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No. 8

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 12, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID J. TAYLOR 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.

SIGNIFICANT STRIDES TO STRENGTHEN UNITED STATES WARFIGHTERS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, President Trump issued an executive order last week to prioritize the development of the U.S. warfighter.

President Trump has made significant strides toward strengthening the United States' military capabilities, and this executive order continues to do just that.

Enhancing the lethality and readiness of our military forces relies on the highly skilled practices of defense contracting partners like JLG Industries, Volvo Construction Equipment, the Manitowoc Company, and firms like Lockheed Martin, Leonardo DRS, Kongsberg Defense Corporation, and JWF Defense Systems. These are all examples of companies that put our Nation's vital interests first, and these are all companies that are in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District.

President Trump's initiative will hold Defense to the highest standards by refocusing on our Nation's military readiness, which is especially needed in these incredibly dangerous times.

I thank President Trump for this initiative.

RECOGNIZING EFFORTS TO RESTORE GETTYSBURG MONUMENTS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the efforts of the Gettysburg National Military Park to restore several monuments. These restoration efforts follow the vandalism of historic monuments at Gettysburg.

These memorials honor the brave soldiers who fought and died in one of the most pivotal American battles. Restoring these monuments will take months and cost taxpayers thousands of dollars. These are resources that should have never been necessary to expend.

These actions were not simply acts of graffiti. They were acts to damage our legacy. These monuments stand as reminders of sacrifice, unity, and the ongoing work of perfecting this Union. They deserve our utmost respect.

We owe it to those who fought for these freedoms and to the future generations of Americans to ensure that our national parks and memorials are preserved.

Representing Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank Superintendent Kris Heister and her staff at Gettysburg National Military Park for

their dedication to protecting these sacred sites.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all constituents to uphold the highest respect for those who died so that we might enjoy the many freedoms that we continue to have today.

RECOGNIZING HUNTINGDON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Huntingdon Area School District on its selection as a Great Pennsylvania School.

Bestowed by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, this designation recognizes school districts across Pennsylvania for academic excellence. As Superintendent Jennifer Mitchell stated: This meaningful designation reflects the shared commitment to high-quality, innovative, and community-centered education in Huntingdon.

Mr. Speaker, I join with constituents throughout Huntingdon in congratulating the Huntingdon Area School District, Superintendent Mitchell, and the school board directors on the district's designation as one of Pennsylvania's great schools.

HONORING THE LIFE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT OF TINA PELESKY

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and community impact of Tina Pelesky, a dedicated advocate for veterans, who passed away at the age of 56 this past Christmas Eve.

Tina devoted her professional life to Veteran Community Initiatives, a nonprofit organization in Johnstown that provides numerous services for veterans in a 14-county region that includes Cambria, Somerset, and Bedford Counties.

Tina most recently served as VCI's director of finance and administration. In her partnership with VCI founder Tom Caulfield, Tina was instrumental in supporting numerous aspects of VCI's mission.

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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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As we pause to remember Tina, we also keep her husband, David, and her entire family in our prayers. We also express a nation's gratitude for her passionate commitment that advocates like Tina Pelesky and Tom Caulfield make each and every day for all of those who served this great country.

KOREAN-AMERICAN DAY

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Korean-American Day, a day to commemorate the first wave of Korean immigrants to the United States and honor the generations who have followed.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent a vibrant Korean-American community in Virginia, a community that has made incredible contributions across the country in government, business, technology, education, the arts, and more.

Today is also a solemn reminder of the Korean-American families who remain divided as a result of the Korean war, including families in my district, whose stories I have heard firsthand.

The Korean war separated thousands of families who have spent decades seeking reunification and closure, but I am proud to be championing bipartisan legislation that I introduced earlier this year to help accelerate the reunification of these families. This was recently signed into law, offering these families hope for a long overdue reunion.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to continuing to work with the Korean-American community in my district and across the country to make these reunions a reality, and I wish everyone a happy Korean-American Day.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, my office has been working with so many constituents who have been harmed by the administration's new immigration policies, one of which placed a hold on immigration petitions and applications from 19 countries designated by the administration.

In our district, families followed the law. They filed their paperwork and waited in good faith. They were told that their application was in good order and would be approved soon, and then the process completely stopped. Work permit applications were frozen, leaving people legally present but unable to work.

Asylee and refugee family petitions have also been stalled. There are so many heartbreaking stories, like one hopeful couple in my office who has been trying to plan their wedding but remain separated while they wait. There is another person who has not been able to unite with their sons or daughters.

These delays have been putting people's lives on hold indefinitely without any sort of timeline or transparency,

and we must restore timely adjudication of these applications.

RECOGNIZING FAUQUIER HOSPITAL

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, for the second year in a row, Fauquier Hospital has been named the Top General Hospital in the Nation.

Fauquier Hospital has received an A grade for the last 18 months. It is recognized as a certified primary stroke center, and it has a 97-bed acute care hospital.

Only 52 hospitals receive this honor every year, and we are glad to have Fauquier Hospital serving our community.

Healthcare institutions around the country continue to face challenges, with cuts to Medicaid, the ACA tax credits expiring, and burned-out workforces that are asked to do more with less every single day.

The Senate must take up the 3-year ACA tax credit extension to address healthcare costs. We must make sure that we restore Medicaid funding, or we risk losing hospitals like Fauquier Hospital.

Working in healthcare is often a thankless job, and I hope the House will join me in thanking the nurses, doctors, and staff that keep hospitals like Fauquier Hospital running.

HONORING PULLER VETERANS CARE CENTER

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Puller Veterans Care Center on its grand opening on the historic grounds of the former Vint Hill Farms Station in Fauquier County. I am so excited about this center because it is going to deliver top-quality care to veterans in our region.

Mr. Speaker, 128 private rooms are organized into households and neighborhoods around a central community center. The site actually played a decisive role during World War II in intercepting enemy communications, including the message that helped pave the way for the D-Day invasion of Normandy.

It is fitting that a place that helped secure freedom will now serve those who fought to preserve it. The center appropriately honors the Puller family, including General Lewis "Chesty" Puller, one of the most decorated marines in our history; his son, Lieutenant Lewis Puller, Jr., a Vietnam veteran and a Pulitzer Prize-winning author; and former delegate and State Senator Toddy Puller.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to all who made this grand opening of the Puller Center a reality.

HONORING WINNERS OF IOWA STATE AUTOMOTIVE DEALERS ASSOCIATION HIGH SCHOOL SKILLS CONTEST

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS of Iowa was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituents, Jack Winslow and Charlie

Winslow, on earning first place at the Iowa State Automotive Dealers Association High School Skills Contest in Des Moines.

Jack and Charlie worked hard to represent Pleasant Valley High School and to show their skill and dedication to automotive technology and repair. These students advanced through two rigorous phases of competition, beginning with a written assessment focused on automotive repair, followed by a demanding hands-on evaluation.

During the hands-on section of the competition, Jack and Charlie took measurements, diagnosed faults, and completed repair processes, earning the highest scores among Pleasant Valley competitors.

As a result of their outstanding achievements, Jack and Charlie were awarded first place along with a new tool cart and a scholarship to Des Moines Area Community College's automotive program, helping them to continue the pursuit of their passion for automotive technology.

Mr. Speaker, I could not be prouder to recognize Jack and Charlie for all of their hard work and for this amazing accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING KATE GIANNINI

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate my constituent, Kate Giannini of Washington County, for receiving the prestigious Fulbright Specialist Award to the Netherlands.

Kate will complete a project at Deltares, a major technological institute in the Netherlands, focused on environmental science, knowledge sharing, and building lasting partnerships that benefit communities in the United States and abroad.

Kate is 1 of over 400 Americans selected each year for this honor based on professional achievement, leadership, and commitment to international cooperation.

Kate works full time at the Iowa Flood Center; co-owns a small business with her husband, Ryan; serves with Bur Oak Land Trust; is a mom of two; and is an active community volunteer.

We are proud to have her representing Iowa and to recognize this amazing achievement and opportunity.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DAVE STREB

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of a friend and pioneer in Iowa, Dave Streb.

Dave was the co-owner of Streb Construction Company along with his brother, Steve, where for decades, they helped build the backbone of our communities by paving subdivisions, parking lots, city streets, county roads, interstates, and airports across our great State.

Dave's legacy goes far beyond concrete and construction. He was a man who believed in hard work, craftsmanship, showing up every day to make Iowa stronger than it was the day before, and he was a proud Hawkeye.