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No. 211

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of North Carolina).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 15, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TIM MOORE 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 1:50 p.m.

LOWERING HEALTHCARE COSTS FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for legislation that House Republicans are bringing to the floor this week to bring down healthcare costs for Americans.

Since the enactment of the unaffordable care act of 2010, Americans have been suffering with a broken healthcare system. Democrats created this system. It is a system that Americans simply cannot afford.

The Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act would address these issues that will make healthcare affordable again by creating more options and more choices for American patients.

With this new legislation, House Republicans will lower costs for all Americans, preventing Democrats from taking over \$100 billion of taxpayer money and giving it directly to the insurance companies.

Mr. Speaker, as this bill comes to the House floor for a vote, I am proud to join my Republican colleagues in a mission to reduce premiums again for all American families. I look forward to securing this win for the American patients and not for the big insurance companies.

BRINGING DOWN COSTS FOR AMERICAN FARMERS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend President Trump on his announcement of \$12 billion in farmer bridge payments for American farmers.

The establishment of the Farmer Bridge Assistance program provides critical relief to crop farmers across the United States, including many in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District.

The FBA program will make one-time direct payments to American farmers in response to the Biden-era policies that distorted global markets and drove production costs to record highs.

As we enter the next crop year, I look forward to working with President Trump and the U.S. Department of Agriculture as we continue to support the American farmer by bringing down costs, securing new trade deals, and prioritizing American crop production.

HONORING FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the

Franklin County Board of Commissioners and Franklin County Agricultural Land Preservation Board for their joint efforts over the years that have preserved 20,000 acres of farmland.

The recent preservation reflects a commitment to protecting vital agricultural lands. These efforts will prevent the development of the land for any purpose other than agriculture.

This initiative allows Franklin County to stay among Pennsylvania's top-producing counties for a variety of commodities such as milk, apples, peaches, and cattle. Franklin County has invested more than \$40 million to preserve 164 farms.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate all of Franklin County's farmers.

CONGRATULATING ALEXIS CASNER

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Alexis Casner of McVeytown, Pennsylvania, who was recently awarded the prestigious American FFA degree by the National Future Farmers of America.

Every year, less than 1 percent of all FFA members are presented with this award, which is the highest level of FFA achievement. The selection of Alexis for this award is a reflection of her exceptional dedication and passionate engagement in agriculture.

A 2023 graduate of Mifflin County High School, Alexis is a junior at Penn State majoring in animal science with a minor in livestock production. Join me in congratulating Alexis on this notable achievement and for her commitment to Pennsylvania agriculture.

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP OF SAM WORLEY

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding community leadership of Sam Worley, who celebrated his 104th birthday just this past June.

A proud U.S. Air Force veteran of World War II, Sam additionally had a

□ 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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very distinguished career in public service. Sam has served as the chairman of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, a representative on the Chambersburg Council, and the mayor of Chambersburg.

Sam's commitment to his country, his family, and his community truly makes him an exceptional example of America's Greatest Generation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Sam for all he has done for America.

REMEMBERING LETTY BELIN

(Ms. STANSBURY of New Mexico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, it is undeniable that Letty Belin is somebody who will be remembered for her laugh, her kindness, and her compassion.

Even when dealing with the most serious of subjects concerning the fate of our Nation's waters, Tribal water rights, the protection of lands and ecosystems, and their legal and policy arguments, it was her laughter, her love, and her kindness that shined through.

The last time that I saw Letty was over a meandering cup of coffee, as they often were, on Stanford campus, where she was a twice-alum and where she contemplated the future of Western water as she often did.

Letty Belin was most certainly one of the greatest legal and policy minds of our generation, working to protect the waters of the West, but Letty was also a dear friend and mentor to me and so many others who worked on Western water issues.

She served as the lead counselor to two Deputy Cabinet Secretaries at the Department of the Interior; led the Environment Division at the New Mexico Attorney General's Office; spent decades practicing water, environmental, and Tribal law; and served on numerous boards.

Above all else, she was a devoted parent to three children, loving grandmother, and friend who shared her deep love of wildlands, open spaces, and traveling the world.

Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest sadness that I rise this morning to honor the life of Letty Belin and her passing just a few weeks ago.

I became close friends with Letty during her time at the Department of the Interior, where she served as counsel to Deputy Secretaries David Hayes and Mike Connor and as the chair of the Indian Water Rights Working Group.

At the Department of the Interior, she championed the negotiation of water settlements to protect the water rights of 15 Tribal nations, which most certainly must be a historical record for what are often difficult, decades-long cases.

In fact, so exemplary was her work that President Obama himself honored her with a special award for her negotiations involving the water rights of the Navajo and Hopi Nations.

Letty certainly was no stranger to resolving difficult issues and, in fact, led on the legal and policy work that transformed water law in New Mexico during my lifetime to ensure that stream flows for our rivers and streams would remain.

In fact, for any New Mexican who sat along a river grateful to see its waters flow, especially during a time of drought, it was Letty who created the legal framework to sustain those waters.

This is perhaps one of her most enduring legacies, which she led after Attorney General Tom Udall, later Senator Udall, hired her to lead a brand-new Environment Division at the AG's Office in the 1990s. As Senator Udall shared with me just yesterday, Letty was uniquely superb at finding those commonsense solutions that people could support while still pushing for what needed to happen.

It was through this lens that she also helped to protect the Middle Rio Grande River through a legal challenge under the Endangered Species Act. Where some saw only a small, endangered minnow, Letty saw the opportunity to save a vital habitat that supports two-thirds of New Mexico's species.

In the process, her work helped save these species from extinction and brought a renewed urgency to protecting our beloved Rio Grande. It is that same commitment that she brought to her work in the Bay Delta in California.

In fact, decades later, after her years of work as an environmental attorney, as a State and Federal civil servant, she would bring that same creativity and can-do spirit to her work on behalf of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest sadness that I honor Letty's legacy. The impact that she has had on this country is immeasurable. From her roots in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to her career defending the water resources and lands of the West, her lifetime of service continues to influence decisions and communities across the country today. Whether hiking through the hills, floating a river, or traveling the world, Letty leaves behind a legacy of friendship, wisdom, and extraordinary accomplishments.

I, like so many, am forever grateful for her mentorship and friendship and join those who are honoring her memory and mourning her loss.

It is with the deepest condolences and prayers, Mr. Speaker, that I send my love to her family, to her community, and to everyone who called her friend, mentor, sister, mom, and grandma.

RECOGNIZING DONNA AUTRY

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a real hero in our midst and a dear friend of mine, Donna Autry.

Donna was a first grade teacher for over 30 years. Like most teachers, she was committed to doing one of the most important jobs in our Nation, but she has never sought the limelight. She simply did her job quietly and effectively.

Donna is also an artist who creates beautiful quilts and paintings that she gives to others. She is extremely generous with her time and talent. She also has a passion for dogs and volunteers with the Avery County Humane Society.

Mr. Speaker, we ought to recognize more people like Donna who live quiet lives and, at the same time, contribute so much to the world around them. We need more Donna Autrys in our world. They make a positive impact that deserves to be highlighted and praised.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Donna for being such a wonderful person.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

PROCEEDINGS OF FORMER MEMBERS PROGRAM

The following proceedings were held before the House convened for morning-hour debate:

UNITED STATES ASSOCIATION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS 2025 ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Donna F. Edwards, Vice President of Former Members of Congress Association, at 9 a.m.

PRAYER

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

Eternal God, to whom one day is as 1,000 years, and 1,000 years as one day, thank You not only for this day, but for the thousands of years of service this body represents.

We pause in gratitude for the calling You bestowed on each one here and all who have gone before, who have given so much of their time and energy in this very Chamber, to preserve and defend the laws of this Nation and the ideals on which it was founded.

Even as they gather this morning, uphold and encourage these former Members, their continued sense of duty to the American people. Bring their minds and desires together again, enhanced with their shared wisdom, and inspired by Your guiding spirit, that they may use their voices to speak into the consequential dialogue of these days.

Now unto You, who has established Your everlasting covenant for us and for all our descendants, we declare