



## Stoops expected to join Texas Longhorns' staff

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## KY-based soldiers among casualties

### Six overall have been confirmed amid war in Iran

**Leo Bertucci**  
Louisville Courier Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Soldiers based in Kentucky are among the six U.S. casualties confirmed amid the ongoing hostilities following the U.S.-Israeli strikes in Iran, Gov. Andy Beshear said March 3.

"America, let's join together and pray for the families of the now six soldiers killed in attacks by Iran — including those based out of my home state, Kentucky," Beshear wrote on X. "Let's wrap

our arms around them during this difficult time."

The soldiers from Kentucky were stationed in Fort Knox before they were deployed to the Middle East as part of "Operation Epic Fury," CNN reported March 2. Beshear's office has not yet responded to The Courier Journal's request to confirm if the soldiers killed were from Fort Knox and how many of them were from the base.

U.S. Central Command announced March 2 the American death toll from the operation had risen from four to six

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after U.S. forces "recovered the remains of two previously unaccounted for service members from a facility that was struck during Iran's initial attacks in the region." The identities of the deceased

have not been released.

Prior to CENTCOM's announcement of two additional deaths, U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said during a March 2 news conference that four U.S. soldiers confirmed dead were killed in Kuwait when an Iranian missile escaped U.S. air defenses and hit a "tactical operations center that was fortified."

Quoting a source familiar with the matter, CBS News said the two American soldier deaths announced on March 2 also happened in Kuwait as a result of the same Iranian attack that killed the other four soldiers.

USA TODAY contributed.



A staff member removes bottles of U.S. alcohol on March 4, 2025, from the shelves of a Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) store in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, as part of retaliatory moves against tariffs announced by President Donald Trump. ARLYN MCADOREY/REUTERS

### 2026 KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## Abortion, end-of-life bills divide lawmakers

**Keely Doll**  
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On New Year's Day, a Wolfe County woman was charged with fetal homicide after taking abortion medication ordered online. Despite a grand jury indicting her on the charge, it was later dismissed at the request of a prosecutor, who said state law exempted pregnant women from being charged with the crime.

The case quickly gained statewide attention — including from Republican lawmakers who are again proposing bills that would criminalize abortion-inducing drugs and allow prosecution of homicide charges in the death of an unborn child.

Democratic legislators, meanwhile, have introduced bills that would repeal Kentucky's strict abortion bans and allow terminally ill patients to request life-ending drugs.

House Bill 646, introduced by Rep. Nancy Tate, R-Brandenburg, would criminalize mailing, distributing or importing medication used to induce abortion or aid in suicide. The bill also opens legal action for anyone harmed by taking the medication, allowing them to file lawsuits against distributors, prescribers and manufacturers. There's no penalty for women suffering a miscarriage or pregnant women who take abortion-inducing drugs, in accordance with current Kentucky law.

During a press conference on the bill hosted by Kentucky Right to Life, an anti-abortion advocacy group, Tate said the law was a "stake in the ground" when it comes to any life-ending medications in the state.

"House Bill 646 ensures that Kentucky's existing prohibitions are meaningful, enforceable, that

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## One year later, tariffs hit U.S. spirits exports hard

### Group: 'Policy has caused real and avoidable harm'

**Olivia Evans**  
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March 4 marks one year since provinces across Canada removed U.S.-made spirits from its shelves in response to tariffs enacted by President Donald Trump — leaving many Kentucky distillers without access to one of their largest trading partners.

While the tariff situation remains muddled as the Supreme Court ruled Feb. 20 that President Trump lacks the authority to impose broad sweeping tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, including the 35% tariffs imposed on Canada in

**Louisville-based Brown-Forman, one of the leading exporters of U.S. spirits globally and who makes brands that include Jack Daniels, Woodford Reserve and Old Forester, saw organic net sales decline almost 60% in Canada in the first quarter of FY26, it said during an earnings call in August 2025.**

March 2025, Trump has pressed on, saying he intends to continue utilizing tariffs on foreign trade partners.

In retaliation Canada, which was the second-largest market for U.S. spirits exports in 2024, imposed a 25% tariff on all U.S. beverage alcohol products, which began March 13, 2025 and was eventually lifted in August.

Currently, U.S. tariffs are suspended on imports from Canada, including spirits produced in the country, that comply with the U.S.-Canada-Mexico Agreement. However, according to the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, "Most Canadian provinces continue to ban U.S. alcohol products from retail stores. Two provinces, Alberta and Saskatchewan, have since put U.S. spirits back on their shelves."

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