



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 172

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

No. 145

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 15, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RALPH NORMAN 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.

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY TO BARBARA HINTON

(Mr. KNOTT of North Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KNOTT. Mr. Speaker, it is my high privilege to rise today in order to pay a well-earned tribute to a special lady from eastern North Carolina: Ms. Barbara Hinton.

Ms. Barbara Hinton will celebrate her 90th birthday in just a few days. Ms. Hinton is one of those people who has been a force for good and a source of profound blessings to many people

throughout eastern North Carolina and beyond.

I am proud to represent her in Congress and rest assured that everyone in the 13th Congressional District of North Carolina is proud of her also.

Mr. Speaker, Barbara's life is one that is built on a firm foundation. The simple and profound ingredients in her life have enabled her to serve, to teach, and to love many people in her 90 years on this Earth.

Important to Ms. Hinton's story, she is a lifelong North Carolinian, and while life was not always easy for her, from an early age, Barbara saw the Lord's faithfulness. She learned the values of deep faith, hard work, and good stewardship that would remain with her for her entire life.

Barbara married her high school sweetheart, Mr. Jimmy Hinton, and their relationship would last more than 70 years on this Earth. Together they served their country while Jimmy was in the Air Force. Together they served their community. They served their family, and they served their church. The two of them had a far-reaching and long-lasting impact.

Barbara earned her degree in elementary education from Atlantic Christian College and went on to teach in the Wayne County School System. She did this for an astounding 32 years.

After retiring, she, of course, was not finished. She spent 27 more years teaching preschool at her church. Across nearly six decades in the classroom, Barbara has touched thousands and thousands of children and families across eastern North Carolina.

For over 68 years, Barbara has served Princeton United Methodist Church as a lay leader, a speaker, a choir member, a Sunday school teacher, and leader of the ladies ministry sharing her love of Christ with everyone she meets. She raised a family there. She built a legacy there. Her faith and service will compound for years to come.

In short, Mr. Speaker, and perhaps most relevantly, Barbara Hinton has lived out the words of Psalm 121, which says, in part: "I lift up my eyes to the mountains, where will my help come from? My help surely comes from the Lord."

Through the Lord's work and grace, Ms. Barbara has been a mighty force for good for her nearly 90 years on Earth.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my district, I say a collective happy birthday to Ms. Barbara. We are grateful for her.

RECOGNIZING CHICAGO ALDERPERSON MICHAEL RODRIGUEZ

(Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of a community activist, nonprofit leader, a youth mentor, a beloved dad and husband, Chicago Alderperson Michael Rodriguez.

Alderperson Mike Rodriguez is a lifelong resident of the 22nd Ward, representing it in the city council since 2019. Mike is my alderperson, my neighbor, and my good friend.

I have proudly watched him fight for working-class families, always striving to increase city funding to improve the services of the neighborhoods. As a progressive leader, one of his most significant achievements is the paid leave ordinance, legislation that provides mandatory days off to Chicago workers.

Mike is also a co-chief sponsor of an effort to strengthen Chicago's welcoming ordinance, which prohibits city workers to ask about a person's immigration status, ensures they are not denied city services based on immigration status, and prohibits the Chicago Police Department from cooperating with ICE.

Madam Speaker, I wish Mike much success in the next phase of his career

□ 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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and thank him for all he has done for the 22nd Ward.

REMEMBERING MR. TACO

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a small family business that was a staple in my district. After 49 years in Cicero, taqueria Mr. Taco, founded in 1976 by Carlos and Thelma Lopez, has closed.

The Lopez family had a simple dream to serve good food and make every customer feel at home. They succeeded in building a family restaurant that offered kindness and amazing Mexican food, becoming a common lunch spot for many people who worked in the area.

Others would go to Mr. Taco for that late night burrito after hanging out with friends or would take their girlfriends on a date. I heard of a couple who even went there on their wedding night.

Mr. Taco leaves not only an empty space on the corner of Ogden and Austin in Cicero, it leaves an empty space in our tummies and our hearts.

CLOSING NATIONAL ARCHIVES BRANCHES IN CHICAGO AND CALIFORNIA

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the closing of the Chicago and California branches of the National Archives and the relocation of the records.

The leadership at the National Archives and Records Administration argues that the transition to digital recordkeeping has resulted in a growing volume of extra space at both branches. However, there has not been a full plan for this transition shared with employees, stakeholders, or the public.

People from across our region and Nation visit the facility in Chicago to obtain census and naturalization records to prove citizenship status, to find information about Great Lakes vessels on which they serve, to find information about exam records to identify their ancestors, or to study major historical events like the 1894 Pullman Strike and the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials.

In a recent visit to the Chicago National Archives branch, I was able to find my father's naturalization application. This is an important piece of family history. The work of agencies, museums, scholars, teachers, and the public continues to depend on access to these records, which are vital to our history and NARA's mission.

NARA must immediately halt the relocation, provide Congress with the necessary information about the agency's plans, and reverse this decision to move the more than 140,000 cubic feet of historical records. History must be protected.

RECOGNIZING SOUTH STOKES HIGH SCHOOL MARINE CORPS JROTC

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the South Stokes High School Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program that was recently designated as a 2025-2026 Naval Honor School.

This is one of the highest recognitions that a Marine Corps JROTC unit can receive. This recognition honors MCJROTC units that have demonstrated exceptional performance, professionalism, leadership, and dedication throughout the school year.

What is more, the high school's program ranked among the top 20 percent of Marine Corps Junior ROTC units in the Nation and was one of only three schools in region 8 selected to receive the prestigious designation.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate South Stokes High School's JROTC cadets, instructors, and school administrators on this well-deserved, impeccable accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING WEST JEFFERSON HOTEL

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mark Beck, Trent Pruitt, and the wonderful staff of the West Jefferson Hotel where I visited recently.

Mark Beck, the owner, has done a fabulous job of restoring the hotel back to the way it was in its heyday and further solidifying it as the landmark it truly is.

Mark has been diligent, remained sensitive to the hotel's history, and has been engaged with members of the community every step of the way. He has truly saved the character of the West Jefferson Hotel and has made it a wonderful place to visit.

Trent Pruitt, the chef at the hotel, deserves immense praise, as well. He shared with me his aspiration to become a James Beard-recognized chef and now he is working to bring a new perspective to Appalachian cuisine.

Madam Speaker, I encourage everyone who is fortunate enough to visit west Jefferson to stop, view, and visit this hotel. It is truly magnificent, and the people who oversee its day-to-day operations are some of the most salt of the Earth, dedicated people one would ever meet.

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RECOGNIZING NORTH CAROLINA A&T STATE UNIVERSITY

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize two monumental milestones for North Carolina A&T State University located in North Carolina's Fifth District.

In the latter part of October into early November, the university and its dedicated alumni will gather to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the school's football program and the centennial of its homecoming that is referred to as the "Greatest Homecoming on Earth."

The weeklong celebration will draw generations of proud Aggies back to the university to celebrate excellence, heritage, and the unshakable bond of the Blue and Gold.

Congratulations to North Carolina A&T State University, its students,

staff, and alumni on these two remarkable milestones. Here is to many more years and celebrations of Aggie Pride to come.

RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today as we begin Hispanic Heritage Month, a time for members of the Hispanic community to honor their culture and to join together for traditions and gatherings.

Hispanic Heritage Month starts today, September 15, as we commemorate the fight for independence of five Central American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

Celebrations across Westchester and the Bronx will take place, including a community-wide event honoring the past, present, and future of the Hispanic community in New Rochelle, Yonkers, Elmsford, White Plains, and in Wakefield and Edenwald.

A gathering with Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins in September will occur at the Westchester County office building, as well as many other events celebrating Latino-owned small businesses and cultural organizations, such as 100 Hispanic Women National, Incorporated; El Centro Hispano; Neighbors Link; and others.

I look forward to celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with our flourishing Latino communities across my district.

DEFENDING VOTE BY MAIL

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to defend against attacks on a cornerstone of our free and fair elections: our right as Americans to vote by mail.

The first large-scale absentee voting took place during the Civil War, under the direct order of President Lincoln, to ensure those who were bravely serving our country were still represented. It was a nation divided but then still committed to the democratic principles upon which the Nation was founded.

For over a century, those ballots have allowed rural, disabled, and elderly voters to participate in our democratic process.

Today, mail-in voting is facing unprecedented attacks by President Trump, seeking to prevent hard-working Americans across the country from being represented at the polls. We will not allow Federal overreach, bureaucracy, and conflict to impede our democratic principles.

I implore my colleagues to acknowledge the great benefit vote by mail has brought to our democracy and to do everything in our power to protect it.

RIISING COST OF LIVING

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, 49 percent of Americans cannot afford the true cost of living in our Nation. The Consumer Price Index is on a steady incline, and threats of new tariffs mean