

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I was regrettably unable to vote on Roll Call No. 321. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 321.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to indicate my reasons that I will not be voting to fund Israel's military, most of which are contained in the letter that was delivered to Speaker MIKE JOHNSON's office on December 10, 2025.

I ask that funding for our military not be linked to funding Israel's military. I support our military. I do not approve of attaching my support for our military to Israel's military. We, who support our military should be allowed to do so without having to fund Israel's military. Those who support Israel's military should be able to do so in a standalone bill. I cannot in good conscience vote to authorize sending our tax dollars to a military whose prime minister has been accused by the International Criminal Court of "the war crimes of starvation as a method of warfare and of intentionally directing an attack against the civilian population; and the crimes against humanity of murder, persecution, and other inhumane acts;" to a military that has killed more than 70,000 thousand Palestinian men, women, and especially children in Gaza.

If my request to detach funding our military from funding Israel's military in legislation is not granted, I will oppose the legislation. While I believe Israel should have a military, I will not vote to support funding Israel's military. I make this request on behalf of myself and no one else. On some issues it is better to stand alone than not stand at all.

RECOGNIZING AVON HIGH SCHOOL ON WINNING THE DIVISION II STATE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school volleyball team in Ohio's 5th Congressional District. The young women of the Avon High School girls volleyball team have represented their school ably on their way to achieving the Division II State Girls Volleyball Title. In their effort to surpass all other teams in the Division II State Volleyball Playoffs, the Avon Eagles overcame the challenges posed by intense competition.

In pursuing the State Championship, the Avon Eagles defeated the Anthony Wayne Generals to win the state volleyball championship. The members of this very special team have shown that their sport requires an individual effort for a team result. Their hard work and dedication, both on and off the field, in achieving this accomplishment, is truly outstanding.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the Avon High School girls volleyball team. On behalf of the people of the 5th District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO A DEDICATED CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER, MS. DEBORAH PERRY

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a congressional staffer who has played an indispensable role in Maryland's 7th Congressional District. She began her well-deserved retirement this year after over 29 years of service to the United States Congress and the people of Baltimore.

Ms. Deborah Perry is a Baltimore native, born on December 25, Christmas Day, 1950—a birthday that presaged the gift that Ms. Perry would become to her community. She grew up with a young U.S. Representative Elijah Cummings, beginning a friendship and professional relationship that would last decades.

Ms. Perry graduated from Baltimore's Eastern High School with a degree in business education and from the Community College of Baltimore with a paralegal degree. She began her career as a civil servant, spending nearly a decade working for Baltimore City's Police Department and Department of Social Services.

After briefly working in the Congressional offices of Frederick Richmond (D-NY-14) and Julian Dixon (D-CA-28), Ms. Perry started a business, Case Management Plus, providing outsourcing services to attorneys to assist with personal injury and workers' compensation cases.

In the early 1990's, Ms. Perry began working for Delegate Elijah Cummings, then a member of Maryland's House of Delegates. She worked in his law office until 1996, when Elijah won the special election to the congressional seat that I had vacated. Elijah brought Ms. Perry to Congress as his District Office Manager, responsible for training new employees and coordinating major projects in the district.

Over the next 23 years, Ms. Perry performed many roles helping Elijah serve the people of Baltimore. After three years as office manager, Ms. Perry began assisting constituents resolve their issues with various government agencies. She also represented Elijah at important meetings, like those for the \$1.6 billion East Baltimore Development Project. After five years in that role, Ms. Perry became Elijah's Executive Assistant, taking on the demanding task of managing his daily schedule.

After three years as Executive Assistant, Ms. Perry left public service in 2007, ready to enjoy retirement. In a testament to her char-

acter, after the 2008 financial crash, Ms. Perry came out of retirement to help handle the influx of housing and foreclosure cases. She worked tirelessly for struggling Baltimoreans, developing and organizing 12 Foreclosure Prevention Workshops. These workshops were well attended, each with more than 1,000 participants. The workshops were so successful, she was asked to train other Congressional offices on how to host similar workshops in their own districts.

When she returned to public service in 2009, Ms. Perry intended to help for a few months and then return to retirement. For the next 10 years, she remained an invaluable staffer, serving as Elijah's Special Assistant until his untimely death in 2019. When I was elected to replace my friend Elijah in my old congressional seat in 2020, I knew that Ms. Perry, with decades of experience, would be an asset to my office.

I was fortunate that she agreed to stay in the office as a Constituent Services Representative, helping Baltimoreans resolve issues with their housing, social services, and utilities. She has served with distinction these last 5 years, often speaking of the blessing it is to be able to help so many people.

Ms. Perry's motto is "Always exceeding the expectations of the people she serves in everything she does." She has always had a passion for helping others, adhering to the Japanese philosophy of Kaizen, which encourages change for the better.

Ms. Deborah Perry has left an indelible mark on Maryland's 7th Congressional District. After nearly 30 years of selflessly spreading blessings to the people of Baltimore, she is getting the retirement that she deserves. Mr. Speaker, I would like to give Ms. Perry the recognition that she deserves—recognition of her great accomplishments, extensive service, and of the profound impact that she has had on our office and the people that we represent. I thank Ms. Perry for everything.

HONORING MR. IAN MATTHEWS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend an outstanding educator from Mississippi's Delta region, Mr. Ian Matthews, a dedicated science teacher at West Bolivar High School in Rosedale. Mr. Matthews has recently been selected to serve on the Mississippi Department of Education's Science Standard Review Committee, a prestigious and highly selective body tasked with reviewing and shaping the future of science education across our state.

Mr. Matthews represents Mississippi's 2nd Congressional District on this committee and was chosen from nearly 100 applicants statewide, with only about two dozen ultimately selected. His appointment reflects his exceptional knowledge of science curriculum standards, his effectiveness in the classroom, and his deep commitment to student achievement—particularly in high-stakes, state-tested subject areas such as Biology.

A proud native of Benoit, Mississippi, Mr. Matthews is a 2016 graduate of Ray Brooks High School, which once served the same

school district he now represents with such distinction. His educational journey is a testament to perseverance and dedication. After graduating from high school, he attended Coahoma Community College, majoring in Sports Medicine, and later earned his bachelor's degree in Exercise Science and Allied Health from Delta State University in 2020. He then went on to complete a master's degree in teaching in 2022 and an Educational Specialist Degree in Leadership from Arkansas State University in 2024. He is currently pursuing his doctorate in Educational Leadership at Trident University.

In the classroom, Mr. Matthews has shown remarkable results. Over the past several years, he has consistently achieved a 70 percent passing rate in his science classes, with 48 percent proficiency and a 75 percent pass rate in the last academic year alone. These gains are attributed to his use of hands-on learning strategies, the integration of lab-based activities, and meaningful communication with parents to support student learning beyond the classroom.

In addition to teaching, he coaches student athletics, extending his philosophy of resilience, teamwork, and discipline to all areas of student development. He often tells his students that "education is the passport to the future", encouraging them to pursue both academic and career pathways, and to believe that their background should never limit their aspirations. His personal motto—"If there's no seat at the table, make your own"—reflects the bold leadership and vision he instills in the next generation.

Mr. Matthews is not just an educator; he is a hometown hero, a mentor, a leader, and a living example of what it means to return home and serve. As he takes on this important role with the Mississippi Department of Education, he brings with him not only experience and expertise but also the heart and soul of the Mississippi Delta.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the achievements of Mr. Ian Matthews, and in recognizing his extraordinary contributions to education in Mississippi and his unwavering commitment to student success.

HONORING DR. MARCUS STADELMANN

HON. NATHANIEL MORAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Marcus Stadelmann of UT Tyler.

Since 1990, Dr. Stadelmann has been leading the Tyler community. During his 35 years of service, he has prepared countless students for their careers and worked tirelessly to support UT Tyler.

His dedication and passion have been at the cornerstone of the Political Science Department. Dr. Stadelmann invests in each of his students, ensuring they are prepared for success no matter what the next chapter brings for them. He has instilled a lifelong love of learning and discovery.

His influence extends far beyond the classroom. His leadership, innovative research, and work across the university have left a lasting

mark on the institution. As a professor, he has fostered an incredible classroom environment, bringing new ideas to light for his students. Although he challenges his students, the approach allows them to flourish.

The Tyler community will miss his daily presence and the spirit he brought to the faculty, staff, and to the classroom.

I congratulate Dr. Stadelmann on his well-earned retirement. I congratulate him on building a strong legacy. I am grateful for the robust programs he has built and the strong communities he created. May he please accept my best wishes on a retirement filled with joy and new adventures. The Tyler community looks forward to Dr. Stadelmann remaining a valued part of the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAX L. MILLER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes as I was called back to the district to be with my daughter for a surgery. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 317; YEA on Roll Call No. 318; NAY on Roll Call No. 319; YEA on Roll Call No. 320; and NAY on Roll Call No. 321.

HONORING PAUL SMITH WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM- MENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Paul Smith of Hunt, Texas, and to honor him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Sergeant Smith honorably served in the United States Army for five years, demonstrating exceptional dedication and courage in defense of our Nation.

Paul began his military career in 1969, answering the call to serve with integrity and resolve. Throughout his service, he displayed remarkable versatility in both food service and infantry roles. His assignments took him to Vietnam, where he served in Vietnam Recon, and to Fort Polk, Fort Sherman, and Fort Hood, where he continued to lead others as a Mess Sergeant. For his exemplary service, Paul received the Vietnam Service Medal with three Bronze Service Stars, the National Defense Service Medal, the Purple Heart, the Purple Heart Cane, and the Quilt of Valor—each a symbol of his sacrifice, strength, and unwavering commitment to our Nation.

After completing his military service, Paul carried his spirit of service home, continuing to make a difference in his community. He has been active in organizations such as the Knights of Columbus, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Military Veteran Peer Network (MVPN). Before moving to Texas, Paul served as Youth Coordinator and Sergeant-at-Arms for the Mississippi Knights of Columbus. Today, he continues his leadership as Treasurer of his local American

Legion post, steadfastly advocating for veterans and ensuring they remain connected to vital resources and support.

Paul has built his life around serving others, weaving a legacy defined by kindness, grace, and community. His dedication—both in and out of uniform—stands as a shining example of selfless service.

I am deeply honored to recognize Sergeant Paul Smith for his extraordinary courage, patriotism, and lifelong commitment to service. He represents the very best of Texas' 4th Congressional District and of our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE TIFFIN CAL- VERT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ON WINNING THE DIVISION VII STATE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school volleyball team in Ohio's 5th Congressional District. The young women of the Tiffin Calvert Catholic High School girls volleyball team have represented their school ably on their way to achieving the Division VII State Girls Volleyball Title. In their effort to surpass all other teams in the Division VII State Volleyball Playoffs, the Calvert Senecas overcame the challenges posed by intense competition.

In pursuing the State Championship, Tiffin Calvert defeated the Monroeville Eagles to win the state volleyball championship. The members of this very special team have shown that their sport requires an individual effort for a team result. Their hard work and dedication, both on and off the field, in achieving this accomplishment, is truly outstanding.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the Tiffin Calvert Catholic High School girls volleyball team. On behalf of the people of the 5th District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

DISINTERMENT OF REMAINS OF FERNANDO V. COTA FROM FORT SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL CEME- TERY, TEXAS

SPEECH OF

HON. JAKE AUCHINCLOSS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to outline my concerns with a provision contained within the Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act, which I will vote against. This provision, though well intentioned, is poorly drafted and shows the deficit of proper process.

Referred to as the BIOSECURE Act, Section 851 of the NDAA will only apply to contracts subject to the Federal Acquisition Regulations System—that is the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs. This means that while Medicare and commercial-plan beneficiaries will be able to access