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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. McCLINTOCK).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 17, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM McCLINTOCK 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.

CELEBRATING SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

(Mr. KENNEDY of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, happy Saint Patrick's Day.

Today is a great day across the globe where we celebrate the patron saint of Ireland, and we are reminded of all that the Irish and the Irish diaspora have contributed to humanity and accomplished worldwide.

Here in the United States of America, since 1991, every President, Demo-

crat or Republican, has issued a proclamation declaring March as Irish Heritage Month, until now. For 35 years this longstanding tradition has been honored. This President has failed to do so.

Therefore, I hereby declare on behalf of a grateful nation March 2026 as Irish Heritage Month in the United States of America.

Some may ask: What Congressman has the power to do such a thing?

The answer is easy. I am simply declaring what is inherently true, whether the President of the United States of America continues to be derelict in his duty to officially declare it such or not.

To be Irish is to know the struggle for democracy, liberty, and freedom. From the very beginning of our Nation, the Irish have ensured that these noble aims have persevered.

The American story could not have been written without the contributions made by the intrepid Irish immigrants who came to our shores in pursuit of prosperity and, in turn, made our Nation what it is today.

When George Washington went into battle against the crown forces of England, it was the Irish who stood at his side and fought for victory and independence from the oppressive British Government.

When the Civil War was fought, it was the Irish, fresh off the ships in the harbor, who joined the Union Army and battled the treasonous Confederates to end slavery and preserve the Union.

Many Irish battalions, including the Fighting 69th Irish Infantry led by Thomas Francis Meagher, bled for the soul of our blossoming Nation and proved the fighting Irish were here to stay, build, and thrive.

The Irish have been our war heroes, donning the military uniform and running into battle across the globe in service and sacrifice in every single conflict our Nation has ever seen, of-

tentimes, laying down their lives for the freedoms we hold dear.

Generations of Irish patriots have challenged our Nation to live up to its highest ideals. Their struggle is woven into the fabric of our democracy, and their voices ring like a clarion call to our better angels.

It was the Irish fleeing famine and oppression who worked alongside so many other new immigrants to build our country, our canals, our roads, our bridges, our railroads, our skyscrapers, our subways, and so much more.

The Irish would go on to become integral to every aspect of American society: laborers, nurses, doctors, police officers, firefighters, teachers, lawyers, civil servants, public advocates, businessowners, bankers, entertainers, and, yes, politicians who know what happens when government falls into the hands of those who callously disregard the less fortunate and discriminate based on race, creed, culture, or country of origin.

Countless Irishmen and -women have helped to make the United States what it is today, the greatest Nation in the history of the world.

Mr. Speaker, as Irish Americans, we will march on, as we always have, not just for the Irish but for everyone in this great Nation and future citizens we will never know.

God bless the Irish. God bless the United States of America. Erin go Bragh. Happy Saint Patrick's Day, and happy Irish Heritage Month.

ENDING DHS SHUTDOWN

(Mr. MANN of Kansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the Department of Homeland Security remains shut down, and the consequences are real for the American people and for the men and women who work every day to keep our country safe.

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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Right now, more than 100,000 DHS employees are working without pay. TSA officers who screen passengers at our airports have now missed another paycheck. These are hardworking Americans who show up every day to do their job, protect travelers, and secure our homeland, even while Washington politics leave them without the pay they have earned.

This isn't some distant issue for Kansans. Families and travelers across the Big First depend on TSA officers every single day. From airports in Manhattan, Salina, Garden City, Dodge City, Liberal, and Hays, TSA agents are on the front lines making sure our skies are safe.

Just down the road in Wichita, the Air Capital of the World, thousands of Kansans build aircraft that carry passengers across the country and around the globe. Aviation is part of who we are in Kansas, and aviation safety is something we take very seriously.

Yet, Senate Democrats have allowed the men and women responsible for securing our airports to work without pay. As spring-break travel picks up, airports across the country are already seeing longer lines and staffing challenges because of this shutdown. These are dedicated public servants who continue showing up for work every day, even while Washington fails to send them a paycheck.

The impacts of this Democrat refusal to support DHS funding reaches far beyond airport security. FEMA training for first responders has been canceled. Cybersecurity personnel defending our networks are being furloughed while foreign adversaries continue probing our systems. Coast Guard training and maintenance have been disrupted. These are not theoretical consequences. They are happening right now.

Mr. Speaker, what makes the situation even more frustrating is that the House has already acted. House Republicans have twice passed full-year funding to keep the Department of Homeland Security fully operational. That legislation reflects a bipartisan framework negotiated by Members of both parties and deserves and ensures the Department has the resources it needs to protect the American people.

Mr. Speaker, Senate Democrats still continue to block that funding. Instead of allowing the department responsible for protecting our homeland to do its job, they are prolonging a shutdown that harms workers, weakens preparedness, and undermines public safety.

National security should never be used as a political bargaining chip. The men and women who protect our borders, screen our airports, respond to disasters, and defend our infrastructure deserve stability and support, not uncertainty and missed paychecks.

Mr. Speaker, the solution is simple. The Senate should take up the funding the House has already passed and reopen the Department of Homeland Security. The safety of the American peo-

ple, including Kansans across the Big First District, depends on it.

HONORING NEW CASTLE COUNCILMAN PENROSE HOLLINS

(Ms. MCBRIDE of Delaware was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize New Castle County Councilman Penrose Hollins, who was recently awarded the Order of the First State, Delaware's highest civilian honor.

Councilman Hollins is a veteran, lifelong leader, and one of Delaware's most committed public servants, serving on the New Castle Council for the last three-and-a-half decades. During that time, I am proud to have been one of his constituents.

For 36 years, he has worked tirelessly for his neighbors, advancing affordable homeownership, expanding access to libraries and community hubs, supporting programs for youth and seniors, all while promoting workforce diversity and economic development.

Delawareans, and specifically my neighbors and me in District Four, know him as a committed voice for justice, a trailblazer, and a pillar of the greater Wilmington area. Councilman Hollins made history when he served as the first Black president pro tempore of the New Castle County Council. In every chapter of his career, he has sought to expand opportunity for those too often pushed to the margins of society.

His legacy of leadership, courage, and fierce advocacy is an inspiration to all who know him, to his constituents, and to the entire State of Delaware.

Mr. Speaker, we congratulate him on a well-deserved honor, and we thank him for his dedication and service to the First State.

HONORING MICHAELA KURINSKY-MALOS

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I often come to this Chamber to share about the work we get to do, the perspectives our neighbors share with us, and to highlight the struggles and the successes that define this work. Today, I want to uplift one of the behind-the-scenes actors who has helped me deliver for our neighbors during my first term in Congress.

I rise to bid farewell to Michaela Kurinsky-Malos, who joined my team 2 years ago, long before I ever stepped into this Chamber. She has been a critical part of my team ever since.

For the last year, Michaela has served as my deputy chief and communications director, as well as chief vibes enforcer, bringing incomparable guidance, experienced leadership, and unyielding commitment to our team.

Michaela and I first met when she came on board as my campaign manager. While, technically, I was interviewing her for that job, it really felt like she was interviewing me. It was then that I saw her political acumen up close. Michaela is one of the most deci-

sive, incisive, and effective leaders I have ever known.

Through the highs and lows of the campaign trail and my first year in Congress, Michaela's tireless dedication to our mission, to her team, and to public service has always remained her North Star. Her work has shaped my life and our team immensely. She will be sorely missed by me and the entirety of our office.

Mr. Speaker, I am so grateful for her partnership and for all that she has done to make this possible. I wish her all the best in her next exciting chapter. The doors of Delaware will always be open to her, to Dexter, to Bubba, and even to Todd back to the greatest State in the Union.

HONORING ALBERT FIRTH

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Albert Firth of Millsboro, who passed away on February 19 of this year.

For two decades, Mr. Firth served our country in the United States Air Force, dedicating his career to protecting our Nation abroad. After retirement from the Air Force, Mr. Firth continued his commitment to public service right here in D.C., where he joined the U.S. Capitol Police.

Mr. Firth served with the U.S. Capitol Police from the late 1980s until nearly 2000, helping safeguard this institution and the people who work here. This was no small undertaking and far from the typical retirement scene.

During the 1990s, he was entrusted with an especially important responsibility, serving on the personal security detail for then-Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Throughout his career, his work required vigilance, professionalism, and a resolute dedication that Mr. Firth carried with honor, responsibility, and pride.

Mr. Firth's legacy is a reminder that service to our country takes many forms—sometimes in uniform abroad and sometimes here at home, protecting the institutions that sustain our democracy.

Delaware is grateful for his decades of service, and our Nation is stronger because of his selfless contributions to our country. May his memory be a blessing to all who knew him.

CELEBRATING CEREBRAL PALSY DAY

(Mr. LATIMER of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, let me recognize the talented medical research efforts ongoing to combat the scourge of cerebral palsy, an abnormal development or damage to parts of the brain during pregnancy or early in a baby's life, that controls movement, balance, and posture and has a devastating effect throughout that person's life.

There is no known cure for CP. Supportive treatments including physical