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House of Representatives

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 21, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARLIN A. STUTZMAN 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.

HIGH COST OF WAR

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today more than 5 months since the American people were forced into a war of choice in Iran. As the President's negotiations fail, Americans are still bearing the expense every day. This is all while Russell Vought and Pete Hegseth claim the cost of the war to be roughly \$30 billion, but the President's

request for extra funds puts the true cost at a staggering \$100 billion, if not more.

With this money, we could have instead paid for: 66 million Social Security retirement checks, 2 years of free school lunch for every child in the United States, 2 million teachers' salaries, 1 million 4-year college degrees, or the entire SNAP program for a year, serving 40 million Americans in need of food assistance.

It is imperative that Congress exercise our congressional oversight authority so that these stratospheric costs receive due scrutiny and the voice of the people we represent may be heard.

TRUMP'S UN-AMERICAN LEGACY

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as President Trump lays the groundwork for a namesake arch right here in the heart of our Nation's Capital. Despite the arch's violation of a height restriction for D.C. buildings, a panel consisting of the President's allies is likely to permit the plans.

Unfortunately, this symbolism of corruption coming from the President of the United States is not novel. Need I remind the American people that he has already demolished the White House Rose Garden, planned to take over a 100-year-old public golf course in Washington, D.C., and plastered two large posters of his likeness on government buildings along The National Mall, just to name a few, and also placing his name on our coinage and currency.

Donald Trump is trying at every attempt to enshrine his legacy in Washington, D.C., but legacy doesn't always mean being remembered for your name. This Nation is not a hotel chain. He is leaving rather a legacy of being the most un-American President we have ever had.

DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Disability Pride

Month. In July of 1990, Congress passed the Americans With Disability Act, also known as the ADA.

The passage of this landmark legislation was seen as an international victory for many Americans with disabilities and inspired similar legislation in 181 countries worldwide. The ADA changed the way we view disabilities and brought a level of compassion and understanding for those with a disability, oftentimes invisible.

We celebrate this month with pride, for the one in four Americans reported to have a disability and the millions around the world who want to continue without limitations.

In the name of furthering the ADA's mission, we must continue to create a country that is equitable, inclusive, and accessible for everyone, regardless of differences or limitations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

THE WONDERFUL McCOURT FAMILY

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize John McCourt and his wonderful wife, Eileen, who are the epitome of the American Dream.

John began his career in 1970 in County Tyrone, Ireland, in the screening equipment business on the factory assembly line for Powerscreen International Limited. After building his reputation and business acumen across Europe, he and his wife, Eileen, relocated their family to the United States, and he soon established his own distributorship in Texas.

Fast-forward to today, and the McCourt family runs a highly successful equipment business with a reputation and a track record that is steeped

□ 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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in high quality and unparalleled commitment. Their business is family owned and family operated with over 500 years of experience in the industry and over 150 employees.

I was fortunate to meet members of the McCourt family recently in Washington through Associated Equipment Distributors. They are a wonderful group of dedicated people.

The wonderful story of their parents, John and Eileen, as well as the story and success of their entire family, is something to marvel at, Mr. Speaker.

We should all take the time to recognize the impeccable, business-driven and value-driven people in our communities and across the Nation like the McCourt family for all they do in supporting our great American economy.

A MODERN BROADSIDE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight a very insightful and pertinent report from the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, ACTA, titled: "A Broadside for the Nation, Preparing College Students for Informed Citizenship."

ACTA is a wonderful, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting academic excellence, academic freedom, and accountability through the trustees at America's colleges and universities as well as informing and engaging the general public.

The broadside is reminiscent of the many broadsides published during the revolutionary period that were so important in informing the people along with getting their support for the revolution.

Being an informed citizen isn't passe. It is one of our most sacred responsibilities as Americans and one we cannot afford to abandon or ignore.

As the report's authors lay out: "True patriotism includes a commitment to and appreciation of American values and principles. Since the founding of our Nation, our greatest leaders have recognized that our freedom and our prosperity depend on informed and engaged citizens."

We just celebrated 250 years of American greatness, Mr. Speaker, and we ought to do all that we can to learn of and espouse the values and principles that make America the greatest country in the world.

Michael Poliakov, the president of ACTA, captured this sentiment perfectly in this report: "The birth of America 250 years ago amazed the world, and our founding documents have inspired the search for freedom and human rights throughout the world. The colleges and universities built and maintained by the vision and generosity of generations of Americans owe it to the Nation to ensure that every student they graduate understands the precious heritage we share."

Let us not forget the wisdom of Thomas Jefferson who once opined on this very issue: "If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be."

I commend ACTA and the many authors who contributed to this report for calling attention to this issue. It is one that we all would do well to wholeheartedly support.

RECOGNIZING UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO PRESIDENT SATISH TRIPATHI

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

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an extraordinary leader, educator, and public servant whose vision has transformed the University at Buffalo and our entire community.

After 15 years as president of UB, Dr. Satish Tripathi is concluding a remarkable chapter of service defined by innovation, collaboration, and an unwavering commitment to academic excellence.

During his tenure, the University at Buffalo has reached new heights. Enrollment has grown to nearly 30,000 students. Flourishing scientific research has positioned UB among the Nation's premier public research institutions, and UB has strengthened its role as an engine of economic opportunity, helping to launch and nurture hundreds of local startup companies.

UB is attracting world-class faculty and empowering the next generation of innovators, scientists, engineers, and healthcare professionals.

Under Dr. Tripathi's leadership, the medical school found a new home on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, strengthening the connection between higher education, healthcare, and the revitalization of our great city.

UB has become a cornerstone of New York's Empire AI initiative, ensuring that western New York sits at the forefront of AI innovation.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, if you ask Dr. Tripathi about these extraordinary accomplishments, he is quick to credit the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners who have helped make them possible.

That humility has long been one of his defining qualities. His leadership has never been about personal recognition. It has always been about building an institution that empowers others to succeed.

He will continue serving UB as a researcher and educator, focused on advancing the ethical development of artificial intelligence and mentoring the next generation of scholars. The University at Buffalo, western New York, and our Nation are stronger because of Dr. Tripathi's leadership. His legacy will be measured in the lives he has changed and the brighter future he has helped create with generations of students.

On behalf of a grateful community, State, and Nation, I thank Dr. Satish Tripathi for his extraordinary service, congratulate him on an exceptional presidency, and wish him continued success as he begins this next chapter.

Godspeed to Dr. Tripathi.

CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BELLE CENTER.

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a remarkable milestone for western New York: The 50th anniversary of The Belle Center in Buffalo, New York.

For one-half of a century, The Belle Center has been a place where every child has been welcomed, every family is valued, and every family is given the opportunity to thrive.

Under the exceptional leadership of Executive Director Lucy Candelario and her dedicated team, The Belle Center has continually evolved to meet the changing needs of Buffalo's west side. Through early childhood education, after-school programming, workforce development, and services for families and seniors, The Belle Center has remained steadfast in its mission to meet Buffalonians where they are and provide the support they need to build brighter futures.

As our neighborhoods have grown more diverse and new challenges have emerged, the center has answered the call by expanding educational opportunities, welcoming new Americans through English language learning, supporting working families, and celebrating the rich cultures that make our community stronger.

As we celebrate this golden anniversary, we also celebrate the countless staff members, volunteers, and community partners whose dedication has transformed lives and strengthened the City of Good Neighbors.

Today, I join western New York in congratulating The Belle Center on 50 extraordinary years of service. May it continue to uplift our neighbors, strengthen our community, and carry forward Father Belle's enduring legacy of compassion and service for generations to come.

I congratulate The Belle Center.

HONORING FORMER MAYOR DOLLY PEREZ

(Ms. DE LA CRUZ of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor former mayor, Dolly Perez, on her retirement after nearly four decades of service to the city of Premont.

Dolly's deep commitment to her hometown is a family legacy, inspired by her father who served on the city council over 70 years ago.

After giving 36 incredible years of service as Premont's city secretary, Dolly answered the call to leadership, successfully running for mayor to finish community projects, balancing the city budget, and building a brighter future for the town she loves.

□ 1015

Her decades of sacrifice, compassion, and leadership have left an incredible mark on the community.