

Commander Admiral Frank Bradley, and retired U.S. Southern Commander Admiral Alvin Holsey.

Beyond these strikes, the Trump administration has spent months conducting a large-scale military buildup in the Caribbean but has completely failed to explain the rationale to Congress. A military posture that includes a carrier strike group is wildly disproportionate to the goal of prosecuting counter-narcotics missions. The financial costs of Operation Southern Spear are significant and will likely run into billions of dollars. Keeping a carrier strike group on station longer than planned will result in additional maintenance costs, as well as unforeseen accidents, as we just saw with the USS *Harry Truman*'s high operational tempo while deployed in the Middle East. It is unfortunate that the Department of Defense has failed to provide the Appropriations Committee with a full account of operational costs in SOUTHCOM and a projection of what future costs may be incurred. Military units supporting Operation Southern Spear are incurring a different type of cost, lost time training for missions that they would have undertaken had they not been diverted to the President's unauthorized activities in SOUTHCOM.

President Trump has also made several public comments about the potential for U.S. military forces to be used to remove Nicolas Maduro from power in Venezuela. President Trump has even directed the seizure of oil tankers in the region to apply pressure in Venezuela. As a Member of Congress who voted against authorizing the disastrous Iraq War, I believe that a war to enact regime change in Venezuela would be a catastrophic decision. That is why these two war powers resolutions are so critically important.

President Trump and his administration are out of control. The Constitution grants Congress the power to declare war and authorize military action. Because Congress has not done so in this case, the military activities directed by President Trump in SOUTHCOM are unlawful. Congress must prevent President Trump from dragging the United States into another disastrous regime change war that the American people do not support.

It is time for every Member of Congress to go on record and stand with the Constitution instead of President Trump's executive overreach. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of these two war power resolutions.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF DELANO, CALIFORNIA

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Delano, California as it celebrates its 110th anniversary.

Incorporated in 1915, Delano was originally established as a railroad town, serving as a hub for hundreds of workers building the southern terminus of the Southern Pacific railroad. Over the years, Delano has been the site of several historically significant events, particularly during World War II. The Voice of America Delano even operated as a vital broadcasting facility, relaying news and information to VOA stations across the Pacific, including Hawaii, Okinawa, and the Philippines.

In more recent history, the Delano Municipal Airport gained distinction as the home of a squadron of Northrop P-61 Black Widow aircraft—twin-engine fighters that played a key role in defending the Pacific Coast during the war.

Today, Delano is best known for its thriving agricultural industry. The city is a major producer of grapes, oranges, almonds, pistachios, and cotton. Alongside its agricultural success, Delano has experienced steady commercial growth, attracting major businesses such as Wonderful Citrus, the company behind the widely popular Halos brand.

Delano is also a culturally rich and diverse community, shaped by generations of residents from around the world. Since the arrival of early settlers under the Homestead Act, Delano has welcomed people from Latin America, Asia, and Europe, each contributing to the city's distinct character and traditions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my congressional colleagues to join me in celebrating Delano on its 110th anniversary, and to honor its rich history, diverse community, and the spirit of those who call it home.

RECOGNIZING BUCKINGHAM TOWNSHIP SHIP SUPERVISOR PAUL CALDERAIO'S SERVICE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Mr. Paul Calderaio for his extraordinary dedication to public service and his lasting contributions to Buckingham Township in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Paul's commitment to service began early in his life while living in Florida. That dedication only deepened after he and his family made Buckingham Township their home. For more than three decades, Paul Calderaio has exemplified the very best of local civic leadership, devoting his time, energy, and experience to strengthening his community.

A resident of Buckingham Township since 1955, Paul and his wife have raised their four children in Bucks County, firmly rooting their family in the community he has worked so diligently to serve. His public service to the Township spans nearly 25 years, first as Township Auditor and later as a Township supervisor, roles in which he demonstrated integrity, responsibility, and a steadfast commitment to transparency and good governance.

Throughout his tenure, Paul was a strong advocate for open space preservation and played a key role in campaigning for a Township bond dedicated to protecting land for future generations. His leadership helped ensure that Buckingham Township balanced growth with preservation, safeguarding its rural character and quality of life.

The results of his dedication are clear and admirable. Under the leadership of officials like Paul Calderaio, Buckingham Township has been ranked the safest township in Pennsylvania for its size, maintains some of the lowest township tax rates in Bucks County, and has achieved an exceptional AAA bond rating. This is an honor shared by only seven townships in the entire Commonwealth. Addi-

tionally, more than 6,500 acres of open space has been preserved, and the Township is consistently recognized as one of the best places to live in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, these accomplishments do not happen by chance. They are the product of years of thoughtful leadership, careful use of public resources, and an unwavering commitment to the people of Buckingham Township. Paul's legacy is one of service, accountability, and community pride.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Paul Calderaio for his many years of service and to thank him for the positive and lasting impact he has had on Buckingham Township, Bucks County, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ERIC REYES

HON. BLAKE D. MOORE

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sergeant First Class Eric Reyes's exemplary and distinguished record of service to our country during his twenty years on active duty. A native of the Bronx, New York, he enlisted in the Army as an infantryman after graduating from high school in January 2005.

During his 20-year career, Eric has served at every level of leadership within the Army, leading our Nation's greatest resource, our sons and daughters. He has led teams through the platoon level on multiple combat tours and spent most of his career at the tactical level, specializing in combined arms maneuver and large-scale combat operations. He has deployed twice in support of the Global War on Terror and distinguished himself within the infantry community, earning his Master Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Eric led at every step within a platoon and below and had an outsized impact on the training and readiness of future generations. He has been an observer-controller certifying and participating in 16 combat training center rotations, ensuring 16 platoons achieved the highest levels of readiness to deploy and win in combat. He was also a drill sergeant for nearly three years, training all recruits that came through Fort Jackson, South Carolina, during his time. Most recently, he has served as the Senior Military Science Instructor at the University of Utah ROTC program within my district. He has spent the last three years as the senior military instructor for all tactics, overseeing over 400 officers within the ROTC program at the University of Utah.

Eric Reyes has had a lasting impact on our Nation, deploying to fight in her wars, leading our fine men and women in uniform, and training the next generation of warriors in our great Army, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Sergeant First Class Eric Reyes for his selfless dedication, unwavering leadership, and steadfast commitment to our country. He is retiring this December after 20 years of stalwart service to our great Nation. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to him, his wife, Sarah, and their children, Xavier, Maliena, Olivia, and Sophia, for their sacrifices and contributions to the strength and security of our country.

COMMEMORATING ANNA
ADAMIAN'S SERVICE TO MARY-
LAND'S 1ST CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. HARRIS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my Communications Director, Anna Adamian, on her new position working in the Trump Administration. Anna is a dedicated staff member who has worked tirelessly to promote my message fighting for the 1st Congressional District. The commitment Anna has demonstrated has been exceptional and praiseworthy.

Ms. Adamian has risen through the ranks of my office, beginning as Press Secretary to currently serving as my Communications Director. She has consistently excelled, working diligently with others to ensure my district stays informed of the resources available to them and how I am advocating for my constituents.

It is important that Representatives recognize outstanding staff such as Ms. Adamian. Often times, the work of these staffers goes unnoticed but is nonetheless critical in maintaining the functions of our government. Anna is a true patriot, and Maryland's 1st Congressional District undoubtedly owes her a great debt of gratitude. I wish Anna well in her future endeavors at the White House.

I thank Anna. She will be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on December 16, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 342.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MICHAEL GEORGE STOCKER

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Michael George Stocker, who passed away peacefully on December 11, 2025.

Michael was a captain in the U.S. Air Force, and a navigator on the B52 aircraft, serving in Vietnam. Michael was born on July 6, 1941, in Mount Vernon, Indiana, and lived his life with a passion for Jesus and a love for his family and Kentucky Basketball.

Michael went to high school at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology with the hopes of pursuing priesthood. Michael would then go on to serve in the U.S. Air Force as a Navigator-Bombardier on B52's, while getting a Doctorate in education. Michael was known for his service with the Pro-Life Airplanes navigation, and his favorite B52's.

Michael was preceded in death by his loving wife Marilyn, who passed away on November 27, 2025. Michael and Marilyn leave behind a legacy of love and dedication for their family and will be remembered by the hearts and hands of those they touched. Michael and Marilyn are survived by their daughters, granddaughters, and great-grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF DENNIS EUGENE "DENNY" BUTCHER OF WATERTOWN, MIN- NESOTA

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dennis Eugene "Denny" Butcher of Watertown, Minnesota, for his retirement after 53 years as the town's beloved Master Barber. Denny's impact reaches far beyond the barber chair through the many other ways he sewed Watertown's community.

Known for his generosity and compassion, he routinely traveled from his barbershop to provide haircuts for residents of Elim Home and Westwood Place, as well as those confined to their homes due to illness. Additionally, Denny served his community as a volunteer firefighter and as an Emergency Medical Technician at the Watertown Hospital until its closure in 1971.

He contributed to the cultural life of Watertown in many ways. For five years, Denny played with the Highliners Polka Band and later played with John Exklund and the Midwesterners, sharing joy and tradition with audiences across Minnesota and the region. And, for more than 25 years, Denny brought magic and delight to children, and families each holiday season playing the role of Santa Claus. Together with his wife, Mary, he has shown tremendous love for the community's elderly through their shared ministry of offering comfort, companionship, and care to those who need it most.

Denny has become known for his signature style and personality—the man who wears shorts all year long, the scooter man, a tender-hearted jokester, who is always ready to laugh, and someone who truly embodies his well-known motto, "I'm living the dream."

Denny's love for Watertown, his decades of service, and his heart of gold have made him a pillar of the community. As he completes his final day behind the barber chair on December 19, 2025, we honor his lifetime of contributions and celebrate the legacy he leaves behind.

On behalf of Minnesota's 6th District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Dennis Eugene Butcher for his 53 years of dedication to the people of Watertown, Minnesota. His kindness, service, and joy have left a mark that will be remembered for generations.

UNCOVERING WIDESPREAD FRAUD IN OBAMACARE

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to include in the RECORD a copy of the article,

"Ghostbusting ACA Fraud: Millions Who Don't Use Their Health Insurance Expose Abuse in the Program" and a document from the Committee on Ways and Means entitled "Watchdog Report Uncovers Widespread Fraud in Obamacare."

[From Paragon Health Institute, Oct. 1, 2025]

GHOSTBUSTING ACA FRAUD: MILLIONS WHO DON'T USE THEIR HEALTH INSURANCE EXPOSE ABUSE IN THE PROGRAM

(By Niklas Kleinworth, Liam Sigaud, and John R. Graham)

Individual coverage exchange plans created by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) have a glaring problem: nearly 12 million enrollees, or 35 percent of all exchange enrollees in 2024, do not use their benefits at all. For these enrollees, known as zero-claim enrollees, health coverage did not translate to health care. Many zero-claim enrollees are known as "phantoms"—people who are enrolled but not practically in the market because they are enrolled in other coverage or are unaware of their exchange plan coverage. Large insurers benefit greatly from phantom enrollment, as they collect billions of dollars in taxpayer funds to cover individuals who cost them nothing.

Our analysis shows that these enrollees are not just healthy enrollees with no need for care. They are part of a larger story about how Biden COVID credits are driving perverse incentives. Insurers and middlemen are responding to these incentives, and unscrupulous brokers are enrolling anyone they can. Evidence shows millions of Americans fell victim to enrollment in fully subsidized plans without their knowledge or consent. This fraud harms patients who lose their health coverage or face penalties at tax time. It also harms taxpayers who foot the bill for these schemes.

This policy brief presents a state-by-state analysis describing how zero-claim enrollment corroborates much of Paragon's previous work on improper enrollment and fraud in the ACA exchanges. We also debunk claims that young, healthy enrollees without claims are serving to diversify the risk pool and improve the market.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Rising numbers of zero-claim enrollees—people who did not file a single medical claim—bolster evidence of rampant fraud in ACA exchanges. Many of these enrollees are phantoms—people unaware of their coverage or enrolled in other plans.

Biden COVID credits drove fraud by creating zero-dollar plans that are fully subsidized by taxpayers and require no enrollee contributions. Unscrupulous brokers enrolled many people without their knowledge and many others after manipulating information on applications to maximize subsidies.

The sharp increase in zero-claim enrollment from 2021 to 2024 is not explained by meaningfully higher enrollment among young, healthy beneficiaries.

Zero-claim enrollment numbers dwarf potential coverage loss estimates of not extending the COVID credits. This anomaly suggests that when the COVID credits expire on schedule at the end of 2025, they will likely have little to no negative effect on access to health care services or health.

To curb fraudulent enrollment that harms both patients and taxpayers, Congress must allow the Biden COVID credits to expire on time.