

Jesus Antonio Peña, a soldier, a father, a civil servant, and an enduring example of quiet courage.

Born to Mrs. Luisa G. Peña and Mr. Jesus G. Peña, my grandfather grew up in Texas, in a home where service, sacrifice, and faith were part of everyday life. At just 18 years old, he was drafted into the United States Army on December 21, 1943. Like so many young men of his generation, he answered his country's call without hesitation, stepping into history during one of the most dangerous moments the world has ever faced.

After basic training at Fort Sam Houston and Camp Shelby, Mississippi, he deployed overseas on August 4, 1944. Soon, found himself on the shores of Utah Beach, landing in the shadow of D-Day and entering into the heart of World War II. From there, he fought through the freezing forests and unimaginable hardship of the Battle of the Bulge, one of the bloodiest and most pivotal engagements of the war.

Mr. Speaker, my grandfather was not alone in his service. He was one of six sons, four of them soldiers, all of them proud sons of South Texas, and he now lays to rest together at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Our family's sacrifice is etched into the soil of that hallowed ground and into the history of our Nation.

One story, passed down through generations, speaks to both his humility and his conviction. When he reported for induction, the Army had mistakenly stamped his paperwork for the Navy. My grandfather looked at the officer and said, "Sir, all my brothers are in the Army." Without hesitation, the officer took the form, stamped Army across it, and told him, "Alright then, get out of here." And with that, he joined his brothers in service.

After the war, he continued serving his country, this time in civilian life. For 35 years, he worked at Kelly Air Force Base as an airplane electrician, ensuring that generations of service members had safe and reliable aircraft. He was a man who took pride in his work, who believed in doing things right, and who understood that service did not end when the uniform came off.

He returned home to his wife, Ruth, and together they built a life rooted in love, family, and perseverance. His eldest son was named in his honor, carrying forward his name and his legacy.

He was the embodiment of the values that define our greatest generation: duty, honor, sacrifice, and unwavering devotion to country. He was my greatest role model and inspired me to become a Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy.

Mr. Speaker, it is one of the greatest honors of my life to stand in this Chamber and speak his name: Jesus Antonio Peña. A young man from Texas who journeyed across an ocean to defend liberty. A soldier who braved the snows of Belgium. A patriot who came home and continued to serve. A grandfather whose strength and humility continue to guide his family to this day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2025

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call vote No. 203, I was unable to vote. I would have voted NO.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 16, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 17

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider S. 291, to establish an interest-bearing account for the non-Federal contributions to the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, S. 858, to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients, S. 1341, to amend the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 to add certain land to the Sarvis Creek Wilderness, S. 1363, to provide for greater cooperation and coordination between the Federal Government and the governing bodies and community users of land grant-mercedes in New Mexico relating to historical or traditional uses of certain land grant-mercedes on Federal public land, S. 1377, to ensure the maintenance of a herd of horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, S. 1470, to require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to prioritize the completion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, S. 1787, to establish the Dolores River National Conservation Area and the Dolores River Special Management Area in the State of Colorado, to protect private water rights in the State, S. 1860, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to Brian Head Town, Utah, certain National Forest System land, S. 2015, to direct the Secretary of the Interior and

the Secretary of Agriculture to encourage and expand the use of prescribed fire on land managed by the Department of the Interior or the Forest Service, with an emphasis on units of the National Forest System in the western and southeastern United States, to acknowledge and support the long-standing use of cultural burning by Indian Tribes and Indigenous practitioners, S. 2016, to exchange non-Federal land held by the Chugach Alaska Corporation for certain Federal Land in the Chugach Region, S. 2033, to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on existing programs, rules, and authorities that enable or inhibit wildfire mitigation across land ownership boundaries on Federal and non-Federal land, S. 2262, to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to clarify the nature of public investment for purposes of certain rulemaking, S. 2273, to amend the Act of July 10, 1890, to modify certain provisions relating to the disposal of public land in the State of Wyoming for educational purposes, S. 2546, to provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, S. 2881, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of California.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To receive a closed briefing on the September 2, 2025, boat strike on narco-traffickers in the Caribbean.

SVC-217

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Communications Commission.

SD-G50

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending calendar nominations.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Aviation, Space, and Innovation

To hold hearings to examine FAA's plan for ATC modernization, focusing on evaluating progress, ensuring accountability and results.

SR-253

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 3383, to amend the Act of August 9, 1955, to make improvements to that Act; to be immediately followed by hearings to examine S. 236, to amend the Act of August 9, 1955 (commonly known as the "Long-Term Leasing Act"), to authorize leases of up to 99 years for land in the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reservation and land held in trust for the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), S. 1508, to confer jurisdiction on the State of Utah with respect to civil causes of action arising on or within the Indian lands of the Shivwits Band of Paiutes, S. 1513, to take certain Federal land in the State of Washington into trust for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, S. 2735, to take certain Federal land in the State of California

into trust for the benefit of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians.	3 p.m.	DECEMBER 18
SD-628	Select Committee on Intelligence	11 a.m.
	To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.	Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
Joint Economic Committee	SVC-217	To hold hearings to examine Bosnia and Herzegovina at a crossroads, focusing on thirty years after Dayton.
To hold hearings to examine realigning healthcare incentives to improve outcomes and reduce costs.		SR-232A
SH-216		