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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 9, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ADRIAN SMITH 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 6, 2026, 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.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL THOMAS SENATE

(Mr. SUBRAMANYAM of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible life of Michael Thomas Senate of Lovettsville, Virginia.

A marine, an engineer, a public servant, and a pillar of our community, Mike Senate believed that service did not end with one role or one chapter of life.

After serving his country as a marine during the Vietnam war, he devoted

decades to strengthening the town he called home, Lovettsville. He served on the town planning commission, the town council, and even as vice mayor. He helped shape projects that will serve generations, from parks and memorials to safer streets and shared-use paths.

Others, including myself, knew him also for his work in public safety. As a firefighter, EMT instructor, and leader, Mike trained, mentored, and stood shoulder to shoulder with so many first responders—volunteer and career. He showed up, he covered shifts, he taught classes, and he made sure that when help was needed, it could arrive safely and effectively.

While I did not do my firefighting training under Mike Senate, his wife, Tracey was my EMT instructor. Mr. Speaker, you didn't have to take one of his classes to know the incredible impact Mike had. He raised the bar for instructors and trainees alike in our county, and his legacy lives on in all the people he helped and who help others.

On behalf of our community, we thank him for a lifetime of service, and we extend our deepest condolences to Tracey and the entire family and to all who were proud to serve alongside him.

PREVENTING FORCED LABOR IN CHINA

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce the No Funds for Forced Labor Act, a bipartisan, bicameral bill to protect human rights and prevent forced labor of Uyghurs and other religious communities.

A recent annual report by the Congressional-Executive Commission on China found that authorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region "maintained a system of forced labor that involved former mass internment camp detainees."

This comes while China has targeted Uyghurs and other religious minorities, threatening detainees with physical violence, abuse, and torture.

Despite companies' due diligence, these forced labor networks can be so extensive that the World Bank's International Finance Corporation has financed companies who have inadvertently employed forced laborers in the region.

This bill addresses that risk. It allows the Treasury Secretary to instruct the U.S. director at each international financial institution to oppose provisions of any loan that would risk using forced labor. I thank all our co-sponsors, and I encourage my colleagues to join us in supporting and advancing this bipartisan bill.

TAX SEASON CONCERNS

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, as we approach tax season across the country, I am becoming increasingly concerned with the IRS's capabilities to accurately and responsibly carry out the duty they have to American taxpayers.

Americans will be relying on an agency to verify their returns and issue accurate returns that has lost over one-quarter of its staffing in the last year, with that number only growing. Every day, my office has a new constituent who reaches out wondering where their tax refund is from this past tax season, and that is only going to get worse as this new tax season begins.

One of the services available to taxpayers is the Taxpayer Advocate Services which works closely with my office to return what taxpayers are rightly owed.

While TAS advocates work hard on these cases, it is apparent that they are already both backlogged and understaffed. Additional cuts to IRS funding will only exacerbate this issue.

To properly prepare for tax season, we should be increasing resources for services such as the taxpayer advocates and making sure Americans feel like they can rely on the IRS to handle the process without delays or errors. From

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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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what my office has seen, this is not the case, and it must change right now.

PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program is one of the best ways we can attract top talent to work in the Federal Government and public service. Often these employees will be making less money than in the private sector, but the loan forgiveness gives the government an advantage.

It is disappointing that we see people like public servants treated like this by making them wait years for public service loan forgiveness. This program promised student loan borrowers that after 10 years of public service, their debt would be forgiven. Yet, under this administration, PSLF processing has slowed to a crawl.

For example, the PSLF Buyback application, an essential step for many pursuing loan forgiveness, had more than 80,000 applications pending at the end of the year. Some borrowers have had their eligibility threatened due to petty political grievances.

There are consequences to this. Americans are delaying major life milestones such as purchasing a home or starting a family because they are still making payments on loans they were assured would be forgiven.

Let's be clear: The stagnation of PSLF is the direct result of the current administration's mismanagement. I call on the administration to honor its promise to the people who have dedicated their careers to public service and who have rightfully sought loan forgiveness.

U.S. ELECTIONS ARE FOR U.S. CITIZENS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the importance of the SAVE America Act, which will come to the House floor for a vote this week.

At the heart of our democracy is a very simple promise: Every eligible citizen gets one vote, and every vote counts equally. That promise is only sustainable when the public has confidence in the system.

The SAVE America Act is centered on an indisputable principle: U.S. elections are for U.S. citizens. This legislation will ensure that voter registration systems accurately reflect the law and that citizenship requirements are consistently enforced.

By requiring a photo ID in Federal elections, this congressional action will work to prevent fraud before it even starts. Supporting the SAVE America Act means promising every voter that their voice matters and that their vote will not be diluted. This action signals a long overdue step towards election integrity, which will preserve the strength and the security of our democratic system for generations to come.

Very simply, our democracy is worth protecting, and by passing and enacting the SAVE America Act, we in Congress can ensure our constituents that their vote will count.

CONGRATULATING JOHNSTOWN NATIVE DAN BAREFOOT

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Johnstown native, Dan Barefoot, on earning a spot on the U.S. Olympic Team. This week, Dan will compete in the Milano Cortina Winter Games representing our Nation on the world stage.

A graduate of Richland High School and Penn State, Dan will compete in the skeleton competition, which is scheduled for Thursday, February 12.

Dan's 10-year pursuit of a spot on the Olympic team began with a Google search relating to which Olympic-style sport a novice could train for later in life. After what he describes as the singular most incredible and challenging journey of his life, Dan has reached the pinnacle of his sport.

Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District is incredibly proud to support Dan as he represents our community and our country on the Olympic stage.

Once again, I congratulate Dan and his parents, Barry and Rebecca, on this extraordinary accomplishment and best wishes for gold at the Winter Games.

RECOGNIZING CARL AND NANCY SCHNEIDER

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carl and Nancy Schneider.

Carl and Nancy taught music in southern Ohio for 43 years before retiring at the end of the 2025 school year, leaving an indelible mark on the arts in Ohio's Second Congressional District.

Carl served as the band director at West Union High School, the choir director at Manchester briefly, and later as music supervisor across the whole school district. Carl built West Union's marching band from the ground up, starting out with only 13 students and ultimately taking the program to the State and national level. He led musicals, ensembles, and challenged students to become the best they could be.

Having taught at several schools and across all grade levels, Nancy touched the lives of countless elementary students and gave them the skills and encouragement needed to pursue their love of music. Beyond the classroom, Nancy is an amazing musician herself, serving as the pianist for her church and previously performing at county festivals. In retirement, she is looking forward to spending time with her first grandchild and continuing to stay involved in music at schools across southern Ohio.

Teachers like Carl and Nancy Schneider represent the best America has to

offer. They are the quiet heroes who made a difference in the lives of countless students. Our educators deserve the highest level of respect and should be recognized for the amazing work they do.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Carl and Nancy on their retirement, and I thank them for their service to our young people.

RECOGNIZING THE WAVERLY HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Waverly High School marching band. The Waverly band recently had the opportunity to travel to Hawaii and play in the Pearl Harbor Memorial Day Parade. This parade is an annual event that honors veterans, survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack, and the men and women who actively serve in our incredible Armed Forces.

As part of the ceremonies, the Waverly band played on the dock of the USS *Missouri*, which is an Iowa-class battleship used by the Navy in the 1940s. More than 140 members of the Waverly community participated in this trip, including students, parents, and support staff.

This opportunity was particularly special because of the deep military roots in many of the band members' families. We are forever grateful for those who serve in our Armed Forces and the millions of Americans who fought in World War II to preserve our freedoms.

I thank the Waverly High School band for the great lengths they went to in order to honor our Nation's heroes.

RECOGNIZING THE CLERMONT COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Clermont County Chamber of Commerce. The Clermont Chamber recently earned a five-star accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for its positive impact on the community.

Ohio's Second Congressional District has been ground zero for problems facing rural America. For too long, communities like the ones I represent have been forgotten about at the Federal level. However, thanks to the work of community organizations like the Clermont County Chamber, Ohio's Second Congressional District is making a comeback. The Clermont Chamber is an integral part of local economic development projects and supports businesses of all sizes. Their work is helping to build a community where Ohioans can achieve the American Dream.

Economic development remains one of my top priorities in Congress, and I look forward to continuing to work with the Clermont County Chamber on projects that make a difference in southern Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Clermont Chamber on their commendable achievement.