

1939 to enlist in the United States Navy. Sworn into the Navy in July 1940, Harry chose to become a Corpsman, a role that perfectly melded with his gentle, caring nature.

On December 7, 1941, Harry witnessed the attack on Pearl Harbor. His bravery and service during that day, rescuing fellow sailors amidst chaos, stands as a testament to his courage and dedication. Throughout World War II, Harry served in various capacities and earned numerous commendations, including the Asiatic-Pacific Area Theater Medal with two stars, the WWII Victory Medal, and the Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal. He retired as a Senior Chief (HMCS) in 1981 after 40 years of service to the United States Navy and Naval Reserve.

Beyond his military service, Harry was a successful businessman, co-owning Highland Upholstery Co. in Holyoke, Massachusetts, with his brother Martin. He was a respected member of many fraternal organizations, including the Mount Tom Lodge of Masons, the Melha Shriners Hospital, and the Submarine Veterans of WWII.

Harry was a devoted husband to Anna McMahon, and together they raised a loving family. He is predeceased by his beloved wife Anna, daughter Patricia Russotto, sisters Rose Hendel and Eve Salwitz, brother Martin Cohen, and long-time companion Muriel O'Conner. He is survived by his daughters Kathleen Fahey and Carole Anne Cowles, his eight grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren. His life was a testament to love, dedication, and service.

Harry Chandler emulated what it meant to be a part of the Greatest Generation—selflessly serving his Nation without hesitation and without want for recognition. His actions on that fateful day on December 7, 1941, are forever etched in our Nation's history. The heroics he demonstrated—rescuing fellow sailors while witnessing the tragic fate of the USS *Arizona* and USS *Utah*—are a stark reminder of the price he and his fellow servicemembers paid to protect our freedom. His legacy is an inspiration to us all and will live on for eternity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Harry L. Chandler, not only as a veteran of World War II, but as a pillar of strength, resilience, and humility. His legacy is an inspiration to us all and will undoubtedly continue to influence our community for generations to come.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time. I join a grateful Nation in mourning the loss of Harry Chandler—a true American hero.

#### RECOGNIZING DANIEL L. RITCHIE

##### HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2025*

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Daniel L. Ritchie. Former Chancellor of the University of Denver, Ritchie was beloved in our community for his commitment to the University, to philanthropy, and to his role as a civic leader in Denver.

Ritchie wore numerous hats in his professional career, but he was always guided by values he called his "cowboy ethics." These values included:

Live each day with courage.  
Take pride in your work.  
Always finish what you start.  
Do what has to be done.  
Be tough, but fair.  
When you make a promise, keep it.  
Ride for the brand.  
Talk less and say more.

Remember that some things aren't for sale.

Ritchie lived by these principles, but he was also a person who was quick to demonstrate empathy, to lift up others, and to listen to those people and those causes in need of attention. He served the University community as Chancellor from 1989 to 2005, and helped raise over \$400 million in investments to university infrastructure and facilities, including tens of millions of dollars of his own money. The University's athletics complex, the Daniel L. Ritchie Center for Sports & Wellness, bears his name and thousands of Coloradans walk through its doors each year to watch Division I teams compete in college athletics.

A passionate supporter of athletics, Ritchie also knew that well-rounded students benefited from diverse perspectives. He created the Cherrington Global Scholars program at the University, a program designed to facilitate participation in study abroad programs and grow a student body prepared for "global citizenship."

Daniel L. Ritchie was a steady force of nature and a leader who earned the respect of those he represented. His contributions to our state, whether through positions at the University of Denver, Denver Center for Performing Arts, Daniels Fund, Denver Art Museum Foundation, Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation, or one of his many other commitments to our community, are a legacy we're grateful he leaves behind.

I honor these achievements, send my gratitude to his loved ones, and thank the "Cowboy Chancellor" for his service to our state.

#### HONORING DR. STEVEN PACKER, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF MONTAGE HEALTH, FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO HEALTHCARE AND MONTEREY COUNTY

##### HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2025*

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Steven Packer, whose dedication to healthcare has profoundly transformed the well-being of individuals and families across Monterey County. Dr. Packer has served as President and CEO of Montage Health since 1999, spearheading the growth and innovation of this integrated, nonprofit healthcare network. Under his stewardship, Montage Health has evolved from its origins as Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula to become a national model for community-centered healthcare.

Dr. Packer has expanded access to high-quality care for countless residents of California's Central Coast. Through the creation of urgent care clinics, wellness centers, physician practices, community health programs, and Monterey County's first Medicare Advantage program. He prioritized the growth of Monterey County's healthcare workforce, forging part-

nerships with Monterey Peninsula College and California State University, Monterey Bay, to create career pathways for nursing and physician assistant students. His efforts have resulted in Montage Health's position as the largest private employer in Monterey County and a leading healthcare resource for the region.

Beyond these achievements, Dr. Packer has dedicated his time and expertise to numerous boards and community initiatives. As former chair of the California Hospital Association and a board member of Stevenson School, Vizient West Coast, and NORCAL Mutual Insurance Company, he has consistently demonstrated a commitment to both local and industry-wide progress.

I want to commend Dr. Packer's legacy of leadership, innovation, and compassion, as he retires from his role as President and CEO of Montage Health. His contributions extend far beyond bricks and mortar; they embody a deep compassion and unwavering dedication to improving lives. From his early days as a pulmonologist and ICU medical director, to his role as a visionary CEO, Dr. Packer has exemplified excellence, service, and innovation in every facet of his work.

I know he will continue to be a voice for care, compassion, and community connection as he embarks on his next chapter of service.

#### HONORING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KING WILLIAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE

##### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2025*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 300th anniversary of the King William County Courthouse, which stands as the oldest courthouse building in continuous use in the United States.

The King William County Courthouse was constructed in 1725 and was the heart of local self-government and much of the social, economic, and communal life of King William County. The Courthouse was used during the colonial period to elect members of the House of Burgesses, and it served as the designated polling place when the governor deemed other elections were necessary. During the early stages of the American Revolution, local patriots forming the county committee convened in the King William County Courthouse, where Carter Braxton, committee chair and future signer of the Declaration of Independence, received the news of the Battles of Lexington and Concord.

The King William County Courthouse is considered the best preserved of the Commonwealth's remaining colonial court buildings. The building was listed in the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1959, the Virginia Landmarks Register on November 5, 1968, and the National Register of Historic Places on October 1, 1969. The King William County Historical Museum and the King William Virginia 250 Planning Committee will hold a celebration on April 12, 2025, commemorating the 300th anniversary of the historic King William County Courthouse.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask that you rise with me in honoring The King William County

Courthouse on the anniversary of 300 years of continuous use.

# INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AMEND THE SAVE OUR SEAS 2.0 ACT

## HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, February 12, 2025*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill that would make the District of Columbia and the territories expressly eligible for the wastewater infrastructure and trash-free water grants established by section 302 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act. These grants, respectively, fund the construction of improvements to reduce and remove plastic waste and post-consumer materials from wastewater, and support projects to reduce the quantity of solid waste in bodies of water.

The Save Our Seas 2.0 Act makes local governments expressly eligible for these two grants, but it does not make D.C. and the territories expressly eligible for them, even though D.C. and the territories, like local governments, conduct the activities contemplated by these grants.

In 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held that D.C. was not a local government for purposes of the post-consumer materials management infrastructure grants established by section 302 of the Save Our Seas Act 2.0. I am concerned that the EPA will hold that D.C. and the territories are not local governments for purposes of the wastewater infrastructure and trash-free water grants established by section 302 of the Save Our Seas Act 2.0. This bill would ensure that D.C. and the territories are expressly eligible for the wastewater infrastructure and trash-free water grants.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

## HONORING FALLEN OFFICER JEREMY LABONTE

## HON. RICHARD McCORMICK

OF GEORGIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, February 12, 2025*

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to express my most sincere condolences to the family and friends of Roswell Police Officer, Jeremy Labonte, who was senselessly killed in the line of duty in a heinous act of violence.

Officer Labonte was a member of the Roswell Police Department since November of 2021, where he served as a night-shift patrol officer. As a member of D-Squad, he was beloved and respected by his fellow officers and peers.

On Friday, February 7, 2025, while responding to a call, Officer Labonte was killed, leaving his family, fellow officers and the entire community devastated. This tragedy is the first of its kind in the community since the 1980's.

Officer Jeremy Labonte was a hero. He was someone who had dedicated his entire life to public service and has long stood for the values which all Georgians hold dear. Serving the community was just what he did, and he did so with honor.

Today, I honor the life of this brave young man. He is a shining example of excellence, sacrifice and honor. I will continue to pray for his family and friends during this tragic time. I also pray for the protection and safety of all the brave men and women who wear the uniform and protect our communities every day.

## HONORING THE LEGACY OF COMMISSIONER ROY BROOKS

## HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, February 12, 2025*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible career of Tarrant County Commissioner Roy Charles Brooks, whose decades of service have positively impacted not only his home county but also the State of Texas and the entire Nation. Commissioner Brooks has spent over 30 years working tirelessly for the people he serves, whether as a community volunteer, an elected official, or as a steadfast advocate for the most vulnerable among us.

Tarrant County, one of the fastest-growing urban counties in the United States, has seen incredible progress and innovation under Commissioner Brooks' leadership. With a population nearing 2 million, it is no small feat to address the diverse needs of such a large and growing community. But Commissioner Brooks has risen to the challenge, always putting the welfare of his constituents first.

Since taking office in 2004, Commissioner Brooks has been at the forefront of tackling healthcare disparities, working diligently to bring healthcare to those who need it most. He has advocated for the expansion of access through the Affordable Care Act, fought for healthcare for the homeless, and worked tirelessly on issues like infant mortality, obesity, and health disparities. His dedication to healthcare is not just a matter of policy—it's personal. It's about ensuring that everyone in his community has the opportunity to live a healthy, thriving life.

On the national stage, Commissioner Brooks has shown his leadership as well. As the 2017 President of the National Association of Counties (NACo), he led with a vision of serving the underserved, focusing on breaking the cycles of poverty and addressing the long-lasting impacts of childhood trauma. His initiative, "Serving the Underserved," has inspired countless others to fight for policies that protect and uplift our Nation's most vulnerable communities.

Moreover, Commissioner Brooks has driven transformative programs in Tarrant County. He spearheaded the Tarrant County Ex-Offender Re-Entry Program, which provides crucial support to those re-entering society after incarceration. He launched the Nurse Family Partnership, an evidence-based program supporting first-time mothers, and has been a vocal advocate for the health and wellbeing of the homeless through the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Healthcare for the Homeless.

In all of his work, Commissioner Brooks exemplifies the qualities of integrity, compassion, and innovation. He has been a pillar of his community, not just in his role as a public servant, but as a father, husband, and leader. He is married to Dr. Jennifer Giddings Brooks,

an accomplished educational consultant, and together they have raised two outstanding children—Royce, a Harvard-trained attorney and Executive Director of Annie's List, and Marion, an entertainment lawyer based in Los Angeles.

Roy's legacy is one of service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of those around him. His efforts have made Tarrant County a better place, and he leaves behind a legacy of positive change that will continue to impact the county, state, and Nation for years to come.

I want to personally thank Roy for his dedication, his tireless work, and his incredible service to the people of Tarrant County and beyond. His leadership has been a beacon of hope, and he has left an indelible mark on this country. On behalf of the people of Texas and the United States, I congratulate him on his retirement and thank him for his extraordinary career. May his next chapter be just as rewarding as the one he has just completed.

God bless, and I thank Roy Charles Brooks.

## APPRECIATING KAROLINE LEAVITT

## HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, February 12, 2025*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, just recently, Karoline Leavitt gave her welcomed first press conference as White House Press Secretary serving with President Donald Trump.

As a 2019 graduate from Saint Anselm College in New Hampshire, Karoline is the youngest person to hold this critical position as the public voice of the President.

Initially working as an intern in the first Trump administration, she later rose to assistant press secretary, followed by communications director for the greatly talented Congresswoman ELISE STEFANIK, soon to be the American Ambassador to the United Nations.

Karoline most recently was the National Press Secretary on the Trump re-election campaign, gaining the trust of the President, where he stated, "Karoline is smart, tough, and . . . a highly effective communicator. I have the utmost confidence she will . . . help deliver our message to the American people as we Make America Great Again."

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops as the Global War on Terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators put all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent as warned by the FBI. Trump will reinstitute existing laws to protect American families with Peace Through Strength.

I am grateful to have hosted legitimate President Salome Zourabichvili of the nation of Georgia for the Trump Inauguration as she protests the rigged election of president in that country.