

will serve them in their academics. They will serve them in college. They will serve them in their careers, and they will serve them in life.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when our Nation is focused on preparing the next generation for leadership, service, and success, this team stands as a powerful example of what happens when students are supported, challenged, and inspired.

They didn't just win games. They represented their school, their families, and their community with honor. They made history, and they made Magnolia proud.

Congratulations to the Magnolia Junior High seventh grade boys' basketball team, the 2025–2026 undefeated district champions. May their example continue to inspire us all.

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 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WITTMAN) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Loving God, how is it that we are so graced to enjoy each day the embrace of Your everlasting arms? There is not a day that goes by that You do not provide us—if we have ears to hear and eyes to see—evidence of Your steadfast love and kindness.

Though there is much in this world, in our lives, and even in our own minds that seeks to convince us otherwise, nothing can overshadow or separate us from Your unconditional and unwavering devotion to each person.

Your love is invincible, even in the face of danger and death. Many waters cannot quench it. Torrents of rain or any reign of terror cannot extinguish it. Neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow, not even the powers of hell, can conquer Your insurmountable love for us.

May we trust in Your boundless compassion and live this day believing that we are called in response to Your grace and mercy, to be worthy reflections of Your redeeming love.

In Your sovereign name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HISTORIC TRUMP TAX CUTS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, led by House Republicans with Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, President Donald Trump has signed the Working Families Tax Cut Act into law. As a result, the tax code will be simplified for over 90 percent of families, turning tax season of dread into a season of historic relief.

Families will pay no taxes on the first \$31,500 earned. As these tax cuts are retroactive to 2025, the average refund is projected to increase by \$1,000, with a total of \$91 billion of additional refunds being returned to the American people this spring, allowing hard-working families to keep their own money.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstating peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump, attacking civilian utilities in Ukraine to freeze the Ukrainians to death as Stalin starved the Ukrainians to death.

As Americans endure freezing temperatures, war criminal Putin is murderously destroying the infrastructure of Ukraine, freezing Ukrainians now with the incredibly disgusting situation of no electricity, no heat, no water, betraying a pledge by war criminal Putin that he would not destroy the utilities. This is as the people of Ukraine are freezing temperature of 4 degrees and freezing to death by war criminal Putin.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1500

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. FISCHBACH) at 3 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on the postponed questions at a later time.

SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL CONGRESSIONAL TIME CAPSULE ACT

Mrs. BICE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3705) to provide for the creation of a congressional time capsule in commemoration of the semiquincentennial of the United States, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3705

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Semiquincentennial Congressional Time Capsule Act".

SEC. 2. SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL CONGRESSIONAL TIME CAPSULE.

(a) CREATION BY ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL.—The Architect of the Capitol shall create a congressional time capsule, to be known as the "Semiquincentennial Congressional Time Capsule" (in this Act referred to as the "Time Capsule").

(b) CONTENTS.—

(1) DETERMINATION BY CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP.—The Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Office of the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, Office of the Majority Leader of the Senate, and Office of the Minority Leader of the Senate shall jointly determine the contents of the Time Capsule, taking into account the requirements of paragraph (2).

(2) CONTENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The contents of the Time Capsule shall include—

(i) a single, joint letter from the offices described in paragraph (1); and

(ii) any other item that the offices described in paragraph (1) jointly determine appropriate.

(B) LIMITATIONS.—Any item included in the Time Capsule under subparagraph (A)—

(i) shall be made of materials that pose a low risk of degrading, such as metal or archival paper; and

(ii) shall not be made of any organic or inorganic material that poses a high risk of degrading.

(3) SIZE.—The Time Capsule shall be not more than 50 inches wide, 32 inches deep, and 48 inches high.

(4) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this subsection, the offices described in paragraph (1) may consult with the Architect of the Capitol, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and such other entities of the Federal Government as the offices consider appropriate.

(c) DUTIES OF ARCHITECT.—The Architect of the Capitol shall—

(1) prepare the Time Capsule to be sealed and buried in the Capitol Visitor Center, at a location specified by the Architect, with the approval of the Committee on Rules and

Administration of the Senate and the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives, on or before July 4th, 2026, at a time which would permit individuals attending this event to also attend the burial of a time capsule in Independence Mall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, under section 7(f)(1) of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016 (36 U.S.C. 101 note prec.); and

(2) install a plaque to provide such information about the Time Capsule as the Architect, with the approval of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate and the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives, considers appropriate.

(d) UNSEALING.—The Time Capsule shall be sealed until July 4th, 2276, on which date the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Majority Leader of the Senate shall present the Time Capsule to the 244th Congress, and such Congress shall determine how the contents within should be preserved or used.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BICE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BICE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to support S. 3705, the Semiquincentennial Congressional Time Capsule Act. This is the Senate companion to H.R. 6243, introduced by my colleagues, Representatives BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN, ROBERT ADERHOLT, MARIA SALAZAR, and DWIGHT EVANS.

This nonpartisan legislation would authorize the burial of a time capsule in the Capitol Visitor Center to mark the 250th anniversary of our Nation's independence.

This time capsule is one way that Congress will participate in the Nation's yearlong celebration of liberty and independence. Amidst our toughest challenges of the day, this legislation reminds us that we can all work together.

Under this bill, leaders from both parties will work alongside the Architect of the Capitol to compile the capsule's contents. This will include a letter from congressional leadership, books, manuscripts, relics, memorabilia, and more. I am optimistic that the contents of this capsule will reflect what makes this country great, as well as the challenges we faced during this time.

The capsule will remain sealed until July 4th, 2276, and the burial site will be marked by a plaque approved by the Committee on House Administration and the Senate Rules and Administration Committee.

I thank the ranking member, Mr. MORELLE, for working with me on this effort.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3705, which is, I believe, the original companion to H.R. 469. I thank my friend and fellow House administrator and fellow House appropriator Mrs. BICE for her comments and her support of this important legislation.

As I have previously noted on the floor, this bipartisan legislation would authorize the Architect of the Capitol to bury a time capsule on July 4th, 2026, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, to be opened on our Nation's 500th anniversary in the year 2276.

The items in the capsule will be determined by bipartisan, bicameral congressional leaders and include written materials relating to the anniversary, representations of notable legislative and institutional milestones, and a message from this Congress to our future colleagues in the 244th Congress. I did say last year that I hope to be there at the opening. I am not sure that is possible, but I will do everything I can.

This year's celebration of America's anniversary offers an opportunity to reflect on the resilience of the American experiment. Our Nation has faced countless tests to our strength and our unity, including a civil war, two world wars, natural disasters, and more.

Yet through each of these profound challenges, this country has endured and continues to strive toward the ideals set forth in the Declaration of Independence 250 years ago.

During this time of deep division and heightened partisanship, this anniversary reminds us of our shared responsibility to uphold the values of liberty and equality that have defined this Nation for two-and-a-half centuries.

I, again, thank the Semiquincentennial Commission for its leadership and planning for this momentous occasion. I particularly commend my colleague, Congresswoman WATSON COLEMAN, for her leadership in advancing the bill. I also want to recognize the service of a fellow New Yorker, former House Representative Joe Crowley, whose time and talents have made an indelible mark on the Commission's achievements.

I look forward to seeing the items chosen for the time capsule, which I may not be able to see when they are opened, but I do encourage my colleagues to support this measure. It is an important measure. It is an important part of our history and our legacy, and I look forward to its passage.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN), who is the author of the bill.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Madam Speaker, the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776, marked a turning point not just in our Nation's history but in the global pursuit of democracy and self-governance. The work remains unfinished, and each generation has been tasked with carrying it forward.

As we approach the 250th anniversary of that moment, Congress has a responsibility to reflect honestly on where we have been and what we will choose to pass on.

This legislation authorizes the Architect of the Capitol to create a time capsule to be sealed and buried in the Capitol Visitor Center where it will be unsealed on our Nation's 500th anniversary on July 4th, 2276.

While we won't be there to open it, we should be there to see what goes into it.

The capsule will include items, as has been mentioned, that capture the institutional history of Congress, significant legislative milestones, and a message from the 119th Congress to those who will serve long after we are gone.

As a cofounder and co-chair of the America250 Caucus, I am proud to see this legislation move forward as a part of our Nation's 250th anniversary. As I said, none of us will be here when this capsule is opened. That is the point. Our responsibility is to the generations who will inherit the consequences of our choices.

What we do in this Chamber every day is history. What we choose to speak up for and speak out against defines us, and it will be the legacy that we leave for every governing body that holds this space for years to come.

Mrs. BICE. Madam Speaker, I want to mention, my colleague, Mr. MORELLE, referenced opening the capsule in 2276, and I, too, would love to see the contents, although I do wonder if our future colleagues will look at the contents and think: Why did they put books in here? That is because it may be a little technologically behind by the time it is opened.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT), who is my fellow appropriator.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on the bill, S. 3705, the Semiquincentennial Congressional Time Capsule Act, as led by Congresswoman and fellow commissioner on the Semiquincentennial Commission, BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN, and also by Senator THOM TILLIS of North Carolina.

This bill, of course, makes technical changes to Representative WATSON COLEMAN's bipartisan House-passed bill, H.R. 469, to create a congressional time capsule in commemoration of the semiquincentennial. I think it should be clearly pointed out here that this bill is truly bipartisan, and it is bicameral. It is a piece of legislation

that requires the four corners of congressional leadership to agree on the contents of the capsule including a joint letter.

I look forward to the final product of this legislation and look forward to seeing what will be in it. Again, this will be something that we all can agree on, and it is great to be working at a time when we can all work together and celebrate our Nation's birthday for this 250th celebration.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to vote "yes" on the legislation.

□ 1510

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Madam Speaker, I think for all the reasons that have been described, this is an important part of maintaining the history of the last 250 years and making certain that we preserve this so that future generations will know how we got here and how we see the world.

I agree with Mrs. BICE that books may not be particularly relevant 250 years from now, and I suppose we should not write in cursive because people won't know what that means. But this is really important.

I think it is a reflection of the amazing American experiment, and I look forward to the bill being signed. I hope and I pray that 250 years from now we will have moved toward, in the words of Jefferson, "a more perfect Union."

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BICE. Madam Speaker, I could not have said it any better myself. I urge my colleagues to support S. 3705, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3705.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

\$2.50 FOR AMERICA'S 250TH ACT

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5616) to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue \$2.50 numismatic coins and \$2.50 circulating coins, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5616

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "\$2.50 for America's 250th Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence was a turning point in the history of the United States and the world that warrants national recognition.

(2) The 68th Congress celebrated this fact by authorizing the United States Mint to commemorate the 150th anniversary of American independence by issuing \$2.50 coins.

(3) The issuance of a \$2.50 anniversary coin for the 250th anniversary serves as a historically grounded continuation of this numismatic tradition and connects Americans today with a legacy of national celebration through coinage.

(4) The design and distribution of this coin offer a unique and accessible opportunity for the American people to engage with and take personal ownership of their national heritage through a tangible and lasting tribute.

(5) Every citizen deserves the opportunity to acquire such a coin as a means to connect to the founding principles of liberty, democracy, and self-governance.

(6) In addition to the congressionally authorized activities already planned by the mint, this new anniversary coin will serve not only as a lasting tribute to the founding generation and the ideals we share with them to this day, but also as a unifying and educational gesture on the occasion of the semiquincentennial.

SEC. 3. MINTING AND ISSUING OF \$2.50 NUMISMATIC COINS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5112 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(bb) NUMISMATIC \$2.50 COIN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may mint and issue—

“(A) not more than 100,000 \$2.50 numismatic coins, each of which shall weigh 4.1795 grams, have a diameter of 0.425 inches, and contain not less than 90 percent gold

“(B) not more than 300,000 \$2.50 numismatic coins, each of which shall weigh 26.73 grams, have a diameter of 1.5 inches, and contain not less than 90 percent silver.

“(C) not more than 750,000 \$2.50 numismatic coins, each of which shall weigh 11.34 grams, have a diameter of 1.205 inches, and be minted to the specifications for half-dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title 31, United States Code.

“(2) DESIGN.—

“(A) OVERSE.—The obverse design of any coin minted and issued under this subsection shall, during the 2-year period beginning on the date the Secretary issues any coin under this subsection, bear the image of allegorical liberty wielding the Declaration of Independence featured on the gold \$2.50 Sesquicentennial Coin issued in 1926.

“(B) REVERSE.—The reverse design of any coin minted and issued under this subsection shall, during the 2-year period beginning on the date the Secretary issues any coin under this subsection, bear the image of Independence Hall featured on the gold \$2.50 Sesquicentennial Coin issued in 1926.

“(C) ADDITIONAL INSCRIPTIONS.—During the 2-year period beginning on the date the Secretary issues any coin under this subsection, each coin minted and issued under this subsection shall bear the inscriptions ‘Semiquincentennial of the United States’ and ‘1776–2026’.”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the numismatic coins described in section 5112(bb) of title 31, United States Code, should be minted and issued not later than July 4, 2026, or as soon as it is technically and economically feasible.

SEC. 4. STUDY AND REPORT.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of the Treasury, acting through the Director of the United

States Mint shall conduct a comprehensive study to evaluate the feasibility, practicality, and potential public benefits of minting and issuing a \$2.50 coin for wide circulation in the United States.

(b) REPORT.—The Secretary of the Treasury, acting through the Director of the United States Mint shall, not later than September 15, 2026, submit a report to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate about the study carried out under subsection (a) that includes—

(1) an analysis of the historical use of the \$2.50 denomination;

(2) projected production costs associated with minting and issuing a \$2.50 coin for wide circulation;

(3) the cost-effectiveness of minting and issuing a \$2.50 coin for wide circulation when compared to the costs associated with minting and issuing other coins;

(4) an evaluation of potential benefits to commerce, coin handling, and transaction efficiency that would be associated with the minting and issuing a \$2.50 coin for wide circulation;

(5) proposed physical characteristics of a \$2.50 coin, including—

(A) composition;

(B) weight;

(C) diameter; and

(D) design features to distinguish the \$2.50 coin from existing coins;

(6) a description of the ways in which the Secretary consulted with stakeholders, including commercial banks, cash-handling businesses, consumer groups, and vending and transit industries;

(7) an analysis that estimates the potential seigniorage associated with a widely circulated \$2.50 coin; and

(8) a plan that could be followed to mint and issue a \$2.50 coin that includes—

(A) coordination with the Federal Reserve System and financial institutions;

(B) a test production phase; and

(C) an initial phased circulation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the bill sponsored by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT), my good friend, the \$2.50 for America's 250th Act.

The greatest experiment in the history of the world, the United States of America, is still going stronger than ever, and 2026 marks our Nation's 250th birthday, an incredible feat as our Founders came together, found common ground, and voted to declare independence from Great Britain.