

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

for innovation in Rochester, New York: Theresa Mazzullo, who is retiring after an extraordinary tenure as Chief Executive Officer of Excell Partners. Her years of service have left an indelible mark on the entrepreneurial landscape of Upstate New York.

Since stepping into the role in 2006, Theresa has guided Excell Partners through a period of remarkable growth. What began as a small seed fund has, under her leadership, evolved into a venture capital organization overseeing more than \$80 million in assets. She played a pivotal role in establishing Excell as a cornerstone supporter of emerging companies across the region, most recently through the creation of the Upstate Biotech Venture Fund to bolster life sciences startups.

Beyond stewarding the firm's investments, Theresa has been a driving force in strengthening the broader innovation ecosystem. She has led efforts in governance, compliance, fundraising, and community engagement, drawing upon more than three decades of experience in business and finance—including founding her own small business. Her insight and dedication have shaped the strategic direction of Excell and the communities it serves.

Her commitment to the region extends far beyond her executive responsibilities. Theresa has contributed her expertise to numerous boards and advisory groups, helping influence economic development initiatives and supporting the continued growth of entrepreneurial networks throughout Upstate New York. Her leadership was recently honored with the Upstate Capital Association of New York's Ecosystem Champion Award, a testament to her collaborative spirit and her long-standing dedication to the region's success.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and deep gratitude that I recognize a dear friend, Theresa Mazzullo, for her remarkable career and enduring contributions to the Rochester community. Her legacy will continue to benefit our region for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 333, and NAY on Roll Call No. 334.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
DAVID SCHMITZ

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 I am privileged to present Mr. David Schmitz with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. He has exemplified the meaning of service to our country, both as a leader in the U.S. military and as a civilian.

Mr. Schmitz proudly served in the United States Air Force for 29 years, holding prestigious roles in the Defense Mapping Agency, On-Site Inspection Agency, and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, European Operations Division. He was stationed in Wyoming, California, and Utah in the United States, served overseas in Germany, and impressively served as a Russian interpreter during a three-month stint with Operation Provide Hope in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Mr. Schmitz was honorably discharged from the United States Air Force as a Chief Master Sergeant in June of 2004, but his service to America didn't end there. He continued to stay involved with veteran advocacy through participation in the Disabled American Veterans Lone Star Chapter, where he served as the First Vice Commander. In the organization, he was tasked with organizing membership and coordinating outreach to veterans across the region. He now serves as a Chapter Service Officer, where he demonstrates diligence, patience, and works in-depth with the claims process.

Through extensive one-on-one support, he has guided veterans in navigating resources and services, ensuring they receive the care they need and deserve. He played a pivotal role in emergency flood relief efforts, personally seeking out veterans in affected communities to ensure their safety and well-being. Additionally, he was instrumental in planning the Pflugerville Memorial Day Veteran Pfest, demonstrating exceptional leadership within the community.

I am incredibly appreciative of his dedication to service and the lasting difference he has made in the lives of countless veterans, and I am proud to honor him with this commendation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House during Monday's two Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call No. 335, S. 284 and AYE on Roll Call No. 336, H.R. 3187.

HONORING CAPTAIN ALEXANDER
FELDMAN

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Captain Alexander Feldman, United States Marine Corps, and his service and contributions to Virginia's First District and the Nation.

Alex joined my office in January and quickly became an indispensable member of my team. As my Department of Defense Legislative Fellow, Alex spearheaded numerous legislative efforts that delivered tangible results to

the constituents of my district, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the country. He was integral throughout the Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act process, working across policy verticals and the aisle to enact meaningful legislation. He also led my veterans policy work, where he liaised with the Veterans Affairs Department and took immense pride and care in working with veteran constituents facing the unique challenges that only a service member themselves could appreciate.

Alex has served as a mentor and leader for my legislative staff and the entire office, sharing his expertise and experience with the rest of my team. His counsel and guidance have shaped my staff into the most effective and successful team on Capitol Hill. Alex was truly the beating heart of my office, keeping the mood light, ever quick with a joke, and always willing to offer his colleagues sage advice.

I would like to thank Alex for his many contributions and dedicated service over the last year. He is thorough, a true team player, and a spark in my office that will be dearly missed. Alex has been an invaluable member of my team, and I wish him the best of luck as he moves on to the next chapter of his professional career.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for joining me to recognize Alexander Feldman for his service to Virginia's 1st District and the Nation.

HONORING ST. MATTHIAS
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. Matthias Catholic 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 1888 to its continued excellence through the 21st Century, St. Matthias has continued to pave a bright path of academic leadership and set an example for schools and communities in the Chicagoland area.

St. Matthias School is the only PK3–8th Grade Catholic, International Baccalaureate (IB), National Blue Ribbon School in Illinois. Student performance at St. Matthias at or above grade level surpasses average student performance at other Archdiocese of Chicago schools by more than 15 percent for reading and math.

Although the Blue-Ribbon School Award has been canceled, it is imperative to recognize schools like St. Matthias, 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 St. Matthias Academy for their exceptional and continuous success in educating and nurturing the brilliant future minds of this Nation.