

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

Officer Salary Home Rule Act, which would give the District of Columbia authority to increase the pay of its Chief Financial Officer (CFO). The D.C. CFO is a local D.C. official and is paid with local D.C. funds. D.C. should have authority to set the pay of all its employees. In the 117th Congress, the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability passed this bill.

Under the D.C. Home Rule Act, Congress established a maximum rate of pay of the CFO, and the D.C. Council does not have authority to increase that rate. Congress does not cap, or otherwise establish, the pay of any other D.C. employee. Under this bill, the CFO would be paid at the greater of a rate equal

to the current maximum rate of pay or a rate established in law by D.C.

D.C. requested that I introduce this bill to enable it to retain and recruit the best CFOs. The CFO was established by Congress in 1995. Congress vested the CFO with extraordinary powers and designed the CFO to be independent of the Mayor and Council. D.C. cannot obligate or expend funds without the CFO's approval that there are sufficient funds. The CFO manages a \$22 billion budget that consists of state, county, and city functions, and the CFO has more than 1,700 employees. The CFO may be removed only for cause by the Mayor, subject to the approval of two-thirds of the Council and a 30-day congressional review and comment period. This bill

would help maintain the independence of the CFO by establishing a permanent floor on the CFO's pay and by prohibiting the Council from reducing the CFO's pay during the CFO's term.

Although the D.C. CFO is the most powerful non-elected official in D.C., a number of D.C. employees are paid more than the CFO. D.C. must compete with both the private and public sectors for high-quality CFOs, and there are many private and public-sector CFOs who are paid more than the D.C. CFO.

This bill is critical to the financial operations of D.C. and is an important step to increase home rule for D.C. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.