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## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
February 25, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER 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.

### BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, our country has just suffered the largest illegal mass migration in history.

Over 4 years, the Democrats opened our borders and allowed an unvetted and largely impoverished population of nearly 8 million to illegally enter our country—a population the size of Washington State.

This illegal mass migration has overwhelmed our public schools, public hos-

pitals, homeless shelters, food banks, and law enforcement, and it is costing American taxpayers \$160 billion a year to support. Worst of all, it has introduced into our country the most violent criminal gangs and offenders on the planet.

It has also brought to a head the fundamental question of whether any person in the world can break into our country, have a baby at taxpayer expense, have that baby declared an American citizen, and then use that as a pretext to remain.

Now, President Trump has issued an executive order challenging that notion for all future births. The Democrats call this a threat to democracy and a constitutional crisis. That is what they call anything they disagree with these days, but it is neither. It is the Constitution functioning as it should.

The President has created a dispute arising from a difference of opinion in interpreting the Constitution. Opponents in this dispute have appealed to the courts, as they should. Now, the courts will resolve this dispute under the terms of our Constitution.

Meanwhile, I have a question for the Democrats: If the 14th Amendment actually confers automatic citizenship to anyone born here, wouldn't it have said all persons born or naturalized in the United States are citizens of the United States? That is simple enough.

That is not what it says. It says: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States."

What does that mean? We know that it means the children of former slaves are citizens. That is its stated purpose and the plain language of the amendment passed, by the way, over the objections of the Democratic Party. We know from the congressional debate that its authors understood it to exclude foreign nationals who are merely passing through the country.

The question of our time is whether those who have illegally entered our country in defiance of our laws and who are subject to deportation under those laws can be considered as having accepted the jurisdiction of the laws that their very presence defies.

The Supreme Court has never considered this question. The closest it came was the Ark decision 127 years ago, but that applied to legal immigrants who had accepted the jurisdiction of the United States by obeying its immigration laws and who had taken up legal, permanent residence subject to a treaty ratified by the Senate.

Does the President have the authority by executive order to clear up this matter as part of his organic constitutional responsibility to take care that the laws be faithfully executed? I don't know. Obama claimed the authority to create a legal residency for DACA beneficiaries out of thin air, so maybe he does. The Court will ultimately rule.

Does the Congress have the authority to clear up this matter by statute? Only if that statute doesn't contradict the Constitution.

Here is the fine point of the matter: If the 14th Amendment does not give automatic birthright citizenship to the children of those here illegally and temporarily, then no law should be necessary to deny them citizenship in the future because no law ever extended that right in the first place. In that case, the President's executive order is merely declaratory of existing law.

Several lower courts have stayed the President's executive order, and no one is screaming that is a constitutional crisis, even though many of us strenuously disagree with those judges just as strenuously as the left disagrees with the President.

Ultimately, though, we have faith in our Constitution, and as the case progresses through the courts, we will get

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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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a clear and authoritative ruling that will then determine whether the President's order stands or whether Congress needs to act either by statute or constitutional amendment.

To call this a constitutional crisis is the kind of absurd and juvenile hyperbole that passes for argument these days by the woke left. I look forward to returning to a society someday when we can have civil discussions over high principles as our Founders envisioned.

#### CELEBRATING WINNERS OF 2024 CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRESNAHAN). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. McIVER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the New Jersey-10 winners of the 2024 Congressional App Challenge.

Aman, Alexa, Charlie, and Gabriel teamed up to make Tailored Trivia. The app allows users to create customized trivia games that make studying and memorization more interactive. This tool lets students test SAT vocabulary words, learn phrases in new languages, and quiz their classmates.

In creating this app, Aman, Alexa, Charlie, and Gabriel also grew their skills in coding, design, and teamwork.

I am so proud of their hard work, dedication, and contributions to New Jersey, and I am excited to see what they will accomplish next.

#### CELEBRATING SAHLI NEGASSI

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Sahli, a New Jersey-10 student at West Orange High School who received a perfect score on the SAT this year.

Less than 1 percent of SAT test takers earn a perfect score each year, and Sahli's accomplishment is nothing short of extraordinary. His SAT preparation was largely self-directed, relying on free resources and using his time and determination to study for the exam.

Beyond academics, he is deeply involved in extracurricular activities at West Orange High School. He has been a dedicated member of the cross-country and track teams since seventh grade and spent two seasons on the color guard.

Sahli is also the president of the math team, chapter president of the National Honor Society, a varsity chess team member, and part of the Royal Strings Ensemble. His involvement in multiple activities and honor societies speaks to his well-rounded excellence.

After graduating high school, Sahli hopes to attend Harvard and study law. Any school would be lucky to have such a bright young mind. What an incredible accomplishment and a shining example of New Jersey's excellence. I congratulate Sahli. He makes New Jersey proud.

#### RECOGNIZING AMIGO POWER EQUIPMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Amigo Power Equipment in Edinburg, Texas, for 50 years of service to our community.

Founded in 1974 by Janice and Kent Johnson, Amigo Power Equipment sold tractors and combines to farmers and ranchers throughout south Texas. As the Rio Grande Valley grew, so did their business.

The Johnsons passed down their business to their youngest son, Jeff, and over the years, it has become the premier tractor and power sports dealership in the valley. When visiting their store, you will find knowledgeable staff with years of experience and exceptional customer service.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Johnsons and the entire staff on this incredible milestone, and I thank them for their dedication to the Rio Grande Valley community.

#### POSITIVE IMPACTS OF SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the positive impacts that the Social Security Fairness Act has already made for south Texans.

Before this bill, millions of public servants like teachers, police officers, and firefighters were unfairly punished by reduced Social Security benefits. After being signed into law last month, this legislation finally eliminated the provisions that reduced Social Security benefits for public servants.

I have heard back from teachers in south Texas who are incredibly thankful to have the legislation finally signed into law.

I am proud to have cosponsored this bill in the House, advocated for its passage, and played an important role in expanding access to benefits for those who have gone above and beyond to serve our communities.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE ROSE GUERRA REYNA

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor State District Judge Rose Guerra Reyna for her service to Hidalgo County.

Earlier this month, Judge Reyna announced that, after 28 years, she will be retiring from her role.

For over two decades, she has upheld the rule of law with fairness and justice in Hidalgo County. She has presided over thousands of cases, worked to improve the judicial process, and mentored many young attorneys throughout her tenure.

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Though she will be missed, her legacy will live on in the courtroom. Her commitment to justice in south Texas is unwavering, and we are so fortunate to have public servants like Judge Reyna in south Texas. We wish her the best as she carries out her term and begins her well-deserved retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the judge.

#### 1944 WATER TREATY

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address an issue that is critical to my community in south Texas, Mexico's refusal to fulfill its water obligation. Their refusal to comply with the agreements of the 1944 Water Treaty has caused mass devastation with our farmers and ranchers in south Texas.

Last Congress, we had our one sugar mill in Texas close. That was 500 jobs that were lost and millions of dollars of economic impact in south Texas.

Food security is national security, and we have lost our sugar mill, and we are on the verge of losing our citrus industry. We ask that the Mexican Government repay us the water that they owe us which is now over 1 million acre-feet of water.

It is simply unacceptable that the Mexican Government has not given us the water that they owe us. This not only affects the people of south Texas, but it affects the entire Nation.

Again, food security is national security, and we urge the Mexican Government to pay us our water immediately.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF U.S. NAVY CORPSMAN JACK GUTMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of World War II hero and U.S. Navy Corpsman Jack Gutman, who passed away just a few days before his 99th birthday.

Jack answered the call to serve our Nation after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He was barely 18 when he enlisted as a corpsman in the Navy. Jack defended our country in some of the most harrowing battles of the war, including bravely providing care to the wounded on the beaches of Normandy on D-day.

Years after returning home with his invisible wounds, Jack sought help through the VA and received treatment for his PTSD. His recovery inspired him to dedicate his life to help fellow veterans find the courage to seek support for their own PTSD challenges.

Sergeant Gutman's life of service to this country and his fellow veterans continues to be an inspiration for all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and legacy of my good friend and American hero, Jack Gutman, part of America's Greatest Generation.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF U.S. ARMY VETERAN ROYAL "ROY" EDWARD NEELEY

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of U.S. Army veteran Royal "Roy" Edward Neeley.

Sergeant Neeley served our Nation proudly as a Green Beret in the elite