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No. 118

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 20, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VIRGINIA FOXX 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.

SALUTING SERVICEMEMBERS OF THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS

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

Mr. SELF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute our servicemembers of tomorrow, the service academy-bound students of the Third Congressional District of Texas.

This district of Texas is home to some of the best and brightest young men and women, and it is always an honor to appoint stellar student-athletes to our Nation's service academies.

I am confident that they are ready to join the premier service academies and ultimately serve with the best in the United States military.

This year, Texas' Third Congressional District is going to send seven cadets to the United States Military Academy; five midshipmen to the United States Naval Academy, six cadets to the United States Air Force Academy, six midshipmen to the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and three candidates to the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School.

To these 24 appointees and three preparatory candidates: I say God bless you, and God bless America. I salute you.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the 27 names and respective hometowns.

U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY

Gavin James Blankenship, Lucas, TX
Sean Alexander Galbraith, Celina, TX
Avery Brooke Gifford, Allen, TX
Ethan Hunter Hayward, Allen, TX
Brett Andrew Hill, Allen, TX
Vincent Morgan Jones, Murphy, TX
Jayda Shrecee Johnson, Allen, TX

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

Eli Yuan Adler, Allen, TX
Collin Robert Alstrin, Prosper, TX
Elijah Rodrigo Estonilo, Allen, TX
McKenzie Kendall Quigley, McKinney, TX
Benjamin Lance Yost, Princeton, TX

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Connor James Baesel, Celina, TX
Kinsley Meredith Duncan, McKinney, TX
Joshua Lamar Johnson, Frisco, TX
Minseok Lawrence Kim, Frisco, TX
Gregory Aaron Kinneer, Frisco, TX
Hector Orozco Jr., Celina, TX

U.S. MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Brian Luke Goodrich, Murph, TX
Alysia Kight, Van Alstyne, TX
Luke Harlan Myhre, Allen, TX
Duncan Keith Ross, Allen, TX
Henry Oscar Stark, Murphy, TX
Martin George Zsoka, Dallas, TX

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL
Grant Allen Bauroth, Prosper, TX

Brock Warner Schlef, Plano, TX
Austin Michael Senters, Sachse, TX

HONORING LIFE OF DOUGLAS GRAHAM

(Mr. SUBRAMANYAM of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Douglas Graham, a remarkable photojournalist, storyteller, and friend to the people of our community in northern Virginia.

For nearly one decade at Loudoun Now, Doug helped our community see itself. He captured moments both ordinary and extraordinary, from parades and graduations to snowstorms and small acts of kindness.

However, Doug did more than just take photographs. He built trust. He asked good questions, and he listened.

Even after his cancer diagnosis, Doug continued to tell his story with the same honesty and courage that defined his career. Around Loudoun people often joke that if something important was happening in our community, Doug was already there to capture the moment.

Doug was always in the room, and he will still be with us. We offer our deepest condolences and gratitude to his wife, Dawn; his daughter, Lizzie; his friends, colleagues, and the entire Loudoun community.

We all thank Doug Graham for helping us see his community more clearly. May he rest in peace.

HONORING SATHGURU DHANDAPANI

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Sathguru Dhandapani.

Sathguru was a beloved husband, father, and community leader. After finishing his studies in India, his career took him to northern Virginia where he served as an engineer at Visa.

□ 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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He was a well-known and respected CEO across D.C., Virginia, and Maryland for his work with the Valluvan Tamil Academy. As the treasurer, Sathguru poured his time and efforts into promoting and preserving the Tamil language and culture.

Sathguru also had a deep love for music. He was a strong supporter of local concerts. He organized events, coordinated programs, and helped families across our region. So many kids benefited from his work as well.

His work touched so many lives in our community. He will be deeply missed, and may he rest in peace.

DATA CENTERS

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Madam Speaker, at this point my community in northern Virginia has so many data centers that if it were a country, it would be fourth in all countries in the number of data centers. There are actually many more, actually hundreds more, potentially, on the way.

Virginians, our community, have been paying the price for years now. The price is transmission lines going through homes, schools, and historic sites. The price is worse air quality, and the price is higher utility bills.

Now people are fighting back, and we are winning. That is because last week, the people of Prince William County spoke out and pushed back about a massive, new data center complex spanning almost 750 football fields.

That project was unanimously rejected, but the fight is not over.

New transmission lines are being proposed to support the data center industry in Prince William County. Projects like the Nokesville-Bristow transmission line are threatening homes, small farms, and livelihoods.

There is a better way. One way is to underground those lines, and the data centers need to pay for it, not the community. This will protect our farmland, homes, and schools.

Also, it sets the tone that data centers and private companies cannot demand new energy infrastructure and then pass along the costs to the community, because our communities have had enough of high utility costs.

They have had enough of transmission lines next to schools and homes, and enough of the noise, pollution, and loss of green space.

If we work together, we can push companies to underground these lines and pay their fair share. In the meantime, I join my community in saying: Enough is enough.

CONGRATULATING THE AMERICAN TELUGU ASSOCIATION

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the American Telugu Association on its 19th annual ATA Conference & Youth Convention.

This year's conference in Baltimore brings together leaders from across the country to celebrate Telugu heritage. The conference recognizes all of ATA's achievements in the fields of science, business, technology, literature, and

public service, as well as the arts, while showcasing live performances and Telugu culture.

I extend my congratulations to ATA, including its president, Jay Challa, and all of the organizers, and I wish everyone a successful and meaningful conference in Baltimore.

CENSORSHIP BY THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

(Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. DAVIDSON. Madam Speaker, last month, a small plane crashed into one of the tallest buildings in Beijing, China, during Friday rush hour. The pilot was killed, and 13 people were injured. This happened in the center of a city of more than 20 million people. Thousands of people nearby saw the plane strike the building. People on the street heard the impact and recorded the aftermath.

In the United States, an event like this would receive wall-to-wall coverage, and videos would be spread across social media within minutes. However, in Beijing, the government made it nearly impossible for anyone who was not there to even know that it happened.

Posts about the crash vanished from Chinese social media, and searches for the building returned only older results. Police prevented people from taking pictures and ordered witnesses to delete footage. Even though China's national broadcaster sits across the street from the crash site, state media failed to inform the Chinese public about what happened.

Because China's censorship apparatus links police surveillance with telecommunications networks, search engines, social media platforms, and state-controlled media, it allows the authorities to identify and suppress information that could embarrass the Chinese Communist Party or undermine their preferred narratives with frightening efficiency.

China has used these methods before. During the 2022 lockdown protests, videos disappeared from Huawei phones without warning, deleting picture and videos from their phones and even preventing citizens from preserving or sharing what was happening.

George Orwell warned about this sort of coercive power. Now this dystopian system is even more efficient and powerful with modern technologies, smartphones, search engines, surveillance cameras, and government controlled platforms. China has shown how effectively this machinery can erase the truth, and other governments are now creating such systems that can be used in the same way.

The European Union is building the legal and regulatory framework to control online speech not just in the European Union but across the West, trying to pressure platforms even in the United States. Through the Digital Services Act, regulators can pressure

these platforms to remove or suppress content that conflicts with their official narratives on elections, public policy, or other political issues.

Companies that resist can face penalties tied to their global revenue, giving governments enormous leverage over what people are allowed to see online. The United Kingdom has incorporated digital ID and is already jailing thousands of its citizens each year for disfavored speech.

In the United States, how could such a thing happen?

We have the Bill of Rights and the First Amendment protecting speech, but it was already well underway. When Elon Musk bought Twitter, the Biden administration was working to build a Disinformation Governance Board to coordinate their rapidly expanding censorship operations. Orwell referred to this kind of apparatus as the ministry of truth.

Unfortunately, Musk's ownership of Twitter only exposed the truth that even a change of administration has not halted the surveillance state here in America. Under the same guise of protecting kids used by the U.K., the USA just passed a digital ID bill under the guise of banning Central Bank Digital Currency. The United States effectively set a go-live date for CBDC in 2030. Under the old ruse of security and public safety, Palantir and Flock have an all-seeing-eye network expanding around the country.

These are just some of the tools used in China, and, unfortunately, some of the same companies are using these same tools here in the United States and across Europe.

As James Madison astutely noted in Federalist No. 51: "If men were angels, no government would be necessary." Well, if men were angels, then the PATRIOT Act and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act would have never been abused. The abuse was not only foreseeable, because even good men are prone to abuse power, but it happened. If it were still happening, then how would you know, Madam Speaker? These tools are very effective. The old maxim: Power corrupts, but absolute power corrupts absolutely rings true.

Around the world, technology is being turned against the citizens of each country by those in power. A comprehensive system of surveillance, coercion, and control is being built. If we cannot see it, then it may already be too late.

Freedom surrendered is rarely reclaimed, and with every vote and every dollar, it is now time for this Congress to insist that good governments defend freedom.

RECOGNIZING LARRY "THE GRINCH" STONE

(Mr. LICCARDO of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LICCARDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of myself