

not of confusion, but of peace, bring us to order under the authority of Your divine will.

Lord, hear our prayers, forgive our sin, establish the work of our hands, and heal our land.

In Your sovereign 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 Chamber the approval thereof.

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

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. GRIJALVA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

### HONORING SERGEANT MARTIN LUGO

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

Mrs. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Martin Lugo, a 24-year-old veteran from Tucson, Arizona, who was killed after being wounded during a combat operation in Afghanistan.

Sergeant Lugo enlisted in the United States Army while still a student at Tucson High School. At the time of his death, he was serving on his sixth deployment, having previously completed three tours in Afghanistan and two in Iraq. He served our Nation with extraordinary courage, dedication, and a deep sense of duty.

But Martin was far more than his uniform. He was a son, a friend, and someone deeply loved by his family, friends, and fellow soldiers. Those who knew him remember his generosity, humor, intelligence, adventurous spirit, and his remarkable ability to bring people together. He embraced life fully and led with both strength and compassion.

I also thank Maria, his mother, for allowing me to share Martin's story today.

As we remember Sergeant Martin Lugo, we honor his life, his service, and the sacrifice carried every day by the families of those who serve.

In Maria's words: "The way we can honor their service is by doing the best we can for ourselves, for each other, and for our country."

### PROTECT TRANS LIVES

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

Mr. MENEFEE. Mr. Speaker, June is Pride Month, a month celebrating the contributions of the LGBTQ community, but it also must be a month of speaking hard truths.

Texas has more anti-trans murders than any other State in the Nation. Over half of Texas victims are Black transgender women.

We cannot celebrate Marsha P. Johnson and not protect the women who look like her.

Last week, Persia Amarra Conway was killed in Houston. She was 33 years old. She was loved, and she is not alone. Jade Roberts, Diamond Brigman, Muhlaysia Booker, name after name after name, were all from Texas, all taken from this Earth, stripped from their loved ones and from their communities.

These killings are happening across our country, and silence is not an option. This Pride Month, I say clearly: We must stop the targeting and killing of members of the trans community in Houston, in Texas, and across our Nation.

### BOBBY KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

(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, 58 years ago this night, in Los Angeles, California, a violent murder occurred. That night, in the Ambassador Hotel, a major candidate for President, Robert F. Kennedy, Sr., was assassinated and denied the right to complete his campaign. No one knows what alternate history might have played out had Bobby lived.

I was 14 years old at the time when my father woke me to go with him to see the breaking news on TV in the middle of the night.

Two months before, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was murdered much the same way.

If you are under the age of 60, you don't remember either night. It is a matter of historic reference, not lived experience.

After the King assassination, I remember hearing on the radio the voice of my United States Senator from New York say: "No one can be certain who next will suffer from some senseless act of bloodshed." In 60 days, we found out who was next.

Columbine, Parkland, Charlie Kirk, Sandy Hook, Islamic Temple of San Diego, Temple Israel in Detroit, time after time. When gun violence claims

innocent lives, some Americans still assert their right to hold highly destructive weapons as necessary for their protection under the Second Amendment rights. They resist any and all gun control. Nothing protects them from the madman who gains access to the weapon.

We treat these deaths as unfortunate outcomes of our society's ideological unwillingness to rein in weapons of destruction.

Mr. Speaker, it is a sad tale told over six decades and counting.

### HONORING COLMAN MCCARTHY

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary Colman McCarthy, an accomplished writer, philosopher of nonviolence, Catholic activist, educator, golfer, and runner, who cut a singular figure in Montgomery County, Maryland, and in the Washington, D.C., area.

Colman spent his life and his career challenging war, militarism, and what President Eisenhower called the military-industrial complex, writing every week a column that was beloved by thousands of people.

But Colman was not always a famed peace activist. He nearly became a PGA champion and also a Trappist monk before finding his life's work as an educator for peace.

Students who took his classes at BCC High School remember him coming to school on his Raleigh three-speed bicycle and the only homework assignment he ever gave his students: to tell someone that you love them that day.

I hope his memory remains an eternal blessing to our community and a source of joy and comfort to his three sons, John, James, and Edward; his six beloved grandchildren; and to all of his many students, friends, and admirers, among whom I count myself.

A link honoring the life and career of Colman McCarthy can be found at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/09/business/media/colman-mccarthy-dead.html>.

### HONORING DAVIS "YELLOWASH" WASHINES

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the life and legacy of the esteemed elder, Davis Washines, known to many as "Yellowash," of the Yakama Nation.

Washines was a Yakama citizen who took on many roles in his community. He served as police chief, was a fierce advocate for fishing rights and the environment, and was chairman of the Yakama Nation Council.

I had the honor of working with him throughout the years on issues, including Tribal rights and law enforcement,

water resource management, and the protection of cultural and natural resources in Central Washington State.

He will be sorely missed by the entire Yakama community, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, and all those who knew him.

My deepest condolences are with his family and loved ones during this difficult time.

□ 1210

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL WALNUT GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

(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, faith, service, and community came together in a truly powerful way at Walnut Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, where love was not just spoken; it was put into action.

Men on a mission traveled from across the country, answering the call to help build a new church home for the Walnut Grove church family. Volunteers set aside their time not for recognition but because they believe in the power of serving others through Jesus Christ. With skilled hands and servants' hearts, these volunteers are using their talents and Christian faith to make a lasting difference. When people come together with willing hearts, incredible things happen.

Thanks to Pastor Arrington and through faith and teamwork, Walnut Grove's next chapter is being built one act of service, one prayer, and one brick at a time.

#### RECOGNIZING RALPH LAWRENCE GARDINER

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with tremendous gratitude and pride to recognize Korean war veteran Ralph Lawrence Gardiner of Longville, Minnesota, as he celebrates his 96th birthday.

Ralph enlisted in the United States Navy in 1952, answering the call to serve during a critical moment in our Nation's history. He primarily served aboard the USS *Bushnell*, out of Key West, Florida, as a metalsmith, where he welded and fabricated ships and submarines. His ship played a vital role in transporting troops to and from Korea, supporting the brave Americans defending freedom overseas.

During his service, Ralph was awarded the Good Conduct Medal and the National Defense Service Medal, reflecting his exemplary behavior, discipline, professionalism, and devotion to duty.

Even today, living on his own at 96 years old, Ralph continues to embody

the strength and dependence and determination that had defined his life for decades.

As he reaches this remarkable milestone, we honor not only his longevity, but also his outstanding service to our Nation, his dedication to his family and community, and the legacy he leaves for future generations.

#### RECOGNIZING NORDONIA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Nordonia High School girls' flag football team as Ohio's 13th Congressional District's Champion of the Week.

The Nordonia High School girls' flag football team is Ohio's first girls' flag football State champions.

Girls' flag football only became a sanctioned sport in Ohio last July, but even before that, these young women were working hard to bring the State championship home.

Nordonia was one of six high schools that attended the Cleveland Browns inaugural flag football jubilee event back in 2021 and have since been fighting for this sport to become sanctioned and recognized in Ohio.

I congratulate Head Coach Steve Holtz, quarterback Hayden Paul, and all of the players on their well-earned victory in bringing home the inaugural championship trophy. Their passion is laying the groundwork for generations of young women and girls in sports, and we are so proud of them.

I often call our district the birthplace of champions because of basketball greats like LeBron James and Steph Curry, and now this Nordonia girls' flag football team certainly proves that this legacy continues, no matter the sport or your gender.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my congratulations to these outstanding student-athletes and commend them on being named champions of the week.

#### AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2027

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HARRIS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 8646, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1333 and rule

XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 8646.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. EVANS) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1215

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 8646) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2027, and for other purposes, with Mr. EVANS of Colorado in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations, or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS).

Mr. HARRIS of Maryland. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise today to bring before the House H.R. 8646, the fiscal year 2027 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agency Appropriations bill.

I thank Appropriations Committee Chairman COLE for his leadership and quickly moving the fiscal year 2027 appropriations process forward.

I also recognize the ranking member of the full committee, Ms. DELAURO, and the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee ranking member, Mr. BISHOP, for their work in getting us to this point.

I appreciate the conversations Mr. BISHOP and I have had, and while we may not agree on everything in the bill, I know that we are much closer to agreement than some of today's debate and rhetoric may show.

For fiscal year 2027, the subcommittee's discretionary allocation is \$26.27 billion, a \$380 million, or 1.4 percent, decrease from fiscal year 2026 enacted levels.

In a setting of \$2 trillion deficits, these modest spending reductions are necessary.

This legislation reflects a clear, necessary commitment to fiscal responsibility, while ensuring that America's farmers, ranchers, and rural communities remain a top priority and that all Americans have access to a safe food and drug supply.

This legislation builds on the successful efforts of the Trump administration to root out fraud, waste, and