

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

Legal Advocate at The Aurora Center for Advocacy and Education. She went on to work in the Minnesota State Legislature, where she worked in both the House and Senate. With Minnesota House Majority Leader Ryan Winkler, she assisted in passing various legislation including Immigrant Drivers Licenses for All, legalizing adult use cannabis, and grant funding for the Veterans Resilience Project. While in the Minnesota State Senate, she successfully passed the Hmong Special Guerilla Units Memorial Day. Before coming to my office, Hnu worked as the Director of Policy and Advocacy at a local nonprofit for the Coalition of Asian American Leaders.

Hnu is an inquisitive and joyful spirit. She is immensely reliable, wicked smart, and easy to have a long chat or a good laugh with. She has worked hard on behalf of the constituents in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. During her time in my office, as part of the Casework and Advocacy Team, she has helped the team return over \$45 million dollars from the Federal Government to Minnesotans and the local economy.

Hnu has a strong work ethic and a steady approach to ensuring we provide the best service to Minnesota's Third Congressional District. Hnu excels in communicating with constituents; she delivers important information with clarity and kindness, even when that information may not be what constituents want to hear. She is a strong advocate who works diligently to ensure everyone she serves, receives the support they need.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have her dedication and leadership, and she will be dearly missed. I wish Hnu all the best in her future endeavors and thank her for her faithful service to this Nation—and much more to come.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN
COMMENDATION FOR JAMES BELL

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain James Bell and award him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. In recognition of Captain James Bell's distinguished service to the United States and his unwavering commitment to duty, this commendation celebrates the extraordinary contributions he has made to our Nation, both in uniform and as a dedicated civilian leader.

Captain Bell's military career began with his valiant service as an Armored Platoon Leader and Forward Support to the Company Commander of the 23rd Infantry Division. Serving during the Vietnam War, Captain Bell spent nearly a year managing Division and Brigade supply operations, a role that required logistical expertise, resilience, and the utmost dedication. Following his service in Vietnam, he was stationed in Berlin, Germany, where he contributed significantly to Quick Response Readiness—a critical aspect of maintaining operational stability during the Cold War era.

Upon transitioning from active duty, Captain Bell continued his commitment to his country as a member of the Texas National Guard, where he helped safeguard the state and community. His dedication to public service

extended beyond the military, as he served as an advisor to the Work Release Program in Texas prisons, working tirelessly to help individuals rebuild their lives. Captain Bell's dedication was further recognized at the national level when President George W. Bush appointed him to serve on the Red River Authority, where he provided essential leadership and guidance over an impressive 18 years. His three terms on the Authority reflect his deep commitment to responsible resource management and public service.

Captain Bell's commitment to his fellow veterans and his community is equally commendable. He remains active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and his church, embodying the spirit of camaraderie, faith, and service that define America's finest. With profound respect and gratitude, we commend Captain Jim Bell for his remarkable service, his steadfast loyalty to his country, and his ongoing commitment to his community. His legacy of honor, resilience, and public service stands as an inspiration to all.

Today, we honor Captain James Bell 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.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF GEORGE
MAIER

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 Sheriff George Maier for his service as the Stark County Sheriff, 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 proved 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 our 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 Stark County and Northeast Ohio.

HONORING CORPORAL ADRIAN
MALDONADO, DEPUTY JAMES
MACKEY, DEPUTY JASON COKER,
DEPUTY TAMMY FOX, AND DEPUTY
YANICK EXCEUS

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor five outstanding leaders in Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

(PBSO): Corporal Adrian Maldonado, Deputy James Mackey, Deputy Jason Coker, Deputy Tammy Fox, and Deputy Yanick Exceus. I congratulate each of them on being named recipients of the Innovations in Community Policing Award at the 7th Annual Attorney General Awards for Distinguished Service in Policing.

During their time in Palm Beach County, they have demonstrated the core values and mission of the PBSO by developing innovative ways to use community policing to improve the lives of the people they serve. Specifically, Deputy Mackey and Corporal Maldonado established PBSO's first Homeless Intervention Team, connecting individuals experiencing homelessness with resources. Deputies Coker, Fox, and Exceus have organized food distribution programs for the hungry and helped feed elderly residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a direct result of their innovation, several other community policing units within and outside of the agency use these program models to bring similar change to their communities.

I am proud to celebrate them all today. Their dedication to public safety and service to the people of Palm Beach County is commendable. I wish them continued success.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION FOR MATTHEW
LOVACHEFF

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Petty Officer Third Class Matthew Lovacheff and award him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Petty Officer Third Class Matthew Lovacheff, of Rockwall, Texas, served the United States Navy with distinction and dedication for four years, embodying the Navy's core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. As a Gunners Mate and an Aviation Boatswain's Mate, Petty Officer Lovacheff was stationed on the USS *George Washington* in Norfolk, Virginia, where he undertook significant responsibilities that were integral to the ship's operational readiness. His primary role was in providing essential supplies and logistical support for a division of 200 personnel, ensuring the smooth and efficient operation of his team. In addition, he expertly maintained catapults and arresting gear within the Aircraft Launch and Recovery Division, enabling safe and reliable operations in the high-stakes environment of naval aviation.

Petty Officer Lovacheff's service extended beyond standard duties as he participated in United Nations Weapons Inspections leading up to the 2003 Iraq War, contributing to international security and diplomacy. Through his Navy experience, Petty Officer Lovacheff developed a profound sense of patriotism and an unwavering dedication to the ideals of service, sacrifice, and leadership.

One instance of his bravery and commitment is especially noteworthy: during a critical moment, Petty Officer Lovacheff acted decisively to prevent injury to a shipmate by attempting to stop a 400-pound piston from falling. In the process, he sustained an injury to