

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

the drugs captured by the BIOSECURE Act, veterans and service members could be alienated from treatments and cures that are available to other Americans. This bifurcation is not only unfair, it renders the disincentive to biotech ineffective.

In its form, this bill is not fit to function and makes no attempt to support a domestic CDMO or CRO industry. It simply limits care and cures for service members and veterans.

CELEBRATING THE ACTIVISM OF
CARIN MROTZ

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Carin Mrotz over the past two decades, for the betterment of our community. For several years, she played integral roles at Jewish Community Action, a nonprofit that organizes the Jewish community in Minnesota, who work in equal partnership with other marginalized communities for racial justice, economic justice, housing reform, and gender equity.

Since 2004, Carin has been a relentless advocate for social justice. During her time at JCA, she acted as a community organizer, operations and communications director, and eventually became the Executive Director in 2017, only accelerating the momentum of the work to which she has long been committed. In 2023, she joined Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison's staff as a Senior Policy Advisor, where she remains dedicated to improving the lives of everyone throughout the state.

In addition, Ms. Mrotz has also served as a trainer, college instructor, a Minneapolis Complete Census Count Committee member, and too many other roles to list. She does all of this while also caring for her husband and two children, still finding time to perform Punk Rock Karaoke at the legendary watering hole Palmers, which sadly closed this year.

We are all fortunate to have Carin as part of our community and I am grateful to have known her as long as I have. If it hadn't been a dare that brought Carin to Minnesota in 1997, we would not have benefited from her years of community service. Let us take this moment to recognize and celebrate Carin's work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 310; NAY on Roll Call No. 311; and NAY on Roll Call No. 312.

RECOGNIZING COOSA CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL FOR WINNING THE
AHSAA CLASS 2A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN FOOTBALL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Coosa Christian School football team for winning the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) 2A State Championship.

At Protective Stadium in Birmingham, Alabama, on December 5, 2025, the Coosa Christian School football team, with a record of 13–2, secured the school's first state championship over Lanett High School with a score of 29–22. Two touchdowns were scored in the final few minutes of the game with a 20-yard touchdown run by Mac Long with 22 seconds left on the clock.

The championship team from Gadsden, Alabama, is led by Coach Rush Propst and is the school's first football state title.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Coosa Christian football team, Coach Propst and his coaching staff, the faculty and fans on this exciting win for the school. I congratulate them and Go Conquerors.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF WADE HAMPTON
CREEKMORE, JR.

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of fellow Mississippian Wade Hampton Creekmore, Jr. Mr. Creekmore was a telecommunications pioneer and co-founder of Cellular South, Inc., which now operates under the brand name C Spire.

Mr. Creekmore's leadership and career is considered one of the most admired and impactful in Mississippi. Starting with his father's purchase of a small independent telephone company in Calhoun County in the late 1940s, Mr. Creekmore expanded the family's telecommunications career into one that, this year alone, was awarded America's Most Admired Workplaces.

Mr. Creekmore was born in Jackson, Mississippi, and graduated from Central High School in 1952. After high school, Mr. Creekmore earned a business degree from the University of Mississippi in 1956. Mr. Creekmore then enlisted in the United States Navy, where he became an officer, serving on the Underwater Demolition Team, which is known today as the Navy SEALs. As a frogman, he was among the earliest combat divers in U.S. military history.

In 1960, Mr. Creekmore resigned his commission to work for the Franklin Telephone Company. He was a manager and an officer, serving in these roles until his passing. Wanting to further his education and prepare for the future, Mr. Creekmore enrolled in law school at the University of Mississippi and graduated in 1967. Upon his graduation, Mr. Creekmore, his wife Betsy, and their daughters moved to

Meadville, where he started a law practice before moving permanently to Jackson.

After years of building out their telephone business across Mississippi, the Creekmores and other members of the family invested in wireless communications. After acquiring a wireless license in 1986, Cellular South was born in 1988. The Creekmores started with nine employees and three towers on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The first call was made by none other than the legendary Archie Manning. Growing to the largest privately-owned wireless provider in the Nation with a headquarters in Ridgeland, Mississippi, the Creekmores were among the first to work with wireless communications in the United States. In 2011, that same innovative company was rebranded as C-Spire, reflecting the full-service telecommunications and technology provider the company has become.

While Mr. Creekmore's telephone company was a priority, he also had a deep commitment to his community. He founded the Southwest Mississippi Chess Foundation and the Franklin Chess Center, based in Meadville, Mississippi.

He also had a passion for sports, swimming across the Mississippi River, competing in road races, participating in the Senior Olympics, and taking part in triathlons.

In his later years, on family property in Warren County with nothing but a shovel and commitment, he single-handedly planted several thousand oak trees to make the world better and more beautiful for future generations.

He was a deeply loved and respected husband and a gentle, caring rock of a father who had a watchful, unwavering, abiding love for his daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He was also a good friend to man's best friend.

While clearly a man among men throughout his life, Mr. Creekmore's selfless countenance displayed a steadfast expression of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control to all who knew him well. Though humbly unaware, he produced a bounty of such fruit not for his name, but to exalt the precious name of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Mr. Creekmore and his family have been dedicated members of Jackson's First Presbyterian Church for many years.

Mr. Creekmore will be greatly missed not just by his family but by his entire community. His impact will be felt for generations, and it is my honor to remember his life and commitment here in the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE NAPOLEON
HIGH SCHOOL ON WINNING THE
JUNIOR VARSITY STATE GIRLS
WATER POLO 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 water polo team in Ohio's 5th Congressional District. The young women of the Napoleon High School junior varsity girls water polo team