate, or fear, then make that line clear to us that we would have no desire to even approach it.

When we come up against the limits that You have set on our attitudes and speech, may we prove accountable to the righteousness You desire from us.

When we choose to live, think, act, and love as You have loved us, in our

faithfulness may we discover the freedom found only in Your boundless mercy. May we find countless ways to express our profound love for You and for the life You have so generously given us.

May we find infinite joy in You, O God, when You delight in us.

In the strength of Your name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LALOTA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONGRATULATING GRACYN STEVENS

(Mr. BAIRD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gracyn Stevens from

Kirklin, Indiana, who won the 13th annual National Cattlemen's Beef Association National Anthem Contest. Gracyn will sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" at CattleCon 2026 in Nashville, Tennessee. She will also sing before both "Cowboys Night at the Opry" shows at the historic Ryman Auditorium.

Gracyn said that it was an honor to win this contest and represent an industry that she loves and that she will strive to make a meaningful impact on for years to come.

Gracyn Stevens says she appreciates the lessons that she learned growing up showing cattle in 4-H. The cattle industry taught her that true success is about the effort and passion put into each project.

I congratulate Gracyn on this outstanding achievement. I know she will make Indiana proud at CattleCon.

HONORING SHERIFF ROB SNAZA ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Ms. PEREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a public servant who has given nearly four decades to the people of Lewis County, Sheriff Rob Snaza.

He is a man with a gentle spirit and a decisive character. He is eager to help others, not to be helped. He is quick to apologize and forgive and find goodness in others, though he has spent his career seeing some of the ugliest things this world has to offer.

He is persistent in his trust in the Lord and a diligent encourager of those around him. He has been a source of strength to all of us, and I am confident that the eternal story of his work will go on long after he is retired.

We are profoundly grateful for the sheriff's service. I sincerely thank him for the example he has set for us all.

□ 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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STATE OF CALIFORNIA DECISION AFFECTS STUDENT-ATHLETES

(Mr. KILEY of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I feel compelled to call attention to an outrageous action that has just been undertaken by the State of California to deprive many, many young people in my district of athletic opportunities.

Truckee Unified School District, which is in my district, competes when it comes to athletics in a neighboring school district in Nevada. What is the reason for that?

Well, for sports like soccer, these are winter sports in California, but they are quite hard to play in the winter in this part of the State because there is a lot of snow. They are spring sports in Nevada. So in order to allow young people to play soccer and other sports, they compete in Nevada.

However, the State of California has just ordered Truckee Unified to compete in California, no longer giving them that option. Why? It is because Nevada doesn't have the same policy of allowing biological males to compete in women's sports.

Regardless of what you think of that particular policy, it is something that only affects a few students, and now the State of California is depriving all of these student-athletes of the opportunity to play their sport as well as subjecting them to onerous new travel arrangements.

I am urging the State of California to reverse this outrageous action.

I SHALL MARCH ON

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise to announce that last night I called for the impeachment of Donald John Trump, President of the United States of America, for threatening judges and for calling for the execution of Members of Congress.

If ever there was a person who ought to be impeached, it is Donald John Trump. Now, there are many people who don't want to see this happen. They don't want to vote for impeachment.

Well, there were people who didn't want to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge, but they marched on. I shall march on.

I have been told that this vote will take place sometime after 1:30 today. I assure you that I will be here for that vote. I will also speak on Friday for about 1 hour after about 11 o'clock. I will explain more about it at that time.

This President is a reckless, ruthless, lawless person who doesn't deserve the title of President of the United States of America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OWENS). Members are reminded to re-

frain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Randall Holstead, one of his secretaries.

RECOGNIZING REPRESENTATIVE HARRY WARREN

(Mr. McDOWELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDOWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to send my greatest gratitude to Representative Harry Warren as he retires after eight terms serving the people of Rowan County in North Carolina's 76th District.

Representative Warren has been a steady, respected voice in Raleigh, and folks back home knew that they could always count on him. He listened, he worked hard, and he treated everyone with fairness and respect.

As someone who represents Rowan County in Congress, I have seen the impact of his work up close. He has been a strong advocate for the community, a trusted partner, and a genuinely good man. We are grateful for his service, and I wish him all the best in his next chapter.

□ 1110

BENJAMIN GUERRERO-CRUZ IS HOME

(Ms. RIVAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, for months I have been sharing the story of Benjamin Guerrero-Cruz, a constituent of mine who is a senior in high school. He was detained by ICE in August while walking his dog.

In the span of 24 hours, ICE shuffled Benjamin between detention centers and across State lines without his family knowing. I visited Benjamin at the Adelanto Detention Center and observed a recent court hearing of his, and my team has been working with his family on this case throughout the ordeal.

Today, I am excited and relieved to report that after months of living through a nightmare, Benjamin is home. My heart goes out to his family, especially his mother, who can hold her son again after months of fear and uncertainty at the hands of ICE. No family should ever have to live through this.

I will continue showing up to detention facilities to hold ICE and this administration accountable for the terror that they are forcing families to live through each day.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad that Benjamin is home, and I hope he and his family can begin the healing process.

Welcome home, Benjamin.

CONDEMNING THE ILLEGAL EFFORTS TO DISMANTLE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

(Ms. MCBRIDE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the Trump administration's illegal efforts to dismantle the Department of Education.

The President and the Secretary of Education can call this plan whatever they want, but the bottom line is that this is about defunding public education and putting taxpayer dollars into the hands of private institutions who do not face the same standards and protocols as public schools.

The Department of Education protects students with disabilities, supports rural and low-income schools, and helps make college more affordable for students across the country.

In Delaware, \$530 million in Federal education funding supports teachers across our State. Removing that funding would mean students without teachers, schools without support, and communities left behind.

I have stood arm in arm with Delaware educators, parents, and students who are pushing back. They are asking for a fair shot, and we should be investing in their future, not abandoning them.

HONORING THE LIFE AND COURAGE OF RALPH LAWRENCE CARR

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and courage of Ralph Lawrence Carr, the 29th Governor of Colorado, whose birthday we celebrate today.

He was in office when Executive Order 9066 was issued, the order that permitted the mass incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans, including my grandparents and parents during World War II.

A staunch Republican, he refused to comply with the order and instead opened the State of Colorado to Japanese Americans fleeing the Federal Government. To a group of farmers concerned with his support of Japanese Americans, Governor Carr said, "An American citizen of Japanese descent has the same rights as any other citizen. If you harm them, you must first harm me."

Mr. Speaker, the Governor lost reelection, largely due to his defense of Japanese Americans. Let his courage be a lesson to us today as we, once again, see a dark tide spread across our country.