

an integral part of the Clark area. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring this community truly dedicated, to German cultural heritage.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
PATRICK GLEASON AFTER 26  
YEARS AT JESSE BROWN VA  
MEDICAL CENTER

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 9, 2025*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Patrick Gleason on his retirement after a remarkable 26-year career with the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center.

Patrick started as a Canteen chief before moving over to voluntary services. He collaborated with the Chicago Mattress Company to bring veterans in need of a mattress, bed frame, pillows, and sheets. He led the first VA food pantry program in the country, which ran from 2013 to 2020. Patrick coordinated a concert tour for The Dogz Jazz Band, performing at 9 different VA hospitals.

Patrick revived a program to provide ambulance and stretcher services to discharging veterans who have no other option to get home after a hospital stay. He singlehandedly repaired the relationship with the transportation provider who wanted to end their contract after previous nonpayment. Now, this service is available for those patients most in need. Patrick's leadership and service have made a lasting impact on the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center and on the veterans they serve.

As he begins this new chapter, I offer my gratitude and congratulations. Patrick Gleason's 26-year legacy at JBVA will continue to inspire leaders and communities for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and all our colleagues in the House of Representatives in recognizing Patrick Gleason for his immense contribution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 9, 2025*

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal matter, I was not present for two votes on December 4, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 313, and NAY on Roll Call No. 314.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF  
MR. DAVID WARM

**HON. SHARICE DAVIDS**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 9, 2025*

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Mr. David Warm, the executive director for the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC).

Economist John Kenneth Galbraith once wrote, "All of the great leaders have had one characteristic in common: It was the willingness to confront unequivocally the major anxiety of their people in their time."

As Executive Director of MARC for the past 35 years, Mr. Warm has confronted the major challenges of the Kansas City region time and time again. From emergency management to environmental protection, early education to aging services, and transportation to local government cooperative services, Mr. Warm has worked tirelessly with a servant's heart and a singular focus on the mission ahead.

Mr. Warm is retiring after 35 distinguished years as MARC's Executive Director. Under his leadership, MARC has earned a reputation for innovative work and has become a vital organization for the development of 119 cities and nine counties in the Kansas City area.

Prior to Mr. Warm's tenure at MARC, he worked for the city of Kansas City, Missouri, and later, the city administrator's office for the City of Liberty, Missouri, eventually leading the office. Mr. Warm also serves on the boards of several area nonprofits focused on health care, community development, and education, including the Hall Family Foundation.

He has been honored with many awards. After becoming a fellow in the National Academy of Public Administration, Mr. Warm also received the Walter Scheiber Leadership Award from the National Association of Regional Councils. In 2012, he received the Professional of the Year award from Nonprofit Connect, and in 2020, he was honored with the Kansas Citizen of the Year award by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.

Those who have worked with Mr. Warm describe him as a practical, humble, and exemplary leader who has had a positive and critical impact on the region. He is known for his dedicated service and devotion to the Kansas City region and has been an invaluable asset to my office. Mr. Warm has proactively provided my office with valuable knowledge and has been an esteemed contributor to my many roundtables addressing various issues or concerns within the community. His support, not only for my office but also for other public servants, has always been in the interest of doing what is best for the region, and we will greatly miss his unique insight.

Please join me in wholeheartedly congratulating Mr. Warm on his illustrious career and profound impact on the Kansas City region. I wish Mr. Warm a well-deserved and prosperous retirement alongside his family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERNEST  
L. "ERNIE" STEVENS, JR.

**HON. SHARICE DAVIDS**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 9, 2025*

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ernest L. "Ernie" Stevens, Jr. Ernie was a fierce and loyal advocate for Indian country who dedicated his life to advancing tribal sovereignty and protecting tribal rights through his advocacy.

Ernie was an active leader among his tribe and community, the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin. Ernie most notably served as the

Chairman for the Indian Gaming Association for more than two decades and demonstrated his unwavering commitment to tribal communities across the country through his policy contributions and his advancements to Indian gaming.

Ernie was a mentor, a passionate community leader, and a friend to all. He will be remembered for his countless contributions and commitments kept to Indian country. He will be deeply missed.

CONGRATULATING MR. DAVID  
COOK OF HUNTSVILLE, ALA-  
BAMA ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. DALE W. STRONG**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 9, 2025*

Mr. STRONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable citizen, Mr. David Cook of Huntsville, Alabama, on his well-deserved retirement from Torch Technologies. Dave Cook's distinguished career is a powerful testament to the American dream, and a lifetime dedicated to the service and protection of our Nation.

Dave began his service to our Nation by enlisting in the United States Army. His exceptional potential was quickly recognized, earning him an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, from which he graduated in 1984 with an Engineering degree. He further sharpened his expertise, earning an MBA from The Ohio State University and completing a Senior Service Fellowship at the University of Texas Institute for Advanced Technology.

His military career spanned critical roles in both combat arms leadership and defense acquisition. At the Pentagon, he served as Executive Officer to the Deputy for Systems Management and as Deputy Director of Executive Communications and Control for the Secretary of the Army. Most notably, as Senior Military Assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, he was instrumental in the urgent effort to field fifteen thousand Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, a lifesaving action that protected countless troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Dave's contributions to our Nation's missile defense capability are equally extraordinary. As Product Manager for the Sentinel Radar System following the September 11th attacks, he rapidly deployed teams to support operations, achieving record readiness rates and earning him recognition as the top product manager among thirty-two Lieutenant Colonels. As Project Manager for the Ground Based Interceptor Program at the Missile Defense Agency, he achieved the first successful launch of a newly configured interceptor within five months and doubled the operational interceptors deployed. For this success, he was awarded both the Program Manager of the Year and the Missile Defense Pinnacle Leadership Awards. Following his military retirement, Dave brought his leadership to Torch Technologies, rising to the level of Senior Vice President and Business Group Lead.

Mr. Speaker, as Dave Cook begins this next chapter alongside his wife, Petra, and their two children, David, Jr. and Brandi, I ask my

colleagues to join me in extending our deepest thanks and congratulations to Mr. David Cook for his decades of extraordinary service to our Nation, our warfighters, and the Huntsville community.

SUPPORTING THE LEGISLATIVE  
BRANCH INDEPENDENCE ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 9, 2025*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me in strengthening and protecting Congress as a separate, independent and co-equal branch of our government by cosponsoring my Legislative Branch Independence Act.

My bill would amend the appointment processes for three key legislative branch positions—the Librarian of Congress, the Comptroller General and the Director of the Government Publishing Office (GPO)—to provide that appointment and removal of their leaders are the exclusive purview of Congress. These three agencies are critical to the independent operations of Congress and should not be subject to undue influence by the executive branch or any other external organization.

The Librarian of Congress is the main research arm of Congress, managing the Congressional Research Service. The Comptroller General leads the Government Accountability Office, which conducts audits and reviews government programs to provide nonpartisan oversight for Congress. The GPO prints and distributes official Congressional and federal publications.

To ensure their independence from the executive branch, there must be no question that Congress has complete authority to dictate the appointment as well as the removal of the leaders of these organizations. Thus, my proposal would remove the President from the appointment process for all these positions and change it to a commission structure. The commissions would be made up of House and Senate leadership, as well as members from the relevant Congressional committees. The House would now also have a say in the appointment process, since its appointees would have to be confirmed by the adoption of concurrent resolutions.

This bill would also codify Congress' exclusive authority to remove the Librarian of Congress and the GPO Director. Specifically, their removal would only occur by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate and House, and clarify that the executive branch has no role in these decisions. (This is already the case for the Comptroller General.)

I ask for my colleagues' support for this bill, which empowers Congress to control all aspects of key legislative branch agencies. As the independence of the legislative branch continues to be challenged and eroded, we must take the necessary steps to ensure our ability to function as an unimpeded co-equal branch of government.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRITANNY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 9, 2025*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed all the votes in the vote series on December 4, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 314, final passage of H.R. 1049, Transparency in Reporting of Adversarial Contributions to Education (TRACE) Act, and NAY on Roll Call No. 313, final passage of H.R. 1069, PROTECT Our Kids Act.

HONORING TULLYTOWN BOROUGH  
MAYOR DAVID CUTCHINEAL'S  
RETIREMENT AFTER 4 DECADES  
OF SERVICE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 9, 2025*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize an extraordinary public servant, United States Navy Veteran and long-time Mayor of Tullytown Borough, David "Dave" Cutchineal, on the occasion of his retirement, following more than 33 years as Mayor and over 40 years of dedicated service to his beloved community in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Mayor Cutchineal's relationship with Tullytown is rooted in generations of commitment to civic leadership. His family name is woven deeply into the fabric of the borough's history. His father, Joseph Cutchineal, Jr., served 18 years on borough council, and his grandfather, Joseph Sr., served 12 years before him. Continuing this proud legacy of public service, Mayor Cutchineal first joined the Tullytown Borough Council in 1983, serving until 1988. This included as Council President and later returning from 1994 to 1998. In 1988, he was elected Mayor of Tullytown, serving continuously, with the exception of his second tenure on council, until today. Across more than three decades, Mayor Cutchineal has provided steady leadership, strong advocacy for local families, and an unwavering devotion to the community he calls home.

Before entering government, Mayor Cutchineal answered a greater call to service. From 1969 to 1973, he served honorably in the United States Navy as a SATCOM Radioman 3rd Class Petty Officer, maintaining Compass Link communications between Vietnam and the Pentagon during a critical period of war. For his service, he was awarded the Naval Unit Commendation Medal. A proud veteran, Mayor Cutchineal has never stopped honoring those who serve. He has organized Tullytown's annual Memorial Day Service for many years, ensuring that the sacrifices of America's fallen heroes are remembered with dignity.

Outside of elected office, Mayor Cutchineal built a distinguished civilian career with Bucks County Consumer Protection, serving as Senior Deputy Sealer for 35 years. His work regularly required collaboration with federal agencies including the FBI, FDA, and Consumer Product Safety Commission to ensure the safety and fairness of products sold in our

communities. He was recognized statewide with the "Great Guy Award" by the Pennsylvania Association of Weights and Measures and presented annually to honor the top official in the Commonwealth.

Mayor Cutchineal has lived a life defined by service, faith in community, and love for family. A lifelong resident of Tullytown and a 1968 graduate of Pennsbury High School, he also served as a junior member of the Tullytown Fire Department. He later continued his education at Bucks County Community College studying Criminal Justice, followed by coursework at Temple University.

Mayor Cutchineal shares his life's journey with his beloved wife, Cindy, to whom he has been married for 48 years. Together, they raised three children: Nick, Matt, and the late Kelly Elizabeth (Cutchineal) Hendryx, whose memory remains forever cherished. His devotion to his family has always remained at the center of his life, even as he dedicated thousands of hours to bettering the lives of others.

As he closes this remarkable chapter of public service, we do not simply celebrate his retirement. We celebrate the example he has set. His dedication has strengthened not only a borough, but the very idea that local government can be a true force for good.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor David Cutchineal's career stands as a testament to what hometown leadership should be. He is a leader who never asked for applause, a neighbor who always offered a hand, and a friend who believed that small towns deserve big-hearted champions. His legacy will continue to be felt in Tullytown for generations to come, especially from good governance and stronger public safety to patriotism embedded deep in the borough's civic spirit.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 1st District and the United States House of Representatives, I express my deepest appreciation to Mayor David Cutchineal for his service, his patriotism, and his enduring love of community. We wish him, Cindy, and the entire Cutchineal family happiness, peace, and every blessing in the years ahead.

HONORING THE LATE LAWRENCE  
E. SAVAGE, SR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 9, 2025*

MR. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Lawrence Edward Savage, Sr., an esteemed artist, community documentarian, husband, father, philosopher, and veteran, whose recent passing leaves a lasting mark on all who had the opportunity to experience his artistry and the inspiration he shared through his life.

Mr. Savage was born in Memphis, Tennessee, on October 6, 1938, to Ruby Lundy (Savage) and Freddie Savage, and was raised in Chicago, Illinois. After completing high school, he served in the United States Army from 1958 to 1961, stationed at Ford Ord in California, and worked as a merchant seaman and barber. These experiences shaped his discipline and commitment to service.

Upon returning home, Mr. Savage explored art as a hobby, eventually discovering his God-given talent. He began his professional