

**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	Dauids (KS)	Green, Al (TX)
Baumgartner	Davidson	Grothman
Bean (FL)	Davis (IL)	Guest
Beatty	Davis (NC)	Guthrie
Begich	De La Cruz	Hageman
Bentz	Dean (PA)	Hamadeh (AZ)
Bera	DeGette	Harder (CA)
Bergman	DeLauro	Haridopolos
Beyer	DelBene	Harrigan
Bice	Deluzio	Harris (NC)
Biggs (AZ)	DeSaulnier	Harshbarger
Biggs (SC)	DesJarlais	Hayes
Bilirakis	Dexter	Hern (OK)
Bishop	Diaz-Balart	Higgins (LA)
Boebert	Dingell	Hill (AR)
Bonamici	Doggett	Himes
Bost	Donalds	Hinson
Boyle (PA)	Downing	Horsford
Brecheen	Edwards	Houchin
Bresnahan	Elfreth	Houlihan
Brown	Ellzey	Hoyer
Brownley	Emmer	Hoyle (OR)
Budzinski	Escobar	Hudson
Burchett	Estes	Huffman
Burlison	Evans (CO)	Huizenga
Bynum	Evans (PA)	Hunt
Calvert	Ezell	Hurd (CO)
Cammack	Fallon	Issa
Carbajal	Fedorchak	Ivey
Carey	Fields	Jack
Carson	Figures	Jackson (IL)
Carter (GA)	Fine	Jackson (TX)
Carter (LA)	Finstad	Jacobs
Carter (TX)	Fischbach	James
Casar	Fitzgerald	Jayapal
Case	Fitzpatrick	Jeffries
Casten	Fleischmann	Johnson (GA)
Castor (FL)	Fong	Johnson (LA)
Castro (TX)	Foster	Johnson (SD)
Cherfilus-	Foushee	Johnson (TX)
McCormick	Fox	Jordan
Chu	Frankel, Lois	Joyce (OH)
Ciscomani	Franklin, Scott	Joyce (PA)
Cisneros	Friedman	Kamlager-Dove
Clark (MA)	Frost	Kaptur
Clarke (NY)	Fry	Kean
Cleaver	Fulcher	Keating
Cline	Garbarino	Kelly (IL)
Cloud	Garcia (CA)	Kelly (MS)
Clyburn	Garcia (IL)	Kelly (PA)

Kennedy (NY)	Morelle	Simon
Kennedy (UT)	Morrison	Simpson
Khanna	Moskowitz	Smith (MO)
Kiggans (VA)	Moulton	Smith (NE)
Kiley (CA)	Mrvan	Smith (NJ)
Kim	Mullin	Smith (WA)
Knott	Murphy	Smucker
Krishnamoorthi	Neal	Sorensen
Kustoff	Neguse	Soto
LaHood	Nehls	Spartz
LaLota	Newhouse	Stansbury
Larsen (WA)	Norcross	Stanton
Larson (CT)	Norman	Staubert
Latimer	Nunn (IA)	Stefanik
Latta	Obernolte	Steil
Lawler	Ocasio-Cortez	Steube
Lee (FL)	Ogles	Stevens
Lee (NV)	Olzewski	Strickland
Lee (PA)	Onder	Strong
Leger Fernandez	Owens	Subramanyam
Letlow	Pallone	Suozi
Levin	Palmer	Swalwell
Liccardo	Panetta	Sykes
Lieu	Pappas	Takano
Lofgren	Patronis	Taylor
Loudermilk	Pelosi	Tenney
Lucas	Perez	Thanedar
Luna	Perry	Thompson (CA)
Luttrell	Peters	Thompson (MS)
Lynch	Pettersen	Thompson (PA)
Mace	Pfuger	Timmons
Mackenzie	Pingree	Titus
Magaziner	Pocan	Tlaib
Malliotakis	Pou	Tokuda
Maloy	Pressley	Tonko
Mann	Quigley	Torres (CA)
Mannion	Ramirez	Trahan
Mast	Randall	Tran
Matsui	Raskin	Turner (OH)
McBath	Reschenthaler	Underwood
McBride	Riley (NY)	Valadao
McCaul	Rivas	Van Drew
McClain	Rogers (AL)	Van Duyne
McClain Delaney	Rogers (KY)	Van Epps
McClellan	Rose	Van Orden
McClintock	Ross	Vargas
McCollum	Rouzer	Vasquez
McCormick	Roy	Veasey
McDonald Rivet	Ruiz	Velázquez
McGarvey	Rulli	Vindman
McGovern	Rutherford	Wagner
McGuire	Ryan	Walberg
McIver	Salazar	Walkinshaw
Meeks	Salinas	Wasserman
Menefee	Sánchez	Schultz
Menendez	Scalise	Waters
Messmer	Scanlon	Watson Coleman
Meuser	Schakowsky	Weber (TX)
Mfume	Schmidt	Webster (FL)
Miller (IL)	Schneider	Westerman
Miller (OH)	Scholten	Whitesides
Miller-Meeks	Schrier	Wied
Mills	Schweikert	Williams (GA)
Min	Scott (VA)	Williams (TX)
Moolenaar	Scott, Austin	Wilson (FL)
Moore (AL)	Scott, David	Wilson (SC)
Moore (NC)	Self	Wittman
Moore (UT)	Sessions	Womack
Moore (WI)	Sewell	Yakym
Moore (WV)	Sherman	Zinke
Moran	Shreve	

NAYS—1

Fletcher

NOT VOTING—26

Baird	Flood	McDowell
Barragán	Garamendi	Meng
Bell	Gonzalez, V.	Miller (WV)
Buchanan	Griffith	Nadler
Clyde	Grijalva	Omar
Cohen	Harris (MD)	Stutzman
Dunn (FL)	Landsman	Tiffany
Espallat	Langworthy	Torres (NY)
Feenstra	Massie	

□ 1914

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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I was not present due to unforeseen personal cir-

cumstance. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 49 and YEA on Roll Call No. 50.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, today I was absent for recorded votes due to travel. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: YEA on Roll Call No. 49, H.R. 980—Veterans Readiness and Employment Improvement Act of 2025, as amended, and YEA on Roll Call No. 50, H.R. 3123—Ernest Peltz Accrued Veterans Benefits Act, as amended.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 49 and No. 50, I am not recorded because I was absent due to delayed travel. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 49 and YEA on Roll Call No. 50.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. HURD of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of North Carolina.) Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING ANGELA FLORES

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

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angela Emireth Flores, a constituent of mine and an exceptional student.

Angela is a senior at Ocracoke High School and soon will become the first student enrolled through Hyde Academy, where she will graduate from high school with an associate degree from Beaufort County Community College. This incredible program helps students who wish to accelerate their academic careers get a jump start at the college level.

As a surgeon, I am elated to hear that Angela plans on hitting the books hard to become a nurse anesthetist. I love our nurse anesthetists. Eastern North Carolina needs more dedicated and more diligent individuals in medicine.

Serving patients is one of the most rewarding and meaningful career paths one can pursue, and I am glad that Angela is pursuing medicine. As a physician of 35 years, I derived great joy from treating patients and helping them in times of great difficulty. I know she will also.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Angela on her remarkable achievement, and a special thanks to her parents for nurturing her in her educational journey. I wish her the best as she furthers her studies.

NO MORE MONEY FOR ICE

(Mr. MCGARVEY asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, Congress is deciding whether to fund an agency that has already shown us how it wants to spend taxpayers' money.

When Republicans gave ICE a blank check last year, ICE used it to kill American citizens. ICE now wants 2 more weeks' worth of money, no strings attached, to keep their campaign of terror running smoothly.

Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks? Renee Good and Alex Pretti were murdered just 2 weeks apart. During those 2 weeks, 5-year-old Liam Ramos was used as bait and detained, and three more people died in ICE custody during those same 2 weeks.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to be back at this podium in 2 weeks with a longer list of names. I urge my colleagues to consider what we are wagering at this point.

Are we going to give ICE 2 more weeks to invade U.S. cities in exchange for a pinky promise that we will talk about reforms? Forgive me if I don't believe that this President is negotiating in good faith. He is not.

RECOGNIZING C.J. JONES AND ISAAC CORCORAN

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize C.J. Jones and Isaac Corcoran of the Ross County Junior Fair Board.

C.J. and Isaac had a desire to help address hunger needs in their community and decided to participate in the Fight the Hunger, Stock the Trailer program, run by Farm Credit Mid-America and Rural 1st.

This program challenges junior fair boards to collect as many pounds of food as possible to donate to local organizations, addressing food insecurity in our communities.

C.J. and Isaac set an ambitious goal of collecting 100,000 pounds of food throughout Ross County. While many questioned whether this goal was achievable, C.J. and Isaac ultimately went above and beyond, leading Ross County to break their previous record of food collected. They collected 122,640 pounds of food last year, which is 92,000 pounds more than what was collected in 2024.

Efforts from youth like C.J. and Isaac will ensure that fewer Buckeyes will go hungry. Their actions show just what can be achieved when Ohioans set their minds to a common goal to look out for the needs of others.

□ 1920

PROTESTS IN PORTLAND

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