

Royals leave note, flowers at 9/11 memorial

Charles says U.K.-U.S. bond remains strong

Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy, Kathryn Palmer, Rebecca Morin and Terry Collins

USA TODAY

King Charles III and Queen Camilla walked with former New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg April 29 to lay a wreath with white flowers at the 9/11 Memorial.

It was the first visit to the city by a reigning British monarch since Queen Elizabeth II traveled there in 2010.

A note on the flowers, in the king's handwriting, read: "We honour the memory of all those who so tragically lost their lives on 11th September 2001, and stand in enduring solidarity with the American people in the face of such profound loss. Charles R Camilla R."

After placing the wreath at the memorial's south reflecting pool, the pair spoke with victims' families and first responders.

The streets around the memorial plaza were barricaded, with the U.S. Secret Service scanning for weapons at limited access points. The queen wore a navy blue coat dress with maroon embroidery, plus a two-strand pearl necklace and sensible navy blue pumps. The king wore a navy blue suit and silver tie.

Along with Bloomberg, the royal couple was accompanied by dignitaries including New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani and New York Gov. Kathy Hochul.

At another event ahead of the wreath-laying, Mamdani told reporters that he would ask Charles to send a famous crown jewel back to India.

"I would probably encourage him to return the Koh-i-Noor," Mamdani said, referring to a rare, 105.6-carat gem that the East India Company took from a deposed Indian leader in 1849 as a condition of a peace agreement.

The jewel is set in the crown of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and displayed in the Tower of London.

It was not immediately clear whether Mamdani went ahead with that request. After the 9/11 ceremony, the royal



King Charles III and Queen Camilla lay a bouquet of flowers at the National September 11 Memorial on Day Three of their visit to the United States April 29.

SAMIR HUSSEIN/GETTY IMAGES

couple was slated to meet organizations supporting the families of victims and preserving the legacy of the terrorist attacks, including representatives from the Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Garden, which was opened by the queen in 2010 to honor British and Commonwealth citizens who died that day.

Charles was also scheduled to visit a grassroots organization in Harlem that created an after-school urban farm to combat food insecurity. Such projects have been a passion of the king for decades.

Meanwhile, Camilla planned to celebrate the 100th birthday of Winnie-the-Pooh on behalf of her charity, The Queen's Reading Room, at the New York Public Library, before meeting with representatives of domestic violence charities.

Responses continued to roll in from the events of the day before in Washington, DC, when Charles gave a rare address to Congress and attended a state dinner.

In Charles' speech to Congress, he urged continuing support for Ukraine. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy praised the remarks.

"This is exactly what is needed to bring dignified and lasting peace to Ukraine and all of Europe," Zelenskyy said to the monarch in an April 29 post on X. "The people of Ukraine deeply appreciate all the support provided by the United Kingdom and the United States."

The state dinner April 28 was a white-tie affair: tuxedos with tailcoats and floor-length gowns. Bouquets of lilac, butterfly ranunculus, phlox and lily of the valley filled the center of the tables like a garden. Tall candelabra set the mood. Tables were set with 250 pieces of vermeil from the White House collection in addition to hand-crafted ceramics by distinguished American artisans including Ben Wolff.

A guest was seen capturing the historic moment of Charles walking into the East Room on their cell phone.

The White House served Dover sole meunière as the main course. For dessert, a chocolate gâteau shaped like a beehive.

Guests included some of the United States' leading – and wealthiest – tech giants such as Apple CEO Tim Cook and Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, plus all the conservative justices on the Supreme

Court. Even sports figures received invites: golfer Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland and New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft.

President Donald Trump mostly focused on his prepared remarks for his toast, with a few asides. He had McIlroy stand for applause for his recent back-to-back Masters win.

The king, for his toast, sprinkled in plenty of jokes. He gifted the president a bell from a World War II-era submarine called the HMS Trump – no relation to the president, but the king still called it his "valiant namesake."

French President Emmanuel Macron had a little fun with Charles' state dinner speech. On X, Macron took the opportunity to add French subtitles underneath Charles' comments that if it were not for the United States, European countries would be speaking German and the United States would be speaking Macron's native tongue.

More controversially, on April 28, the White House posted a photo on X of Trump and Charles with the caption "TWO KINGS," followed by a crown emoji.

It wasn't the first time the second Trump administration has flirted with monarchical imagery. The president recently rejected accusations of king-like behavior in an interview with "60 Minutes" after the shooting at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner.

"I'm not a king," he quipped to CBS News correspondent Norah O'Donnell. "If I was a king, I wouldn't be dealing with you."

The royal visit will conclude April 30 with a busy day of sightseeing and events in Virginia. Charles and Camilla plan to attend a community block party commemorating America's 250th anniversary in the historic small town of Front Royal, Virginia, before heading into Shenandoah National Park. Then they will attend a horse racing event before departing for Bermuda, a member of the U.K. Commonwealth.

Contributing: Thao Nguyen, Francesca Chambers, Zac Anderson, Karissa Waddick, Bart Jansen, Zachary Schermele and Joey Garrison, USA TODAY; Reuters

Ex-FBI director faces DOJ charges again

Instagram post subject of Comey prosecution

Aysha Bagchi

USA TODAY

Former FBI Director James Comey has been indicted for a second time, after a judge dismissed an earlier indictment in November.

A federal grand jury in North Carolina charged Comey April 28 with threatening to harm or kill President Donald Trump in an Instagram post in May 2025. The indictment also accuses Comey of disregarding a substantial risk that his post would be viewed as threatening violence.

The Instagram post depicted an image of seashells reading "8647." Some Trump supporters interpreted the post as a threat, because "86" is a slang term that means "to throw out" or "to get rid of," according to Merriam-Webster, and Trump is the 47th U.S. president.

Comey later deleted the post and said in a new one that he "didn't realize some folks associate those numbers with violence," adding he took the post down because he opposes "violence of any kind."

Previously, the Trump administration pushed to prosecute Comey on allegations that he lied to Congress and obstructed a congressional proceeding, but the case was dismissed after a judge determined the prosecutor who brought it – a former personal lawyer to Trump with no previous prosecutorial experience – was unlawfully appointed. The Justice Department has appealed that ruling.

Both prosecutions have come after Trump specifically called for Comey to be criminally charged in September. Comey served as director of the FBI during the first Trump administration, before the president fired him in 2017.

"Well, they're back, this time about a picture of seashells on a North Carolina Beach a year ago, and this won't be the end of it," Comey said in a video statement posted on his Substack April 28.

"But nothing has changed with me.

I'm still innocent, I'm still not afraid, and I still believe in the independent federal judiciary, so let's go," Comey added.

Patrick Fitzgerald, a lawyer for Comey and former DOJ official, said in a statement his client "vigorously denies" the charges.

"We will contest these charges in the courtroom and look forward to vindicating Mr. Comey and the First Amendment," Fitzgerald said.

At a press conference April 28, Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche argued that Comey's indictment isn't unique.

"Over the past year, this department has charged dozens of cases involving threats against all sorts of individuals. We take these seriously, every single one of them," Blanche said.

However, Democrats and First Amendment advocates decried the charges as politically motivated and a threat to free speech.

"[The term] '86' has many possible meanings, including impeachment. And it's part of political discourse," Karl de Vries, a spokesperson at the the free-speech-focused Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, said in a statement.

De Vries noted conservative commentator Jack Posobiec posted "86 46" on Twitter in 2022, referring to then-President Joe Biden. Posobiec "rightly faced no criminal charges," de Vries said.

"The idea that Comey's picture of seashells conveyed a serious intent to harm the president is ridiculous," de Vries said.

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Illinois, alleged the Justice Department is seeking to appease the president with the new charges against Comey.

"Just like the last baseless indictment against Mr. Comey, this is another case of a weaponized Justice Department lashing out on behalf of a vengeful President," Durbin said in a statement.



Comey

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Senate blocks measure to curb Trump's power to invade Cuba

A group of Democratic senators led by Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine tried – and failed – to advance a resolution prohibiting President Donald Trump from taking unilateral military action in Cuba, days after Havana publicly rejected U.S. demands.

In a mostly party-line April 28 vote, 51 Republicans and one Democrat blocked the Senate from taking up the measure. Sen. John Fetterman of Pennsylvania was the Democrat who voted to block. Two GOP lawmakers, Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Rand Paul of Kentucky, bucked their party, joining with Democrats in hopes of curbing Trump's actions in the Caribbean nation.

The Trump administration has been engaged in talks with the Cuban government to lift the United States' near-total blockade on oil in exchange for expansive economic and governance reforms and the release of detainees. But the Cuban government blew off a U.S.-imposed deadline to release high-profile political prisoners as a show of good faith. The president has not said what he will do in response.

USA TODAY Network and Reuters

INSPECTION PERIOD FOR THE PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT ROLL

The _____ HENDERSON _____ County real property tax roll will be opened for inspection from May 4 through May 18, 2026. Under the supervision of the property valuation administrator (PVA) or one of the deputies, any person may inspect the tax roll.

This is the January 1, 2026, assessment on which state, county, and school taxes for 2026 will be due about September 15, 2026.

The tax roll is in the office of the property valuation administrator in the county courthouse and may be inspected between the hours _____ 8:00 AM _____ and _____ 4:00 PM _____.

Any taxpayer desiring to appeal an assessment on real property made by the PVA must first request a conference with the PVA or a designated deputy. The conference may be held prior to or during the inspection period. Written documentation supporting your opinion of value will continue to be required. However, you will be instructed on the best method to submit your documentation after contacting our office regarding your request to have a conference. More specific instructions regarding how conferences will be held this year are available online at www.HendersonCoPVA.com and will be posted at the entrance to the PVA's office, located at: 20 N. Main Street Henderson, KY 42420.

Any taxpayer still aggrieved by an assessment on real property, after the conference with the PVA or designated deputy, may appeal to the county board of assessment appeals.

The appeal must be filed with the county clerk's office no later than one work day following the conclusion of the inspection period. Please contact the county clerk's office to receive instructions on the method the office is using to accept appeals this year and to obtain a form that can be used to file your appeal.

Any taxpayer failing to appeal to the county board of assessment appeals, or failing to appear before the board, either in person or by designated representative, will not be eligible to appeal directly to the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals.

Appeals of personal property assessments shall not be made to the county board of assessment appeals. Personal property taxpayers shall be served notice under the provisions of KRS 132.450(4) and shall have the protest and appeal rights granted under the provisions of KRS 131.110.

The following steps should be taken when a taxpayer does not agree with the assessed value of personal property as determined by the property valuation administrator:

- (1) Taxpayer must list under protest (for certification) what they believe to be the fair cash value of their property.
- (2) Taxpayer must file a written protest directly with the Department of Revenue, Office of Property Valuation within 30 days from the date of the notice of assessment.
- (3) This protest must be in accordance with KRS 131.110.
- (4) The final decision of the Department of Revenue may be appealed to the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals.

Andrew M. Powell
Property Valuation Administrator

HENDERSON
County