

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of North Carolina) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

- H.R. 980; and,
- H.R. 3123.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

VETERANS READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 980) to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the provision of on-campus educational and vocational counseling by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 402, nays 2, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 49]
YEAS—402

Adams	Brecheen	Conaway
Aderholt	Bresnahan	Correa
Aguilar	Brown	Costa
Alford	Brownley	Courtney
Allen	Budzinski	Craig
Amo	Bynum	Crane
Amodעי (NV)	Calvert	Crank
Ansari	Cammack	Crawford
Arrington	Carbajal	Crenshaw
Auchincloss	Carey	Crockett
Babin	Carson	Crow
Bacon	Carter (GA)	Cuellar
Balderson	Carter (LA)	Davidson (KS)
Balint	Carter (TX)	Davidson
Barr	Casar	Davis (IL)
Barrett	Case	Davis (NC)
Baumgartner	Casten	Dean (PA)
Bean (FL)	Castor (FL)	DeGette
Beatty	Castro (TX)	DeLauro
Begich	Cherfilus	DelBene
Bentz	McCormick	Deluzio
Bera	Chu	DeSaulnier
Bergman	Ciscomani	DesJarlais
Beyer	Cisneros	Dexter
Bice	Clark (MA)	Diaz-Balart
Biggs (AZ)	Clarke (NY)	Dingell
Biggs (SC)	Cleaver	Doggett
Billirakis	Cline	Donalds
Bishop	Clyburn	Downing
Boebert	Clyde	Edwards
Bonamici	Cole	Elfreth
Bost	Collins	Ellzey
Boyle (PA)	Comer	Emmer

Escobar	Kennedy (UT)	Pou
Espallat	Kiggans (VA)	Pressley
Estes	Kiley (CA)	Quigley
Evans (CO)	Kim	Ramirez
Evans (PA)	Knott	Randall
Ezell	Krishnamoorthi	Raskin
Fallon	Kustoff	Reschenthaler
Fedorchak	LaHood	Riley (NY)
Fields	LaLota	Rivas
Figures	Larsen (WA)	Rogers (AL)
Fine	Larson (CT)	Rogers (KY)
Finstad	Latimer	Rose
Fischbach	Latta	Ross
Fitzgerald	Lawler	Rouzer
Fitzpatrick	Lee (FL)	Roy
Fleischmann	Lee (NV)	Ruiz
Flood	Lee (PA)	Rulli
Fong	Leger Fernandez	Rutherford
Foster	Letlow	Ryan
Foushee	Levin	Salazar
Fox	Liccardo	Salinas
Frankel, Lois	Lieu	Sanchez
Franklin, Scott	Lofgren	Scalise
Friedman	Loudermilk	Scanlon
Frost	Lucas	Schakowsky
Fry	Luttrell	Schmidt
Fulcher	Lynch	Schneider
Garamendi	Mace	Scholten
Garbarino	Mackenzie	Schrier
Garcia (CA)	Magaziner	Schweikert
Garcia (IL)	Malliotakis	Scott (VA)
Garcia (TX)	Maloy	Scott, Austin
Gill (TX)	Mann	Scott, David
Gillen	Mannion	Sessions
Gimenez	Mast	Sewell
Golden (ME)	Matsui	Sherman
Goldman (NY)	McBath	Shreve
Goldman (TX)	McBride	Simon
Gomez	McCaul	Simpson
Gonzales, Tony	McClain	Smith (MO)
Gooden	McClain Delaney	Smith (NJ)
Goodlander	McClellan	Smith (NY)
Gosar	McClintock	Smith (WA)
Gottheimer	McCollum	Smucker
Graves	McCormick	Sorensen
Gray	McDonald Rivet	Soto
Green, Al (TX)	McGarvey	Spartz
Griffith	McGovern	Stansbury
Grothman	McGuire	Stanton
Guest	McIver	Stauber
Guthrie	Meeks	Stefanik
Hageman	Menendez	Steil
Hamadeh (AZ)	Messmer	Steube
Harder (CA)	Meuser	Stevens
Haridopolos	Mfume	Strickland
Harrigan	Miller (IL)	Strong
Harris (MD)	Miller (OH)	Subramanyam
Harris (NC)	Miller-Meeks	Suozi
Harshbarger	Mills	Swalwell
Hayes	Min	Sykes
Hern (OK)	Moolenaar	Takano
Higgins (LA)	Moore (AL)	Taylor
Hill (AR)	Moore (NC)	Tenney
Himes	Moore (UT)	Thanedar
Hinson	Moore (WI)	Thompson (CA)
Horsford	Moore (WV)	Thompson (MS)
Houchin	Moran	Thompson (PA)
Houlihan	Morelle	Timmons
Hoyer	Morrison	Titus
Hoyle (OR)	Moskowitz	Tlaib
Hudson	Moulton	Tokuda
Huffman	Mrvan	Tonko
Huizenga	Mullin	Torres (CA)
Hunt	Murphy	Trahan
Hurd (CO)	Neal	Tran
Issa	Neguse	Turner (OH)
Ivey	Nehls	Underwood
Jack	Newhouse	Valadao
Jackson (IL)	Norcross	Van Drew
Jackson (TX)	Norman	Van Dуйne
Jacobs	Obernalte	Van Epps
James	Ocasio-Cortez	Van Orden
Jayapal	Ogles	Vargas
Jeffries	Olshewski	Vasquez
Johnson (GA)	Onder	Veasey
Johnson (LA)	Owens	Velázquez
Johnson (SD)	Pallone	Vindman
Johnson (TX)	Palmer	Wagner
Jordan	Panetta	Walberg
Joyce (OH)	Pappas	Walkinshaw
Joyce (PA)	Patronis	Wasserman
Kamlager-Dove	Pelosi	Schultz
Kaptur	Perez	Waters
Kean	Perry	Watson Coleman
Keating	Peters	Weber (TX)
Kelly (IL)	Petterson	Webster (FL)
Kelly (MS)	Pfluger	Westerman
Kelly (PA)	Pingree	Whitesides
Kennedy (NY)	Pocan	Wied

Williams (GA)	Wilson (SC)	Yakym
Williams (TX)	Wittman	Zinke
Wilson (FL)	Womack	

NAYS—2

Fletcher Self

NOT VOTING—27

Baird	Dunn (FL)	McDowell
Barragan	Feenstra	Meng
Bell	Gonzalez, V.	Miller (WV)
Buchanan	Grijalva	Nadler
Burchett	Khanna	Nunn (IA)
Burlison	Landsman	Omar
Cloud	Langworthy	Stutzman
Cohen	Luna	Tiffany
De La Cruz	Massie	Torres (NY)

□ 1857

Mr. MOULTON changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
Washington, DC, February 2, 2026.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter received from Ms. Christina Adkins, Director of Elections, with the Texas Office of the Secretary of State indicating that, according to the unofficial results for the Special General Election held on January 31, 2026, the Honorable Christian Dashaun Menefee was elected Representative to Congress for the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,
JANE NELSON, SECRETARY OF STATE,
February 2, 2026.

Hon. KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. MCCUMBER: This is to advise you that the unofficial results of the Special Runoff Election held on Saturday, January 31, 2026 for Representative in Congress from the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas, show that Christian Dashaun Menefee received 16,174 or 68.38% of the total number of votes cast for that office.

It would appear from these unofficial results that Christian Dashaun Menefee was elected as Representative in Congress from the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas.

To the best of our knowledge and belief at this time, there is no contest to this election.

As soon as the official results are certified to this office by the county involved, an official Certificate of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Sincerely,
CHRISTINA ADKINS,
Director of Elections.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE CHRISTIAN D. MENEFEE, OF TEXAS, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Texas, the Honorable CHRISTIAN D. MENEFEE, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

His certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to his election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will the Representative-elect and the members of the Texas delegation present themselves in the well.

All Members will rise and the Representative-elect will please raise his right hand.

Mr. MENEFEE appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the 119th Congress.

□ 1900

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE CHRISTIAN D. MENEFEE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, Saturday was a great day for progress in Texas, from Houston to Fort Worth. For almost a year after the tragic death of our late colleague, Sylvester Turner, the citizens of the 18th Congressional District of Texas in Houston have been denied representation in this Congress.

After Governor Abbott delayed the call for the election for almost 8 months and then delayed the runoff election another 3 months, these Texans finally have the representation that they deserve.

At this moment, we remember the life of Sylvester Turner, who honorably served Houstonians for a decade or more as mayor and State representative, and who took over after the passing of our colleague, Sheila Jackson Lee, who we all remember for her tenacity.

This is in a district that was once represented by the legendary Barbara Jordan. This is also a district with a long legacy of fighters, fighters for justice. I am confident that CHRISTIAN MENEFEE will carry on that tradition.

He was raised in the 18th Congressional District by two military parents who taught him about the values of hard work, of loyalty, and of standing up for what is right.

With the help of a Pell grant, he was the first member in his family to graduate from college. He graduated from UT San Antonio and then went on to St. Louis to get a law degree from Washington University.

He built a successful career as a commercial litigator in Houston and provided extensive pro bono work there, including his working with immigrant families affected by the Muslim ban. He most recently served as the Harris County attorney, the youngest person and the first African American to ever hold that office.

At this troubling time in our country, please join me in welcoming someone who I know will be a great colleague, carrying out the incomplete term of Mr. Turner in this Congress.

Congratulations, CHRISTIAN.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MENEFEE).

Mr. MENEFEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman DOGGETT very much for the incredibly kind introduction.

Good evening, colleagues. “Colleagues” is crazy to say.

I want to start by saying a special thank-you to God and to my wife, Kaitlyn, who is here with us today, and to my fantastic team.

It has been more than 330 days since the people of the 18th Congressional District had representation and a voice in Congress. When this body took on important votes about whether to cut SNAP benefits, about whether to make it more difficult to access Medicaid—important issues—this district had no voice in Congress. This one is for the 18th District.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today understanding that there are very big shoes to fill. This is a district of fighters. This is the district of the legendary Barbara Jordan, who helped overturn a corrupt Presidency. This is the district of Mickey Leland, Craig Washington, and Erica Lee Carter. This is the district, of course, of our two great friends, my mentors, dear friends who we recently lost, the late Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee and the late Sylvester Turner.

Many folks in the 18th District are watching. To my district, the commitment they have from me is that I will work as hard as I can to live up to the legacy. I will treat this job with the seriousness that it deserves. I will work full days, and I will fight as hard as I can to advocate for and protect the people of the 18th Congressional District.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath of office to the gentleman from Texas, the whole number of the House is 432.

ERNEST PELTZ ACCRUED VETERANS BENEFITS ACT

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3123) to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to laws relating to the payment of certain benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that are affected by death, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 405, nays 1, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 50]
YEAS—405

Adams	Cole	Garcia (TX)
Aderholt	Collins	Gill (TX)
Aguilar	Comer	Gillen
Alford	Conaway	Gimenez
Allen	Correa	Golden (ME)
Amo	Costa	Goldman (NY)
Amodei (NV)	Courtney	Goldman (TX)
Ansari	Craig	Gomez
Arrington	Crane	Gonzales, Tony
Auchincloss	Crank	Gooden
Babin	Crawford	Goodlander
Bacon	Crenshaw	Gosar
Balderson	Crockett	Gottheimer
Balint	Crow	Graves
Barr	Cuellar	Gray
Barrett	Davidson	Green, Al (TX)
Baumgartner	Davis (IL)	Grothman
Bean (FL)	Davis (NC)	Guest
Beatty	De La Cruz	Guthrie
Begich	Dean (PA)	Hageman
Bentz	DeGette	Hamadeh (AZ)
Bera	DeLauro	Harder (CA)
Bergman	DelBene	Haridopolos
Beyer	Deluzio	Harrigan
Bice	DeSaulnier	Harris (NC)
Biggs (AZ)	DesJarlais	Harshbarger
Biggs (SC)	Dexter	Hayes
Bilirakis	Diaz-Balart	Hern (OK)
Bishop	Dingell	Higgins (LA)
Boebert	Doggett	Hill (AR)
Bonamici	Donalds	Himes
Bost	Downing	Hinson
Boyle (PA)	Edwards	Horsford
Brecheen	Elfreth	Houchin
Bresnahan	Ellzey	Houlihan
Brown	Emmer	Hoyer
Brownley	Escobar	Hoyle (OR)
Budzinski	Estes	Hudson
Burchett	Evans (CO)	Huffman
Burlison	Evans (PA)	Huizenga
Bynum	Ezell	Hunt
Calvert	Fallon	Hurd (CO)
Cammack	Fedorchak	Issa
Carbajal	Fields	Ivey
Carey	Figures	Jack
Carson	Fine	Jackson (IL)
Carter (GA)	Finstad	Jackson (TX)
Carter (LA)	Fischbach	Jacobs
Carter (TX)	Fitzgerald	James
Casar	Fitzpatrick	Jayapal
Case	Fleischmann	Jeffries
Casten	Fong	Johnson (GA)
Castor (FL)	Foster	Johnson (LA)
Castro (TX)	Foushee	Johnson (SD)
Cherfilus-	Fox	Johnson (TX)
McCormick	Frankel, Lois	Jordan
Chu	Franklin, Scott	Joyce (OH)
Ciscomani	Friedman	Joyce (PA)
Cisneros	Frost	Kamlager-Dove
Clark (MA)	Fry	Kaptur
Clarke (NY)	Fulcher	Kean
Cleaver	Garbarino	Keating
Cline	Garcia (CA)	Kelly (IL)
Cloud	Garcia (IL)	Kelly (MS)
Clyburn		Kelly (PA)