

Business School. He embarked on a remarkable 40-year career in the tech industry, helping to shape the internet and networking revolution of the post-dot-com era. He was perhaps best known for serving as President, Chief Executive Officer, and Chairman of Echelon Corporation. Prior to Echelon, Ron served as President and Chief Operating Officer of the 3Com Corporation, a networking industry leader, and he led innovation startups such as Tropos Networks and Ellacoya Networks that advanced wireless broadband and internet technologies. Throughout these roles, he drove cutting-edge advancements across telecom, networking, wireless, and industrial internet sectors, earning widespread respect for his vision and business acumen.

Beyond his professional achievements, Ron was deeply committed to his community. He generously lent his time and expertise to several nonprofit organizations in Silicon Valley, including serving on the executive boards of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, and TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, and the Montalvo Arts Center, to improve education, public policy, and the arts in our region.

Ron will be remembered not only for his substantial contributions to technology and the community, but also for his personal qualities that endeared him to all who knew him. Colleagues and friends alike recall him as a wise and thoughtful leader whose steady guidance, sharp instincts, and unwavering integrity earned him deep respect across the industry. I long admired Ron's personal kindness, always making others feel as though they were important enough to have the full attention and concern of a respected tech CEO. Ron lived life fully and fearlessly, he was an avid motorcyclist, a music and photography enthusiast, and an adventurous traveler.

Above all, Ron was devoted to his family. He is survived by his loving wife, Mahasti, and his four children Chris, Jon, Georgia, and Alexi. Ron's legacy of leadership, friendship, and humanity will continue to guide and inspire us in years to come. He will be greatly missed, but his influence endures in the countless lives he touched.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SUCCESS OF JANET NICHOL

#### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 17, 2025*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Janet Nichol, of Royse City, Texas.

For almost three decades, Ms. Nichol has been a devoted and highly visible leader in the Rockwall County and Royse City community. A lifelong resident of Rockwall County, she has dedicated her life to public service, community development, and civic engagement. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated a deep commitment to her hometown, earning the trust and respect of residents across the county.

Ms. Nichol's record of civic service is both extensive and distinguished. She began her public service on the Royse City Council, serving from 1995 to 2005 and again from 2009 to 2015. Her steady leadership and dedication to progress led the people of Royse City to elect her mayor—a position she proudly held from

2015 to 2021 and to which she was triumphantly returned in 2025. Between those terms, she served as Rockwall County Commissioner for Precinct 4 from 2021 to 2023, where she championed infrastructure improvements, responsible growth, and fiscal stewardship.

Her commitment extends far beyond elected office. Ms. Nichol has served on numerous boards and committees that shape the county's future, including 14 years on the Rockwall County Road Construction Board, 15 years on the Royse City Main Street Board, and 13 years on the Royse City Parks Board. She has also contributed to the Rockwall County Historical Commission, helping preserve the county's heritage for future generations. Her dedication to children and education is evident through her service on the Rockwall County Children's Advocacy Center Board, the Royse City ISD Education Foundation, and her active role on the RCISD Rebranding Plan Committee, as well as the Royse City Main Street and Parks Planning Boards.

Throughout her career, Ms. Nichol has exemplified servant leadership—marked by humility, dedication, and a deep love for her community. Her lifelong service has strengthened the fabric of Royse City and Rockwall County and continues to inspire others to serve with purpose and heart.

It is my honor to recognize Janet Nichol for her integrity, her decades of selfless service, and her enduring commitment to strengthening the Royse City and Rockwall County communities.

#### CONGRATULATING THE BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BULLDOGS

#### HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 17, 2025*

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate the Big Spring Marching Bulldogs from Big Spring High School in Newville, Pennsylvania, on earning the Cavalcade of Bands Liberty A Conference Championship.

This year's Band performed, "Catch Me If You Can," based off the movie, but featured Bon Jovi's "Wanted Dead or Alive," Michael Jackson's "Smooth Criminal," and Imogen Heap's "Hide and Seek." Their performance highlighted the Band's technical expertise and creativity, character, and joy. They began preparation for the season in June and competed throughout the fall in the Cavalcade of Bands—a regional circuit of nearly 75 bands throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.

The Marching Bulldogs were one of 16 bands in the Liberty A Conference, continually placing near the top throughout the season. On September 13, 2025, the Marching Bulldogs claimed First Place at Greencastle-Antrim High School, earning a score of 75.55. On October 25, they took Second Place at the Manheim Central Baron Invitational with a score of 88.45. At the Championship on November 1, 2025, the Marching Bulldogs took the field with heart, determination, and teamwork—and brought home First Place with a score of 94.063 in a field of 16 incredibly talented bands.

After their victory, the Bulldogs were celebrated upon their return to Newville. Two fire trucks escorted the Bulldogs' buses back to the high school, and well over 200 people were waiting to cheer them and recognize this monumental achievement.

This championship win is a story of perseverance and dedication that has spanned multiple years. The COVID pandemic had a devastating impact on Band membership, which hit a low in 2021 of only 31 members. In 2022, the Band earned a bronze medal in a much smaller division, which piqued more interest and sparked growth. The Band continued to grow and improve into 2024 after receiving a silver medal out of 12 bands in their division. After moving to a larger division featuring bands from 50 to 70 members in 2025, the Marching Bulldogs truly stepped up; this year's well-earned and hard-fought championship was their first in 14 years.

Mr. Speaker, the Big Spring Marching Bulldogs Cavalcade of Bands Liberty A Conference Championship truly showcases their exceptional determination, work ethic, and pride—not only as individuals, but in each other as a team. They stayed focused on their mission, never wavered, and performed at an extremely high level under immense pressure. On behalf of the 10th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I'm honored and privileged to commend the Marching Bulldogs on their well-earned victory. Bulldog Pride.

#### HONORING THE LEGACY OF IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT, DR. WENDY WINTERSTEEN

#### HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 17, 2025*

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the remarkable leadership and service of Dr. Wendy Wintersteen, President of Iowa State University, who is retiring after years of distinguished service to the university, the State of Iowa, and the agricultural community nationwide.

Dr. Wintersteen's career stands as a testament to the power of education, innovation, and public service. A proud Iowa State University alumna, she earned both her bachelor's and doctoral degrees from the institution she would later lead, showing the next generation of students what it means to enact the Cyclone values of hard work, humility, and service to others.

Before becoming Iowa State's 16th and first female president in 2017, Dr. Wintersteen spent decades advancing Iowa's land-grant mission. Her work in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach program helped strengthen Iowa's leadership in agricultural research and community development. She built partnerships that lasted, connected classrooms to family farms, and ensured that students learned not just from textbooks but from the people who grow our food and fuel our economy. Through her efforts, she ensured that Iowa's innovation in agriculture continues to feed our Nation and fuel the world.

Under her leadership as president, Iowa State saw record-breaking research funding, significant campus improvements, and expanded opportunities for students from all

walks of life. She guided the university through challenges with resilience and vision, always putting students first and keeping Iowa at the heart of every decision she made. President Wintersteen represents the very best of what a Cyclone can and should be.

Mr. Speaker, President Wintersteen's dedication to education and public service has inspired thousands across our state. Her legacy will endure in the classrooms she strengthened, the students she championed, and the future leaders she helped shape.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing President Wendy Wintersteen for her extraordinary contributions to higher education, agriculture, and the people of Iowa.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 17, 2025*

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to a family illness, I missed the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 335; YEA on Roll Call No. 336; YEA on Roll Call No. 337; YEA on Roll Call No. 338; NAY on Roll Call No. 339; YEA on Roll Call No. 340; NAY on Roll Call No. 341; and YEA on Roll Call No. 342.

#### HEALTHCARE IS REAL

#### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 17, 2025*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the President and the Congressional Republicans have passed a bill, the Big Ugly Bill and signed into law on July 4, 2025 that would cut more than 1.5 trillion dollars toward investing in our families, children, and seniors' healthcare. In addition, purging 15 million Americans from insurance coverage, denying Medicaid and SNAP benefits for the poor and needy and diminishing funds to Medicare for the elderly, the disabled, and the disease individuals who desperately need support to live.

As Americans face a Republican-manufactured health care crisis, skyrocketing costs from Trump's tariffs and a weakening economy, Republicans have refused to extend the Affordable Care Act premium tax credits for working class families, which will expire December 31, 2025. I include in the RECORD a note from a constituent named Shemeka who captures how devastating the loss of the enhanced tax credits will be for her family.

"I am a single mother with a daughter who has just begun her freshman year of college.

Access to healthcare is absolutely essential to me and my family. I am a full-time employee in the inner city of Chicago where wages are modest, however employer-paid healthcare is not offered. Because of this, we rely on the Marketplace for affordable health coverage. Even with a budget focused solely on basic necessities, we are still struggling to maintain affordable healthcare. The current federal tax credits are what make it possible for us to have even the most basic health insurance, and additional credits are truly needed.

Without these federal tax credits, we would be placed in an extremely vulnerable position. Accessing affordable healthcare would become almost impossible, and the stability of our lives would be at serious risk. These tax credits are not just helpful they are essential. It is unimaginable to consider life without them.

"Thank you again for your leadership and for allowing me the opportunity to lift my voice on this critical issue."

#### SUPPORTING THE WAR POWERS RESOLUTIONS

#### HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 17, 2025*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, prior to the Trump Administration, the United States followed a policy of interdiction to combat drug trafficking in the Caribbean. Over the past decade, that approach led to a steady decline in Venezuela's role as a major drug transit route. It relied on stopping vessels, inspecting cargo, and arresting suspects where evidence existed. This Administration has shamefully abandoned that lawful and effective approach in favor of bombing boats and committing extrajudicial killings at sea. There is no operational reason for abandoning interdiction, which worked, respected the rule of law, and avoided the use of lethal force where arrest and prosecution were possible.

After decades of forever wars, the American people are sick and tired of being dragged into needless armed conflicts. Despite that, President Trump escalated his reckless campaign against Venezuela even further last night, pushing the Nation closer to a war the American people do not want.

For weeks, the Administration has carried out lethal strikes on small boats in Venezuelan waters, killing dozens of people without any authorization from Congress. These killings occurred without due process and without any explanation for why the vessels could not have been stopped, inspected, and the individuals on board arrested and prosecuted. Most disturbing of all, the Administration carried out a so-called "double-tap" strike, deliberately targeting wounded survivors after an initial attack. That conduct is indefensible and inconsistent with the rule of law and the values the United States claims to uphold.

The President is also asking the American people to accept a justification that does not withstand scrutiny. The Administration claims these killings are about stopping drugs, but there is no credible evidence that Venezuela is a significant source of fentanyl entering the United States. The fentanyl crisis is driven overwhelmingly by synthetic opioids manufactured elsewhere and smuggled through established land routes, not by small boats off the Venezuelan coast. And Trump's professed concern about drug trafficking rings hollow when he issued a pardon to the former president of Honduras after a U.S. jury convicted him of running a violent drug-trafficking conspiracy to move massive quantities of cocaine toward the United States. If Trump were serious about stopping drugs and not using counternarcotics as a pretext for military escalation and regime change, he would not be letting convicted traffickers walk free while eyeing Venezuela's vast oil resources.

To this day, the Administration has not provided Congress with a public legal justification for these killings, nor has it explained the legal authority it claims to rely on. Congress and the American people deserve to see the legal rationale for the use of lethal force carried out in their name.

History teaches that unlawful uses of force cannot be excused by secrecy or by claims of simply following orders. Responsibility does not vanish up and down the chain of command when the law is violated. As international tribunals have long made clear, including at Nuremberg, individuals are responsible for war crimes and unlawful killings even when acting under superior orders. That principle must apply here as well. A future Administration committed to the rule of law will have a responsibility to investigate these actions fully and hold accountable those responsible for unlawful killings carried out in the name of the United States.

The Constitution is clear: the power to authorize war belongs to Congress, and Congress alone. No President gets a blank check to wage war by decree. That is why today, I proudly voted for two War Powers resolutions to block further escalation and reassert Congress's constitutional authority. It is unfortunate that Democrats had to force these votes under the War Powers Resolution just to ensure Congress carries out its duties, despite Speaker Johnson's best efforts to keep them off the House floor and avoid accountability.

The American people do not want another needless war, and I refuse to let our service members be put in harm's way for an escalation that Congress never approved.

#### SUPPORTING OF H. CON. RES. 61 AND H. CON. RES. 64

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 17, 2025*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 61 and H. Con. Res. 64, War Powers resolutions that direct President Trump to remove the U.S. military from hostilities in the Caribbean and against Venezuela unless explicitly authorized by Congress.

Since September 2, 2025, the Trump administration has conducted 25 military strikes on vessels in the Western Hemisphere, which they state to be carrying narcotics. At least 95 people have been killed in these strikes. Not one of these strikes has been authorized by Congress and I have publicly called for them to cease because I believe them to be unlawful extrajudicial killings.

The footage of the strike on September 2, 2025, which I have viewed in a classified setting, is deeply alarming and calls into question the Trump administration's respect for the laws of armed conflict. I have called on Secretary Hegseth and Secretary Rubio to immediately release the strike video in its entirety, so that the American public understands what President Trump has ordered in the Caribbean without any authorization from Congress. Congress has a responsibility to fully investigate not only the September 2, 2025, strike but the Trump administration's entire operation in the Caribbean and should take testimony from Secretary Hegseth, U.S. Special Operations