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SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2025 | REDDING.COM

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Minneapolis families mourn lost 'angels'



Mourners visit a memorial near the Annunciation Church, where a deadly shooting took place the day before, on Aug. 28 in Minneapolis. TIM EVANS/REUTERS

Loved ones cope with 'unimaginable loss' after school shooting

Thao Nguyen
USA TODAY

Families describing “unimaginable loss” mourned for their slain children Aug. 28, the day after an attacker fired through the windows of a Minneapolis Catholic church and sent worshipers diving behind and under pews for cover.

Jesse Merkel, the father of Fletcher Merkel, 8, called the suspected shooter a “coward” who took his son’s life.

“Please remember Fletcher for the person he was and not the act that ended his life,” Jesse Merkel said. “Give your kids an extra hug and kiss today.”

The second child killed in the shooting was identified as 10-year-old Harper Moyski, according to a statement shared to news outlets on her family’s behalf.

“Please continue to pray for those still receiving care. Never again can we let this happen.”

Matt DeBoer
Annunciation School principal

The deadly shooting occurred at the church connected to Annunciation Catholic School, a private elementary school with about 395 students, just before 8:30 a.m. local time on Aug. 27, authorities said. According to Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O’Hara, the shooter approached the outside of the church building and fired inside toward the children sitting in pews.

Eighteen other people, 15 of them students ages 6 to 18 and three parish-

ioners in their 80s, were struck by gunfire, authorities said. All the injured were expected to recover, though family members of some say they will have long roads to recovery from serious bullet wounds.

Authorities have not publicly released the names of the victims shot in the attack, but families and friends began to identify their loved ones.

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Former Vice President Kamala Harris’ Secret Service protection has been ended by President Trump. It had previously been extended to January 2026 by former President Biden. KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Trump ends security protection for Harris

Steve Holland
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump has canceled Secret Service protection for former vice president and 2024 Democratic rival Kamala Harris, a senior White House official said on Aug. 29.

Former vice presidents typically receive six months of Secret Service protection after they leave office.

Harris’ protection was extended to one year, until January 2026, by then-President Joe Biden before he left office last January, the official said.

Harris in September is to embark on a 15-city book tour for her memoir, “107 Days,” about her unsuccessful presidential run. She was the Democratic nominee for 107 days after Biden withdrew from the race in the weeks following a disastrous debate against Trump. Trump went on to defeat Harris.

The letter to Harris, dated Aug. 28, says the termination of additional security is effective Sept. 1, the official said.

Kirsten Allen, a senior adviser to Harris, said in response to the move: “The vice president is grateful to the United States Secret Service for their professionalism, dedication, and unwavering commitment to safety,” she said.

Harris lost the 2024 presidential election to Trump but has not ruled out a possible presidential bid in 2028. She announced on July 30 that she would not run for governor of California in 2026.

Trump has also ended federal security protection for others, including those who have criticized him such as former national security adviser John Bolton. In March, he ended protection for Biden’s children Hunter Biden and Ashley Biden.

Low-value package tariff exemption ends

Costs increase for shippers, consumers

David Lawder and Andrea Shalal
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – The U.S. tariff exemption for package shipments valued under \$800 ended on Aug. 29, raising costs and disrupting supply chain models for e-commerce companies, small businesses using online marketplaces and consumers alike.

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency began collecting normal duty rates on all global parcel imports, regardless of value, country of origin, or mode of transportation at 12:01 a.m. ET on Aug. 29. It offered a flat-rate duty option of \$80 to \$200 per package shipped from foreign postal agencies for six months.

The change broadens the Trump administration’s cancellation of the de



Packs of clothing sit at a garment factory for Shein in Guangzhou, China. Direct-to-consumer businesses will have to pay duties on low-value packages now that the de minimis exemption expired. CASEY HALL/REUTERS

minimis exemption for packages from China and Hong Kong in May as part of an effort to halt shipments of fentanyl and its precursor chemicals into the United States.

“President Trump’s ending of the deadly de minimis loophole will save

thousands of American lives by restricting the flow of narcotics and other dangerous prohibited items, and add up to \$10 billion a year in tariff revenues to our Treasury,” White House trade adviser Peter Navarro told reporters on Aug. 28.

A senior administration official said the change was permanent, adding that any push to restore the exemptions for trusted trading partner countries was “dead on arrival.”

The de minimis exemption has been in place since 1938, starting at \$5 for gift imports and was raised from \$200 to \$800 in 2015 to foster small business growth on e-commerce marketplaces. But direct shipments from China surged after President Donald Trump raised tariffs on Chinese goods during his first term, creating a new direct-to-consumer business model for e-commerce firms Shein and Temu.

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Good morning!
Joe Herbst

Volume 177 | No. 143
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