

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 through 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

recognize and celebrate the extraordinary career and service of Marilyn Dillihay, who has dedicated more than forty years to public service in the Tennessee General Assembly, the United States House of Representatives, and a brief stint at the Tennessee Lottery; and,

Whereas, forty years ago, on December 3, 1985, Marilyn began working for me in my Tennessee State Senate office, and I had little idea then how blessed I would be; she immediately became a valued staffer, a close friend, and an advisor on a multitude of subjects quickly proving indispensable not only to our work, but to me personally; and,

Whereas, Marilyn was integral to the passage of the Tennessee Education Lottery, a landmark effort that took years of dedication, negotiation, and leadership; she was with me on that fight from the beginning, a partnership forever captured in our "victory celebration and lottery headquarters" hotel photo; and,

Whereas, the lottery would later be recognized as one of the most meaningful legislative achievements in recent state history; and has provided over eight billion dollars in unprecedented educational opportunities for Tennessee students; and,

Whereas, when I was elected to Congress, Marilyn came with me to Washington, established my congressional office from day one, and initially served as my Press Secretary and Legislative Director before becoming my Chief of Staff, a role in which she has done a marvelous job; and,

Whereas, Marilyn has been the heart and soul of our operation mentoring generations of staff and cultivating an office culture defined by loyalty, kindness, and hard-work; her personality has attracted exceptional staff and colleagues over the years, enhancing our productivity, our reach, and the spirit of our team; and,

Whereas, Marilyn possesses a knowledge of me and my career that exceeds anyone else's, a continuity and institutional memory that has been invaluable to me as a legislator; and her sound judgment, historical insight, and understanding of government have made her a trusted counselor that I have respected and relied upon; and I appreciated her tenacity and perseverance in securing us an office with a Capitol View; and,

Whereas, Marilyn's sense of humor, her love of the arts, her passion for animal welfare and prohibiting the soring of horses, and her command of history and international affairs, have enriched not only our work but our friendship, reminding us daily that public service is not only serious business but also a labor of joy, humanity, and heart; she is one of the best things to come out of Muhlenberg County, Kentucky; and,

Whereas, the 9th Congressional District is profoundly grateful for Marilyn's unwavering devotion to public service, to her colleagues, and to the people of Memphis, and we gather today in celebration of her achievements, her leadership, and her well-deserved retirement; and

Now, therefore be it resolved that, I, Steve Cohen, Member of Congress, along with the citizens of the 9th Congressional District of Tennessee, do hereby honor Marilyn Dillihay, for her more than forty years of distinguished public service, express our deepest appreciation for her immeasurable contributions, and extend our warmest wishes for a joyful and fulfilling retirement.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF GARY D. DENNETT

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Colonel Gary D. Dennett (Ret.) has devoted his life to service to this country, through thirty-one years in uniform and thirty-one concurrent years with the Department of Defense, and through his continued commitment to our veterans and the Central Texas community. It is my privilege to honor him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Colonel Dennett began his military career in 1958 and served in the United States Army, the Kansas National Guard, and the Army Reserves until his retirement in 1989. During his career he served in Germany, and after Ranger School deployed to Vietnam as an advisor to the Army Republic of Vietnam (ARVN). After attending OCS and receiving his commission as an officer in the Army National Guard, he continued his distinguished service in the Army Reserves where he held various command positions at every level. During his military career he was awarded the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star for Valor, Army Meritorious Unit Commendation, Army Superior Unit Commendation, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Army Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Medal, along with numerous campaign and service ribbons.

After retiring from the Army Reserves, Colonel Dennett continued to dedicate himself to honoring veterans and serving the community. He is a longstanding member of the Williamson County Veterans Memorial Advisory Group, which established and continues to maintain and conduct ceremonies at the Veterans Memorial Plaza in Georgetown, Texas. He remains active as a life member in organizations such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign War (VFW), and Military Order of World Wars (MOWW), serving in various officer positions at the state and local level.

Colonel Dennett has been a leader, mentor, and steadfast advocate for veterans and their families. His service and efforts have ensured that the sacrifices of our Nation's service members are honored and remembered with dignity and respect.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I extend my deepest gratitude to Colonel Gary D. Dennett for his faithful service to our Nation and his lifelong dedication to others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained, and unable to vote on Roll Call No. 334. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 334.

HONORING OFFICERS GONZALO RUBIO AND FRANK MALDONADO OF THE BROWNSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officers Gonzalo Rubio and Frank Maldonado of the Brownsville Police Department for an extraordinary act of compassion that reflects the very best of public service and community-centered policing.

In the early morning hours of December 5, 2025, while on routine patrol in downtown Brownsville, Texas, Officers Rubio and Maldonado noticed a man lying on the sidewalk wrapped in a blanket. With temperatures in the low 50's and cold, breezy conditions, the officers stopped to conduct a welfare check. Upon approaching the individual, they observed that he was shivering, soaked from the damp blanket he was using for cover. As they further assessed his condition, the officers realized the man was not fully clothed and exposed to the elements.

Recognizing the immediate safety concern, Officers Rubio and Maldonado attempted to locate an open business nearby to purchase clothing. When they found that all downtown stores were closed at that hour, they chose not to treat the situation as routine or walk away. Instead, they drove to a nearby Walmart and used their own personal funds to purchase warm, dry clothing. The officers returned with the items and ensured the man was safe and comfortable.

This quiet, selfless act speaks volumes about the character of Officers Rubio and Maldonado. Their actions exemplify the Brownsville Police Department's guiding principle of "Service From the Heart," demonstrating that true public safety is grounded not only in enforcement, but in empathy, dignity, and care for the most vulnerable among us.

Officers Gonzalo Rubio and Frank Maldonado went beyond the call of duty to help a fellow human being in need. Their actions are a powerful reminder that policing at its best is about compassion, humanity, and service to the community. I am proud to recognize them for their commitment to the people of Brownsville.

REMEMBERING DAVY CROCKETT'S
NOT YOURS TO GIVE SPEECH

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the enduring wisdom of Davy Crockett's "Not Yours to Give" speech. Thankfully, his famous speech was preserved by Edward S. Ellis in *The Life of Colonel David Crockett*.

Davy Crockett was a true American hero. He was a frontiersman who served in this very House. Later, Crockett would courageously fight and die for Texas' independence.