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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 16, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE COLLINS 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 SPECIALIST KRISTOFER LOPEZ

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and military service of Specialist Krystofer Lopez of Biglerville, Pennsylvania, who died following a training exercise at Letterkenny Army Depot in Franklin County on March 12.

Specialist Lopez served as a military police officer for the Letterkenny Directorate of Emergency Services Law

Enforcement Division and was a Personnel Force Innovation member assigned to the 947th Quartermaster Company, which is based out of Letterkenny.

Specialist Lopez is remembered for his love of this great country and his commitment to the United States Armed Forces. Specialist Lopez was described by his twin sister, Kiki Lopez, as a man who always went above and beyond. Kiki noted that her brother always made sure to put his family before himself.

Specialist Lopez enlisted in the Army during his junior year of high school and wrestled for Biglerville High School. As a tribute to Specialist Lopez, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania flags over all State facilities, public buildings, and grounds are lowered to half-staff. In recognition of his dedicated service and his sacrifice, Specialist Lopez was posthumously promoted to the rank of Specialist.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire 13th Congressional District and a grateful nation, I offer prayers and condolences to Specialist Lopez' family, his friends, his fellow soldiers at Letterkenny Army Depot, and to the entire Biglerville community.

RECOGNIZING PHIL RICCIO

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Phil Riccio of Altoona, Pennsylvania, as a recipient of the Outstanding Service Award for Pennsylvania as presented by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

Throughout his nearly 30-year career as an educator, athletic director, and head coach of the Altoona Area High School football team, Coach Riccio has been an inspirational leader and advocate for high school sports.

To the spirit of the Outstanding Service Award and the mission of the national organization that bestowed it, Coach Riccio is devoted. He is devoted to ensuring that all students have an

opportunity to enjoy healthy participation, achievement, and good sportsmanship in any education-based activity.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I join everyone in the Altoona Area School District and the entire community in congratulating Coach Riccio on his selection for this prestigious award. I thank Coach Riccio for his enduring impact on the development of the district's students.

RECOGNIZING JESSE SHRINER

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Jesse Shriner for 50 years of dedicated service as a member of the Alexandria Volunteer Fire Company in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Jesse was recently honored by the fire company with three prestigious awards: the President's Award, the Chief's Award, and the Firefighter of the Year Award. Collectively, this trifecta of awards pays tribute to Jesse for his enduring dedication.

Over the years, Jesse has served the fire company as a trustee, as a chaplain, and a fire police officer.

Jesse's community impact also includes his past leadership as president of the Juniata Valley Lions Club.

His 50-year commitment to public safety and the protection of property is an inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, I express gratitude to Jesse for the many ways that he has contributed to the Alexandria Volunteer Fire Company's legacy of service and extend him best wishes.

RECOGNIZING DR. WAYNE MYERS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Wayne Myers on his selection as Pharmacist of the Year by the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association.

The selection of Dr. Myers honors his longstanding commitment to advancing independent community pharmacies.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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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Dr. Myers is owner of Norland Avenue Pharmacy in Chambersburg and Carl's Drug Store in Greencastle.

Dr. Myers has enrolled Norland Avenue Pharmacy as a Long-Term Care at Home Pharmacy, thereby increasing medication packaging and delivery services to improve the safety, adherence, and access for vulnerable patients.

Mr. Speaker, I extend congratulations to Dr. Myers on his selection as Pharmacist of the Year and express my personal gratitude for his enduring commitment to the core values of independent pharmacies, that is service, integrity, innovation, and ultimately community care.

SUPPORTING TEMPLE ISRAEL AND MICHIGANDERS

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, the Jewish community in West Bloomfield, Michigan, narrowly avoided a fatal act of anti-Semitic terrorism. The temple may be burned and battered, but every single life inside that sacred space was saved and spared.

Michigan is forever grateful to the private security guards who sprang into action and put their lives on the line to avoid serious tragedy. Because of their bravery and training, as well as the quick response of law enforcement, the congregants of Temple Israel are alive and safe.

We saw the images on our television screens. Dozens and dozens of police vehicles showed up immediately. We thank Oakland Sheriff Mike Bouchard, along with the West Bloomfield and Bloomfield Township Police Departments for answering the call.

In far too many houses of worship—in synagogues, in churches, in mosques—Americans now find themselves praying under the watchful eye of armed guards. No one should have to fear gathering at a synagogue, sending their kids to religious school, or simply practicing their faith.

Tragically, this appears to be our new normal. Anti-Semitism is at its highest levels in decades. Driven by hate and vitriol and stirred up by social media, it has become widespread and all too common.

It has consequences. Anti-Semitic incidents are up 900 percent over the last decade. In just one year, we have seen deadly attacks in Boulder, Colorado, as well as Washington, D.C. A temple in Mississippi burned down. America's only Jewish Governor and his family were victims of arson. America's Jewish community is scared by what this means for them and their place in our society.

There is nothing like it when we see this hit our own community. When I got that first phone call on Thursday afternoon, I nearly fell to the ground.

Michigan's 11th District is home to one of the most vibrant Jewish commu-

nities in the United States. They make our State and our country better in every way, and I am proud to represent them here in the Halls of Congress.

I spent the last few days speaking with parents, religious leaders, and community members. I was honored to join the congregation for Shabbat services on Friday night. They are shaken, but they are resilient. They are grateful for the outpouring of support the world has shown their community in recent days.

Mr. Speaker, we must call out anti-Semitism wherever we see it. It is no longer just enough to condemn it, though. We must root it out everywhere, and Congress must act. We have to fund Holocaust education programs. We must invest in efforts to combat anti-Semitism. We must urgently fund the Nonprofit Security Grant Program to ensure that houses of worship, regardless of faith, can keep their congregations safe from acts of terror.

Congress has fallen short. The security guards who saved Temple Israel were only there thanks to private grant funding from the Jewish Federations of North America. We must make sure we never come this close to tragedy again.

I want to offer a glimmer of hope. In the worst moment, we saw the best of Michigan. In the aftermath of the attack, the 140 students—young children—and the staff inside this building were escorted safely across the street to the Shenandoah Country Club, founded by the Chaldean Iraqi immigrants who escaped persecution themselves.

In a world of division, lies, and fear, the Chaldeans welcomed their Jewish neighbors with open arms. They offered them shelter, food, and safety. They gave the kids coloring books and M&M's. Chicken tenders and fries were brought out. The parents were given the space to process and call loved ones.

Then 24 hours later, this Iraqi Christian country club hosted the whole congregation for Friday night Shabbat services.

This is America, and this is Michigan. That selflessness, that patriotism, and the love for thy neighbor makes me so proud to be a Michigander and the Congresswoman for Oakland County. We come together in times like this because that is who we are.

Mr. Speaker, Jewish families in Michigan and around the world are rightfully shaken, but they will do what they have done for centuries. They will endure. They will keep going. Temple Israel will reopen. We will rebuild. In Michigan, we write our own story. We will not be defined by one act of extremism.

Our Jewish community should be proud of who they are. We want them to know that we see them and we stand with them from the neighborhoods of West Bloomfield to the Halls of Congress. We will be alongside them in times of celebration and in times of

difficulty. They are resilient, they are unbreakable, and their Congresswoman is with them.

CONGRATULATING HUNTER HUSS HUSKIES

(Mr. MOORE of North Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the student athletes of Hunter Huss High School in Gastonia, North Carolina, for winning the North Carolina boys' State basketball championship.

In North Carolina, basketball is a part of who we are. From packed high school gyms to college arenas, our State takes great pride in the game. This tradition is alive and well at Hunter Huss High School.

These students spent countless hours practicing, preparing, and pushing themselves to be their best. Their hard work and determination paid off in a season that we will never forget.

A State championship is never won by just one person. It is a testament to the coaches, to the families, to the teachers, and the supporters who stood behind this team all season long.

Mr. Speaker, achievements like this bring our community together, and I can say that Gaston County and all of North Carolina are very proud of this great team. We congratulate the Hunter Huss Huskies for an outstanding season and a well-earned State title.

□ 1215

NEW SOURCE OF ENERGY FOR NEW ENGLAND

(Mr. COURTNEY of Connecticut was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, as this headline on the whiteboard proclaims, we in New England received welcomed news on Friday that, after years of hard work and massive investments by both the private sector and the government, a new, reliable source of energy for our electrical grid was officially turned on.

This project, known as Revolution Wind, will add 700 megawatts that will power over 350,000 homes in Rhode Island and Connecticut. At a time of tight supply and rising energy costs, adding hundreds of megawatts and electrical capacity is an obvious way to reduce costs, rather than just offloading the burden onto energy users.

This project is locked into a 20-year contract price of 9 cents per kilowatt-hours at a time when the average price from other sources to the region's grid is 30 cents per kilowatt-hour. Obviously, this is a beneficial response and solid solution to addressing New England's and our Nation's high-cost economy.

Even more significant is the fact that this power source is not at the mercy of the global fossil fuel markets that