



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 172

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2026

No. 109

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 2, 2026, at 12:30 p.m.

House of Representatives

TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2026

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NEWHOUSE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 30, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAN NEWHOUSE 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 11:50 a.m.

PROMESA IS A DEMOCRATIC TRAGEDY

(Mr. HERNÁNDEZ of Puerto Rico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago, PROMESA became law. It

established a financial oversight board capable of overriding Puerto Rico's elected officials on fiscal matters.

PROMESA is a democratic tragedy. We surrendered our self-government in exchange for fiscal relief. Ten years later, we have restructured most of our debts and balanced our most recent budgets, but we still dream about restoring our democratic self-government.

The 10th anniversary of PROMESA begs the question: Where do the people of Puerto Rico stand today? As their voice in Congress, I say: We oppose the bad government practices that created the impression that PROMESA was a necessity. We oppose the vulture funds that want to profit from our misery and energy crisis. We oppose unelected oversight boards that can override our democratic will.

We support good government. We support responsible bankruptcy relief. We support restoring democracy and electing the people who govern us.

Puerto Rico was once an example of good government in Latin America, but it became an example of how politics and corruption erased the path to prosperity.

On the 250th anniversary of the United States, let us not forget the parts of this country of States, territories, and commonwealths that had and lost their government by consent of the governed. Let us not forget that we the people must continue to work toward a more perfect Union, a more perfect Union of States, territories, and commonwealths.

Now, for the benefit of my constituents, I will repeat my remarks in Spanish.

(Spanish translation of the statement made in English is as follows:)

Hace diez años, PROMESA se convirtió en ley. Le impuso a Puerto Rico una junta de supervisión no electa, con la capacidad de pasar por encima de los funcionarios electos en asuntos fiscales.

PROMESA es una tragedia democrática. Entregamos nuestro autogobierno a cambio de alivio fiscal. Diez años después, hemos reestructurado la mayoría de nuestras deudas. Hemos balanceado nuestros presupuestos más recientes. Pero todavía soñamos con restaurar la democracia en nuestra isla.

El décimo aniversario de PROMESA obliga a plantearse la pregunta: ¿dónde se encuentra hoy el pueblo de Puerto Rico?

Como su voz en el Congreso, digo:

Nos oponemos a las malas prácticas de gobierno que hicieron que PROMESA pareciera necesaria.

Nos oponemos a los fondos buitres que quieren lucrarse de nuestra miseria y de nuestra crisis energética.

Nos oponemos a las juntas de supervisión no electas que pueden pasar por encima de nuestra voluntad democrática.

Apoyamos el buen gobierno.

Apoyamos un alivio responsable ante la quiebra. Apoyamos restaurar la democracia y elegir a quienes nos gobiernan.

Puerto Rico fue una vez un ejemplo de buen gobierno en América Latina y

☐ 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.

H4321

en los países emergentes. Se convirtió en un ejemplo de cómo la política y la corrupción destruyen el progreso y borran el camino hacia la prosperidad.

En el aniversario 250 de los Estados Unidos, no olvidemos aquellas partes de este país de estados, territorios y estados libre asociados que tuvieron—y perdieron—su gobierno por consentimiento de los gobernados.

No olvidemos que “nosotros, el pueblo” debemos continuar la labor hacia una unión más perfecta: una unión más perfecta de estados, territorios y estados libre asociados.

THANKING THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 290 FOR SPONSORING THE MOVING WALL

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and thank The American Legion Post 290 in King, North Carolina, for recently sponsoring a traveling replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Referred to as “The Moving Wall,” this replica is 246 feet in length and honors every servicemember who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Vietnam.

In late April to early May, The Moving Wall was displayed at The American Legion Post 290 in King, and I was fortunate enough to attend the closing ceremony and offer a few remarks about its importance.

The American Legion Auxiliary sponsored the event, and doing so takes serious and dedicated planning by all who are involved.

This event came together through countless hours of preparation and diligence in monitoring the wall while it was in King.

Sheila Winfrey, the 290 unit president; Lynn Shouse, the vice president; Cherryl Penn; and Jessie Penn deserve tremendous credit for putting this entire event together.

The citizens of King and those from the area who came to view The Moving Wall indicated that they share the exact same sentiment.

We are all grateful for the dedication and efforts of these four wonderful individuals in helping put this event together, as well as grateful for those represented on the wall.

Everyone who was fortunate enough to attend, me included, would agree that they did a fantastic job all around.

It is my hope that many others across our Nation will attend such events where The Moving Wall is displayed and take the time to learn of its importance and the sacrifices made to preserve and protect the freedoms we are all blessed to have by those who have served and especially those who lost their lives in service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DOMINIC P. STRANGIO

(Mr. KENNEDY of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of a remarkable young western New Yorker and St. Joe's student, Dominic P. Strangio of Niagara Falls, whose courageous battle with cancer came to an end on April 22, 2026, at just 16 years old.

Dominic was a beloved son to Frank and Sara, a devoted big brother to Sofia and Frankie, and a treasured grandson, cousin, teammate, classmate, and friend. Though his time on this Earth was far too short, the impact he made on those around him will endure for generations.

Dominic was a proud Marauder, attending St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute. As someone who walked those halls myself, I know firsthand the values St. Joe's seeks to instill: faith, brotherhood, compassion, and service to others.

Dominic embodied those values in every sense. The entire St. Joe's community mourns this immeasurable loss alongside the Strangio family, united in both grief and gratitude for having known such an extraordinary young man.

On the baseball field, Dominic was someone his teammates could depend on. Off the field, he loved hanging out with his cherished friends, going on fishing trips with his papa, and spending Sunday afternoons at his nonna's kitchen table. He found joy in the simple gifts of life and treasured every moment spent with his brother and sister.

It was not only how Dominic lived his life before his diagnosis that inspired so many. It was how he faced adversity. Throughout his illness, Dominic demonstrated courage and grace far beyond his years. Guided by his faith, he remained selfless, optimistic, and resilient. He never complained. He continued to think of others even as he confronted challenges that few adults could ever imagine.

Dominic's strength became a source of inspiration to his family, friends, classmates, and our entire community.

Mr. Speaker, while Dominic's years were few, his example was immense. May we all carry forward his kindness, faith, resilience, and love for his family.

To Dominic's parents, Frank and Sara; his brother, Frankie; his sister, Sofia; and all who mourn this tremendous loss, our Nation and our community mourn with you.

St. John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us. Live, Jesus, in our hearts forever.

May Dominic Strangio rest in peace.

CELEBRATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUFFALO CRITERION

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a remarkable milestone in the history of western New York: the 100th anniversary of The Buffalo Criterion.

Founded by Frank Merriweather, Sr., and his wife, Carmelita, The Criterion is the oldest Black-owned newspaper in western New York and the oldest Black-owned business in Erie County.

For over a century, four generations of the Merriweather family have carried forward a simple but powerful mission: to tell the stories that too often go untold and to ensure that Buffalo's Black community has a voice that is heard loud and clear.

Frank Merriweather, Sr., a graduate of the Tuskegee Institute, who studied under Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver, understood that journalism would be a force for justice, opportunity, and change. That vision has endured for 100 years and counting.

From the extraordinary leadership of Frank Merriweather, Jr., to Evelyn Patterson Merriweather, Frank Merriweather III, Dr. Eva Doyle, and countless dedicated journalists, photographers, and community leaders, The Criterion has chronicled the triumphs, struggles, and aspirations of generations of western New Yorkers.

When our community faced tragedy following the racist terrorist attack at Tops on Jefferson on May 14, 2022, The Buffalo Criterion helped to tell Buffalo's story to the Nation and the global community.

In a moment of profound grief, it became a source of truth, moral clarity, strength, and healing. That is what The Criterion does. It leads.

For 100 years, The Criterion has spoken truth to power, preserved history, amplified local voices, and strengthened our community.

Today, we honor its extraordinary legacy and congratulate everyone who has played a role and helped to make The Buffalo Criterion an enduring institution in Buffalo and throughout western New York.

I congratulate them on a century of work, and here is to many, many more years to come.

□ 1015

RECOGNIZING 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALLEN, TEXAS

(Mr. SELF of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the city of Allen's 150 years of history and community spirit and encourage all residents to join in honoring this sesquicentennial milestone.

Founded in 1876, Allen has become one of north Texas' most vibrant communities and has built a proud legacy of civic leadership, opportunity, and service.

Allen's story is one of vision, resilience, and progress. What began as a small railroad settlement in rural Collin County has become a dynamic city known for its flourishing neighborhoods, strong local economy, high-ranking schools, and exceptional quality of life. Its continued success reflects the dedication of generations of