

publishing business in 2005 when they launched the Business Leader, a newspaper featuring local businesses and business leaders in Hendricks County.

They went on to acquire additional newspapers in other counties in central Indiana. Unfortunately, Rick Myers passed away from cancer in 2021. After Rick's passing, Catherine Myers dedicated herself to launching a new community paper, the Hendricks County Community CONNECT, which serves Avon, Brownsburg, Danville, and Plainfield.

Catherine Myers has dedicated her life to bringing fresh perspectives and relevant content to our central Indiana communities. I thank her for her commitment to delivering local news, and I congratulate her on 20 years in the industry.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

We wait patiently for You, O Lord. Well, maybe not as patiently as we think, for rarely is there a day that passes when we do not find ourselves wishing things would speed up, that the answers we want would arrive, or that the situations we endure would pass quickly.

Incline Your ear to our concerns and hear our petitions for Your presence in our everyday issues and for Your peace in our lives.

Put a new word in our mouths, words that demonstrate our trust in Your steadfast guidance, words that reveal our trust in Your divine will.

For happy are those who trust in You, who do not turn to voices of pride or power or to the false gods that promise easy fixes and short-term gain.

Throughout history, time and again, You have multiplied Your wondrous deeds, deeds more numerous than the trials any or all of us have faced. Countless are Your thoughts toward us, thoughts deeper and more sincere than the many prayers we have offered to You.

As we reflect on all that You are and all that You have done for us, may we give unto You all that holds us back from putting our hope in Your deliverance.

In Your merciful name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces its approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BURCHETT 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PRESIDENT TRUMP APPRECIATES THE IRANIAN PEOPLE

(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, the Tehran regime is the leading sponsor of global terrorism, responsible for the cowardly murder of Iranians. Yet, the courage of the Iranian people continues, inspiring President Donald Trump to take action for the Iranian people to be liberated, ending 47 years of war on America and Israel.

Beginning in December, nationwide protests against the Iranian dictatorship grew as consumer prices soared with crushing inflation. The regime responded in shutting down the internet and began murdering demonstrators. More than 30,000 Iranians have been mercilessly murdered.

Fanatically, the regime continues killing its citizens as gruesomely evidenced last week, hanging 19-year-old Iranian wrestling champion, Saleh Mohammadi. Previously, beautiful Neda Agha-Soltan was shot and left to bleed to death on a street in Tehran.

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, mocking Trump. This week, he was mass murdering Ukrainian civilians in apartment buildings as exposed today by The Washington Times.

Mr. Speaker, I wish a happy Greek Independence Day, and I welcome Antonis Alexandridis, our new Ambassador from Greece and Athens to the United States.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MIKE MELVILL

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

Mr. WHITESIDES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great pilot and an even greater human being, Mike Melvill, who passed away last week at the age of 85.

Mike was a pioneer whose courage and skill helped open the final frontier. In 2004, the world watched in awe as he piloted SpaceShipOne into space, not once, but twice. In doing so, he earned the first FAA Commercial Space Astronaut Wings and became the first person to travel into space aboard a privately-developed spacecraft.

While the world knew him as a legendary test pilot, I saw firsthand that he was also a man of deep human decency and profound kindness.

Behind every record-breaking flight was a beautiful lifelong partnership. Mike and his wife, Sally, shared a wonderfully happy marriage that began as childhood sweethearts in South Africa and carried them through the early days of Mojave past the edge of space.

Mike was as humble as he was talented. He opened up space for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my deepest condolences to Sally and the Melvill family, and I wish Mike blue skies and tailwinds.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF WES RUCKER

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Wes Rucker, who tragically lost his life on February 19.

Wes was an award-winning journalist covering athletics at the University of Tennessee beginning in 2000 for, I believe, The Daily Beacon at UT.

Wes began his career freelancing across East Tennessee, covering the Vols and other professional sports. In 2011, he joined "CBS Sports" as a senior writer and also hosted two radio shows on ESPN Radio Knoxville. Wes also hosted multiple podcasts, was a Heisman Trophy voter, an AP football and basketball poll voter, and a contributor to the AP All-American Team and All-SEC selections.

Most recently, Wes joined WBIR in August of 2025 as a guest columnist and began hosting a weekday sports show in November of 2025.

Wes' legacy will live on through Knoxville and the University of Tennessee. He was known as a wonderful guy who loved every second of his job and being with the UT family every day.

I ask that if you get a second today to please say a prayer for his wonderful wife, his young son, and his unborn

baby. His wife lost her husband, and his son and unborn baby lost their daddy. I can't even imagine the hurt that that would cause, so please say a prayer for them.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, teen hunger is an often overlooked problem, and this Congress must be doing more to help teens access the nutritious food that they need to succeed.

That starts by talking directly with them. Recently, I joined my friend, Representative JAKE AUCHINCLOSS, on a visit to the Boys and Girls Club of Metro South as part of my statewide End Hunger Now tour. There, under the leadership of CEO Derek Hime, we toured the Blue Spoon Community Kitchen where meals are prepared for families in need, and we visited the freight farm, which teaches the community about healthy eating and local food.

The highlight of our visit was the time we got to spend with the teen ambassadors. They are amazing young people who shared with us how important the Boys and Girls Club is to their health and well-being.

Mr. Speaker, I urge every Member of Congress to take some time during the upcoming recess to visit with youth leaders in their communities. Learn from them about how we can improve their food security and end hunger now.

□ 1210

RECOGNIZING JACOB FINE ON HIS 18TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. FINE. Mr. Speaker, 18 years ago at 6:08 this morning, my son Jacob Fine was born. Six years after he was born, inspired by what he dealt with as a first grader, I decided to run for office, and 12 years later, here I am today.

Members of Congress give up a lot in order to serve, but it is their families that give up even more.

Today, as Jacob turns 18, he is home in Florida, and I am here doing the people's business, but I would be remiss if I did not wish him a happy birthday and let him know of all the things that I and his mother will accomplish in our lives, nothing will be more important than having brought him and his younger brother into this world and preparing them to be the amazing adults that I know that they will both turn out to be.

So Jacob, happy birthday. I love you, and I look forward to seeing you on Friday.

DEPLOYING TROOPS WHILE DESTROYING THEIR BENEFITS

(Ms. MORRISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as President Trump is preparing to deploy thousands of troops to the Middle East.

President Trump has no issue sending our sons and daughters overseas, putting their lives on the line for a war that no one asked for while decimating the care they receive when they come home.

He is gutting their healthcare, eliminating the positions of thousands of doctors and nurses, and making the severe staffing crises we are seeing at VA hospitals across the country even worse.

His massive cuts to healthcare in his so-called one big, beautiful bill put already strained hospitals that more than 700,000 servicemembers, their families, and veterans rely on at even greater risk of collapse.

This is not how we treat the brave men and women who put their lives on the line to defend our democracy and our freedom.

Deploying troops while destroying their benefits is a disgrace and a betrayal of our solemn duty to care for them when they come home.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO THE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF A NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FINE). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 2(b)(2) of the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture Act (Public Law 117-140) and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following individual on the part of the House to the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Mr. Anh "Joseph" Cao, Metairie, Louisiana

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Small Business:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 25, 2026.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: I write to respectfully tender my resignation as a member of the Committee on Small Business effective

March 25, 2026. It has been an honor to serve in this capacity.

Respectfully,

TROY DOWNING,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 25, 2026.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: I write to respectfully tender my resignation as a member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee effective March 25, 2026. It has been an honor to serve in this capacity.

Sincerely,

MAX L. MILLER,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Small Business:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 25, 2026.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: As I prepare to re-take my seat on the Homeland Security Committee, I write to respectfully tender my resignation as a member of the Small Business Committee effective March 25, 2026.

It has been an honor to serve in this capacity under Chairman Williams' leadership, especially.

Sincerely,

NICK LALOTA,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 25, 2026.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: I write to respectfully tender my resignation as a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, effective March 25, 2026.

Serving on this Committee has been an honor and a responsibility that I have never