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No. 57

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DE LA CRUZ).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
March 26, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MONICA DE LA CRUZ 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.

### RECOGNIZING LITTLE PALESTINE ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2026

(Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, April is Arab American Heritage Month, and I rise today to celebrate Little Palestine, a vibrant community in the southwest region of Cook County, in my district.

In the early 20th century, families from the small Palestinian town of Betunia immigrated to Chicago, attracted by the city's prosperity.

Many found jobs in hotels, restaurants, and factories. Many of their U.S.-born children proudly served in the military and served their country. This entrepreneurial community soon began to open up bakeries, restaurants, markets, and specialty fashion stores.

Now, there are more than 200 Arab-owned businesses in Little Palestine. Little Palestine also has cultural centers, community service organizations, and mosques, contributing toward making it a close-knit community that honors the rich culture, heritage, and spirit of the Arab-American community.

I am proud and grateful for the contributions that the families, businesses, and cultural centers of Little Palestine bring to my district and to Chicagoland.

#### HONORING POET GREGORIO GOMEZ AGUAYO

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gregorio Gomez Aguayo, a talented writer, poet, producer, and organizer.

Gregorio has been nominated for the award of poet laureate of the State of Illinois twice and has been selected as part of Chicago's Newcity Lit 50, which highlights the city's 50 most influential people in Chicago in the literary scene.

Born in Veracruz, Mexico, Gregorio has been a part of Chicago's artistic and spoken word community for almost 40 years. His poetry delves into themes of heritage, identity, and the human experience and navigates the duality of his Mexican roots and his American upbringing.

Last weekend, in Chicago, Gregorio presented his most recent poetry collection, "Requiem: Journey Thru a Poetic Odyssey," and I can't wait to read all of it.

I congratulate Gregorio on his new work.

#### RECOGNIZING MAYDA DEL VALLE

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate

South Side native Mayda Del Valle, who has been named Chicago's next poet laureate.

Mayda is a poet, educator, and interdisciplinary artist who will now serve as ambassador for our city's literary and creative communities.

Rooted in her Puerto Rican diaspora, her work invites audiences to see themselves reflected on it. She challenges us to remember where we come from and imagine what we can build together.

Mayda has been recognized as one of America's young innovators in the arts and sciences. She has performed on stages across the Nation. As a dedicated educator, Mayda has taught poetry in schools, colleges, and youth detention facilities, inspiring the next generation of artists.

I congratulate Mayda on this extraordinary honor.

#### RECOGNIZING ARISE CHICAGO ON 35TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Arise Chicago, an organization founded by a coalition of religious leaders on the principle that all workers deserve dignity in the workplace.

Its strategic vision includes effective education, advocacy efforts, and programs to empower workers to take action beyond their workplaces. Thanks to Arise Chicago's efforts, thousands of workers have recovered more than \$10 million in stolen wages and compensation and increased their wages by over \$6 million.

In 2026, Arise continues to work to eradicate harassment and discrimination from the workplace, to ensure fair payment, and to educate immigrant workers about their rights in the midst of the anti-immigrant environment that our country is living in.

I am grateful for Arise Chicago's work, and I look forward to continuing to partner with them.

□ 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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HONORING THE DEDICATED LIFE  
OF FORMER TENNESSEE FIRST  
LADY MARTHA SUNDQUIST

(Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KUSTOFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Martha Sundquist.

Martha passed away on March 11 of this year, and she served as First Lady of Tennessee from 1995 to 2003, alongside Governor Don Sundquist, a former Member of the House of Representatives. She used her position to bring people across Tennessee closer together.

Though she was born in Illinois, Martha planted her roots in Tennessee. She often said that she got to Tennessee as quickly as she could, and over time, she and her family lived in each of Tennessee's three grand divisions.

Martha's favorite saying was to "bloom where you are planted," and she carried that with her wherever life took her.

As the First Lady of Tennessee, Martha brought a steady, approachable presence and authority to the job. She was deeply involved in communities across the State of Tennessee. She spent time in schools with parents, teachers, and families, making sure that people felt seen, and leaving a lasting impression.

In addition, Martha Sundquist placed a strong emphasis on the next generation. She brought to Tennessee the Easter egg roll at the Governor's residence, which became one of her most meaningful traditions. It expanded to welcome underserved kindergartners for a morning of games, lunch, and visits from beloved characters that made the day truly feel special.

Care for Tennessee's natural beauty was also central to Martha's mission as the First Lady. Martha supported efforts to plant wildflowers along the State's highways and helped to promote products grown and made in the State of Tennessee. Martha's legacy in this area lives on in the State forest in Cocke County that bears her name.

Martha also understood the importance of preserving the Governor's residence and its history. Martha worked to maintain the Governor's residence, while ensuring that it remained a place where Tennesseans and visitors felt welcomed each and every day.

Even before Martha's time as First Lady, her commitment to service was clear. It was a real honor. In the late 1980s, she was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to the Board of Governors of the United Service Organizations, helping to support members of our military and their families. That role was really important to Martha.

Madam Speaker, I have to tell you that for all who knew her, throughout her life, Martha led with grace. She met people with warmth in every single interaction.

I will say that Martha, for those who knew her, was never one to seek the

spotlight. Those close to her would say that she and Governor Sundquist had an understanding that she would be the First Lady 24/7, but she would also focus on her family and her friends at the same time, and all the things that she loved, including time in her garden and on the golf course.

While I was working on these remarks, I talked to her longtime friend, Wendell Moore. Wendell served Tennessee as the principal deputy and chief of staff to Governor Sundquist.

This is what Wendell had to say about Martha Sundquist: "Martha touched countless lives in various ways, and always in a kind and thoughtful way. Her humility was ever present, as she never put herself first but, rather, served others. Her selfless concern, love, and kindness for others should be a model for all of us to follow."

Madam Speaker, Roberta and I are saddened by the loss of Martha Sundquist. I believe Martha will always be remembered not only as a strong advocate for her State and its people but also for the example that she set in public life.

Martha Sundquist was completely devoted to her husband, Don, and her entire family. Today and always, our thoughts are with her children, Andrea, Tania, and Deke.

DISASTER RELIEF FOR HAWAII

(Ms. TOKUDA of Hawaii was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. TOKUDA. Madam Speaker, last week, two back-to-back storms brought the most catastrophic flooding Hawaii has seen in over 20 years: landslides, washed-out roads, emergency evacuations, and destruction in every single county.

What we saw during these Kona lows was a hard truth: Nature will find a way, and water will go where she wants.

We grew up preparing for hurricane season. That was a threat that we knew. Now, disasters don't wait their turn. Hawaii experiences wildfires and floods year-round. What we are experiencing today is more than our infrastructure was ever built to handle.

I saw it firsthand. Roads ripped apart as water surged through storm drains too small to contain it. Four feet of rock and silt slammed against guardrails, pushed down from the mountains. Fields flattened where water jumped its bank, bypassed overgrown ditches, and raced toward the ocean.

In its path were homes, cars, farms, hospitals, schools, churches, entire communities, our "family"; "ohana."

Madam Speaker, even in our darkest hour, I also saw Hawaii at its very best: neighbors showing up for our neighbors, no one waiting to be asked; volunteers feeding families; and first responders and healthcare workers going above and beyond. That is aloha. That is who we are.

Now, we must match that same spirit with action. We need a whole-of-government approach in response right now: disaster, SNAP, and hot food waivers for families who can't access their kitchens; debris removal so that people can begin to rebuild; the Army Corps of Engineers clearing and dredging our waterways; EPA testing soil and water to keep our communities safe from whatever ran off the farms or the mountainsides behind them; and National Health Corps support for wound care, mental health, and recovery that doesn't end when the water recedes.

□ 1015

To every "family," "ohana," to every friend, and member of our community back home in Hawaii clearing out the mud, mourning what was lost, searching for some stable ground again, you are not alone. We see you. We will always be standing with you. We will not stop fighting to bring every possible resource to help our communities recover, rebuild, and come back even stronger.

HONORING THE 160TH SPECIAL  
OPERATIONS AVIATION REGIMENT

(Mr. VAN EPPS of Tennessee was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. VAN EPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with deep humility and profound gratitude to honor one of the most elite and storied units in our Armed Forces, the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, the Night Stalkers.

I have the privilege of speaking not only as a Member of this body, but as someone who wore that patch, who flew alongside these extraordinary men and women, and who witnessed firsthand their quiet professionalism, their relentless discipline, and their unwavering commitment to mission and country.

I am proud to stand here as only the second former Night Stalker to serve in Congress and the first who flew as a 160th helicopter pilot.

The Night Stalkers were born out of failure and forged into excellence. In 1980, after the tragic events of Operation Eagle Claw in Iran, our Nation recognized a critical gap. We needed a unit capable of executing the most complex, high-risk missions in the most demanding environments on Earth, at night, and under any conditions.

From that necessity, the 160th was created. What began as a response to failure has become one of the most capable and respected special operations aviation units in the world. Their motto is simple: "Night Stalkers don't quit," and they don't.

For decades—through Grenada, Panama, Iraq, Afghanistan, and countless missions that will never publicly be known—the Night Stalkers have been there: flying low, flying fast, and flying