

from Hillsdale College and the Leo Leggett Award from the American Legion in both 2017 and 2023. Under her leadership, Hillsdale County veterans collectively received more than \$32 million in VA benefits in both 2022 and 2023, and an additional \$17 million in 2024. These benefits were pivotal in ensuring our veterans receive the care they deserve and improving the quality of life for their families. Renae has personally guided countless veterans through the process of securing the benefits they have so rightfully earned, providing both expertise and compassion.

Renae Shircliff is truly a cornerstone of the veteran community. I am honored to share her story today, and I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the accomplishments of this remarkable veteran and public servant.

HONORING THE LATE BRYAN
JOHNSON

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2025

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Bryan Johnson. During his 53-year career as a radio and television journalist with KOMO News, Mr. Johnson's tenacious reporting and compassionate storytelling made him a staple in households across Western Washington. Mr. Johnson spent his career telling the stories that mattered most to Washingtonians. He held power to account, asking tough questions of local officials and becoming a trusted source of news for communities across our region. His work as a journalist strengthened our democracy and left a lasting impact on our communities.

Mr. Johnson emigrated from the United Kingdom as a child and settled in Washington State in 1948. He graduated from Vashon High School and the University of Washington before beginning a career in broadcast journalism at age 19. Over the next two decades, he rose to become a news anchor and director at KOMO Radio before moving to television full-time in the 1980's. For more than a half-century, Mr. Johnson reported on the local and national events that directly impacted Washington families, from the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens to the inauguration of President Obama in 2008. For his reporting, he was awarded the National Unity in Broadcasting Award and several local Emmys, and in 2013 he was inducted into the NATAS Northwest Gold Circle. Throughout his more than five decades with KOMO, Mr. Johnson's colleagues and competitors alike lauded his grace, warmth, and kindness. Mr. Johnson was also a devoted father, grandfather, and husband to his wife Peg.

Mr. Johnson will be remembered as a dedicated journalist, a loving father, and a beloved presence in communities throughout Western Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Bryan Johnson and the legacy his work has left behind.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF MASTER
SERGEANT ROBERT S. SMITH

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2025

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Chief Master Sergeant Robert S. Smith on his retirement from service to our Nation in the United States Air Force and Air National Guard.

Chief Smith entered the U.S. Air Force in December 1987, completing the Aerospace Ground Equipment Apprentice course in June 1988. During his active component service from June 1988 to October 1999, Chief Smith performed numerous support functions within the Maintenance Group and Logistics Group, as well as Quality Assurance Inspector and Exercise Evaluation Team Member.

Chief Smith deployed in support of myriad missions, including Operation Provide Comfort, Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and Unified Protector. In 2013, he completed a tour at the Air National Guard Readiness Center as the subject matter expert for the A4/M Equipment Management section.

Currently, Chief Smith is the Command Chief Master Sergeant of the 193d Special Operations Wing based in Middletown, Pennsylvania—not only one of the largest Air National Guard units in the Country, but a premiere one unlike any other—a profound testament to his leadership skills. He serves as the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Wing Commander on all issues affecting mission effectiveness, health, morale, readiness, enlisted development, and mentoring of approximately 1,900 Airmen.

Throughout his decorated career, Chief Smith earned a multitude of awards and decorations, to include the: Meritorious Service Medal (w/4 OLC); Air Force Commendation Medal (w/4 OLC); Air Force Achievement Medal; Pennsylvania Commendation Medal; General Thomas J. Stewart Medal; and the Major General Thomas R. White, Jr. Medal.

Chief Smith is a member of the National Guard Association of the United States, the Pennsylvania National Guard Association, the 193rd Special Operations Wing Association, and VFW Post 9738.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and privileged to recognize Chief Master Smith on his retirement upon more than 38 years of service to our Nation in uniform—26 of those in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. His tireless service and dedication to his fellow Airmen and the United States of America set the standard by which we all should be judged.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PAUL
DEPREY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2025

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with my colleagues, Representatives NANCY PELOSI, JOHN GARAMENDI, SETH MOULTON, and ED CASE to honor the life and legacy of Paul DePrey, who passed away on October 10,

2025, at the age of 58. A devoted public servant for more than 30 years, Paul demonstrated an unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship, conservation, and the mission of the National Park Service.

Born in Edmundston, New Brunswick, Paul earned his bachelor's degree in history and anthropology from the University of Maine. He later moved to Bellingham, Washington, where he completed his master's degree in anthropology at Western Washington University. It was during this time that he met his wife, Cari Kreshak, whom he married in 1995.

Paul launched his career as an archaeologist for the USDA Forest Service in the Cascade Mountain Range of Oregon and Washington, before serving in the USDA Office of the Secretary and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There, Paul contributed to the Northwest Forest Plan, the Headwaters Land Exchange, the Presidential Forum at Lake Tahoe, and critical efforts to improve federal-tribal relationships and advance endangered species conservation.

In 2001, Paul joined the National Park Service, where he served with distinction for nearly twenty-five years. Paul first served as Resource Manager at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and then at Joshua Tree National Park. In 2008, Paul became Superintendent of the Pearl Harbor National Memorial, where he oversaw the construction of a new visitor campus and renovation of the USS Arizona Memorial. During his tenure, he worked closely with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i to establish the Honouliuli National Historic Site, a vital preservation that remembers the stories of Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II and serves as a powerful reminder of the need to protect civil liberties in times of conflict.

Paul later served as Superintendent of Salem Maritime and Saugus Iron Works National Historic Sites, where he acted as the National Park Service liaison to the Essex National Heritage Area. Under his leadership, Paul expanded visitor access to park resources, addressed historic preservation concerns, and broadened interpretive programs to include Indigenous, colonial European, and Black histories found in New England coastal communities.

In 2022, Paul was appointed to Superintendent of San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, where he led the complex task of temporarily relocating the park's fleet of national historic landmark ships to Mare Island, site of the Mare Island Naval Shipyard and the Nation's first naval base on the Pacific Ocean.

Paul was widely admired as an exceptional leader who put people first, whether it was a twenty-year veteran of the park or a new gateway community member at Mare Island and Vallejo. Paul perfectly balanced stewardship and recreation, ensuring the preservation of maritime history and culture while also revitalizing and reimagining the role of recreation at Aquatic Park. While Paul left us too soon, his legacy as a leader and person will endure. Paul is survived by his wife, Cari; children, Sebastian and Ronan; his parents and sisters.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join us in extending condolences to Paul's family and many friends and in expressing our appreciation for his decades of exemplary public service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING RETIRING TACOMA
MAYOR VICTORIA WOODARDS
FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2025

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Victoria Woodards, who is retiring as Tacoma, Washington's 39th Mayor.

A graduate of Lincoln High School, she proudly served her country in the U.S. Army, thinking she would see the world, and ended up right back home at Fort Lewis. She also pursued a long career in public service as a parks commissioner, as a city councilmember, and as mayor of Tacoma.

I congratulate Victoria on an exemplary and distinguished career of more than 15 years serving the people of Tacoma. Under her leadership, the city launched the Equity and Empowerment Initiative, which led to the creation of our Office of Equity and Human Rights. The city implemented key police reforms, including updates to the use-of-force standards. She established the city of Tacoma's first Youth Commission, giving high school students a chance to learn how government works. She passed Home in Tacoma, which expanded key and necessary housing opportunities across the entire city. She also raised our profile nationally by serving as president of the National League of Cities, promoting the platform of people, partnership, and possibilities. She launched the Growing Resilience in Tacoma, otherwise known as GRIT, one of the first guaranteed income pilots in the entire Nation to address systemic poverty. She supported the creation of Maritime 253, which is a skills training center in partnership with Tacoma Public Schools and the Port of Tacoma.

Throughout her career, Mayor Woodards has broken barriers, championed equity and justice for all, and has been instrumental in ensuring that every voice in our community is heard. I thank Mayor Woodards for her selfless service to the City of Destiny, Tacoma, Washington, and the Nation.

PROMOTING EFFICIENT REVIEW
FOR MODERN INFRASTRUCTURE
TODAY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment to H.R. 3898, the PERMIT Act, and in opposition to the underlying bill.

For the last fifty years, the Clean Water Act has provided the federal government with the means to hold polluters accountable for contaminating our Nation's wetlands, rivers, lakes, and sources of drinking water. The Clean Water Act, in many cases, has been the sole reason why decades of pollution threatening the health of our communities has been reversed and why countless bodies of water throughout the country are now being preserved for future generations. The PERMIT

Act will reverse progress and give polluters the ability to, once again, contaminate our waters by minimizing many of the critical protections in the Clean Water Act. This legislation establishes blanket Clean Water Act exemptions for toxic and cancer-causing chemicals stemming from pesticide use, agriculture, and wildfire management. This legislation also shields polluters from liability for pollutants that they do not disclose on their permit applications, even if they know that their operations result in the introduction of these pollutants.

In Southeastern Virginia, one of our region's most critical resources is the Chesapeake Bay. The Bay provides our local economy with many opportunities in recreation, business, education, and tourism. Throughout the watershed, the Bay brings in nearly \$14.3 billion in annual revenue and supports nearly one million jobs. The federal government and the states in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed recognize that our communities rely on the health of the Bay and signed the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement to regulate pollutants and implement standards like the Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL. It is extremely concerning that the PERMIT Act includes language specifically targeting the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement's TMDL by weakening the federal government's role in its implementation. My amendment strikes this language from the bill. The long-standing collaboration between the federal government and the states should not be diminished.

I would like to thank the twelve members who cosponsored my amendment to strike this language. Because this amendment is not included and because of the various provisions in the underlying bill that endanger the protection of our Nation's waters, I oppose passage of this legislation.

CELEBRATING ARCHBISHOP MURPHY
HIGH SCHOOL'S 2025 FOOTBALL
STATE TITLE

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2025

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congresswoman SUZAN DELBENE, to congratulate the Archbishop Murphy High School football team on their first state title since 2016. The team earned the opportunity to play Tumwater in the 2A state championship game at Husky Stadium on December 6, 2025, led by their head coach Joe Cronin.

We would also like to extend our congratulations to Archbishop Murphy senior receiver Henry Gabalis for signing to the University of Arizona, offensive lineman Hakiem Smalls for signing to Boise State University, and tight end Jack Sievers for signing to the University of Wisconsin—Madison. These students, as well as their entire team, should be proud of their performance this season.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in celebrating the achievements of the Archbishop Murphy High School football team for their hard work and championship win. Go Wildcats.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF PSYKO
STEVE PRESENTS

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2025

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Psyko Steve Presents, a homegrown Arizona company that is celebrating their 25-year anniversary next week. Psyko Steve Presents shapes our state's modern music culture. Psyko Steve Presents brings artists, audiences, and communities together and strengthens the creative fabric that makes Phoenix such a vibrant place to live.

Founded in 2000 by Steve Chilton, known throughout the Valley as "Psyko Steve," the company began with small DIY shows booked while he was still in high school and at Arizona State University. What started as a hobby quickly became a driving force in reviving live music in Phoenix at a time when the local scene needed new energy. Steve helps emerging musicians find their footing, many of whom later grew into nationally recognized acts. Today, Psyko Steve Presents produces more than 700 concerts annually across venues of every size, from intimate performances at The Rebel Lounge to major events at The Van Buren, the Marquee Theatre, the Arizona Financial Theatre, and festivals including M3F, ZONA Music Festival, and 8123 Fest.

Steve is more than a promoter. He is also advocates for artists and independent venues across the U.S. As a co-founder and early leader of the National Independent Venue Association, he helped organize the grassroots #SaveOurStages campaign during the Covid-19 pandemic. The campaign led Congress to pass the Save Our Stages Act and create the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant program, which kept local venues afloat in their darkest hour. His work demonstrated how central live music is to the economic and cultural vitality of communities across America.

Psyko Steve Presents has grown a great deal over the past 25 years, but its mission has remained constant: support local artists and give Arizonans access to unforgettable live music experiences.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 25th anniversary of Psyko Steve Presents and congratulating Steve Chilton and his team. Their commitment to creativity, community, and independent music has enriched our state, and we look forward to many more years of music ahead.

HONORING JUDY MOHR PETERSON

HON. JILL N. TOKUDA

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2025

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary service of Dr. Judy Mohr Peterson, who has dedicated her career to strengthening Medicaid and expanding access to high-quality health care for the people of Hawaii.

I first had the opportunity to work with Judy years ago at the state level in Hawaii, where we often found ourselves facing some of the toughest policy challenges that states encounter, balancing limited resources with the real