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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. FINE).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 15, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RANDY FINE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

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

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from You no secrets are hid, humbly we come before You, appealing to Your mercy and dependent on Your grace.

For even in our noblest efforts to serve You, and in our honest desires to do what is best for this country, we discover how easy it is to mistake approbation for affirmation. All too often we find ourselves valuing veneration over virtue.

Regardless of our attempts to disguise our misdeeds, what is hidden is known to You. Everything that is secret from everyone else is revealed to You.

Silence then all voices but Your own, and speak to us Your words of forgiveness. Quell all desires save for the longing to receive Your love, and strengthen us to remain faithful to Your will.

Purge us from all unrighteousness. Cleanse us from the thoughts of our minds and the willfulness of our hearts by the inspiration of Your holy spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name, in which we pray.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

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

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Gonzales), the whole number of the House is 431.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

### NO MAN LEFT BEHIND

(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, on Easter Sunday, President

Donald Trump, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Dan Caine completed a successful mission to rescue two American airmen in Iran.

Less than 48 hours earlier, an American fighter jet had been shot down with a shoulder-fired missile as part of Operation Epic Fury.

A rescue was launched immediately, locating one pilot within hours. However, the second crewmember landed much further away, complicating recovery efforts.

Despite this challenge, President Donald Trump emphasized the promise that no man is left behind. He correctly described the mission as "one of the largest, most complex, most harrowing combat rescue searches ever attempted by the military."

As the grateful father of four sons who have served in the Middle East, I especially appreciate President Donald Trump.

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 and mocking Trump as war criminal Putin facilitates the Chinese Communist Party providing shoulder-launched missiles through the Black Sea Port of the Republic of Georgia, collaborating with the illegitimate regime of the rigged elections in Tbilisi to kill American pilots.

### MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 40, DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO SECTION 5(c) OF THE WAR POWERS RESOLUTION, TO REMOVE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES WITH IRAN

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time to consider H. Con. Res. 40 in the House if called up by the chair of the

☐ 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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Committee on Foreign Affairs or its designee; that the concurrent resolution be considered as read; and that the previous question be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution to adoption without intervening motion except for 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by Representative MAST of Florida and Representative MEEKS of New York, or their respective designees.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

#### WORSENING AIR POLLUTION

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the urgent need to address the worsening air pollution problem in this country and in my home area of New York.

Like many Americans, I remember the blanket of orange smoke that covered our skies throughout the summer of 2023 as a result of the horrific Canadian wildfires.

Recently, I had the opportunity to meet with students from Columbia University advocating for the creation of clean air centers and air filtration systems for low-income individuals and those with preexisting conditions like congenital heart disease.

We all have a moral duty to protect the well-being of Americans across this country from all forms of pollution, from the East Coast to the West Coast and in between.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, I urge my colleagues to take action to address the growing severity and protect Americans from dangerous air pollution. Vote “no” on bills that will make it easier for polluters to pollute.

#### HONORING ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. TIFFANY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church of Merrill, Wisconsin, on its 150th anniversary.

First organized by families of German immigrants in a meeting on April 24, 1876, services were held in a public schoolhouse in the town of Jenny, Wisconsin, which later became Merrill.

St. John Evangelical has had two subsequent structures within Merrill and, since 1953, has worshipped within a beautiful stone edifice at 1104 East 3rd Street.

During its first years, it shared a pastor with neighboring churches and finally called on its first pastor, Reverend Paul Luecke, on August 5, 1883.

Today, the members of St. John are proud of their continued provision of a

daycare facility and an educational resource for their community in a parochial school. During several decades of its existence, German was the church's primary language. With the close of World War I, the congregation had transitioned to holding its services primarily in English.

For continuing its work of proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ through 150 years, it is my great pleasure to honor St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church of Merrill today before the United States House of Representatives.

#### PLEA TO GERMAN ROYALTY

(Ms. PEREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to call on the family of the German Prinz zu Salm-Salm about their land holdings in my district.

In Wahkiakum County, Washington, our local hunters and fishermen are being squeezed out of the lands that they have hunted and fished on for generations, but not by wildfire or even by Federal and State regulations this time, but by German royalty who is buying up land and prohibiting public access to places that we have hunted and fished on for generations. It was reported last month that the German royals now control 7.3 percent of Wahkiakum County.

Now, our local economies and way of life are at risk. I have been told by some in my community that frustrations are so high that without resolution there can only be a violent boiling point.

The Pacific Northwest is no stranger to this kind of interference, but at the hands of a management company whose investors are halfway around the world, this shows that something has gone deeply wrong with how we think about and regulate land and local ownership.

This cultural fabric of our community is ours—to live off the land, to invest back into it. Loyalty to place is grounding, a necessary practice in this fractured and polarized world.

I call on the German royal family to engage with my constituents and revise their hunting access regulations.

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#### RECOGNIZING SHANE PLACEK

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an often overlooked segment of our Nation's legal profession: rural lawyers.

Across the First District and in communities throughout our State, rural lawyers represent the very best of the profession: selfless service and meaningful local impact.

Today, I recognize the outstanding career of Shane Placek of Fremont. While Shane practices in a range of areas, he has earned particular respect among his peers for his work in domestic law. Shane's skill and tenacity are deeply appreciated by his clients and respected by judges, and even the counsel on the other side appreciates him. His thorough preparation, professionalism, and record of success demonstrate his unwavering dedication to families navigating difficult times.

A proud son of Fremont, Shane returned to his hometown after earning his J.D. from the University of Minnesota, choosing to serve the very community that shaped him.

It is a privilege to recognize Shane's distinguished career, which reflects the hard work, integrity, and grit that define rural lawyers across our State.

#### RECOGNIZING ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud to serve not only as an unapologetic Arab-American woman in Congress but to represent one of the largest Arab-American communities in our country.

That is why I am introducing a resolution recognizing April as Arab American Heritage Month. This month, we must recognize the rich history, culture, and achievements of Arab Americans all across our country.

I know it has been an incredibly difficult time for many of our families, especially those with loved ones in Lebanon and Palestine. Even in the midst of pain and uncertainty, let us all continue to show up for each other, speak out against injustices, and care for each other with compassion and solidarity.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure you will agree that this is the time and month to acknowledge Arab-American contributions, inventions, and support building businesses and showing up for communities and neighbors all across the country.

To all the neighbors in southeastern Michigan and beyond, happy Arab American Heritage Month.

#### RECOGNIZING CHIEF RUSSELL ROARK

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

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of a true patriot. I rise today to recognize and honor a true public servant, Chief Russell Roark, whose life has been defined by dedication, defined by integrity, and defined by exceptional service to the people of Union County and the entire State of South Carolina.