

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE  
STANLEY NOVACK

**HON. JAMES A. HIMES**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 2, 2024*

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Judge Stanley Novack of Stamford, Connecticut.

Judge Novack was a pillar of the Stamford community and a scion of Jurisprudence, serving 49 years on the bench across various judicial appointments in Connecticut. First elevated to the bench in 1975, Judge Novack was one of the longest presiding Connecticut Superior Court judges who had a special affinity for his time adjudicating family law cases. He handled these particularly fraught situations with a sincerity, good-humor, and empathy that regularly left litigants and lawyers grateful to have come before him to have their cases heard.

Coined “the father of family law in Connecticut” by his colleagues at a celebration of his 40th year on the bench, Judge Novack was the recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the Distinguished Service Award from the Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Fairfield County Bar Association.

Beyond his laudatory judicial career, Judge Novack was known to be a truly remarkable human to his colleagues and family. He was famous for his uncanny ability to remember the birthdays of his fellow judges, the lawyers who argued before him, and the legal secretaries who transcribed his notes—and even their children. Alongside his wife of over thirty years, Muriel, Judge Novack never missed one of his granddaughters’ ballet recitals, theater performances, or academic graduations. And, in keeping with his devotion to our great state, he was an avid fan of the UCONN Men and Women’s basketball teams, excitedly welcoming each of his alma matter’s national championship victories.

Judge Novack’s life stands as a testament to his dedication to public service and commitment to his community. His legacy, both in the form of the case law he created and the wonderful family he leaves behind, will serve as a tribute to his many years of hard work. I thank Judge Novack for all that he did for Connecticut.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH  
L. LEVESQUE, C.M.

**HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 2, 2024*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of Reverend Joseph L. Levesque, C.M. A faithful priest, visionary leader, and beloved community member. Father Levesque was a true pillar of our community. His unwavering commitment to service changed the lives of all whom he knew.

A native of North Tarrytown, NY, Father Levesque entered the Congregation of the Mission after finishing high school. He completed his studies at Mary Immaculate Seminary in 1967 and became an ordained Vincentian priest. Afterwards, Father Levesque taught religious studies at St. John’s Preparatory School, St. Joseph’s Seminary, and Niagara University before pursuing his Doctoral Degree in theology at Catholic University of America.

In 1978, Father Levesque returned to Niagara University to continue teaching. Here, he was named the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Director of the Graduate Division.

Returning to seminary work in 1986, Father Levesque became the president of St. Joseph’s Seminary, a school where he previously taught. He was later elected provincial superior of the Eastern Province of Congregation of the Mission in 1990 and served a full nine-year term.

Father Levesque began his tenure as the 25th president of Niagara University in 2000. Holding this role for 13 years, he became the fourth longest-tenured president in the University’s history. Under his leadership, Father Levesque expanded the University’s footprint and ensured its long-term success. He led “The Promise of Niagara . . . The next 150 years” campaign, raising a record \$80 million for the university. These funds were used to build new state of the art facilities on campus and to renovate existing spaces. After Father Levesque stepped down from the presidency in 2013, the Niagara University Board of Trustees voted to confer him with the title President Emeritus.

At the culmination of his academic career, Father Levesque earned honorary degrees from Niagara University and St. John’s University, two of the three Vincentian institutions of higher education in the United States, and an honorary doctorate from Christ the King Seminary.

Beyond academia, Father Levesque remained an active member and leader in the community. He served as the board chair of both St. John’s University and Niagara University. Additionally, Father Levesque was an active member of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, a leadership organization for religious men in the United States. Through his roles as President and Liaison to the National Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on the Liturgy, Father Levesque gained national recognition for his work with the Catholic bishops and church authorities in Rome.

Today, we celebrate the enduring legacy of Father Joseph L. Levesque. His commitment to faith, passion for service, and unwavering leadership has changed our community for the better. Please join me in honoring Father Levesque for a lifetime of tremendous service.

HONORING THE CAREER OF  
ANTHONY (TONY) ZAMPIELLO

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 2, 2024*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the long career of public service provided to the people of the San Gabriel Valley and Southern California by Anthony (Tony) Zampello of the San Gabriel Valley Water Association and the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster.

Water policy and management is one of the most controversial, complicated, and costly issues in California. In my region there are hundreds of different water supply agencies, water treatment works, water distributors, and water users. One of the things that the varied water interests in the San Gabriel Valley agree on is the deep gratitude we have for the invaluable expertise of Tony Zampello over the past 35 years.

Tony has been at the forefront of managing water agencies and advising policy makers on historic water rights, urban water usage, infrastructure, federal programs, and groundwater management. As the primary groundwater manager in the San Gabriel Valley, Tony has effectively administered basin levels and usage through cycles of drought and heavy storm seasons. The San Gabriel Basin would not have withstood the severe droughts of the past decade and come back at heightened levels the way it did if it were not for Tony’s leadership.

Tony has testified in Congress and provided policy advice that has been at the forefront of the water debates and legislation signed into law. He was the impetus for multiple provisions in Water Resources Development Acts that have led to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers improving groundwater recharge and dam operations in Southern California. He advocated for improved stormwater capture that led to a new Clean Water Act program for stormwater in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. He has championed water recycling that has spurred Congress to provide millions of dollars in additional Bureau of Reclamation funding to reuse wastewater and release it into spreading grounds and improve our aquifers.

Mr. Speaker, we are happy that Tony is moving on to a much-deserved retirement, but we will greatly miss the reservoir of knowledge that he has provided to water managers and policy makers. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Tony Zampello on his retirement, and thanking him for his long career of public service to the people of Southern California.

COMMEMORATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS AND THE YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

**HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 2, 2024*

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the First Continental Congress and Young People’s Continental Congress.

The United States Congress traces its roots to the First Continental Congress, which convened in Carpenters’ Hall in 1774 and was one of the most significant events in the founding of our Nation. Colonial delegates solidified a united American identity by adopting the Declaration of Colonial Rights, which outlined their grievances with Great Britain, and the Articles of Association, which created the colonial coalition that later signed the Declaration of Independence and fought the American Revolution. After the Revolution, the Continental Congress evolved into the Congress of

the Federation and ultimately the U.S. Congress as established by the Constitution in 1787.

To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the First Continental Congress, in July 2024 the Carpenters' Company of Philadelphia, the nonprofit organization founded in 1724 that owns and operates Carpenters' Hall, will convene the Young People's Continental Congress (YPCC). From July 15–19, a diverse group of high school students and their teachers from the 13 original colonies will gather in Philadelphia to explore our Nation's founding. A second convening in July 2025 will engage students and teachers from all 56 states and jurisdictions.

YPCC is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to engage young people in history and civics as well as launch Philadelphia's celebration of the Semiquincentennial of American independence in 2026. YPCC has been named a National Partner Program of America250 and has been endorsed by America250PA and Philadelphia250. YPCC delegates will discuss America's founding principles and how those principles have been expressed over our history. They will also experience Philadelphia's world-class historic attractions to enhance their understanding of the democratic process and how our country began. The program will provide young people across the country with the opportunity to share their voices and perspectives.

YPCC will harness the power of convening for a new generation of civic leaders, who often are more connected with their peers via technology and social media than they are in physical time and space. As generations of leaders have learned, there is nothing like being "in the room where it happened."

NEWSLETTER FROM  
CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS

**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 2, 2024*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following newsletter to give an update to my constituents on issues surrounding military readiness, national security, and the appropriations process.

DEAR FRIEND:

The United States is facing unprecedented threats from those who want to do us harm, so the House is prioritizing policies that strengthen our nation's security and borders.

The House recently passed H.R. 8070, the Servicemembers Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for FY25, which is focused on improving our servicemembers' lives while restoring our military's focus on warfighting.

I'm excited to share that this bill also included three of my amendments.

The first requires the Department of Defense (DOD) to complete a survey of the 15 counties in North Carolina's 11th District as potential locations for future defense facilities. Western North Carolina's topography is much like that of many of our adversaries, including China's, and would be advantageous for military training.

Another of my amendments requires the DOD to submit an annual report to the General Services Administration about office space occupancy data so that taxpayer dollars are not being thrown away on unused office space by the federal government.

The third amendment would revoke the security clearances of retired or active members of the armed forces or Defense Department civilian employees who support or participate in demonstrations in support of a designated foreign terrorist organization. It should be a no-brainer that someone who supports a terrorist organization should not have access to classified security information.

This year's NDAA took an important step in getting our military away from wokeness and back to its mission of protecting and defending America, and I was glad to support it.

OPEN BORDERS PUT AMERICAN LIVES AT RISK.

Protecting the long-term success of our nation and Americans require defending our border.

Since President Biden has taken office, there have been more than 9.6 million illegal immigrant encounters nationwide, with more than 7.9 million of them just at our southern border.

Over the past three years, the left's failed border policies have made every community in America a border community, and the president's latest executive order does nothing to actually address the crisis at our southern border.

Recent news of Americans murdered by illegal immigrants makes it clear that we must secure our borders to keep our citizens safe. We cannot protect Americans if we don't secure our border. That's why I helped pass the strongest border security bill in history, H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act, which would put an end to this administration's border crisis that is putting Americans' lives at risk.

APPROPRIATIONS SEASON IS UPON US

The House Appropriations Committee continues to fulfill our Article I responsibility by moving 12 bills that fund the federal government through the committee and the House floor in regular order with robust debate on spending.

A common theme that marks these appropriations bills is a strong commitment to fiscal responsibility and American values.

One of the funding bills I helped pass as a member of the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee is nearly 20 percent less than the president's budget request and nearly 10 percent less than the spending level in FY24. Notably, this bill prioritizes agencies and programs that combat terrorism financing, maintain the integrity of our financial markets, spur small business growth, support the judicial branch and target opioid abuse.

After the Appropriations Committee's passage of the Defense, Homeland Security, and State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs appropriations bills, the House also advanced these bills, putting our nation a step closer to increasing the safety and security of the American people.

Some of the highlights in these bills that strengthen our national security include the following:

The Defense bill refocuses the DOD on its core mission preparing combat-ready military forces to deter war and safeguard our national security. The measure includes targeting funding to counter China and related adversaries, supporting innovation to develop modernized weapons and capabilities, and supporting our servicemembers and their families, including giving a pay raise to all military personnel.

It also reduces waste by cutting \$18 billion from the president's budget request and eliminating the use of taxpayer dollars that would have gone to fund the radical left's woke agenda.

The Homeland Security bill takes steps toward securing our southern border and

makes sure that the Department of Homeland Security upholds federal law. The measure includes providing \$600 million for constructing the southern border wall, sustained funding for 22,000 Border Patrol agents, and prohibits the transportation of illegal immigrants into the interior of the United States for purposes other than enforcement.

The State and Foreign Operations bill prioritizes agencies and programs that protect our national security while safeguarding our global economic interests, supporting our allies, targeting our enemies and promoting freedom and democracy abroad in a fiscally responsible manner, cutting overall funding by 11 percent.

The measure includes about \$2 billion for U.S. national security interests in the Indo-Pacific and to counter influence by our adversaries, and more than \$3 billion for Israel to defend itself against terrorist attacks. The bill also stops funding for the United Nations' regular budget, terminates more than 18 unnecessary programs and eliminates 33 special envoys and special representatives at the Department of State.

This administration's America Last foreign policy approach has weakened the United States' standing on the world stage, emboldened our adversaries such as China, Iran and Russia, abandoned our allies and placed American servicemembers' lives at risk.

As the House Appropriations Committee continues to work through our process of funding the government, you can follow along on Facebook or X for ongoing updates.

IF CONGRESS DOES NOT DO OUR JOB, WE DO NOT  
GO HOME

Every year since 1996, Congress has failed to pass our annual spending bills on time, and yet once August rolls around, Congress goes home, despite work still left to be done in DC. We cannot continue putting funding our federal government on the backburner.

The Constitution gives the power of the purse in Congress, yet we cannot seem to get our single most important job done in a timely manner.

I'm introducing the Do Our Job Act because if our work is not done, we should not go home. The American people cannot afford Congress not funding our government on time. The way Congress runs is broken, and this bill is one of the ways that I'm waking to fix how Washington works.

STANDING UP FOR LIFE

The second anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark Dobbs decision is a celebratory reminder that the Constitution does not grant a right to abortion. This ruling was a major step toward protecting unborn life. I'll continue to stand up for the most vulnerable through legislative actions and advocating for expecting mothers and families so that they feel empowered to choose life.

COMING TO WNC SOON: NEW ARMY RESERVE  
FACILITY

The Department of the Army is funding a \$32 million project in Asheville for the construction of a U.S. Army Reserve center, vehicle maintenance facility and organizational storage building in the Asheville vicinity, to be completed by June 2026.

I'm pleased that the Department of the Army has agreed with the approach taken by my House-passed National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) amendment, which requires the Department of Defense to complete a survey of the 15 counties in North Carolina's 11th District as potential locations for future defense facilities and report to Congress on its findings.