

private schools for outstanding academic performance and significant progress in closing achievement gaps among students.

From its inception, Prescott Elementary has continued to pave a bright path of academic leadership and set an example for schools and communities in the Chicagoland area.

Prescott Elementary has earned Illinois' top "Exemplary" rating for the fourth consecutive year. For academic performance, the school is once again in the top 10 percent of Illinois public schools. This K-8 CPS school serving a majority student of color population and offering a rigorous academic program in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies maintains continued success. The school also prioritizes social-emotional learning (SEL), restorative practices, and a culture that helps students thrive both academically and personally.

Although the Blue-Ribbon School Award has been canceled, it is imperative to recognize schools like Prescott Elementary, which deserve praise and congratulations for this outstanding achievement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and all our colleagues in the House of Representatives in recognizing Prescott Elementary for their exceptional and continuous success in educating and nurturing the brilliant future minds of this Nation.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF  
JOSEPH ALAN MATHIS, SR.

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 16, 2025*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Joseph Alan Mathis, Sr. with a Congressional Veteran Commendation in honor of his exemplary service to the United States, both in uniform and through decades of continued commitment to his community.

Mr. Mathis began his military career in 1970 when he volunteered for service in the United States Army. He rose rapidly through the enlisted ranks from E-1 to E-6 and went on to serve four years in Germany before returning stateside to Fort Bliss. While stationed there, he completed a Bachelor of Science in Business Management, graduating Summa Cum Laude. He later attended the newly established Combat Arms Staff Service School and subsequently served with the 7th Infantry Division Combat Aviation Brigade in California.

Promoted to Major, Mr. Mathis was assigned as Chief for Battlefield Automation in Combat Developments at Fort McClellan. He was later selected to serve as the Chemical Officer for the 25th Infantry Division before choosing to retire in order to dedicate more time to his family. Over the course of 23 years, as both an enlisted soldier and commissioned officer, he distinguished himself through leadership, technical expertise, and service to others. He also gave back as a church musician and choir leader, extending his sense of service far beyond his military duties.

Following his honorable retirement, Mr. Mathis continued serving the Nation for another 23 years as a contractor supporting the Program Executive Office, where he helped develop advanced technical data systems. He

has remained deeply engaged in community service as well as a leader in the Lions Club, President of the Gatesville Exchange Club, a supporter of local emergency management efforts, and an active volunteer with Operation Stand Down Central Texas.

I am honored to commend Mr. Joseph Alan Mathis, Sr. for his outstanding service to our country and his steadfast dedication to the Central Texas community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MIKE LEVIN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 16, 2025*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, my flight was delayed on Monday, December 15, 2025, and I missed votes that evening. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 335, and YEA on Roll Call No. 336.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF BOBBY N. FURR

**HON. RALPH NORMAN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 16, 2025*

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Bobby Neal Furr of Indian Land. He was born to Luther and Leona Furr on April 14, 1938, and grew up working on his family's dairy farm. It was there that he learned the early values of hard work, humility, and perseverance. Mr. Furr was drafted into the Army in 1961 and served honorably in South Korea at the Demilitarized Zone. He was in the Military Police, held the rank of Private First Class, and was a sharpshooter.

Upon returning from service, he married Kathy Fisher Furr in the spring of 1963. Four years later, the couple had their first of three daughters: Kathryn Teresa Furr, in December of 1967; Barbara Furr (1972); and Angele Furr (1977) joined the family shortly after. Mr. Furr, often referred to as a 'jack of all trades,' even built the family's home with his bare hands—filling it with love, laughter, and unwavering faith.

He took tremendous pride in providing for his family, often working multiple jobs at once, six days a week—but never seven. On that sacred Sabbath day, Mr. Furr would be found attending Pineville Church of the Nazarene, a church he called home for 85 years. He loved God and served faithfully in many roles, from Sunday School superintendent to youth leader, usher, and janitor. Mr. Furr served wherever he was needed. His servant's heart led him to join numerous work and witness mission projects around the world.

Mr. Furr's pride and joy was his family. He cherished his wife and daughters and never failed to put their well-being above his own. Even after retiring from Celanese Fiber Industries in 1999, Mr. Furr went back to work—now as a full-time grandparent. Mr. Furr was blessed with three grandsons and played a tremendous role in each one's life, including picking them up and caring for them after school. They loved their Granddaddy deeply.

In his free time, Mr. Furr could usually be found working in his shop, in his garden, or in the yard. He made it a priority to have daily morning devotions, and prayer was a constant part of his life.

Mr. Furr met our Savior face to face on August 21, 2025, at the age of 87. He was surrounded by his devoted wife, three loving daughters, and his closest friends on this side of eternity. He led a life of unwavering faith and a commitment to serving others.

Please join me in celebrating the life of Mr. Bobby Furr, a man whose presence strengthened his community, his church, and, most importantly, his family. As we honor his memory, we extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, daughters, and all who loved him.

May his legacy of service and love continue to inspire all who follow.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RON ESTES**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 16, 2025*

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: YEA on Roll Call No. 335, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S. 284, the Congressional Award Program Reauthorization Act, and YEA on Roll Call No. 336, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 3187, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey a parcel of property of the Forest Service to Perry County, Arkansas, and for other purposes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ASHLEY HINSON**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 16, 2025*

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, due to flight delays as a result of winter weather, I missed Monday evening votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 335, and YEA on Roll Call No. 336.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 16, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 336, H.R. 3187, and YEA on Roll Call No. 335, Congressional Award Program Reauthorization Act.

COMMENDING THE SERVICE OF  
GORDON B. LOGAN

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 16, 2025*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise and am privileged to present Mr. Gordon B.

Logan with a Congressional Veteran Commendation in recognition of his exemplary service to our Nation, first in uniform and later through decades of extraordinary civic and philanthropic leadership.

Mr. Logan served on active duty in the United States Air Force from 1969 to 1974 and continued in the Air Force Reserve until 1976. As an aircraft commander for the C-130 Hercules during the Vietnam War era, he flew missions across the United States and throughout East Asia, including Thailand, Taiwan, and Cambodia. Throughout his military career, he exemplified professionalism, skill, and devotion to duty. Following his service, Mr. Logan continued to strengthen his community by founding Sport Clips Haircuts, now one of the most successful franchises in the Nation with more than 1,900 locations headquartered in Georgetown, Texas. His leadership and generosity have supported numerous local institutions, including the Georgetown YMCA, Southwestern University's Yellow Ribbon veterans scholarship program, the Georgetown Community Clinic Foundation Board, Habitat for Humanity, the Ride On Center for Kids, and the Chisholm Trail Community Foundation.

On a national scale, Mr. Logan launched the VFW Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship Program, now the largest veteran-related scholarship initiative of its kind. Despite earning significant accolades, including recognition among the Nation's top franchises and ranking No. 24 on Entrepreneur's Franchise 500, Mr. Logan remains deeply committed to service and grounded in humility.

I am proud to honor Mr. Gordon B. Logan with a Congressional Veteran Commendation for his lifelong dedication to supporting service members, veterans, and the Central Texas community. His contributions have improved countless lives and strengthened our Nation.

HONORING COMPTROLLER GENERAL GENE L. DODARO ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 16, 2025*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with my deepest respect and sincere appreciation that I rise today to honor Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States and head of the Government Accountability Office, as he concludes a remarkable career of more than fifty years in public service and retires at the end of this year.

Gene Dodaro became the eighth Comptroller General of the United States on December 22, 2010, following his confirmation by the United States Senate. He was nominated by President Barack Obama from a bipartisan, bicameral list of candidates, reflecting the broad trust and confidence he had earned across party lines and across institutions. Prior to his confirmation, Gene served with distinction as Acting Comptroller General beginning in March of 2008, leading the Government Accountability Office during a period of significant economic uncertainty and national challenge.

Throughout his career at GAO, Gene Dodaro has been a steadfast partner to the Congress, and particularly to the Committee

on Appropriations. His work has strengthened Congress's ability to exercise its most fundamental constitutional responsibility, the power of the purse. Time and again, GAO's independent, nonpartisan analysis under Gene's leadership has equipped appropriators with the facts needed to conduct meaningful oversight, hold executive agencies accountable, and ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent as Congress intends.

Gene has testified before Congress dozens of times on issues of critical importance, including the federal government's long-term fiscal outlook, the Nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and persistent challenges stemming from waste, fraud, abuse, and duplication across federal programs. GAO's High-Risk List, developed and refined during his tenure, has become an indispensable tool for Congress, helping to focus attention on long-standing vulnerabilities, from improper payments in Medicare and Medicaid to chronic management weaknesses at the Department of Defense.

As Comptroller General, Gene Dodaro oversaw the development and issuance of hundreds of GAO reports and testimonies each year at the request of congressional committees and individual Members. These products have informed hearings, guided appropriations and authorizing legislation, and led to billions of dollars in taxpayer savings, while improving the effectiveness and integrity of federal programs and services. For those of us responsible for making difficult funding decisions, the GAO's work has been essential, and Gene's leadership has ensured its continued excellence and credibility.

Equally important, Gene Dodaro understood that GAO's effectiveness depends on the strength, expertise, and dedication of its workforce. Under his leadership, GAO has consistently been recognized as one of the very best places to work in the federal government. For the fifth consecutive year, GAO has ranked number one among mid-size federal agencies in the Partnership for Public Service's Best Places to Work in the Federal Government rankings. This extraordinary achievement reflects Gene's commitment to excellence, integrity, and respect for public servants.

Gene also worked to ensure that GAO evolves alongside the needs of Congress. He expanded GAO's capacity in science, technology, cybersecurity, and emerging risks, recognizing that effective oversight requires forward-looking expertise and fiscal discipline. Throughout his tenure, he upheld GAO's core values of independence, professionalism, and nonpartisanship, earning the respect of Members on both sides of the aisle.

Gene Dodaro's legacy is measured not only in reports issued or dollars saved, but in the enduring strength of an institution that plays a central role in preserving Congress's authority and protecting the public trust. His leadership has made Congress better informed, government more accountable, and taxpayer dollars better safeguarded.

As Gene Dodaro marks his retirement, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and deepest thanks for his extraordinary service to our Nation. I wish him and his family many years of health, happiness, and fulfillment in this next chapter of life. The Congress and especially those of us on the Committee on Appropriations are profoundly grateful for his lasting contributions and his unwavering commitment to public service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GREG CASAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 16, 2025*

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted as follows: NAY on Roll Call No. 310, H.R. 2965, Small Business Regulatory Reduction Act of 2025; NAY on Roll Call No. 311, H.R. 4305, DUMP Red Tape Act; NAY on Roll Call No. 312, H.R. 1005, Combating the Lies of Authoritarians in School Systems Act; NAY on Roll Call No. 313, H.R. 1069, PROTECT Our Kids Act; and NAY on Roll Call No. 314, H.R. 1049, Transparency in Reporting of Adversarial Contributions to Education Act.

HONORING OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL ACADEMY

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 16, 2025*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Our Lady of Mount Carmel Academy (OLMCA) on their designation as a 2025 National Blue Ribbon School.

Since 1982, the Blue-Ribbon School Award has recognized the most exemplary public and private schools for outstanding academic performance and significant progress in closing achievement gaps among students.

From its inception in 1888 to its continued excellence throughout the 21st Century, OLMCA has continued to pave a bright path of academic leadership and set an example for schools and communities in the Chicagoland area.

This is the third Blue-Ribbon School Award for OLMCA. First in 2013 and again in 2019, OLMCA remains a leader for academic achievement and progress throughout the Nation. The superb performance of OLMCA continues to set Chicago youth up for success in high school and beyond.

Although the Blue-Ribbon School Award has been canceled, it is imperative to recognize schools like OLMCA, which deserve praise and congratulations for this outstanding achievement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and all of our colleagues in the House of Representatives in recognizing Our Lady of Mount Carmel Academy for their exceptional and continuous success in educating and nurturing the brilliant future minds of this Nation.

CONGRATULATING MARILYN DILLIHAY ON HER RETIREMENT

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 16, 2025*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise and include in the RECORD a Proclamation congratulating my longtime Chief of Staff, Marilyn Dillihay, on her retirement:

Whereas, on behalf of the citizens of the 9th Congressional District of Tennessee, I