

For her outstanding devotion, she has earned the respect and esteem of many, and in the wake of her departure, I know her numerous contributions will not be forgotten. I am confident that her fine character and decisive leadership will be solely missed.

As she goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish her all the best in her future endeavors. Again, on behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I would like to thank Judge Dixie Park for her commitment to the people of Stark County and to Northeast Ohio.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR RONALD WEAVER

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Airman First Class Ronald Weaver of Plano, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. It is with great pride and admiration that we honor Airman First Class Ron Weaver, a distinguished veteran of the United States Air Force, who served with honor and distinction from 1950 to 1954. During his service, Airman Weaver demonstrated exceptional dedication, technical expertise, and a deep sense of duty—qualities that he has continued to embody throughout his life.

Stationed in Japan and deployed to Korea, Airman Weaver's primary responsibility was the maintenance and repair of aircraft electronics systems, a critical role that ensured the success of missions in some of the most challenging and dangerous regions of the world. His technical skills, commitment to excellence, and unwavering dedication to his country earned him numerous honors, including the United Nations Service Medal and the Korean Service Medal—recognitions of his outstanding contributions during the Korean War.

Airman Weaver's sense of duty extended beyond his military service, as he has continued to serve his community in remarkable ways. Upon returning to civilian life, he became a dedicated advocate for the Hispanic community in Plano, Texas, where he has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of those around him.

Additionally, Airman Weaver's commitment to service has extended to volunteering at Julia's Center for Healthcare, where he has dedicated countless hours to assisting in a variety of capacities. Whether providing guidance to patients or supporting healthcare workers, his selflessness and compassion have made a lasting impact on all those who have had the privilege of working with him.

Perhaps one of his most profound contributions has been his mentorship of high school and college students, where he has shared his experiences, wisdom, and insights, helping young people navigate their educational and professional journeys. His guidance has empowered countless individuals to pursue careers with purpose and integrity, just as he did during his time in the Air Force.

Airman Weaver's life has been a testament to the values of service, dedication, and leadership. He embodies the highest ideals of the

United States Air Force and continues to make a significant impact on the lives of others through his volunteer work and community engagement.

We salute Airman First Class Ron Weaver for his service to his country, his community, and the countless individuals whose lives he has touched. His legacy of service, mentorship, and compassion will continue to inspire future generations.

I am honored to represent Airman Weaver in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a privilege to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING FORMER CHINO MAYOR DENNIS R. YATES

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mayor Dennis R. Yates and his 24 years of public service and commitment to the City of Chino. He was also an honorable Vietnam War veteran, serving in the Air Force from 1966 to 1970 and receiving the Air Force Commendation Medal for his valiant service.

Dennis Yates was elected to the Chino City Council in 1992. Throughout his distinguished career, Mayor Yates was instrumental in shaping Chino's growth and development. His leadership saw the establishment of the Chaffey College Community Campus and Information Technology Center, the renovation of Downtown Chino, the construction of low-cost senior housing, and the construction of the Carolyn Owens Community Center.

Additionally, Mayor Yates was dedicated to advocating for youth programs. He was integral in the creation of the Chino Youth Museum, a lasting tribute to his belief in fostering educational opportunities for children. He also spent decades as a volunteer and mentor with Chino Pop Warner football, where the Yates Field at Ayala Park stands in his honor, named after him in recognition of his 28 years of service to the program. Mayor Yates' unwavering dedication to his community was honored with Chino's highest accolade, the prestigious Spirit of Achievement Award in 2019.

Sadly, our community is now in mourning. This September, Mayor Yates passed away at the age of 79. I offer my deepest condolences to his family.

For his outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Mayor Dennis R. Yates. His years of civic service and commitment to the city and the people of Chino are worthy of the highest commendation. He will be missed.

HONORING JOHNNIE KABERLE

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I use today to recognize an invaluable staff member of the

House Committee on Appropriations, Johnnie Kaberle, whose 30 years of tireless work for the federal government—and more specifically the United States House of Representatives—exemplifies the devotion and commitment of a distinguished public servant.

Johnnie's government career began in 1994 when she joined the office of former Congressman Nick Smith, serving as Legislative Assistant. Johnnie served in this same capacity for Representatives Dick Chrysler and Lamar Smith until August of 1999, when she joined my team as Legislative Director.

In 2003, at the start of the 108th Congress, Johnnie assumed the position of Senior Policy Advisor for Majority Whip Roy Blunt. In this role, Johnnie's ability to negotiate, build coalitions, and remain calm in crisis made her stand out amongst the crowd. She aided the Whip team in identifying roadblocks and negotiating directly with Members of Congress and other stakeholders to ensure the passage of pivotal legislation on the House floor. In addition to conducting comprehensive research and legislative analysis, Johnnie drafted speeches and talking points for Whip Blunt on key policy positions. Having mastered these responsibilities, Johnnie directly assisted in advancing the Republican Leadership's agenda and contributed to the development of the party's long-term strategic policy goals.

When the House Majority switched hands in 2007, Johnnie continued to serve as the Senior Policy Advisor for then-Minority Whip Blunt. This role was a pivotal part of Johnnie's development into the politically savvy leader she is today, but just as importantly, she made lifelong friendships with a cadre of Members and staff who would lead the House Republican Conference in the coming decades.

After six years with Congressman Roy Blunt, Johnnie returned to work for me at the beginning of the 11th Congress. Serving as my Senior Policy Advisor, Johnnie acted as the point of contact for all appropriations issues as well as defense, homeland security, and transportation authorizing policy. Johnnie's work ethic and expertise earned her the promotion to Policy Director.

While I served as the Chairwoman of the State and Foreign Operations and Defense Appropriations subcommittees, Johnnie provided me with direct support by serving as a conduit between my team, committee staff, federal agency leadership, and heads of state. Johnnie worked to align my agenda with the broader leadership goals and closely coordinated with the appropriations subcommittees in drafting and negotiating legislative proposals. She handled each issue—from meetings with the King of Jordan and the President of Egypt, to advocating for critical resources for Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth—with her patented expertise and enthusiasm.

Having displayed her broad skillset throughout her years of dedicated service, Johnnie transitioned into the role of Deputy Chief of Staff in January 2015. In this position, Johnnie managed 17 direct reports to drive my legislative agenda and effectively represent the 12th district of Texas. This included setting policy priorities, conducting policy research, and managing constituent engagement. Equally important, during her tenure in my personal office, Johnnie took seriously the professional development of the young staffers and defense fellows that were part of Team Granger.

Many of these young professionals have gone on to capably lead their own teams or military units. Johnnie truly left a lasting impression on each of them.

When I was named the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Appropriations to begin the 116th Congress, I could think of no one I wanted more as my Deputy Staff Director than Johnnie. Given her wealth of knowledge and leadership abilities, Johnnie effortlessly managed a team of 30 direct reports to liaise with Members of Congress, Executive Branch agencies, and external stakeholders to develop appropriations legislation that reflected House Republican priorities. She served as one of two principal Republican Appropriations staffers in negotiating six omnibus and consolidated appropriations acts—balancing various political interests and addressing priorities to ensure continued government funding. As the new Republican leader of Appropriations, responsiveness to Member requests and questions was critical for me. In response, Johnnie launched a first-of-kind “concierge Member services” program and centralized operational support for congressional offices. Further, she created an “Appropriations 101” class to educate Members and their staff on the nuances of the appropriations process. She also coordinated with congressional leaders, committee chairs, and administration officials to reach agreements on funding and policy provisions. Johnnie aided the Staff Director in advocating for my priorities and those of Leadership in annual spending bills and supplementals. When the Defense Clerk role was vacated, I asked Johnnie to wear two hats, one as the Deputy Staff Director and the other as the Minority Clerk of the Defense Subcommittee, where she successfully fought for Republican priorities in Fiscal Year 2020 through Fiscal Year 2023 Defense Appropriations bills.

Johnnie deservedly reached a pinnacle of the Appropriations Committee by becoming Defense Appropriations Subcommittee Majority Staff Director and Clerk when Republicans gained the Majority in 2023. In this critical role, she drafted and served as the principal House negotiator for the Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 Defense Appropriations bills, which funded the entire Department of Defense and Intelligence community to the tune of over \$800 billion per fiscal year. She facilitated daily communication with Members of Congress, senior administration officials, and industry leaders, while leading and mentoring a high-performing team of 14 direct reports. Of her many accomplishments in this role, her staunch advocacy for Chairman KEN CALVERT’s vision of defense innovation will have a lasting effect on out national security. This includes the allocation of nearly \$2.5 billion to foster innovation, including funding to identify, invest, and rapidly produce promising defense technologies through the Defense Innovation Unit and the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Johnnie’s significant contributions to the entire federal government, the House Committee on Appropriations, and—most significant to me—the office of Texas’ 12th District. Throughout her storied career, Johnnie has exemplified what it means to be a selfless public servant. She has consistently exhibited unparalleled knowledge of government and has bridged the gap between countless diverse stakeholders within

the appropriations process. Johnnie’s commitment to the United States and the American people will remain unmatched as she leaves a legacy within America’s national security apparatus that will live on for generations to come. On behalf of the American people and the lucky ones who were privileged enough to learn from her and work alongside her, we thank Johnnie for her many years of devoted service to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING OHIO REPRESENTATIVE REGGIE STOLTZFUS

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Reggie Stoltzfus for his service in the Ohio General Assembly, and my sincere gratitude for all that he has done for the people of Ohio’s 13th Congressional District, the “Birthplace of Champions.” I have appreciated his partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

His drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that he has bettered countless lives as a result of his steadfast service. Throughout his time in office, he has proven to be a true public servant and leader. He led by example through his perseverance, compassion, and dedication to his role in the community.

As he goes on to continue serving his community in new ways, I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. On behalf of Ohio’s 13th Congressional District, I thank him for his commitment to the people of Northeast Ohio.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR RENE RODRIGUEZ

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Rene Rodriguez and award him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. On behalf of a grateful Nation, we proudly recognize and commend Sergeant Rene Rodriguez of Whitewright, Texas, for his outstanding service in the United States Marine Corps. A dedicated and skilled Marine, Sergeant Rodriguez attained the rank of Sergeant and served with distinction as a Hybrid Test Set Technician, a critical and demanding specialty requiring exceptional technical expertise and precision.

Throughout his service, Sergeant Rodriguez displayed unwavering dedication, commitment, and professionalism, directly contributing to the operational readiness and success of his unit and the Marine Corps as a whole. As a Hybrid Test Set Technician, he was responsible for ensuring the functionality and reliability of advanced military equipment, a role that is vital to mission success and the safety of his fellow Marines. His technical acumen and meticulous attention to detail helped to uphold the highest standards of excellence

within his specialty, enabling his unit to operate effectively under challenging conditions.

Sergeant Rodriguez’s service embodies the values of honor, courage, and commitment that define the United States Marine Corps. His dedication to duty and exceptional performance as a Marine have left a lasting impact on those he served with and on the Corps itself.

Today, we honor Sergeant Rodriguez for his sacrifice, his skill, and his steadfast dedication to the ideals of freedom and duty. His legacy of service and excellence is an inspiration, and his contributions to our Nation will always be remembered with gratitude.

HONORING COPS/METRO’S 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Communities Organized for Public Service, known as COPS/Metro, for fifty years of dedicated service to the San Antonio community. For half a century, COPS/Metro has helped community members use their voices to influence the policy that affect their lives. This broad, nonpartisan coalition of religious congregations, schools, civic associations, labor and professional organizations, and non-profits has enacted powerful change over the years.

Working with both the private and public sector, COPS/Metro provides a productive forum for advocacy that has changed Bexar County for the better. COPS/Metro brings together community members from many different walks of life to share their perspectives and organize for progress. COPS/Metro members have had an impact on everything from housing affordability and job training to environmental justice and government accountability.

Whether the issue is improving city streets or making sure workers are paid a living wage, COPS/Metro has ensured services are delivered to those in need. I commend all the great work this organization has done in our community and for the growth and opportunity they have fostered for the San Antonio region. I look forward to seeing many more years of continued success for COPS/Metro.

RECOGNIZING CONSTITUENT ADVOCATE, HNUCHEE VANG, FOR HER EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA’S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Constituent Advocate, Hnuchee Vang, for her work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota’s Third Congressional District. I could not be more proud or grateful for her service.

Hnu began her advocacy and policy career when she attended the University of Minnesota where she worked as a Crisis and