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## Gonzales giving up seat in Congress

Pressure for S.A. Republican to quit mounted as Democrat Swalwell announced resignation

By Bayliss Wagner and Nancy M. Preyor-Johnson  
STAFF WRITERS

U.S. Rep. Tony Gonzales announced on Monday that he would resign from Congress, avoiding an expected vote on his expulsion after he admitted to having an affair with a staffer.

Gonzales, a Republican from San Antonio, has faced intensifying scrutiny in recent months after the San Antonio Express-News first revealed evidence that he engaged in a sexual relationship with a staffer who later

died by suicide, prompting a House Ethics Committee review and calls from colleagues for him to step aside. Pressure further mounted when another aide came forward, saying Gonzales pressed her for nude photos and sex during his first run for Congress in 2020.

"There is a season for everything and God has a plan for us all," Gonzales said in a statement posted on X. "When Congress returns tomorrow, I will file my retirement from office. It has been my privilege to serve the great people of Texas."



Samuel Corum/Getty Images

The House ethics panel is investigating allegations of sexual misconduct by Rep. Tony Gonzales, R-San Antonio.

Gonzales has represented Texas' 23rd Congressional District since 2021, a vast border district that stretches from San Antonio to El Paso.

Gonzales, a former Navy cryptologist, built his profile in Congress around national security and border issues. He serves on key committees including Appropriations and Homeland Security.

He has at times clashed with members of his own party and was censured by the Texas Republican Party in 2023 after supporting bipartisan legislation on gun safety and same-sex marriage protections, positioning him as one of the more moderate  
*Gonzales continues on A7*



Photos by Mikala Compton/Austin American-Statesman

Jennifer and Doug Getten, who lost their 9-year-old daughter Ellen in the flood, attend a lawsuit hearing Monday in Austin.

## Leaders in GOP pausing Cornyn funding

Incumbent still trails Paxton in polling

By James Osborne

WASHINGTON BUREAU

The GOP's powerful Senate Leadership Fund super PAC announced recently that it was committing \$342 million to support a slate of candidates across eight states.

Texas, where U.S. Sen. John Cornyn is fighting for political survival in a runoff against state Attorney General Ken Paxton on May 26, was not one of them.

National Republican leaders' decision to so far hold off in committing more money to the state comes as Cornyn continues to lag in the polls behind Paxton, ahead of what could be a competitive midterm race against Democratic state Rep. James Talarico of Austin.

With President Donald Trump so far declining to endorse in the race — after suggesting he would do so following the primary — some of the the president's supporters have been calling for the party's fundraising arms to forgo investing more into Cornyn's primary campaign when Republicans are facing competitive Democratic challenges elsewhere in November.

"RINO/Uniparty Senators like John Cornyn remain in office for decades so when you get a chance to replace them with true American First conservatives you have to seize the opportunity," Alex Muse, a conservative influencer, wrote on X recently.

The Senate Leadership Fund, which is controlled by Senate Majority Leader John Thune of South Dakota, declined to comment. Alex Latcham, the fund's executive director, told the New York Times that he didn't see Texas as competitive in November but would reconsider if the  
*Cornyn continues on A7*

## Camp Mystic director says he didn't see alerts

Eastland: Wasn't aware 'there was something ... we could sign up for'

By Peggy O'Hare

STAFF WRITER

AUSTIN — Camp Mystic officials did not see social media alerts from the Texas Division of Emergency Management or National Weather Service announcing threats of heavy rainfall two days before a catastrophic flash flood engulfed the Hill Country retreat, killing 27 children and counselors, one of the camp's operators testified in court on Monday.

Edward Eastland, a director of the Camp Mystic Guadalupe River campus, where the deaths occurred on July 4, said he



Edward Eastland, a director of the Camp Mystic Guadalupe River campus, says he relied on a notification system known as CodeRED.

didn't follow the state emergency management office or the National Weather Service on the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

He said he relied instead on an emergency notification system known as CodeRED, which is separate from the state emergency management agency's or National Weather Service's alert services.

Camp Mystic officials would have had to go looking for the state's emergency management and National Weather Service alerts on social media platforms in order to see them, he said.

*Mystic continues on A4*

## Trump: U.S. has blocked Iran's ports to pressure Tehran

By Samy Magdy, Julia Frankel and Mike Corder

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAIRO — U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday that the American military had begun a blockade of Iranian ports as part of his effort to force Tehran to open the Strait of Hormuz and accept a deal to end the war that has raged for more than six weeks.

Iran responded with threats on all ports in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, taking aim at U.S.-allied countries.

That set the stage for an extraordinary showdown that posed serious risks for the global



Jacquelyn Martin/Associated Press

Vice President JD Vance boards Air Force Two as he leaves Islamabad on Sunday after talks ended without a deal with Iran.

economy and raised the specter that the ceasefire could collapse and the war could resume. Talks aimed at permanently ending the conflict — which began Feb. 28 with U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran — failed to reach an agreement this past weekend. There has been no word on whether negotiations will resume.

Trump said the blockade started at 9 a.m.

"We can't let a country blackmail or extort the world because that's what they're doing," Trump said of Iran.

Speaking outside the Oval Office, the president suggested the U.S. is still willing to engage with Iran.

"I can tell you that we've been called by the other side," Trump said.

He added: "We've been called this morning by the right people, the appropriate people, and they want to work a deal."

Trump did not say who called or what was discussed.

A notice to mariners by the U.K. Maritime Trade Operations agency said the blockade restricted "the entirety of the Iranian coastline, including ports and en-

*Iran continues on A7*

