



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 172

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026

No. 80

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
May 12, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID J. TAYLOR 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 OUR FLOOR DIRECTOR, DENNIS NALLS

(Mr. EMMER of Minnesota was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dennis Nalls, our floor director, who just concluded one decade of service here in the House of Representatives.

A proud alum of Gonzaga High School and Miami of Ohio, Dennis has left the whip team after more than 3 years with us.

Smart, loyal, always thinking two steps ahead, and a diligent problem

solver, Dennis is someone whom anyone would want to have on the ice with them. More importantly, he is someone whom anyone would want to have going into the corner with them.

As head of our whip operation for the past 2 years, he played a key role in delivering win after win on this floor despite the naysayers and despite the headwinds. He has gained the trust and confidence of Members from across the Conference, allowing us to lead one of the most successful whip operations in recent memory.

I think back to last year's successful passage of the Working Families Tax Cuts, or the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, or as the President now calls it, the one big, beautiful tax cut. For Dennis, the floor team, and our Members, it was a long few days.

Despite being up for more than 40 hours straight—and I think that is light, I think it was over 60 hours straight—in July of 2025, we were able to secure historic tax cuts for the American people, strengthen our border security policies, and make necessary reforms to root out waste, fraud, and abuse.

It is during the “down by a goal with only 2 minutes to play” times when you really rely on your teammates the most, and our House Republican team would not have been able to accomplish any of our wins without Dennis Nalls' help.

The job of floor director is often a thankless one, but on behalf of this entire body, we say a big thank you to Dennis Nalls. I thank Dennis for making the sacrifices to be here, nights away from his family and friends, missed trips and holidays, and weekends spent in the Halls of the Capitol. There was no better sendoff for Dennis than a late-night vote series and the passage of FISA, DHS appropriations, the Senate budget resolution, and the farm bill in less than 24 hours during his last week.

Dennis, I know you are here somewhere. Thank you again. We wish you, your wife, Casey, and your son, Dublin, all the best in your next chapter. Thank you for your service to our team, the House, and, most importantly, thank you for your service to our Nation.

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Matthew Hanley, one of his secretaries.

### SWEET AND SIMPLE TRUTHS ARE THE HEART OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(Mr. OWENS of Utah was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share an incredible essay written by a student from Utah's Fourth District to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of our country's founding.

Last fall, I invited students from across Utah's Fourth Congressional District to participate in an essay contest as part of America 250. They were asked to answer a simple but profound question: What does America mean to me?

My office received numerous submissions from young people across the district that were heartfelt and profound. The winning essay I picked came from a senior in my district whose name is Katie.

Drawing inspiration from “The Wizard of Oz,” Katie reflected on the lesson that took Dorothy an entire journey to learn, that often what we are searching for is right in front of us.

Mr. Speaker, I will read Katie's essay into the RECORD:

As a child, I was fascinated with the Warner Bros. film, “The Wizard of Oz,” where the main character, Dorothy, was able to travel to a magical land over the rainbow in

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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H3349

an attempt to find the truth that she was looking for.

In her travels, she was confused by many people and left unsatisfied. In the end, she realized that what she was looking for could only be found in one place: the close, simple, and inspired environment of home.

Today, many people confuse the beautiful simple nature of truth found at home as dry and boring ideas that worked in the past, but could never solve the progressive problems posed now in our modern world.

They ignore the rich history of our country, discounting our Nation's Founders and great documents of the past as outdated or primitive. They dismiss the simple truths found at the heart of our Nation as old-fashioned and instead seek novel and progressive movements in a far-reaching attempt to find truth.

As a member of the rising generation, I have observed many of my peers looking, searching, and struggling to find freedom, opportunity, and purpose in lands across the sea and in ideologies that seem new and exciting.

I even, at times, wondered if truth really could be found in the novel and sensational until I realized that this wasn't satisfying my search for truth, that I was looking for a purpose where purpose did not lie. I was seeking for opportunity where I thought it was and freedom, true freedom, in every place, except for where it really was.

These values were not found for me in my trips to Switzerland, Portugal, or any other novel, foreign country. I did not discover them in woke ideologies or progressive podcasts, but instead in the simple and inspired environment of home, America. That is what this country means to me.

Home is the source of truth. Home is where you can find freedom, and I can say, without any doubt, that there is no place like it.

I am proud beyond words to call the United States of America my home, and I ask you today, whatever it is you might be looking for, instead of going to podcasts, conspiracy theories, or the fake news, look first to the sweet and simple truths held in the heart of my home and yours, the United States of America.

Katie's words touched me, and I am grateful to note that she is not the exception. She is the example, and the example of what makes Utah and this country so special: hope, respect, appreciation, courage, hard work, big dreams, and love for this country.

That is Utah, and I am grateful for the parents who are raising our youth to carry on the torch of liberty and freedom that we have been so blessed with from on high.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EVANS of Colorado) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

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

Eternal God, into Your hands we commend our longtime colleague, Congressman Bill Posey, in deepest gratitude that You allowed us to share and serve together in the journey of life, in service to this country, and in the work of finding common ground for the common good.

Thank You for Bill's principled and pragmatic approach to the issues he devotedly pursued on behalf of his constituents. Even more, we thank You for his example of what it means to remain strongly and passionately committed to the people You called him to serve.

Even while his death brings forth many tributes and remembrances of his public service, we pay special mind to those who loved him privately and personally. Grant that Katie, the love of his life; his daughters, Cathi and Pamela; and their families may always know of Your presence in his absence. Grant them an awareness of Your abiding love through the outpouring of condolences and the indwelling grace of their many memories.

Truly, O God, Representative Bill Posey has fought the good fight. He has finished the race, and he has kept the faith.

Grant him now the crown of righteousness from his Lord, the righteous judge, who now praises him for his good and faithful service.

In Your redeeming name, 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 Kentucky (Mr. MCGARVEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCGARVEY 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.

#### TRUMP ACHIEVES DEREGULATION

(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, I am grateful that President Donald Trump has achieved deregulation, created jobs, and strengthened opportunities for American families and new graduates.

In the first 100 days, President Trump achieved his goal by reducing

regulations. This goal continues as, last month, House Republicans, led by Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, passed two bills that refocused on deregulation, improved infrastructure, lowering costs for families, and choosing results over radicalism. Promises made, promises kept.

Superstars of deregulation are: Education Secretary Linda McMahon, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin, Energy Secretary Chris Wright, and NRC Commissioner David Wright.

Mr. Speaker, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstating peace through strength through revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump and mocking Trump, providing satellite targeting information to kill Americans and Israelis.

Courageous Ukrainians provide whistles to children at night to help in recovery efforts as war criminal Putin bombs their homes.

#### RECOGNIZING CHERIE DEVAUX

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

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, nothing matches the pageantry and excitement of the Kentucky Derby.

For 2 weeks, Louisvillians prepare for the most exciting 2 minutes in sports, and this year's derby was one of the best yet.

As the horses rounded the fourth turn, 23-1 long shot Golden Tempo came from the back of the pack, ridden by Jose Ortiz, to finish first, charging into the record books and the history books in the process because Golden Tempo wasn't the only one to beat the odds this derby.

In fact, when he crossed the finish line, trainer Cherie DeVaux officially became the first woman trainer to ever win the Kentucky Derby. Think about this: 152 derbies; 2,053 horses have made it to the starting gates; only 18 of them have been trained by women; and, now, 1 is in the winner's circle.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Cherie on behalf of all Louisvillians, Kentuckians, and horse boys and girls the world over. I thank her and wish her the best of luck in this year's Belmont.

#### RECOGNIZING SRIKAR KARRI, CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE WINNER

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

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Congressional App Challenge winner of Texas' Eighth Congressional District, Srikar Karri.

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of meeting Srikar and learning about the app that he created. I can assure you, it is nothing short of absolutely amazing.