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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Illinois).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 24, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARY E. MILLER 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 11:50 a.m.

HONORING JOANNE BLAND

(Ms. SEWELL of Alabama was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of foot soldier, freedom fighter, and civil rights icon Ms. Joanne Bland, who passed away on February 19, 2026, at the age of 72.

As a proud daughter of Selma, Alabama, Joanne dedicated her life to the struggle for civil rights and voting rights. As an active member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Com-

mittee, she joined the movement at a remarkably young age. At just 11 years old, she was one of the youngest participants in the 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery.

Joanne's courage did not end on the Edmund Pettus Bridge. By her early teens, Joanne had been arrested at least 13 times for her participation in civil rights demonstrations. She was also among the courageous students who integrated A.G. Parrish High School, where she opened doors of opportunity for countless children to follow in her footsteps.

As an adult, Joanne worked to educate others on Selma's role in the civil rights movement, ensuring that her legacy would continue to inspire future generations.

Joanne founded numerous organizations, including Foot Soldiers Park, Journeys for the Soul, and the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute. Her tours of Selma, Alabama, were celebrated for being both informative and inspiring.

On a personal note, I am forever grateful for the sacrifices made by Joanne Bland in the name of equality and justice. I know that I get to walk the Halls of Congress as Alabama's first Black Congresswoman because of her courage, resilience, and determination.

I am honored to have brought her as my special guest to President Biden's 2024 State of the Union Address, and I will miss her wisdom and friendship.

On behalf of Alabama's Seventh Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary life and legacy of a civil rights icon, Selma's own Ms. Joanne Bland. May she rest in power and in peace.

RECOGNIZING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Career and Technical Education Month, celebrated every February. This month allows us to highlight the value of CTE programs, which help prepare students for the workforce. These are programs that are about learning to earn.

During this month, we can look at the immense impact of CTE programs on learners and the support that CTE provides to different industries. CTE does more than support students. It supports our economy and our workforce.

It is an honor to be co-chair of the bipartisan House Career and Technical Education Caucus and a senior member of the Committee on Education and Workforce. I have supported and will always continue to support CTE programs, and I thank my colleagues for supporting these causes.

Career and technical education does not adhere to one industry. It spans across all industries—all of them. It is a reflection of the many careers available to young Americans.

I truly believe that a one-size-fits-all approach to education is not valuable to our students and does not prepare them for the workforce. The traditional college experience is not always valuable for all high school graduates, and we must remember that.

Many high-achieving and ambitious students choose to pursue an industry certification and gain experience in hands-on skills that they can use after graduating high school. These students enter the workforce prepared, and they contribute to our communities.

So far in the 119th Congress, I introduced a bill to strengthen career counseling in middle schools and high schools, introduced the GO Ag Act, and introduced the Creating Opportunities to Thrive and Advance Act, all of which are important ways for students to explore different careers.

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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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While all this is a huge accomplishment, there is still much left to do. This is why I will continue to advance legislation that promotes workforce development.

In my home State of Pennsylvania, there are over 80 career technical colleges and 145 high schools offering CTE courses. I am proud to be an advocate for these institutions and courses and to see the positive impact these students have within their communities.

Madam Speaker, when these students graduate, they graduate with a diploma and multiple certifications in one hand and a tremendous number of job offers in the other. It is a pathway to opportunity and prosperity.

Madam Speaker, CTE students are the backbone of our workforce and invaluable to our communities. It is important that we continue to provide them with the resources that they need. I urge my colleagues to join the Career and Technical Education Caucus and work to provide learning opportunities for everyone.

STATE OF OUR UNION IS FRAGILE

(Mr. GREEN of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise. I rise today to state the state of the Union.

Madam Speaker, the state of the Union is fragile. It is fragile because we have a President who does not respect democracy. He believes that he can go to war at will without conferring with the Congress of the United States of America. He believes that there is no such thing as separation of powers. He believes that if he thinks it is right, then the courts have to agree.

He doesn't believe in due process of the law. He would have people be picked up on the streets and taken off to some distant place without any indication as to where they are, such that family members can understand that they are at least okay.

He is a reckless, ruthless President, and what he is doing at the top has influenced things all the way down the line to the very bottom.

We now have officers who have taken the lives of two people, two Americans, Madam Speaker. They were unarmed, Madam Speaker. They were not a threat, Madam Speaker. Two American citizens have lost their lives, and we have just moved on.

Madam Speaker, our democracy is at risk because we have a President who disrespects the rule of law. He believes that if the ends can justify the means, then any means are available to him to utilize to do whatever he chooses. If we allow this to continue, Madam Speaker, the Constitution will be meaningless.

There is but one solution to a reckless, ruthless, lawless President. It has to be utilized because we want history to show that we had the courage to do what was right. Dr. King has given us the notion that the time is always right to do what is right.

There is but one solution, and that solution is impeachment, trial, and conviction, but if not trial and conviction, impeachment, so that those who look through the vista of time will understand that we took a stand against a reckless, ruthless, lawless President.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

CONGRATULATING CHRIS TUNGSETH

(Mrs. FISCHBACH of Minnesota was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chris Tungseth from Fergus Falls, Minnesota, on earning a golden ticket to Hollywood on "American Idol."

Chris proved that the American spirit is built on more than just hard work. It is built on resilience, faith, and the power of song.

Chris' journey to the golden ticket was not an easy one. He spoke of his family's battles with illness, his mother's diagnosis of multiple sclerosis, and the loss of his father, whom Chris called his Superman.

When Chris stood before the judges and performed his original song, "Lonely Road," he was not just singing for a TV show. He was singing to honor his father's legacy and his family's strength. His performance earned him a unanimous "yes" to advance to Hollywood.

On behalf of Fergus Falls and all of Minnesota, I wish Chris the best of luck in the next round.

GLENCOE-SILVER LAKE FFA NAMED 2025 NATIONAL MODEL OF EXCELLENCE WINNER

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Glencoe-Silver Lake FFA chapter for being named the 2025 National Model of Excellence winner.

Glencoe-Silver Lake was selected for this award out of nearly 10,000 chapters. This is the highest honor a chapter can achieve, marking them the gold standard for leadership, community impact, and innovation.

By fostering student-led initiatives that strengthen our rural economy and prepare the next generation of leaders, these students have proven that the future of American farming is in excellent hands.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the students, advisers, and the entire Glencoe-Silver Lake community on this prestigious award.

I congratulate the Glencoe-Silver Lake FFA on being the best in the Nation.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL FFA WEEK

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National FFA Week.

Since 1925, FFA has changed lives and developed young leaders in the areas of leadership, personal growth,

and career success through agricultural education. It is the top school-based youth leadership development organization in the United States.

Opportunities within the agriculture sector are vast, and FFA fosters the talents of members so that they can achieve real-world success. They participate in leadership conferences, career development events, and community service projects. The skills that these students develop serve them well when they embark on their future career paths.

Not only are the students who participate in FFA future farmers, but they are also future business leaders, entrepreneurs, teachers, bankers, veterinarians, public servants, biologists, and so much more.

Every year, thousands of the iconic blue FFA jackets from across the country visit our offices on Capitol Hill. In my home State of Minnesota, FFA has 15,000 members and 220 chapters, as well as 97 alumni chapters. This year, Minnesota FFA chapters will participate in local events aligned with the National FFA Week calendar.

I always appreciate having the opportunity to visit with these students and future leaders. Anyone who spends time with these young leaders will leave with a sense that our future is in good hands.

HONORING BLACK HISTORY

(Ms. TLAIB of Michigan was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, in the 12th Congressional District, every single day is Black History Month.

I am so incredibly proud to have been born in the most beautiful, Blackest city in the country. I know Detroit has built movements from every corner, and our community is a reminder of the civil rights movement, the labor rights movement.

I still remember, Madam Speaker, in ninth grade getting this bright orange book. It was the first time we ever got brand-new books. It was a beautiful book around history and teaching American history through Black history.

To this day, I know that I am rooted in community and understanding movements because, again, I was able to be educated in a way that was full of justice seekers, full of movement makers.

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I know that it has always been a city of changemakers. We bore witness to Dr. King's first Walk to Freedom and the transformative work of trailblazers like Mother Rosa Parks and Malcolm X.

From the iconic Motown sounds to generations of powerful activism, our Black neighbors have changed the course of our history. Yet right now, we are witnessing efforts to erase that history.