

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE AISHA WAHAB, OF CALIFORNIA, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentlewoman from California, the Honorable Aisha Wahab, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

Her certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to her election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will the Representative-elect and the members of the California delegation present themselves in the well.

All Members will rise and the Representative-elect will please raise her right hand.

AISHA WAHAB appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the 119th Congress.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE AISHA WAHAB TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. LOFGREN: Mr. Speaker, we welcome a new Member of the California congressional delegation to our ranks.

Born in New York City to Afghan refugees and raised in Fremont, California, Dr. WAHAB earned her doctorate of social work from the University of Southern California. She was elected to the Hayward City Council in 2018 and to the California State Senate in 2022, where she served as assistant majority leader.

As someone who experienced foster care herself, Dr. WAHAB has made protecting vulnerable people a central focus of her public service. Today, she makes history as the first Afghan American elected to Congress.

As chair of the Democratic congressional delegation from California, I am proud to welcome her to the largest delegation in Congress. We look forward to working together on behalf of Californians and the most vulnerable among us.

I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WAHAB), the newest member of the California delegation.

Ms. WAHAB. Mr. Speaker, I begin by thanking the people of one of the most diverse districts in America, my home, California's 14th Congressional District.

In the gallery today are people from across our district, representing dif-

ferent walks of life, from educational backgrounds, economic circumstances, and immigration stories.

Yet, every single one of them is an American, and every one of them believes in the American Dream, a dream rooted in a simple promise, that we are all created equal and that, no matter where we begin, each of us deserves an opportunity for a better life.

Today, Americans are tired, tired of Democrats and Republicans fighting with one another, tired of the division that this Capitol sometimes represents. Republicans and Democrats alike are struggling to afford housing, utilities, groceries, education, healthcare, and the basic necessities of life. That struggle belongs to all Americans.

For generations, the American Dream has made this country a beacon to the world because of one powerful promise: Your past does not determine your future.

Today, I stand here as a reminder of that promise. I walked into Congress carrying the beating heart of a former foster care kid, the daughter of Afghan refugees who came here searching for a better life, the daughter of a murdered father from a family shattered by loss, a child born in New York City and raised in the bay area, a woman whose family was devastated by the Great Recession.

I am grateful for all of those experiences however heavy they may be, not because they were easy but because they taught me what it means to fight for justice for all.

I am a proud American. I often say Uncle Sam raised me. Because of that, I have always seen the people of this Nation as family, regardless of background: the people too proud to ask for help, the people who wake every morning and work hard, who struggle in silence, who hold on to hope that tomorrow can be better than today.

I have seen some of the darkest corners of our society, but I have also seen its greatest light. I have met many Americans: refugees, immigrants, foster children, people with disabilities, families relying on food assistance, seniors stretching every dollar, and people who have trusted me with their deepest fears and hardest setbacks. They believe dignity belongs to everyone, regardless of faith, gender, education, income, background, or circumstance. That is the belief of the American Dream that still burns today so brightly.

Millions of Americans are weary of the fighting, the rising bills, and being told to fear their neighbors while they struggle to make ends meet. They are tired of being overlooked by those in power, by the wealthy and those who have forgotten what it means to struggle.

Americans deserve better. They deserve justice, dignity, and a quality of life worthy of the promise this country has made to them. They deserve to be able to put food on the table and keep a roof over their heads. Their children

deserve an excellent education and the brightest possible future. A person who is sick should receive excellent care without fearing financial ruin, and those in their golden years or those who have simply fallen on hard times should know their country has their back. That must be our purpose here: the people.

As a policymaker, my goal is simple: to work with each and every one of you to deliver for the American people, regardless of party. These are our people. If we choose common purpose over division and people over politics, we can make the promise of America real again, because the American Dream does not belong to Republicans or Democrats. It belongs to every American who believes tomorrow can be better.

I believe in that dream. I believe in this country. As patriots of this beautiful Nation, we have a duty to fight for one another, to see one another as fellow Americans, and to deliver on the promise to the people. I stand with you in this fight for the people of the greatest Nation.

God bless the United States of America.

□ 1210

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath of office to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Wahab), the whole number of the House is 433.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STRONG). The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING PENN STATE'S NATIONAL SECURITY INSTITUTE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Penn State's National Security Institute, which advances national security solutions through research and partnerships with Federal agencies and industry.

For decades, Penn State has remained focused on addressing the challenges facing our Nation's security.

The launch of the National Security Institute is proof that the university is a trusted adviser for keeping the United States safe and secure.

Penn State's commitment to innovation allows us to increase the capabilities of our military and improve critical technologies.

The research conducted at the institute provides educational opportunities

for younger generations and expands workforce development for businesses across our Commonwealth.

This institute doesn't just impact Penn State. It reaches people across the State, the country, and the military personnel who rely on these technologies.

The university's continued leadership serves our Commonwealth now and for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the leading engineers, scientists, Federal officials, and businessowners who are dedicated to improving our country's national defense.

I congratulate Penn State on this historic achievement.

RECOGNIZING WILL PLUNKETT

(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, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents, Will Plunkett, who was recently selected by the Baltimore Orioles in the 2026 Major League Baseball draft.

Will graduated from Mamaroneck High School this spring, where he led the baseball team to the Section 1 championship as the starting shortstop.

During his senior season, Will had nearly a .500 batting average, hitting 6 home runs, knocking in 28 RBIs, and stealing 23 bases.

Mamaroneck High School baseball coach Mike Chiapparelli describes Plunkett as a heck of a baseball player, being able to stay calm in a high-pressure situation, kind of like politics.

Mr. Speaker, from the floor of the House of Representatives, I congratulate the Plunkett family and Will personally on this momentous accomplishment. I look forward to seeing Will on a professional baseball field very soon and on my television set thereafter.

SOUTH CAROLINA THRIVING WITH TRUMP

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, under the progrowth agenda of President Donald Trump—and backed by Republicans, Governor Henry McMaster, Speaker Murrell Smith, and Senate President Thomas Alexander—South Carolina is one of the fastest growing States in America, driven by the creation of jobs and affordability.

South Carolinians are achieving bigger paychecks, opportunity, business growth, and creating jobs.

The Working Families Tax Cuts Act keeps money in the pockets of families and seniors. Workers no longer pay taxes on overtime. Seniors benefit from the deduction on Social Security. Taxpayers saw average tax refunds reach over \$3,000.

South Carolina's gross domestic product is \$393 billion, increasing by \$26 billion since the current Trump administration. Promises made. Promises kept.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. Trump is reinstituting peace through strength, revealing that war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump and mocking Trump. Yesterday, Putin announced: "Necessary assistance" to Iran as Putin provided Iran targeting assistance to kill Americans and our Gulf allies with new missile strikes today.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BARBARA MATTESON

(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 the life and legacy of Barbara Matteson of Tucson, Arizona.

I can't think of a major education event, rally, or protest in Tucson where I didn't see Barbara front and center.

A lifelong educator, the first in her family to go to college, Barbara spent over 38 years as a classroom teacher in the Tucson Unified School District. As mentioned in her obituary, her ability to make learning fun and meaningful left a lasting impact. Being out and about in Tucson with Barbara inevitably meant being stopped by a former student who would share their stories of how she influenced their lives.

As a union organizer and fierce advocate for public education, Barbara dedicated herself to fighting for our students, our teachers, and our schools. She showed up. She spoke up, and she never stopped standing up for what she believed was right.

Barbara was not only a champion for education, she was a friend and someone who made our community stronger through her service and her commitment.

To Barbara, I thank her for always fighting for our students, teachers, and schools. To Barbara's family, I thank them for sharing her with us.

Mr. Speaker, may my friend rest in peace. I will always remember her.

RECOGNIZING JEFFREY A. KATZ

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

Mr. MCGUIRE. Mr. Speaker, we wouldn't have a country without our brave men and women in law enforcement who risk their lives to keep us safe.

Today, I have the privilege of recognizing a friend, a constituent, and a former law enforcement officer, Jeffrey A. Katz, from Virginia's Fifth Congressional District, whose dedication to honoring law enforcement officers has made a profound impact across central Virginia.

Jeffrey A. Katz established the Lieutenant Jan McTernan Blue Friday Honor, a recognition that has been bestowed to many Federal, State, county, and city officers for their service and sacrifice.

Mr. Katz' unwavering support to the law enforcement community extends far beyond the establishment of this honor. He is also a board certified mental health coach specializing in services for first responders and holds the certified advanced peer support provider designation from the Virginia Peer Support Association.

Mr. Katz is an exemplary member of the Commonwealth, and I thank him for his commitment to the law enforcement community.

HONORING MAYOR REGGIE JONES

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

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, this isn't about politics. This is about a friend, a good man, a husband, a father, a superhero, whose not-so-secret power was that he just happened to be one hell of a public servant, not to mention his sport coat game which was unmatched.

I don't have to talk about my personal experience with him as a mentor, as a leader, and partner on countless initiatives that always were about making things better for the people of Dellwood and of St. Louis County.

When unrest ensued in 2014, Mayor Reggie Jones refused to let Dellwood be forgotten in the shadow of its nationally known neighbor. If that wasn't enough, he had another super, also not-so-secret, power, his service to our kids.

Reggie poured countless hours into our young people long before he held public office. For more than 30 years, Reggie served as the Herbert Hoover Club director for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis.

The entire community mourns with his lovely wife, Rukiya; his children; family; and loved ones and is here for them.

I will continue to honor Reggie by doing exactly what he would be doing if he were with us now, through work, the work for Dellwood, for St. Louis County, for our youth and anyone who needs a helping hand.

Cool Reggie Jones, may his memory be a blessing and may his example be our charge. My friend will be missed.

□ 1220

HONORING KENNY COX

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my friend Kenny Cox, who passed away in July following a battle against Parkinson's disease.