

here in the Capitol, recognizing that faith was a core part of the Republic.

The United States is the result of a people, a society, steeped in the tenets of the Christian faith. America as we know it would not exist otherwise. Only through Christianity can men be created equal in the image of their Creator. Only through ultimate allegiance to a God in Heaven can a people declare themselves free of the yoke of tyrannical, earthly governments. By accepting “the Laws of Nature” established by “Nature’s God,” we can claim to have inalienable rights that are not granted by any legislative body.

On this, our 250th anniversary as a nation, we look back to our beginning, rooted in faith in God. By our continued steadfast trust in Him, we see how richly we have been blessed. Americans have reached heights no nation has ever dreamed of, from the wild Western frontier to the surface of the Moon, the eradication of slavery and the fight against communism, by the animating spirit of faith.

Yet millions around the world do not have the freedom to practice their faith that we do here. As we celebrate Faith Month in America, there are Christians in Nigeria, Syria, and Bangladesh having their churches burned, their businesses destroyed, and their families tortured or murdered simply for their belief in Jesus Christ. We can never take for granted the blessed freedom that we have as Americans.

Though the faithful here do not face that level of persecution, the erosion of faith’s influence in our society is evident. The climbing rates of abortions, the declining numbers of marriages, confusion over sexual reality, normalization of assisted suicide, the loss of Christianity’s moral foundations are sadly more apparent.

As we look forward to the next 250 years, we must remain diligent against efforts to further remove faith from the public square. Let us remain on guard against those who wish to restrict this most cherished right of freedom to worship, which has made America great.

This Faith Month, I join Concerned Women for America and millions of Americans to celebrate our shared Christian foundations. We thank God for the riches our Nation has enjoyed so far, for the blessing it is to live in a country that cherishes the right to worship freely. May we hold steadfast to our national motto, “In God We Trust,” and continue to look for guidance from Him who has made this Nation great.

REMEMBERING RICHARD OTTINGER

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, today we honor and remember Richard Ottinger, a mentor and friend and an historic environmental champion whose life and career is an inspiration to all dedicated to fighting for the people and the planet.

After serving in the U.S. Air Force and cofounding the Peace Corps, Ottinger served in Congress for 16 years from 1965 to 1971 and then again from 1975 to 1985. In his first year in Congress, he wrote and passed the Hudson River Compact Act, establishing an interstate commission to clean up the river. He continued to be the environmental visionary, being one of the first to call for addressing climate change as a moral, economic, national security, and health imperative. He helped found the bipartisan Environmental Study Conference and served as a moving force behind several landmark pieces of environmental legislation, including the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act, PURPA.

Congressman Ottinger’s leadership also extended to the foundational goals for a healthy democracy. He was a bold and effective advocate for peace and diplomacy, civil rights, consumer protections, and the day-to-day concerns of working families, often battling and winning against the powerful special interests and political players. He was a vocal opponent of the Vietnam war, and in 1969, Ottinger introduced the Vietnam Disengagement Act and in 1970 co-authored an amendment to end that unjust war. He never shied from the big challenges confronting the times in which he lived.

From serving as dean of Pace Law School and founding the Pace Energy and Climate Center to working closely with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature—IUCN—Ottinger continued to be a champion for climate solutions even after leaving office. I am deeply grateful to Richard Ottinger for being a pioneer in environmental legislation and advocacy and for paving the way for a fairer, cleaner, more just future for us all.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN AIRLINES

• Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and commend the employees of American Airlines on the remarkable occasion of its 100th anniversary of service. For a century, American Airlines has played a pivotal role in connecting communities, strengthening the U.S. economy, and advancing the aviation industry at home and abroad. Headquartered in Fort Worth, TX, American Airlines plays a key role in driving the Dallas-Fort Worth metro area’s rapid development. As one of the State’s largest private employers, American Airlines contributes to economic activity, with a multiplier effect across tourism, trade, and local businesses.

Today, the airline operates more than 6,000 daily flights, serving nearly 350 destinations across more than 60 countries, and safely transporting more than 200 million passengers each

year. Throughout its history, American Airlines has been at the forefront of innovation and industry leadership. One example of the airline’s ingenuity and leadership was the introduction of its AAdvantage program, the world’s oldest and largest frequent-flyer program, which has transformed the way Americans travel, allowing millions to use its services and travel across the globe.

American Airlines currently operates 10 airport hubs, the largest of which is at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. This hub drives Texas tourism, business travel, investment, and international connectivity, contributing billions of dollars annually to both the regional economy and the State of Texas.

American Airlines has distinguished itself through a commitment to safety. It leads the industry in equipping its mainline fleet with Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast In (ADS-B In), enhancing pilots’ situational awareness in the national airspace system. The airline’s entire fleet of more than 300 Airbus A321 aircraft is equipped with ADS-B In, more than any other airline worldwide. Reaching 100 years of continuous service is a milestone achieved by only a select few companies, and it is a testament to the vision, leadership, and hard work of the generations of employees who have made American Airlines what it is today.

On behalf of the people of Texas and in my capacity as chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, I congratulate American Airlines’ employees on this historic achievement and extend my best wishes to them for the company’s continued success in Texas in the years ahead.●

RECOGNIZING THE GATHERING PLACE

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today, I am proud to honor The Gathering Place in Rupert as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for March 2026.

The Gathering Place quilt shop has been in business since 1998, after owners Ron and Joyce Jensen purchased the 100-year-old building in the historic Rupert town square. The couple undertook a significant remodel to meet the needs of their quilting store and transform the space into a vibrant, beloved destination.

Ron and Joyce started the store to boost tourism to their small town and offer resources to local quilters. Since then, The Gathering Place has proven to be a successful tourist spot, gaining national recognition, and Joyce continues to serve new customers almost

daily. With seemingly endless fabric, books, patterns, and samples, the store is a great destination for crafters and a staple within the Rupert community.

Joyce, her three children, and 11 grandchildren, all of whom reside in Rupert, have carried on the store's success since Ron passed away. Together, the Jensen family hopes to keep running the store for years to come and weave The Gathering Place into Rupert history.

Congratulations to Joyce, the Jensen family, and all employees at The Gathering Place on being recognized as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for March 2026. Your dedication to excellence makes Idaho proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:30 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1011. An act to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to remove barriers to agricultural producers in accessing funds to carry out emergency measures under the emergency conservation program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1431. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2407 State Route 71, Suite 1, in Spring Lake, New Jersey, as the "James J. Howard Post Office".

H.R. 1706. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1200 William Street, Room 200, in Buffalo, New York, as the "William J. Donovan Post Office Building".

H.R. 3393. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12208 North 19th Avenue in Phoenix, Arizona, as the "Officer Zane T. Coolidge Post Office".

H.R. 4635. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 890 East 152nd Street in Cleveland, Ohio, as the "Technical Sergeant Alma Gladys Minter Post Office Building".

H.R. 4707. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1019 Avenue H in Fort Madison, Iowa, as the "Martin L. Graber Post Office".

H.R. 5058. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 46164 Westlake Drive in Sterling, Virginia, as the "Firefighter Trevor Brown Post Office Building".

H.R. 5773. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service at 1300 East Northwest Highway in Palatine, Illinois, as the "Bernie Bluestein Post Office Building".

H.R. 5831. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 South Main Street in Waupaca, Wisconsin, as the "Master Sergeant Melvin O. Handrich Post Office Building".

H.R. 6020. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14855 South Van Dyke Road in Plainfield, Illinois, as the "Staff Sergeant Jose Dueñez Jr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 6247. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13355 North Lon Adams Road in Marana, Arizona, as the "Mayor Ed Honea Memorial Post Office".

H.R. 6310. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3570 Olney Laytonsville Road in Olney, Maryland, as the "Edward L. Ramsey Olney Post Office Building".

H.R. 6317. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12109 New Kent Highway in New Kent, Virginia, as the "Patricia Paige Post Office".

H.R. 6808. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 417 West 7th Street in Columbia, Tennessee, as the "Pharmacist's Mate First Class John Harlan Willis Post Office Building".

H.R. 6995. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 825 Highway 198 in Beaumont, Mississippi, as the "Jerney Malone Post Office".

H.R. 7613. An act to require certain aircraft to be equipped and operating with collision prevention technology, to improve helicopter route safety and separation around airports, to update air traffic control processes and procedures, to address national airspace system safety in Department of Defense activities, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 1095 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 (Public Law 119-60), the Minority Leader appoints the following individual to the Commission on the National Defense Strategy: Ms. Jane Harman of Venice, California.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1431. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2407 State Route 71, Suite 1, in Spring Lake, New Jersey, as the "James J. Howard Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1706. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1200 William Street, Room 200, in Buffalo, New York, as the "William J. Donovan Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3393. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12208 North 19th Avenue in Phoenix, Arizona, as the "Officer Zane T. Coolidge Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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H.R. 7613. An act to require certain aircraft to be equipped with collision mitigation technology, to improve helicopter route safety and separation around airports, to update air traffic control processes and procedures, to address national airspace system safety in Department of Defense activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3121. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2025 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3122. A communication from the General Counsel, Government Accountability Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's fiscal year 2025 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3123. A communication from the Chairwoman of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's fiscal year 2025 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation