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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 20, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RANDY K. WEBER, Sr. 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 KEVIN BREHM

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor longtime Adams County, Pennsylvania, Volunteer First Responder Kevin Brehm. Kevin passed away while on duty as an emergency medical technician on April 9 of 2026.

From his teenage years, Kevin devoted his life to public service.

A lifelong resident of East Berlin, Pennsylvania, he was a life member of

the Northeast Adams Fire & EMS, where he had served as a deputy chief and mentor to so many aspiring first responders.

Throughout 42 years of being a first responder, Kevin amassed thousands of hours of training through his fire, rescue, and EMS disciplines.

Most certainly, Kevin impacted the lives of countless individuals with his professional expertise and his kind and thoughtful nature.

On behalf of the entire 13th Congressional District, I offer prayers and condolences to Kevin's family and to his fellow first responders throughout Adams and York Counties, Pennsylvania.

RECOGNIZING JOHN FRANCO

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of my friend, Coach John Franco, an educator and a football coach, who positively impacted the lives of high school students at four schools over the last 39 years.

A native of Blair County, Pennsylvania, John Franco recently announced his retirement from coaching. Most recently, he was head coach of the Tyrone Area High School football team.

During his two stints at Tyrone, which spanned over 25 years, Coach Franco led the football team to a combined record of 230-71 and three—yes, three—appearances in the State title game. His 1999 team won the PIAA Class 2A championship.

With an overall career record of 291-154-2, Coach Franco ranks 25th in PIAA victories.

Coach Franco has stated that the highlight of his entire career was coaching his two sons, Johnny and Steve. Both sons earned all-State recognition.

Coach Franco was a standout football star in his own right at Bishop Guilfoyle High School where he later served on that coaching staff.

On behalf of everyone in the 13th Congressional District, I express my

gratitude to Coach Franco for his commitment to the development of young people and offer best wishes for success in all of his future endeavors.

ACKNOWLEDGING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POD AT UPMC ALTOONA

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, with great pride, I rise today to acknowledge the successful and effective implementation of the behavioral health pod in the emergency department at UPMC Altoona.

Supported in part with Federal funding that I was honored to facilitate, this innovative space provides patients seeking emergency treatment for behavioral health conditions with a dedicated, safe, and therapeutic environment separated from the traditional emergency department.

As the first anniversary of the pod's opening at UPMC Altoona approaches, approximately 500 patients have already benefited from this novel treatment approach. Across Pennsylvania, fewer than five behavioral health pods are operational.

Within the health pod, trained professionals focus on recovery-centered care support, offering individuals who need that mental health or substance use expertise in times of crisis.

Clinicians have emphasized that this approach provides patients with a better experience in a private and less stimulating environment to begin their healing process.

On behalf of all the constituents in the 13th Congressional District, I congratulate UPMC on this successful implementation.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Library Week and the critical role that libraries play in communities across Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District.

Libraries are so much more than just a place to borrow books. They offer lifelong opportunities in learning through reading.

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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Through my work in Washington, I have had the privilege of bringing books from the Library of Congress to many libraries across Pennsylvania's 13th District.

But many libraries are facing real challenges in simply keeping their lights on. That is exactly why I introduced the Community Passport Services Access Act.

This legislation takes a practical, commonsense step to help libraries remain viable community hubs by allowing the libraries to continue offering passport services, bringing in needed revenue, expanding services for residents, and reinforcing their role as a one-stop resource for the public.

This bill is about keeping library doors open.

HONORING DON SCHLITZ

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker:

You got to know when to hold 'em
Know when to fold 'em
Know when to walk away
And know when to run
You never count your money
When you're sitting at the table
There'll be time enough for counting
When the dealing's done.

If you recognize those words, which most Americans would, they are the words of "The Gambler." "The Gambler" was performed successfully by Kenny Rogers, but it was written by Don Schlitz.

Don Schlitz was 23 years old when he wrote that song. He was one of the greatest songwriters of our time. He passed away last Thursday night in Nashville, Tennessee, at the age of 73.

He was a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, the Songwriters Hall of Fame, the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, and he won two Grammy Awards. He had three Country Music Association Awards for Song of the Year and was ASCAP's Country Songwriter of the Year for 4 consecutive years.

What a career he had.

Among his 25 hits that hit number one were, of course, "The Gambler" by Kenny Rogers; "Forever and Ever, Amen" by Randy Travis; "When You Say Nothing At All" performed by both Keith Whitley, who made a hit out of it, and so did Alison Krauss; "Forty Hour Week" by Alabama; "One Promise Too Late" by Reba McEntire; "He Thinks He'll Keep Her" by Mary Chapin Carpenter, who cowrote the song with Don; "Strong Enough to Bend" by Tanya Tucker; and "On the Other Hand" by Randy Travis.

He had his first major hit with "The Gambler" in 1978. He was 23, and he had come to Nashville after going to Duke for a while. He wanted to be a songwriter, and he came to Nashville with \$80 in his pocket. That was the first song he wrote that ever got recorded. Bobby Bare did it first. It didn't sell

enough or well, and then finally Kenny Rogers got it, and it has become one of the greatest songs we know in history.

That song would win him both the Song of the Year at the Country Music Awards and the Country Song of the Year at the Grammy Awards.

He was also a friend of mine. He was a wonderful human being with a big heart. He used to call me his Congressman even though he lived in Nashville, and I was in Memphis.

I was honored by that appellation, and I will take it for the rest of my life as a great honor.

He served at the Room in the Inn helping people who were homeless. He just had a big heart.

He leaves his wife, Stacey, who is a sweetheart; his daughter, Cory; his son, Pete, and a brother and a sister. He leaves behind a great legacy and a great history of country music and songs that move the spirit.

May God bless my friend Don Schlitz.

RECOGNIZING ARKANSAS MISSION OF MERCY DENTAL CLINIC

(Mr. HILL of Arkansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary work of the Arkansas Mission of Mercy dental clinic and its executive director, my good friend, Dr. Terry Fiddler of Conway, Arkansas.

For more than 20 years, including just last weekend, Arkansas Mission of Mercy has provided free, high-quality dental care for families who would otherwise go without.

Each year in Conway, hundreds of Arkansans line up in the early morning hours, some arriving before 3 a.m., for the chance to receive care.

Throughout these annual clinics, Mission of Mercy has served more than 28,000 patients and delivered over \$23 million in free dental services across our State.

This effort is powered by more than 800 volunteers, including dozens of dentists, hygienists, and medical professionals who give their time to serve their neighbors.

Dr. Fiddler and the Arkansas Mission of Mercy are not just restoring smiles. They are restoring dignity, health, and quality of life for thousands of Arkansans.

I thank Dr. Fiddler and his team for their years of service to our State.

IMPORTANCE OF FINANCIAL LITERACY

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the importance of financial literacy. April is National Financial Literacy Month, and it is worth pausing to recognize why it matters so much to our families.

Every day, Americans make decisions that shape their financial future: how to save, how to budget, how to plan for the unexpected. These choices have lasting consequences, and yet, too many people navigate them without the right tools or knowledge.

As a former community banker and investment adviser, helping Arkansans

understand their finances and plan for a secure future was one of the most rewarding chapters in my career.

The basics are simple but powerful. Live within your means. Save for that rainy day. Take advantage of compound interest. Plan ahead.

It is never too early or too late to learn about financial literacy. If you don't know where to start, reach out to your local bank, financial adviser, or financial planner in your community.

When Americans have the confidence and knowledge to manage their money well, they are better positioned for long-term success.

HONORING JOHN PURIFOY GILL

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and extraordinary legacy of a true Arkansas leader, John Purifoy Gill, who passed away last month at the age of 89.

John was a decorated marine, retiring as a lieutenant colonel, and a distinguished attorney who helped shape Arkansas law for decades.

From serving as a delegate to the Arkansas Constitutional Convention to leading the Arkansas Bar Association, his impact on our legal community is lasting and profound.

But John's leadership extended well beyond the law. He was a historian, a preservationist, and a storyteller, who dedicated his life to capturing the spirit of the Natural State.

His books, his work with our State Parks Commission, and his deep involvement in historic preservation ensured that Arkansas' story would be told and long remembered.

I had the privilege of working closely with him to honor Scipio A. Jones where John's research and advocacy were instrumental in placing this foundational and incredibly important attorney's portrait in the Little Rock post office that now bears his name.

John was a dear friend and a trusted voice. I loved our collaboration in historic preservation, outdoor recreation, and public service.

He leaves behind not just an extraordinary professional legacy but a loving family, a stronger Arkansas, and a standard of service that will continue to guide us.

HONORING ALAN GREENSPAN

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize that last month on March 6, Alan Greenspan celebrated his centennial, 100 years old.

Most Americans know him well as the man who ran the Federal Reserve for nearly 20 years, through four Presidents, historic prosperity, and he was witness to more than a few financial crises on his watch.

□ 1215

Often called the Maestro, he was confirmed as Fed Chairman on August 11, 1987, just 2 months before Black Monday, the largest single-day percentage decline in market history.

The next morning, the Fed issued a one-sentence statement: "The Federal Reserve, consistent with its responsibilities as the Nation's central bank,