

Services to move funds between several different accounts of appropriated funds including the: Military Construction, Operations and Maintenance, and Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation accounts, without seeking approval from Congress. I understand that the intent is to expedite the construction of the new headquarters for U.S. Space Command, but the authority provided by this provision is broad, permanent, and will likely be used beyond this one instance. The Appropriations Committee meticulously considers how funds from these accounts are to be used, and this authority offers too much room for abuse by the Administration. Given OMB and the Department's repeated abuse of appropriations law this year, the idea of providing the Department with new authority to move funds absent Congressional approval should be a non-starter for the Appropriations Committee. This provision must be rescinded in the Defense Appropriations Act.

As the Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, I completely agree that the United States must maintain a strong military force that can deter wars and win them if necessary. I appreciate the work that has been done by my Democratic colleagues on the Armed Services Committee to improve this bill. They have worked hard and I will have a similarly difficult task in negotiating the conference agreement for the Fiscal Year 2026 Defense Appropriations Act. My colleagues have given their best efforts and put forward a product that attempts major reforms to a clearly broken defense acquisition process, many of which I support. But America must be both strong and principled, and the National Defense Authorization Act must reflect that spirit. We can modernize our forces and protect our homeland without eroding the Constitutional safeguards that make our democracy worth defending. It is with deep regret that, in my opinion, this bill does not do enough to meet that standard.

I oppose this legislation and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

HONORING TEN YEARS OF KINGMAN VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Magistrate Jeffrey Singer and the ten-year anniversary of the Kingman Veterans Treatment Court—a model of justice, accountability, and compassion for those who have served our Nation.

Founded on December 9, 2015, Judge Singer's vision created a specialized court that confronts the challenges many veterans face when returning to civilian life, including mental health struggles, addiction, and the lingering wounds of combat. Instead of allowing these challenges to lead to a cycle of punishment, the Kingman Veterans Treatment Court offers structured treatment, peer mentorship, and a path toward stability and dignity.

The results speak for themselves. Over the past decade, 130 veterans have graduated from the program, gaining access to critical resources such as mental health care, sub-

stance use treatment, housing support, and employment assistance. Recidivism has dropped, families have been strengthened, and the community has benefited from veterans who return not only as productive citizens, but often as mentors guiding others through the same journey.

Most importantly, this court embodies a fundamental principle: we do not abandon those who served our country. Judge Singer's leadership, along with the dedication of the court's team and volunteer mentors, has transformed lives and reaffirmed our community's commitment to every veteran who needs a second chance.

On this milestone anniversary, I offer my sincere appreciation to Magistrate Singer and all who make the Kingman Veterans Treatment Court a success. Their work honors our veterans, strengthens our community, and sets a lasting example of what justice can achieve when it leads with both accountability and compassion.

HONORING QUINT AVENETTI WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Warrant Officer 05, Quint Avenetti, of Rockwall, Texas, and to award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. CW05 Avenetti honorably served in the United States Marine Corps as a Field Artillery/Target Acquisition Officer.

In 1980, Quint Avenetti began his military career in the enlisted ranks, where his exceptional knowledge and professionalism led to his commissioning as a Warrant Officer. Throughout his service, he led all aspects of field artillery operations, specializing in target identification, acquisition, destruction, and assessment. His assignments took him to Saudi Arabia in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, to the Persian Gulf, and later to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Over the course of twenty-seven years of service, his commendations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Marine Good Conduct Medal (three awards), as well as nine Certificates of Commendation, the Kuwait Liberation Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal (three awards), the Iraqi Freedom Medal, the Navy Unit Commendation, and the Presidential Unit Citation.

Following his military career, Quint turned his focus to veteran affairs in Rockwall, becoming a leading force in the Rockwall Band of Brothers, Sisters, and Friends. Within that organization, he plans "happy hours," bringing together veterans of all ranks and services for fellowship and local engagement. Quint also serves as the Adjutant of the Dallas and North Texas Chapters of the Military Order of the World Wars, while remaining an active member of the Rockwall Terry Fisher American Legion Post No. 117.

He has been instrumental in establishing the James W. Randolph Detachment of the na-

tionally chartered Marine Corps League and in launching the first Rockwall ISD JROTC program. Beyond his leadership in veteran service organizations, he coordinates local veteran fitness competitions and annual "Bodfish" gatherings—events that bring veterans and their families together in a rustic setting to celebrate life and support one another.

I am deeply honored to recognize Chief Warrant Officer, Quint Avenetti, 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.

HONORING SAINT PAUL FIRE CHIEF BUTCH INKS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of St. Paul Fire Department Chief Butch Inks on his retirement after more than 40 years of steadfast service to the City of Saint Paul, including 31 years of dedication to public safety as a Firefighter and Chief of the Saint Paul Fire Department.

Chief Butch Inks grew up in Saint Paul's North End, beginning his public service journey in 1985 when he was first hired by the City of Saint Paul through a youth employment program. In 1994, he joined the Saint Paul Fire Department, beginning what would become a decades-long commitment to protecting and serving his hometown. Alongside his municipal service, Chief Inks dedicated 26 years to the United States Air Force Reserve, deploying multiple times and retiring as a master sergeant in 2012. Chief Inks' history in military and municipal service shaped him into the steady, principled leader the department and community have relied upon.

Since his appointment as Fire Chief in 2019, Chief Inks has overseen a period of progress and modernization for one of Minnesota's busiest urban fire and emergency service agencies. I was proud to partner with Chief Inks to secure over \$1.6 million in federal funding towards the complete rebuilding of Saint Paul Fire Station 7 on the East Side, replacing a nearly century-old facility in the city's highest call-volume area. Chief Inks also placed into service Minnesota's first all-electric fire engine, Engine 7, leading us towards a cleaner and healthier future for our fire department and for our community.

Chief Inks' leadership—along with all the distinguished individuals of the Saint Paul Fire Department—has made a notable impact on the City of Saint Paul. He increased EMS and fire staffing to the highest levels in department history through an innovative scheduling model that simultaneously reduced overtime costs. He implemented both Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support emergency medical response models, shortening response times. During the COVID-19 pandemic and the civil unrest that followed the murder of George Floyd, he coordinated 200 emergency responders, managing more than 50 incidents in a single 12-hour period and preventing millions of dollars in property damage. He expanded firefighter health protections through comprehensive cardiac

screenings and enhanced physical exams. He also championed community-first public safety strategies, workforce inclusion, and operational models that prioritize equity, readiness, and compassionate service for all Saint Paul residents.

Although retiring from his role as Fire Chief, Butch Inks is not retiring from public service. He will continue to shape the future of Minnesota's fire service as the next executive director of the Minnesota Fire Service Certification Board. In this role, he will help ensure that future firefighters meet the highest standards of training and professionalism by overseeing the examinations and certification processes that prepare them for licensure and service.

It has been my honor and a privilege to work with Chief Inks. His commitment to serve not only the citizens of Saint Paul, Minnesota but our entire Nation has left an indelible mark. As he retires from service to the City of Saint Paul, I wish him well, along with his wife Erica and their four children.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in this well-deserved tribute to St. Paul Fire Chief Butch Inks on his retirement after more than three decades of steadfast dedication to public safety.

SUPPORTING THE PROSPER IN THE PACIFIC ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my Promoting Regional Opportunities for Sustainable Prosperity and Economic Resilience in the Pacific Act, or PROSPER in the Pacific Act, to advance the U.S.-Pacific Islands relationship to include an economic partnership built on shared values and principles.

The Pacific Islands, spread across the vast Pacific Ocean, have a collective maritime area that exceeds the land area of Russia and China combined. These jurisdictions are key partners in maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific and meeting vital security and economic challenges. It is imperative that we develop, maintain, and grow these relationships.

Recognizing this, successive administrations have committed to deepening U.S. engagement in the region, including through trade and investment. Most recently, the 2025 National Security Strategy asserts that "the Indo-Pacific is already and will continue to be among the next century's key economic and geopolitical battlegrounds," reaffirms our commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific and prioritizes winning the economic competition over the long term in the region. Additionally, the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission's 2025 Annual Report to Congress recommended that we strengthen economic assistance to Pacific Island countries to support U.S. national security interests and the priorities of partner countries.

However, our economic toolkit for achieving our goals in the Pacific Islands needs to be strengthened. Many Pacific Island countries enjoyed preferential treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) when it was authorized, but the program lapsed in 2020. Some of the Pacific Islands' top exports to the U.S., including tuna, cane sugar, ginger

and taro, would be eligible for duty-free treatment under GSP but for this lapse.

The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), the leading multinational political organization for the Pacific Islands region, has prioritized the region's need to build trade capacity and infrastructure and has specifically advocated for preferential trade agreements given its lack of competitiveness due to its small national markets, isolation from the global market, and high cost of operating and land and labor constraints. The PIF has encouraged the U.S. to extend duty-free treatment under the GSP beyond preferences for Least Developed Beneficiary Developing Countries.

Implementing such a program would come at a low cost to the U.S. while delivering a high strategic return, especially given the People's Republic of China's (PRC) increased focus on expanding its influence in the region. My bill, PROSPER in the Pacific, would provide a visible alternative to the PRC by emphasizing economic partnership over debt-trap diplomacy, all while encouraging private-sector-led development, market-based economies, and goodwill towards the U.S.

The PROSPER in the Pacific Act would authorize the President to designate certain articles imported from eligible Pacific Island countries for duty-free treatment, extending to them the same preferential access that is afforded to least developed beneficiary developing countries under GSP. By doing so, my legislation aims to stimulate export opportunities for Pacific Island economies while encouraging U.S. businesses to source more goods from the region. In addition to expanding market access, the bill would direct the President to develop a comprehensive plan for negotiating free trade agreements with Pacific Island countries that express interest, laying the groundwork for deeper, long-term economic integration. Finally, my bill would create a dedicated trade facilitation and capacity-building program for the Pacific Islands to help partner governments strengthen customs procedures, meet U.S. product standards, and improve overall export readiness, ensuring they can fully realize the benefits of enhanced trade ties.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation to sustain and expand U.S. economic and security engagement in this critical region.

RECOGNIZING THE NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL CHEER TEAM ON WIN- NING THE DIVISION III OHSCCA BEST IN THE STATE TITLE

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 cheer team in Ohio's 5th Congressional District. The young student athletes of the Norwalk High School cheer team have represented their school ably on their way to achieving the Ohio High School Cheerleading and Dance Coaches Association Division III Best in the State title.

In their effort to surpass all other teams in the division, Norwalk overcame the challenges

posed by intense competition. 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 floor, in achieving this accomplishment, is truly outstanding.

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

RECOGNIZING DOROTHY GIAMBOI FOR NEARLY FIFTEEN YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Dorothy Giamboi on her conclusion of service to the Borough of Metuchen Council. After fourteen years, Dorothy stands as the longest-serving Council Member in Metuchen's history. Please join me in celebrating my long-time friend, Dorothy Giamboi, for her outstanding contributions to the community.

Since 2011, Councilwoman Dorothy Giamboi has served on the Metuchen Borough Council, acting as the liaison to the Metuchen Chamber of Commerce, Development Commission, Municipal Alliance/Youth Services Board, and currently to the Shade Tree Commission, Environmental Commission, and Senior Citizen Commission. In addition to her leadership within the council, Dorothy has served on the Middlesex County Water Resources Association and as Chairwoman of the Peter Barnes Wildlife Preserve Commission.

Councilwoman Giamboi leaves a legacy of environmental advocacy and stewardship, including her contribution to the creation and adoption of a master plan of local ecology preservation for the largest undeveloped ecosystem in northern Middlesex County. This oversight will be instrumental in the continued restoration of the Woodbrook Superfund Site, and associated conservation efforts throughout the area. Dorothy played a pivotal role in securing grants from Sustainable Jersey and the National Park Service, including twenty-five thousand dollars to provide composters to residents. In 2015, Dorothy was named a Sustainability Hero by Sustainable Jersey. I am confident that the 6th Congressional District of New Jersey will thank her for her efforts to keep Middlesex County's greater environment safe, healthy, and thriving for years to come. As she embarks on this new phase, Dorothy is joined by her beloved two sons, husband, Alex Giamboi, two shih tzus, and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me on congratulating Dorothy Giamboi on her fourteen years of service with the Borough of Metuchen. It is my privilege to recognize her remarkable contributions to our community and offer my best wishes for a restful and joyful new stage in life.