

The true story is that Crockett stood against a widely popular government spending bill, and lost. But his words still resonate today.

I include in the RECORD, his speech from April 2, 1828, when a bill came before the House to appropriate money for the widow of a distinguished naval officer, Crockett rose on the House Floor and said:

“Mr. Speaker—I have as much respect for the memory of the deceased, and as much sympathy for the sufferings of the living, if suffering there be, as any man in this House, but we must not permit our respect for the dead or our sympathy for a part of the living to lead us into an act of injustice to the balance of the living. I will not go into an argument to prove that Congress has no power to appropriate this money as an act of charity. Every member upon this floor knows it. We have the right, as individuals, to give away as much of our own money as we please in charity; but as members of Congress we have no right so to appropriate a dollar of the public money. Some eloquent appeals have been made to us upon the ground that it is a debt due the deceased. Mr. Speaker, the deceased lived long after the close of the war; he was in office to the day of his death, and I have never heard that the government was in arrears to him.

Every man in this House knows it is not a debt. We cannot, without the grossest corruption, appropriate this money as the payment of a debt. We have not the semblance of authority to appropriate it as a charity. Mr. Speaker, I have said we have the right to give as much money of our own as we please. I am the poorest man on this floor. I cannot vote for this bill, but I will give one week's pay to the object, and if every member of Congress will do the same, it will amount to more than the bill asks.”

Now more than ever, Crockett's words are an important reminder to us all. Americans deserve a government that spends their money wisely.

RECOGNIZING THE LAMAR SCHOOL RAIDERS MAIS 4A DIVISION III STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 2025 MAIS 4A Division III State Champions, the Lamar School Raiders. This is the school's first football championship win since 2018, and is a direct reflection of the leadership the team has within its players and coaches and the support provided from the community. In the championship game, the team played well on both sides of the ball by starting with a 14–0 lead and continuing with two pick-sixes throughout the game. The team persevered throughout the game resulting in a 34 to 17 win over Brookhaven Academy. I congratulate the Lamar Raiders, their coaches, and the school community. I am honored to have their volunteer coach, Charlie Ballou, on my staff. Go Raiders.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF FRANK ESPINOSA, JR.

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Frank Espinosa, Jr. has exemplified the highest ideals of service, both in uniform and throughout his civilian life, and I am proud to recognize him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Mr. Espinosa served on active duty in the United States Navy from July 1978 to December 2002. Among his most notable assignments was his tour from May 1985 to May 1989 with the Special Programs Office of the White House Military Office, where he contributed to the largest construction project completed at the White House in a quarter century.

His dedication to service has continued long after his military retirement. For more than 30 years, he has been a Paid-Up-For-Life member of the American Legion, contributing significantly to Post 174 in Georgetown as 1st Vice Commander, newsletter editor, and project coordinator for clothing donations serving homeless and at-risk veterans.

He is also a Gold Legacy Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and has provided steadfast support to Post 8587, where he donated equipment, maintained the flag collection, assisted with community events, and continues to serve as Webmaster. In addition, as a Life Member of the U.S. Submarine Veterans Central Texas Base, he has organized blood drives, served as an Ambassador for the Charity Foundation, and was honored as Sailor of the Year in 2023.

Mr. Espinosa's commitment to service extends deep into the community. Since 2014, he has been a dedicated volunteer with The Caring Place, serving in multiple roles, including on the Board of Directors, and helping coordinate food distribution for at-risk families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I extend my deepest appreciation to Mr. Frank Espinosa, Jr. for his remarkable contributions to our Nation and his lifelong commitment to serving others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDREW S. CLYDE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call No. 335 and Roll Call No. 336, as I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 335, and YEA on Roll Call No. 336.

HONORING CHIEF TIMOTHY RAKER ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to proudly congratulate Chief Timothy Raker on his re-

tirement and to recognize his more than forty years of dedicated service in law enforcement. This stands as a testament to his dedication to the communities he served across multiple states and jurisdictions.

Chief Raker began his law enforcement career in 1981 with the City of Houston Police Department, where he served as a patrol officer and accident reconstructionist. In 1988, he returned home to Michigan and joined the St. Clair County Sheriff's Office as a special deputy and warrant officer.

Beyond his local responsibilities, Chief Raker also served with FEMA's Disaster Mortuary Response Team from 2000 to 2017. During that time, he assisted in the recovery and identification efforts following several major national and international disasters, including Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the 2010 Haiti earthquake, and the Joplin, Missouri tornado. His work helped return loved ones to their families and provided a measure of closure during times of tragedy.

In 2017, Chief Raker joined the City of St. Clair Police Department, first as a patrol officer and later as Chief of Police. Over the past eight years, he has established the Citizens Police Academy, strengthened community engagement, and helped build the St. Clair Police Foundation initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere appreciation that we honor Chief Timothy Raker for his decades of service. Chief Raker's retirement marks the close of a forty-four-year career dedicated to public service. I thank him for his many contributions to public safety and wish him well in this next chapter.

HONORING FREMD HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Fremd High School 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 1961 to its continued excellence through the 21st Century, Fremd High School has continued to pave a bright path of academic leadership and set an example for schools and communities in the Chicagoland area.

Fremd High School was designated an Exemplary School in the State of Illinois for performing in the top 10 percent of schools statewide, with no underperforming student groups. Due to this success and high graduation rates, Fremd High School is an academic performance leader, not just in Chicago but across the country.

Although the Blue-Ribbon School Award has been canceled, it is imperative to recognize schools like Fremd High School, 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 Fremd High School for their exceptional and continuous success in educating

and nurturing the brilliant future minds of this Nation.

RECOGNIZING PALISADES REGIONAL FIRE RESCUE CAPTAIN
BILL SHICK

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Captain Bill Shick of the Palisades Regional Fire Rescue for his exceptional dedication to public safety and his unwavering service to the Palisades School District and the greater community.

For more than 11 years, Captain Shick has been an exemplary partner to the Palisades School District. Through his leadership at Palisades Regional Fire Rescue, he has played a vital role in ensuring that our schools and facilities remain safe, secure, and prepared for emergencies. His steady presence, professionalism, and deep expertise have provided reassurance to students, staff, parents, and community members alike.

Captain Shick's commitment to collaboration has been instrumental in strengthening emergency preparedness across the district. His guidance during safety drills, his responsiveness during emergencies, and his proactive approach to fire prevention and risk reduction have been invaluable. Year after year, his leadership has helped foster a culture of preparedness and confidence within our schools.

Beyond his immediate service, Captain Shick has demonstrated a commitment to improving the future of public safety. His advocacy for the creation of a Fire Program at the Upper Bucks County Technical School reflects his dedication to developing the next generation of firefighters. Now, in its second year, this program provides students with meaningful career pathways while helping to secure the future of our regional volunteer fire services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Captain Bill Shick, whose career exemplifies selfless service, leadership, and community partnership. It is with deep gratitude that we honor Mr. Bill Shick and his 11 years of unwavering dedication. As he enters retirement, we thank him for keeping our schools and community safe, for inspiring future first responders, and for leaving a lasting legacy of service to our district.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DICK
CHAPIN

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize the distinguished service of Mr. Dick Chapin, who truly embodies the highest ideals of the United States Armed Forces through his courage and commitment to leadership. I am privileged to award Mr. Chapin with the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Mr. Chapin began his military career in 1956 when he joined the Texas Army National

Guard. He was mobilized in 1960 during the Berlin Crisis for 11 months, and after returning home, he worked as a full-time technician with the Texas Army National Guard, fully qualified with nuclear missiles. After applying for active duty, he was sent to Vietnam, where he was promoted to Captain. He was later promoted to Major after his time in Korea at the Army Air Defense Command Post No. 2. Throughout his time as Major, he was tasked with scheduling and coordinating all the Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve units at Fort Hood.

After 27 years of service in the military, Mr. Chapin started his own business, Chapin Construction and Remodeling. He later went on to accept the Executive Director position at Killeen Food Care Center, a large food bank, and became a board member of the Belton Helping Hands Food Pantry, as well as a member and leader of the Board of Directors for the Fort Hood Area Habitat for Humanity.

Mr. Chapin exemplified placing public service first throughout his life. He served in several executive positions for the Lions Club, joined the Military Officers Association of America, and traveled to build homes in Mexico through the Memorial Baptist Church ministry.

We are forever indebted to Mr. Dick Chapin for his service, sacrifice, and dedication to public service, and he is incredibly deserving of the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND
SERVICE OF LARRY HOLMAN

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Larry Dean Holman, a Navy veteran and constituent of Pennsylvania's 2nd Congressional District who passed away on November 14th. Nothing is more important than honoring those who risk their lives to protect us and our flag, and Larry lived by that ideal every day.

Larry served our country with courage and honor, having served with the Navy during the Vietnam War. After his service, my office and I developed a longstanding relationship with Larry, who made it his mission to advocate for those he served alongside. In this capacity, he would go on to serve as the leader of the Lt. Charles Freedman Post 706 of the Jewish War Veterans, a committee member for the Pennsylvania Veterans Justice Project, and a representative of PA CARES.

Larry's commitment and passion for this cause led him to be an extremely reliable advocate and spokesperson for his fellow servicemembers who risked everything to defend our Nation. He always showed up to advance VA issues and never hesitated to speak at events in my district to provide an often much-needed perspective informed by his lived experience.

Honoring Larry's life as a veteran and advocate would not be complete without also paying tribute to him as a beloved husband to his wife, Debbie, a father to Lori, Yuko, Andrew, Jodi and Matthew, a grandfather of seven, and a great-grandfather of five. I offer my deepest condolences to the Holman family and their

friends, and I will continue to hold them in my prayers.

Mr. Speaker, it is altogether fitting that the House recognizes Larry for his exceptional life and thanks him for his service to our Nation and his steadfast advocacy for those he served alongside.

HONORING THE OUTSTANDING
PUBLIC SERVICE OF MARK RODGERS

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, it is my special privilege to recognize Mark Rodgers as he retires after a meaningful and fulfilling career in public service.

Mark's remarkable career, which includes senior leadership roles across government at the federal and state levels, stands as a testament to his principled leadership and unwavering commitment to improving the policies that shape America's modern workforce.

As Deputy Staff Director of the U.S. House Committee on Education and Workforce, a committee that I am now proud to chair, he played a pivotal role in shaping workforce policy and overseeing critical reforms in some of the most complex areas of law. His service at both the U.S. Department of Labor and the Office of Personnel Management further underscores his impact.

At the state level, Mark also served with distinction as Deputy Secretary for Labor and Management Relations at the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, where he simultaneously served as a senior advisor on labor-management and labor-political issues. In this role, Mark demonstrated his exceptional ability to bridge the worlds of government, labor, and management, while fostering constructive and solutions-oriented relationships.

Mark's experience also extends beyond traditional government service. As Vice President of Industry Relations for the Motor Freight Carriers Association, he represented management as the lead labor negotiator in the LTL trucking industry, earning respect for his professionalism, dedication, and command of labor-management relations. Most recently, Mark served as the founder and president of MWR Consulting, guiding clients through the complexities of federal legislative and regulatory policy with clarity and strategic insight. His work reflects not only his deep technical knowledge, but also his genuine understanding of how policy affects real people.

Mark's contributions have left an indelible mark on workforce policy. May others know of my high regard for Mark and my best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement.

RECOGNIZING THERESA
MAZZULLO

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional leader and champion