

Reveal
by KOHLER

THIS MONTH ONLY

GET **\$1,000 OFF** of Your KOHLER® Walk-In Bath
+ NO PAYMENTS FOR 12 MONTHS†

Call today for your **FREE** in-home quote!
(864) 256-3543

*For as long as the original purchaser consumer owns his or her home. For complete warranty details, visit KOHLER.com/Warranty.
†Offer ends July 31, 2026. Participating dealers only. Not available in AK, HI, Nassau City, Suffolk City, Westchester City, or City of Buffalo, NY. \$1,000 off average price of KOHLER walk-in bath. Reveal by KOHLER Authorized Dealers set all prices and are responsible for full amount of discount. Cannot be combined with any other advertised offer. Contact Reveal by KOHLER Authorized Dealer for financing details.

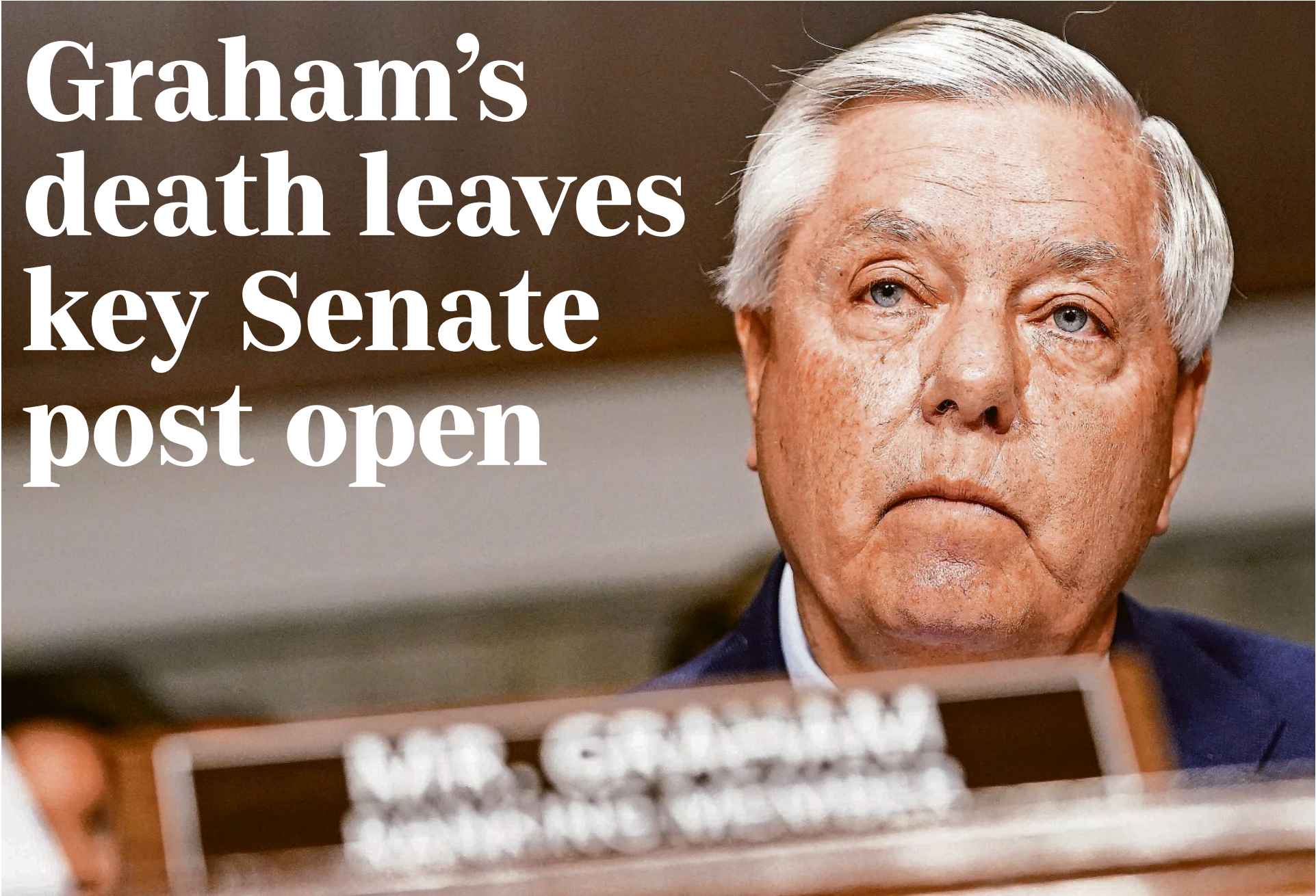
Independent Mail

MONDAY, JULY 13, 2026

INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

K1 PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

LINDSEY GRAHAM JULY 9, 1955 - JULY 11, 2026



U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican, was the powerful chairman of the Senate Budget Committee. NATHAN HOWARD/REUTERS FILE

Budget panel helped pass Trump’s agenda

Zachary Schermele
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The sudden death of Sen. Lindsey Graham on July 11 at age 71 sent shock waves through Capitol Hill, leaving lawmakers reeling from the unexpected passing of their long-time colleague.

Graham’s death marks the passing of a longtime conservative fixture in the Senate, and one of President Donald Trump’s closest political allies. It

also opened up an important vacancy atop a key Senate committee – one that’s increasingly an architect of some of the most consequential legislation affecting Americans’ lives.

He had traveled to Turkey earlier in the week for the NATO summit followed by a meeting in Kyiv with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The lawmaker “passed away from a brief and sudden illness,” a statement posted to his social media account said, adding “Senator Graham’s family

appreciates prayers at this time and asks for privacy during this incredibly difficult period.”

The South Carolina Republican was the powerful chairman of the Senate Budget Committee. The panel may sound like just another wonky corner of Congress, but it’s much more than that.

It’s also the place where Trump’s biggest second-term legislative wins have originated. That’s because budget bills only need a simple majority to sur-

vive, unlike other legislation in the Senate that requires 60 votes.

Congressional Republicans, on Trump’s orders, have become more and more accustomed to muscling big party-line bills through the all-important budget panel. Just days ago, the president again directed them to use the Senate and House budget committees to attempt to pass a \$350 billion Pentagon cash infusion in the coming months – all on top of a long-shot effort to pass a voting restrictions bill.

Whoever replaces Graham atop the

See GRAHAM, Page 2A

How Lindsey Graham became a force in Congress

Bella Carpentier
Greenville News
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, an influential voice in Congress and foreign policy, made it clear during his Senate campaign that he saw his role in politics as going beyond that of a senator.

The senator from South Carolina died in the evening of July 11 from a brief and sudden illness, according to his office. His influence in national politics was marked by his firm advocacy in U.S. foreign politics and leadership as Senate Budget Committee chair.

Graham’s early career outside of politics started with his service as an Air

Force lawyer and as staff judge advocate for the McEntire Air National Guard Base. He later served in the U.S. Air Force Reserve until his retirement in June 2015.

The senator from South Carolina started his political career in 1992, when he was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives. He was then elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994, which is where he served until his election to the U.S. Senate in 2002. He has held his Senate seat since taking office in January 2003 and was seeking a fifth term in office in this year’s Senate race.

Graham attempted to secure the na-

See CONGRESS, Page 2A

McMaster: “We shall not see his likes again”

Baker Maultsby
Greenville News
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

Reaction to the death of Sen. Lindsey Graham poured in by early morning.

Gov. Henry McMaster’s office sent an email out shortly after word of Graham’s death.

The message said, “Peggy and I—and our children—are devastated. Lindsey Graham is irreplaceable. The fiercest of fighters for South Carolina and America—and a loyal and steadfast friend. We grieve with Darline, his family and his devoted staff. May God hold him gently in the palm of his

hand. We shall not see his likes again.”

U.S. Rep. William Timmons, (R-4th District) posted a message to Facebook describing Graham as “a dedicated public servant” and “my friend.”

Timmons added, “I will miss him, his counsel, and working with him on behalf of our fellow South Carolinians.”

In a social media message, U.S. Rep. Nancy Mace (R-1st District) said, “For more than three decades, Lindsey Graham gave everything he had to this state and this country, from the

See MCMASTER, Page 2A

