

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN EMERGENCY WITHDRAWAL ACT OF 2025

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Thrift Savings Plan Emergency Withdrawal Act of 2025, which would expand the circumstances in which a federal employee recently separated from the federal government can take a penalty-free withdrawal from their Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) account. This bill would help former federal employees pay their bills after separation.

First, this bill would allow a penalty-free withdrawal to make up the gap between the interim payments a retiree receives during the period the Office of Personnel Management is calculating the retiree's final annuity and the estimated final annuity. A retiree's interim payment is generally only 60 percent to 80 percent of the finalized net payment. Second, this bill would allow a penalty-free withdrawal if an individual is involuntarily separated from the federal government. In both cases, the maximum withdrawal would be \$100,000. Individuals would be able to make a withdrawal for up to a year after separation and to repay the withdrawn amount within three years to avoid the existing early withdrawal penalty, which is a 10 percent additional tax.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREG CASAR

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 362, H.R. 498; NAY on Roll Call No. 360, H.R. 845; NAY on Roll Call No. 358, H.R. 1366; and NAY on Roll Call No. 356, H.R. 4776.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF U.S. COMPTROLLER GENERAL GENE L. DODARO

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Gene L. Dodaro upon the completion of his term as the eighth Comptroller General of the United States. During his 52 years working at and leading the Government Accountability Office (GAO), Mr. Dodaro has helped root out waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement

across the Federal Government. There is no Federal department, agency, or program that has not been made better because of Mr. Dodaro's tireless work on behalf of the American people.

Mr. Dodaro was the first GAO employee to become Comptroller General, and under Mr. Dodaro's 15-year term at the helm, GAO has saved the American taxpayer more than \$1.2 trillion. The Committee on Homeland Security and I have relied on Mr. Dodaro's deep experience and knowledge of Federal programs and operations to shape the Department of Homeland Security and protect civil rights and civil liberties in the post-9/11 era.

The teams at GAO led by Mr. Dodaro have made Americans safer, made their government more responsive, and saved them money. It is because of GAO's audits of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant programs and response efforts that Americans facing natural disasters can rely on FEMA to get them help quickly and effectively. GAO's examination of Federal cybersecurity and information programs helped with the creation and evolution of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, which helps protect American schools, hospitals, businesses, and critical infrastructure from costly and damaging cyber attacks. GAO's examinations of Department of Homeland Security intelligence and counterterrorism programs helped protect the Nation, strengthen civil liberties, and implement needed reforms to make the country safer for all people. And in 2020, GAO helped Congress uncover that U.S. Customs and Border Protection was using migrant care funds to buy ATVs while children died in custody.

Members of Congress from both parties and across all congressional committees have benefited from Mr. Dodaro's dedication to accountability, efficiency, and management reform. He testified before Congress more than 200 times and helped Congress steer the United States through the global financial crisis. Mr. Dodaro's work with Congress and Presidential administrations helped shape the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, the Federal IT Acquisitions Reform Act of 2014, the Fraud Reduction and Data Analytics Act of 2015, and countless legislation that moved through the Committee on Homeland Security as a result of GAO reports and recommendations.

Mr. Dodaro's accolades are known far and wide. He recently received the Association of Government Accountants' (AGA) Lifetime Achievement Award for a Legacy of Service, was inducted into Government Executive's Government Hall of Fame, and received the AGA Chapters Award for Extraordinary Service to the Nation in Advancing Government Performance and Accountability for Over Five Decades. These awards are deserved and will no doubt crowd his shelf full of similar honors for his lifetime of exemplary service to the Nation. Mr. Dodaro, his family and friends, and his alma mater, Lycoming College, should be proud of Mr. Dodaro's accomplishments.

The United States needs more leaders and public servants in the mold of the Honorable Gene L. Dodaro. His steady leadership, forthrightness, and insight will be sorely missed. I congratulate him on the completion of his term of office and look forward to what is in store for the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NIKEMA WILLIAMS

OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on Thursday, December 18, 2025. If I were present for Roll Call votes, I would have voted Aye on: Roll Call No. 355, On Motion to Recommit H.R. 4776, SPEED Act; Roll Call No. 357, On Motion to Recommit H.R. 1366, Mining Regulatory Clarity Act; Roll Call No. 359, On Motion to Recommit H.R. 845, Pet and Livestock Protection Act; and Roll Call No. 361, On Motion to Recommit H.R. 498, Do No Harm in Medicaid Act.

If I were present for Roll Call votes, I would have voted No on the Following Amendments to H.R. 4776, the SPEED Act: Roll Call No. 352, Clyde Amendment No. 1; Roll Call No. 353, Roy Amendment No. 5; Roll Call No. 354, Roy Amendment No. 6; Roll Call No. 356, On Passage of H.R. 4776, SPEED Act; Roll Call No. 358, On Passage of H.R. 1366, Mining Regulatory Clarity Act; Roll Call No. 360, On Passage of H.R. 845, Pet and Livestock Protection Act; and Roll Call No. 362, On Passage of H.R. 498, Do No Harm in Medicaid Act.

CELEBRATING THE UCLA DIVISION I MEN'S WATER POLO TEAM

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Men's Water Polo team from the University of California, Los Angeles. The Bruins Men's Water Polo team took home the 2025 NCAA Men's National Collegiate Water Polo Championship on December 7, 2025. UCLA defeated the Men's Water Polo team from the University of Southern California at the Avery Aquatic Center on the campus of Stanford University.

This year's championship secures UCLA's 14th national title win in program history. It also marks the 125th overall NCAA title win by a UCLA Bruin team in any sport.

The UCLA Men's Water Polo team should be proud of their achievement in earning the distinction of being national champions, amongst the more than half a million student-athletes who participate in NCAA events each

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

year. The team's championship season culminated in a thrilling 11–10 win against USC in the final match. With guidance from Coach Adam Wright, the team went on to improve their record to 103–94–1 all time in the series history.

I would like to congratulate the UCLA's Men's Water Polo team once again on winning the national championship for a second straight season, and I wish them the best of luck next season. This win is a special moment in the collegiate athletic careers of each individual UCLA player and marks an exceptional accomplishment and historical achievement for the UCLA community. Go Bruins.

HONORING THE HEROISM AND
BRAVERY OF LOGAN FOMENKO

HON. MICHAEL A. RULLI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary courage of one of my constituents, 19-year-old Logan Fomenko, whose selfless actions reflect the very best of Ohio's 6th District.

On October 9, 2025, Logan saw a house fire and learned that an elderly man may have been trapped inside the home. Without hesitation or regard for his own safety, Logan ran toward the danger and entered the now fully engulfed house in an attempt to save a life. Unfortunately, an explosion inside the home forced him to retreat, and despite first responders' best efforts, the fire consumed nearly the entire structure, and the man inside tragically perished.

Logan's decision to run toward the flames was pure instinct, reflecting his bravery and deep compassion for a man he did not know. These actions demonstrate his exemplary commitment to serving his community, even in the face of danger. I am praying for Logan and his family as they continue their journey of recovery, for the healthcare workers who took care of him in the days after the fire, and I will continue to honor the memory of the gentleman who lost his life.

I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the heroism and bravery of Logan Fomenko.

CONGRATULATING THE GALENA
PARK NORTH SHORE MUSTANGS

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Galena Park North Shore Mustangs on winning the UIL Class 6A Division I State Championship on December 20, 2025, an extraordinary achievement for Texas's 29th Congressional District.

On the biggest stage in Texas high school football, the Mustangs earned a state championship through discipline, preparation, and belief in one another. This victory marks the program's sixth state title and a return to the top, reaffirming North Shore's tradition of excellence.

This championship reflects months of hard work, and a season defined by focus and resilience. It is a testament to the commitment of these student-athletes and the pride they bring to their school and community.

The Galena Park North Shore Mustangs have once again given Texas 29 a moment to celebrate. Their achievement will be remembered not only for the title itself, but for what it represents about teamwork, perseverance, and community pride.

HONORING RIEDER GRUNSETH
AND THE NORWEGIAN SPECIAL
OPERATIONS GROUP

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of the Norwegian Americans in the 99th Infantry Battalion during World War II. I want to extend my sincerest gratitude to Jon Grunseth for sharing his family's history with us.

2025 marked the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII. The 99th Infantry Battalion, also known as the Norwegian American Ski Battalion, hailed from Minnesota. Rieder Grunseth, a Norwegian born immigrant to Wayzata, Minnesota, dropped out of law school at the University of Minnesota to enlist in the U.S. Army in 1942. As a member of the 99th Infantry Battalion, Rieder Grunseth provided us with these accounts.

The 99th Infantry Battalion, also referred to as the "99th", consisted of mostly Norwegian born men, specially trained in mountain warfare as ski troopers. In 1943, over 70 of these men were recruited by the Office of Strategic Services, the U.S. intelligence agency during WWII, for special operations in the war. The 99th had many great accomplishments during WWII, which led to the Allied powers success. I would like to highlight one of their greatest accomplishments, Operation Percy Red in August 1944. Seventeen of these brave men parachuted into France to help the French resistance liberate the Haut Vienne region from the Nazis. Percy Red was one of the most successful American behind-the-lines actions during the war in Europe. The story further details how these men went on to China and Vietnam in the summer of 1945 to assist the forces of freedom in that part of the world.

Historic events like these are the reason the Allied troops prevailed in WWII. These men served our Nation heroically, and we as Americans are sincerely grateful for it. Their sacrifices will never be forgotten.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF REVEREND DR. A LINCOLN
JAMES, JR.

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. A. Lincoln James Jr., a devoted pastor, educator, and community leader whose faith and service left

an enduring impact on Richmond and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Dr. James answered the call to ministry in 1967 and dedicated his life to serving God and uplifting others. He earned his undergraduate degree in psychology from North Park College and Seminary and later received his Master of Divinity from the School of Theology at Virginia Union University, grounding his ministry in both scholarship and compassion.

For over 45 years, Dr. James faithfully served as Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Richmond, where he shepherded generations of congregants with wisdom, humility, and grace. Under his leadership, Trinity Baptist Church expanded its ministry, strengthened its community outreach, and remained a steadfast spiritual home for countless families. One of his most lasting legacies is The Trinity Family Life Center and its mission to strengthen families and uplift communities by enhancing family stability, pursuing academic excellence and providing services that create fit and vibrant communities.

Beyond his pastoral service, Dr. James was a respected leader in faith, higher education, and the Commonwealth. He served as President of the Virginia Baptist State Convention, fostering unity among churches, mentoring faith leaders throughout Central Virginia and beyond, and advancing the mission of service throughout the Commonwealth. He also served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Richmond Virginia Seminary and as a trustee of the University of Lynchburg. In these roles, he helped guide institutions dedicated to theological education, leadership development, and community empowerment. Dr. James further shared his wisdom as an adjunct professor and lecturer at institutions including Virginia Union University and Richmond, Virginia Seminary, mentoring future ministers and leaders. He also served as a member of the Virginia Parole Board.

Dr. James's ministry extended across Virginia and beyond, including earlier service in Chicago and pastoral leadership in Kilmarnock, Petersburg, and Prince George County. Wherever he served, he was known for his steady leadership, deep faith, and unwavering commitment to justice and compassion.

Above all, Dr. James was a devoted husband, father, and servant-leader whose life reflected his abiding faith and love for others. His legacy lives on through the lives he touched, the leaders he mentored, and the community he strengthened.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the remarkable life of Dr. A. Lincoln James, Jr., and in extending our deepest condolences to his family, the Trinity Baptist Church family, and all who mourn his passing. May his memory continue to be a blessing.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA CHIEF FINANCIAL
OFFICER SALARY HOME RULE
ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Chief Financial