

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. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. 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 longtime 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

painting career at age 29 and, out of a desire to maintain authenticity, trained himself rather than follow conventional instruction. His early promise was recognized by several Art Institutes through merit scholarships.

While living in Jackson, Mississippi, Mr. Savage thrived as an artist, producing over 500 portraits, more than 100 murals for churches, schools, and local businesses, and over 100 signs for small business owners. His work represented Mississippi in two state fairs and decorated the halls of the State Capitol, establishing him as a local artistic icon.

He painted portraits of prominent figures such as Gladys Knight, James Brown, Senator Barack Obama, President Bill Clinton, and me, reflecting both his talent and his dedication to celebrating culture and leadership.

In addition to his artistry, Mr. Savage was a self-taught musician who played guitar, piano, and harmonica, and a mentor who shared wisdom, guidance, and inspiration with everyone he encountered. He lived by a code of love, respect, and spiritual connection, seeing the divine spark in every person and nurturing his family and community through his example.

Mr. Savage was a devoted husband to his wife of 53 years, JoAnn Smith-Savage, and a loving father and grandfather.

Through his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and his artwork, Lawrence Savage, Sr. leaves a profound legacy of creativity, vision, and love. His dedication to his craft, his family, and his community will continue to inspire countless Mississippians and Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the passing of Lawrence Edward Savage, Sr. is a tremendous loss to his family, his community, and the many individuals and institutions enriched by his art and mentorship. Yet his legacy endures—as a trailblazer in the arts, as a mentor and guide to countless individuals, and as a devoted family man who believed deeply in the power of creativity, love, and community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his memory, celebrating his remarkable contributions, and extending our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and admired him.

HONORING PENNSYLVANIA AIR
NATIONAL GUARD CHIEF MASTER
SERGEANT JOHN R.
HEIDRICK, JR.'S RETIREMENT
AFTER 38 YEARS 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 recognize and honor Chief Master Sergeant (CMSgt) John R. Heidrick, Jr., for his extraordinary service, dedication, and distinguished career throughout his nearly four decades in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. CMSgt Heidrick embodies the highest traditions of military professionalism, leadership, and devotion to duty.

CMSgt Heidrick career began with his enlistment in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard in June of 1988 and his graduation from Cable and Antenna Installation Specialist School in February of 1989. Upon graduating, he joined the 270th Engineering and Installation Squadron (EIS) at the Naval Air Station Joint Re-

serve Base Willow Grove as a Traditional Guardsman.

Always seeking ways to better serve the mission, he transitioned into the Vehicle Maintenance career field in April 1991 and secured a full-time technician role as a Heavy Equipment Mechanic with the 270th Engineering Installation Squadron (EIS). Through exceptional expertise and steadfast dedication, he was promoted to becoming a Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the Vehicle Maintenance Section on January 19, 2004. His superior performance earned him recognition as the 270th Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year in 2009.

In June 2014, CMSgt Heidrick was selected as Vehicle Fleet Manager for the 111th Attack Wing, where he continued to guide the Vehicle Maintenance Section of the 270th EIS until April 2015. His outstanding leadership and technical acumen led to his 2016 selection as Vehicle Fleet Manager for the 201st RED HORSE Squadron, Detachment 1, where he additionally assumed management responsibilities for the unit's Logistics Section. Following his promotion to Chief Master Sergeant in January 2017, CMSgt Heidrick was appointed as the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the RED HORSE Commander. His selection for this position reflects the exceptional respect and confidence he earned across the organization.

Beyond his unit level influence, CMSgt Heidrick has served the broader Air National Guard community with distinction. From 2012 to 2018, he served as a valued advisor to the National Guard Bureau Vehicle Management Advisory Group, shaping national level policy and readiness standards, providing strategic guidance on maintenance and logistics programs nationwide. Furthermore, his extensive involvement in the Chiefs Council from 2017 to 2025 demonstrates his steadfast commitment to the professional development, mentorship, and professional growth across the Wing.

CMSgt Heidrick's commitment to service extends beyond maintenance bays and command offices. For close to four decades, he has been a proud and devoted member of the Base Honor Guard, first with the 270th EIS Honor Guard from 1989 to 1996, and later with the 111th Attack Wing Honor Guard from 2004 to 2025. He ensured that proper tribute to our fallen heroes and their families were provided with the upmost dignity. His solemn service was recognized twice as he was named Honor Guard Manager of the Year in 2011 and again in 2015. His professionalism, reverence, and dedication in honoring fallen service members earned him the title of Honor Guard Manager of the Year in both 2011 and 2015.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Master Sergeant John R. Heidrick, Jr.'s distinguished career represents the very best of our United States Air Force Airman that is defined by duty, mission focus, mentorship, and honor. His leadership, unwavering commitment, and contributions have strengthened his unit, the 111th Attack Wing, and the Pennsylvania Air National Guard while elevating unit readiness across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This exemplifies the highest ideals of the United States Air Force.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing CMSgt Heidrick's extraordinary service and in expressing our Nation's deep gratitude for his distinguished career in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I thank Chief Master Sergeant John R. Heidrick, Jr. for his exemplary service and wish him continued success in all future endeavors. His legacy of leadership and dedication will endure for generations of Airmen to follow.

HONORING GENERAL ANDREW
POPPAS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished service of General Andrew Poppas as Commanding General of the U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) and to thank him for his lifetime of dedication to the armed forces.

General Poppas assumed command of FORSCOM on July 8, 2022, becoming the 24th Commanding General of the Army's largest component. In this role, he led more than 750,000 Soldiers and thousands of Army civilians across the Active Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard. His leadership has ensured their readiness to rapidly deploy and win our Nation's wars.

Over the course of his career, General Poppas has led Soldiers at every level, from platoon through division and higher-level joint commands. His service includes multiple combat deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan, command of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), and service as Director of Operations to the Joint Staff prior to assuming command of FORSCOM.

A graduate of the United States Military Academy and a seasoned operational and strategic leader, General Poppas has consistently exemplified professionalism, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to the welfare of Soldiers and their families. Under his leadership, FORSCOM strengthened its readiness posture, modernized training priorities, and ensured that America's Army remained capable, agile, and prepared for the challenges of a rapidly evolving global security environment.

As Fort Bragg's Congressman, I am forever grateful for General Poppas' decades of service. His leadership has left an enduring mark on the Army and on the generations of Soldiers who have served under him.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring the service of General Poppas as Commanding General of the U.S. Army Forces Command.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
CHAIRMAN DAVID P. ENGEL

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career and leadership of David P. Engel, Chairman of the Port of Corpus Christi and respected business executive, community leader, and dedicated public servant.

A proud graduate of Southern Methodist University, where he earned his bachelor's in