

Heavenly Father, we stand before You, acknowledging Your sovereign wisdom and mercy. We come to You at this hour asking You to bless and strengthen our civil servants as they labor for our country and its citizens.

Let their deliberations be inspired by love, compassion, and justice for all; serving the common good with integrity and a heart for the needs of every citizen, without distinction of race or creed.

In all things, O Lord, remind us of our dependence on Your divine grace. Father, we ask You to bless our land, which has been a beacon of hope and a refuge for the oppressed and the marginalized. Grant freedom to the captive, relief to the suffering, and help us all to construct a better and safer tomorrow for our future generations of Americans.

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 Texas (Mr. LUTTRELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LUTTRELL 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND FATHER ANDREW AZIZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona was recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Father Andrew Azia, a devoted priest in the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East and a proud Arizonan.

Father Andrew faithfully serves Arizona's thriving Assyrian-American community—thousands of strong families preserving one of the world's oldest Christian faiths and their ancient Mesopotamian heritage. Like so many who came to America seeking freedom, they have brought deep faith, tight-knit families, entrepreneurial drive, and true patriotism to our State.

Through their churches and community work, they strengthen Arizona every day.

I am proud to thank Father Aziz for his dedicated service. Arizona is stronger because of leaders like him and the vibrant Assyrian-American community he serves.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

RECOGNIZING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JASON HAWKINS

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

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary educator, mentor, and leader who has made a lasting impact at Magnolia Junior High School as assistant principal: Mr. Jason Hawkins.

A proud alumnus of Cy-Creek High School, Texas A&M, and Lamar University, Jason began his teaching career with Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District, rising to assistant principal in 2011.

After years of faithfully serving students and staff there, he stepped into the role as assistant principal at Magnolia Junior High in 2018, where his impact has continued to grow.

In a world where strong role models matter more than ever, Jason represents the very best of public education. His leadership reminds us that the true measure of an educator is not only found in policy and test scores, but in the lives they influence, the confidence they build, and the example they set for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to join me in recognizing an exceptional assistant principal, educator, mentor; husband to Krystina; father to Kayla and Cody; and a friend to everyone: Mr. Jason Hawkins.

RISE OF INFLATION

(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 address an issue that is hitting families in every corner of our country—the unyielding rise of inflation.

This month, the Consumer Price Index climbed to 3.8 percent, and that number isn't just a statistic. It shows up every time you fill your gas tank, check out of the grocery store, or open your utility bill.

The pressure on your paycheck is real, and it is growing.

Hardworking people are stretching every dollar. But, instead of tackling this affordability crisis head-on, my colleagues here in the House continue to bring forward legislation that does nothing to lower costs. We are continually obsessed with culture war and emotional issues, choosing personal political gain over good governance, and ignoring the prevailing crisis that is facing our country.

It is time to give Americans the relief they deserve and restore affordability in everyday life.

HONORING VETERANS

(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, veterans have courageously served America to protect the freedoms we enjoy. They deserve the respect of American families and must never be forgotten.

This week, House Republicans will vote on multiple bills to protect the constitutional rights of veterans and expand access to benefits they have earned through service.

House Republicans believe that veterans deserve better—care they can access; veterans' benefits delivered on time; a Veterans Administration that works for veterans; real support for mental health, housing, education, and employment.

Memorial Day on Monday is a solemn day of remembrance for the Americans who have given their lives in service for our country, liberating dozens of countries from socialism and communism.

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 and mocking Trump as the Chinese Communist Party trains Putin troops to murder Ukrainian civilians where Ukrainian parents provide whistles at night to children to be heard as Putin attacks civilian apartment buildings.

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HONORING BRAVE SERVICEMEMBERS

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, far too many Vietnam servicemembers return home without the honor and recognition their sacrifice deserved.

As Memorial Day nears, we remember brave servicemembers from eastern North Carolina who made the ultimate sacrifice, such as:

Lieutenant Eric Parker Brice of Rocky Mount was a Navy pilot flying dangerous combat missions over Vietnam. On June 4, 1968, he went down after his F-4 Phantom II was struck by enemy fire.

Army Sergeant Willie Farmer, Jr., of Pinetops, was only 21 years old when his life was tragically cut short after being struck by fragments from a downed helicopter rotor blade during combat operations on September 29, 1967.

Mr. Speaker, the stories of Lieutenant Brice and Sergeant Farmer reflect enormous sacrifice. We must always honor and remember our Nation's heroes.

SUPPORTING RAIL WORKERS

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

Ms. ELFRETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today supporting Congressmen DELUZZO and NEHLS' bipartisan Railroad Retirement Fairness Act.

This legislation eliminates outdated provisions of Federal law that unfairly reduce railroad retirement payments for certain retirees and spouses who continue to work in non-railroad jobs after retirement.

This is really important because we shouldn't be penalizing rail workers who choose to or sometimes have to continue working after retirement.

Mr. Speaker, this is also a deeply personal issue for me. My father was a proud member of BLET Local 71 out of Philadelphia and drove trains for SEPTA for decades. He provided for our family, working mostly nights and weekends, and now relies on that hard-earned railroad retirement.

I know firsthand the long hours and grit these jobs take from both railroad workers and their families, which is why I support this legislation to level the playing field and ensure hard-working rail workers keep their rightfully earned retirement benefits.

RECOGNIZING MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Mental Health Awareness Month to talk about something that impacts every family in this country.

Whether it is struggling ourselves or someone we know, all of us have been touched by mental health challenges. Far too often, people don't have access to the critical care that they need.

For me, it was my brother Justin. After years of struggling and falling through the cracks, we lost him to suicide in 2008. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think about him.

Justin was one of the smartest people I have known. He was passionate, an avid reader, and was working to become a history teacher. He had recently been married and had his entire life ahead of him.

Through all the moments of our lives, big and small, our family grieves that he is not with us today.

Mr. Speaker, the most important thing we can do to reduce the stigma is to tell our stories, and that is why I am here telling mine.

To the individuals and the families who are struggling in this country, I want you to know that you are not alone, and there are so many of us here in Congress who are not going to stop fighting for you.

STOPPING PRICE GOUGING

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, families across the country are struggling to afford groceries. The costs of eggs, milk, bread, baby formula, and fresh produce keep rising while giant grocery chains and corporate executives rake in record profits.

Some of the grocery stores are now using surveillance technology and digital labels to squeeze even more money out of working people.

It is shameful that corporations would raise prices on products that they know families need to survive. For me, this is corporate greed, plain and simple.

No parent, not one individual, should be able to walk into a grocery store wondering if they can afford to feed their families because an algorithm or private data that the grocery chains got decided they can charge them more.

That is why I introduced the Stop Price Gouging and Grocery Stores Act to crack down on crooked pricing practices and protect consumers from corporate abuse. Not one person who goes into a grocery store should worry about their private information being used to jack up their prices. We all deserve fair prices, transparency, and dignity, not exploitation at the grocery store.

Mr. Speaker, I am calling on all of my colleagues to please support me on the Stop Price Gouging and Grocery Stores Act.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by the Speaker on May 20, 2026:

S. 4530, to amend chapters 83 and 84 of title 5, United States Code, to authorize an increase of the retirement age for members of the Capitol Police.

VETERANS 2ND AMENDMENT PROTECTION ACT

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1300, I call up the bill (H.R. 1041) to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from transmitting certain information to the Department of Justice for use by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1300, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, printed in the bill, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1041

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TRANSMITTAL OF CERTAIN INFORMATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR USE BY THE NATIONAL INSTANT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Chapter 55 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 5501A the following new section:

"§5501B. Prohibition on transmittal of certain information to the Department of Justice for use by the national instant criminal background check system

"The Secretary may not transmit to any entity in the Department of Justice, for use by the national instant criminal background check system established under section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (34 U.S.C. 40901; Public Law 103-159; 107 Stat. 1541), personally identifiable information of a beneficiary, solely on the basis of a determination by the Secretary to pay benefits to a fiduciary for the use and benefit of the beneficiary under section 5502 of this title, without the order or finding of a judge, magistrate, or other judicial authority of competent jurisdiction that such beneficiary is a danger to themselves or others."

(b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 55 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 5501A the following new item:

"5501B. Prohibition on transmittal of certain information to the Department of Justice for use by the national instant criminal background check system."

SEC. 3. NOTIFICATION OF LACK OF BASIS FOR THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO HAVE TRANSMITTED CERTAIN INFORMATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR USE BY THE NATIONAL INSTANT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Such chapter (as amended by section 2) is further amended by inserting after section 5501B the following new section:

"§5501C. Notification of lack of basis for transmittal of certain information to the Department of Justice for use by the national instant criminal background check system

"The Secretary shall, within 30 days of the enactment of the Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act, and in accordance with section 103(e)(1)(D) of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (34 U.S.C. 40901(e)(1)(D); Public Law 103-159; 107 Stat. 1541), notify the Attorney General that the basis for the transmittal, on or after November 30, 1993, by the Secretary, of personally identifiable information of a beneficiary, solely on the basis of a determination by the Secretary to pay benefits to a fiduciary for the use and benefit of the beneficiary under section 5502 of this title, to any entity in the Department of Justice, for use by the national instant criminal background check system established under section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (34 U.S.C. 40901; Public Law 103-159; 107 Stat. 1541), does not apply, or no longer applies."

(b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter (as amended by section 2) is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 5501B the following new item:

"5501C. Notification of lack of basis for transmittal of certain information to the Department of Justice for use by the national instant criminal background check system."