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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Georgia).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
August 31, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER 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.

RECOGNIZING JESI JETNARAYAN AND WILL DAVIS

(Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize high school students Jesi Jetnaranayan and Will Davis of Franklin County for achieving a special distinction during their successful trek to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.

By reaching the over 19,000-foot summit of Mount Kilimanjaro on August 1, Jesi and Will are believed to be the

youngest high school students in the history of Franklin County to achieve this remarkable feat.

Both seniors this year at Shalom Christian Academy, this achievement is a testament to Jesi and Will's spirit of adventure, personal endurance, and will to succeed.

The team of hikers that accompanied Jesi and Will on their climb were their fathers, Vishal Jetnaranayan and Ben Davis.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents throughout Franklin County and the entire 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Jesi and Will on this outstanding achievement and express best wishes as they climb future mountains.

RECOGNIZING MORRISONS COVE ROTARY CLUB

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is with respect and admiration I rise today to recognize the Morrisons Cove Rotary Club for 100 years of service to the community.

Founded in 1926, the organization is part of an international network of clubs that is dedicated to humanitarian service and community support.

Over the years, support from the Morrisons Cove Rotary Club has benefited numerous community organizations as well as local school districts.

It has been estimated that the club has contributed more than \$1.5 million to community projects.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I express gratitude to all former and current members of the Morrisons Cove Rotary Club.

RECOGNIZING LISA KOZOROSKY

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is with gratitude that I rise to recognize the public service of Lisa Kozorosky, who recently retired as Cambria County treasurer.

Lisa was employed by the county for 26 years, including the past 14 in the elected position of treasurer. She also served as a member of the Cambria County Retirement Board.

While acknowledging her vital role in county government, colleagues have praised Lisa for her outstanding work ethic and her dedication.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of constituents throughout the 13th Congressional District, I thank Lisa for her faithful public service for the residents of Cambria County and express best wishes for a wonderful retirement.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM SWARTZWELDER

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep appreciation that I rise to recognize William Swartzwelder of Breezewood for an extraordinary record of public service that spans over seven decades.

As a volunteer firefighter, Bill followed the example of his parents and joined the Breezewood Volunteer Fire Company in 1956. He has filled a variety of leadership roles over the years.

A regular participant in Monday night work sessions, fundraising activities, and other fire company-related functions, Bill, actually to this date, continues to attend monthly meetings, where he serves on various committees.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents throughout Bedford County and the entire 13th Congressional District, I personally thank Bill for his outstanding commitment to the Breezewood Volunteer Fire Company and congratulate him on this remarkable milestone of public service.

PROTECTING PLACES WE LOVE

(Mr. VASQUEZ of New Mexico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about patriotism and what it means to be a patriot in this great country.

The American experience is one that we all share. It bonds us together under one Constitution, and as lawmakers serving in these hallowed halls, we have the privilege of carrying forward

□ 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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one of the world's greatest democratic ideas through one of its most deliberative bodies.

Fortunately for the American public, that experience includes over a century of bipartisan support for another one of America's greatest and best ideas: the creation, shared stewardship, and enjoyment of our Nation's public lands, so that we may continue to hunt, to fish, to take our families camping, to discover America's history, and to unravel the great mysteries and gifts that can only be found in our Nation's national forests, national parks, BLM lands, and wildlife refuges.

Long after the creation of the U.S. Forest Service in 1905 by Republican President and conservationist Teddy Roosevelt, Americans of all political stripes have continued the legacy of conserving our public lands for all Americans, for multiple uses—both for our enjoyment and for the domestic production of natural resources, a careful balance that requires bipartisan and local support.

Let me remind this body of the tremendous work of U.S. Senator Frank Church. The Senator's impact on this Nation's wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, and land and water conservation is to be celebrated. In particular, he should be lauded for the way in which he went about passing many of our Nation's bedrock public land laws that stand until this day.

You see, Senator Church was a quiet, careful workman who worked across the aisle to strike compromise and pass overwhelmingly bipartisan legislation such as the Wilderness Act of 1964, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968.

This was an unprecedented period of patriotism and public lands where bipartisanism flourished, and Congress worked as a unified body to protect our Nation's most precious resources.

In 1964, the Wilderness Act passed the House by a whopping 373-1 majority. That same year, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act passed by a voice vote in the House and a 92-1 vote in the Senate. In 1973, the House passed the Endangered Species Act in a landslide 355-4 vote. Even Nixon, not known as an environmentalist, in 1972, proclaimed that what began as an environmental awakening must mature finally into a new and higher environmental way of life.

Believe it or not, there was a time which in this body we crafted win-win models of public land legislation. That is why I helped establish the first bipartisan Public Lands Caucus with former Interior Secretary and Montana Representative RYAN ZINKE.

Today, we have the potential to piece together the remnants of bipartisan political consensus and provide a powerful framework for modern conservation and public lands initiatives.

Working together under this patriotic caucus to achieve wider bipartisan agreement, I believe that we can medi-

ate conflicts between natural resource users and protection proponents and demonstrate that economic development and conservation are not mutually exclusive.

Today, foreign companies have spread their tentacles and sprawled into our forests, rivers, and national monuments, all in search of a quick buck.

Paired together with short sighted proposals from this administration that threaten to undo the Roadless Rule, to eliminate the Public Lands Rule, to shrink our national monuments, to open sensitive habitat in the Alaskan Arctic Refuge to drilling, to narrow regulations of the ESA, to shrink the U.S. Forest Service, to rob crucial maintenance funds from the National Parks budget, and just recently to sell off part of Yosemite National Park to a private developer, we are in deep, deep trouble of losing what both Democrats and Republicans have long fought to conserve and to protect.

Public lands improve every American's quality of life. They provide abundance and liberty. We must fight to ensure access to the American Dream, and that includes access to public lands and a healthy environment.

The truth is, Americans love nature. Hunters, anglers, and families alike agree that public lands are patriotic.

Let us renew these concepts of bipartisan cooperation and protect our shared patriotism, even if it means standing up to our own party and this administration in the wake of the largest wave of attacks we have seen to our public lands in our Nation's history.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I will be doing my damndest to protect the places we love in New Mexico, across the West, and this great Nation. I hope that my colleagues in this body can put partisanship aside and have the courage to do the same.

REMEMBERING NANCY WYMAN

(Mr. COURTNEY of Connecticut was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with the House the sad news of the loss of one of the State of Connecticut's finest public servants, former Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman, of Tolland, Connecticut.

The news of her sudden passing on August 12 was met with universal sorrow from all corners of her beloved State, from the political leaders on both sides of the aisle and from people of all walks of life with whom she worked, always trying to help, particularly those in need and those whose problems she fixed over and over again.

Nancy's epic journey of public service began as a PTA mom in Tolland, advocating for high-quality public education at a time when her own kids were enrolled in Tolland's public schools. She was so effective that she was encouraged to run for a seat on the

school board, which she did and won. That began an extraordinary string of political success that eventually took her to the highest levels of State government.

In 1986, she ran for a vacant seat in the Connecticut House of Representatives in a district next door to where I live, and at the same time, coincidentally, I was also running as a first-time candidate. We both prevailed and the following January were assigned our desks in the Connecticut House Chamber next to each other, which began a long and fruitful friendship, both politically and personally.

She shortly became chair of the Education Committee and presided over one of the most difficult, contested issues in the State, namely allocating public school funding. To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, it is an issue where you cannot please all the people all the time.

Nancy never shrank from this task, and because of her patience and basic decency in her interactions with all her colleagues, the final result of her tenacious effort always earned respect and support.

She carried that trademark skill in her campaigns for statewide office, with her election as State comptroller in 1998 and her election as Lieutenant Governor in 2010. The office of comptroller is not always well understood by Connecticut voters, but it carries great responsibilities, including administering the largest health and pension plans in the State for active and retired State employees and their dependents.

She, once again, bore down into the nitty-gritty of price negotiation with private vendors, promoting wellness programs for State workers and acquiring valuable knowledge of the private health insurance market.

That experience came into good use when, as Lieutenant Governor, she was assigned the task of implementing the Affordable Care Act as it was rolled out in 2014. This was no easy lift. As many will painfully recall, the Federal ACA exchange, healthcare.gov, in 2014 was completely overwhelmed and took over a year before millions of Americans were finally connected to affordable health coverage.

Connecticut, however, opted under the law to operate its own exchange and, under Nancy's experienced hands, designed and initiated a data system that was completely functional on day one.

I remember well in 2014 going to enrollment fairs around the Second Congressional District and witnessing the successful completion of healthcare coverage for constituents who, in many cases because of preexisting medical conditions, had not been insured for most of their adult lives. For them, it was an emotional, life-changing event. Although Nancy was not physically present at all those fairs, there is no question that her handiwork created joy, and the impact and spirit of her service were in that room.