

is true, the nuclear arms race will continue to play out in media and politics as a pricey necessity.

In recent years, numerous activists and groups have given priority to calling for abolition of nuclear weapons. It's a position that occupies the highest moral ground, famously seized by the Nobel laureate scientist George Wald in a widely reprinted 1969 anti-war speech at MIT. "Nuclear weapons offer us nothing but a balance of terror, and a balance of terror is still terror," he said. "We have to get rid of those atomic weapons, here and everywhere. We cannot live with them."

During the past several years, accelerating work by activists for abolition has drawn inspiration from the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, now signed by 94 countries, and visionary organizations like the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

Unfortunately, campaigning for abolition of nuclear weapons does not have any evident capacity to hinder the US government's leading role in propelling the momentum of the arms race. No matter how heartfelt and imbued with wisdom, pleas for abolition do not present a threat to the unrestrained and voracious power of the military-industrial complex.

A truly horrific reality in 2025, and for the realistically foreseeable future, is that nuclear weapons will remain on this planet, brandished against the entire human species. The word "realistically" may cause some to bristle. But a lack of such distasteful realism can divert resources, time, and energies away from where they're most needed.

Desperate needs include far greater activism, public messaging, and political organizing to avert the worst. The top of the agenda should include: renewal of US-Russia New START treaty set to expire next February; reinstatement of three vital nuclear-arms pacts canceled by the US government, the Anti-Ballistic Missile, Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces, and Open Skies treaties; and initiation of step-by-step disarmament measures that can sometimes involve wise unilateral actions by the US government, as in the case of ICBMs.

"We are closer to nuclear catastrophe today than at any point since the Cold War," Representative Jim McGovern said this spring when reintroducing a House resolution "urging the United States to lead the world back from the brink of nuclear war and halt and reverse the nuclear arms race." With 21 cosponsors, the resolution "calls on the president" to take major steps toward sanity, none of which Joe Biden chose to take and none of which Donald Trump shows any indication of taking.

Looking at the names on the nonbinding resolution, a reason for discouragement is that only 10 percent of House Democrats and not a single Republican signed on. A less obvious problem is that the signers are not speaking out for vigorous American diplomacy to end the Ukraine war, which may be a prerequisite for restarting any semblance of dialogue on nuclear dangers between Washington and Moscow.

For more than three years, ever since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, congressional Democrats have rarely advocated the kind of diplomatic efforts that might stop the war's carnage. Such efforts could supply a scaffold for rebuilding the arms-control architecture.

But the default role for even progressive Democrats on the Hill has been to support no-strings arming of the Ukrainian military ("let's you and them fight") while depicting the Kremlin as incapable of serious negotiations. Yet the McGovern resolution says that the United States should lead a worldwide effort to prevent nuclear war by "in particular, pursuing and concluding new nuclear

arms control and disarmament arrangements with the Russian Federation to prevent a buildup of nuclear forces beyond current levels."

So while some congressional Democrats are emphatic that the United States should directly negotiate with Russia to prevent nuclear war, those same lawmakers are not willing to push for US negotiations with Russia to end the Ukraine war.

In reality, thawing the deep freeze of the new Cold War is essential to halt and reverse the race toward annihilation. Voicing hope that nuclear-arms negotiations can be successful in tandem with belligerence toward Russia may seem politic, but it is not realistic.

While hawkish legislators make no pretense of interest in any step toward détente, it's important that at least a minority of Democrats at the Capitol are urging diplomatic talks aimed at preventing nuclear war. Yet it's hard to imagine those Democrats sounding anything like President Lyndon B. Johnson at the close of his summit with Russian Premier Alexei Kosygin in mid-1967 in Glassboro, New Jersey, when LBJ said, "We have made further progress in an effort to improve our understanding of each other's thinking on a number of questions."

Today, the Democrats who talk about the need to avoid nuclear war do not seem especially interested in "an effort to improve our understanding" of the Russian leadership's thinking. The rote storyline—that Vladimir Putin is evil, end of story—blends in smoothly with US news media and the punditocracy. What it also does is give more fuel to the momentum toward nuclear holocaust.

Many who justifiably derided President George W. Bush after 9/11 for his Manichean view of the world are now largely replicating it. Implicit in the current worldview is that—after decades of war in Afghanistan and Iraq, causing deaths into the millions, and now while continuing to serve as the crucial accomplice for ongoing genocide in Gaza—the US government is clearly virtuous, in complete contrast with the Russian government because of its own unconscionable aggression in Ukraine.

The prevailing reflex, to act as though US-Russia relations could roll along on two tracks—escalating geopolitical conflicts while restoring and concluding major nuclear-arms treaties—is the political equivalent of magical thinking, if not simply craven expediency.

Meanwhile, for the corporate beneficiaries of a trillion-dollar Pentagon budget and an out-of-control nuclear weapons program, the more hostility toward Russia and China the better. And the country that first brought atomic weapons into the world is continuing to lead the way toward thermonuclear destruction.

For those of us who have lived in the era of nuclear bombs for many decades, still being alive can seem close to miraculous. Luck and collective efforts for sanity must have been factors. Now, the generations with most of their lives potentially ahead are in a world that could instantly make that impossible. The heightened militarism of American politics is threatening to seal their fate.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF JAMES A. STEPHENS

HON. RUSS FULCHER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2025

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish James A. Stephens a very happy 100th

birthday. He will be celebrating this milestone on August 29, 2025, at Farragut State Park, in Farragut, Idaho.

In December of 1943, Mr. Stephens entered active service in the U.S. Navy in Santa Ana, California. Mr. Stephens was sent to the Farragut Naval Training Station, in Farragut, Idaho. Once there, he became a swimming instructor for new recruits. Afterwards, Mr. Stephens was assigned to the U.S. Naval Hospital Corps School, where he was trained to serve in military hospitals for American soldiers fighting in the Pacific Theater. After the completion of his training, he served as a Pharmacist Mate Second Class USN-1 at the Navy Hospital in Oakland, California. Mr. Stephens was Honorably Discharged on March 25, 1946.

Mr. Stephen's honorable and courageous service is an example of the very best of Idahoan values.

I thank James A. Stephens for his incredible example of perseverance and fearlessness, and I wish him a very happy birthday.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HONDA'S ANNA ENGINE PLANT

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2025

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to commend to the House the extraordinary contributions made by the men and women of Honda's Anna Engine Plant as they mark forty years of manufacturing excellence.

On July 22, 1985, the Anna Engine Plant in Anna, Ohio, opened with 94 associates. Now directly employing 2,900, the facility makes engines, engine components, and EV battery packs for installation in vehicles across the Honda and Acura product lines. More than 32.5 million engines have been produced at the plant, which has grown to 2.8 million square feet and is Honda's largest engine manufacturing site in the world.

The more than \$2.9 billion that Honda has invested in Anna supports not just those 2,900, but also tens of thousands employed by Honda suppliers, dealers, and servicers nationwide. As the first Asian automaker to build products in the United States, Honda has long been one of our Nation's most important domestic job creators, contributing richly to our manufacturing base.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the strong role that Honda plays in my district and throughout Ohio. I especially applaud everyone at the Anna Engine Plant for their solid record of flexibility and adaptability that has resulted in forty years of manufacturing success in Shelby County. I wish for their continued excellence in the decades to come.

HONORING RICHARD LEBLANC

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, the 12th Congressional District recognizes and honors Richard

LeBlanc for his extraordinary 33-year career in public service and on his recent retirement as the City of Westland's City Clerk.

Mr. LeBlanc's steadfast dedication to community and service to our residents has spanned five elected offices, from his start on the Wayne-Westland Board of Education to the Michigan House of Representatives, and most recently, as Westland City Clerk. At every step, LeBlanc was known as a hard worker and accessible leader, focused on making our government work for everyday families. He modernized the Clerk's Office, expanded access to civic participation, and mentored countless public servants along the way, shaping the lives and careers of young leaders. He is proud of his strong roots and service to the Western Wayne community. I have seen his commitment firsthand.

His retirement marks our district's appreciation for his service to our families. His recent heartfelt tribute from city officials and the presentation of a key to the city, is a symbol of how deeply he shaped Westland's civic life and communities. While Richard LeBlanc's formal legislative work has ended, his legacy of service and integrity will continue to inspire our community for generations to come.

HONORING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALLEN FIVE

HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2025

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the July 16, 2015, terrorist attacks in Chattanooga that took the lives of five brave U.S. servicemen, remembered forever as the Fallen Five.

Ten years ago, yesterday, tragedy struck our Chattanooga community when a radical jihadist terrorist took the lives of five heroic servicemen and wounded two others in one of the darkest days Chattanooga and Tennessee have endured. Out of the horror and violence of that terrible day, our community has stood firmly together in love, support, kindness, and strength to honor and remember the ultimate sacrifice and legacy of the Fallen Five and to uplift and support their beloved families.

Chattanoogans, Tennesseans, and Americans nationwide will never forget the Fallen Five. We will always pay homage to U.S. Marine Gunnery Sergeant Thomas J. Sullivan, U.S. Marine Staff Sergeant David A. Wyatt, U.S. Marine Sergeant Carson A. Holmquist, U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Squire K. "Skip" Wells, and U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Randall J. Smith. Their dedication to America, our community, our military, our freedoms, and service to others will always be remembered.

Please join Brenda and me in praying for the eternal souls of the Fallen Five, who are home now with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and for their families and loved ones. We remember the eternal, healing words spoken through Psalms, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble," and "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me." May God bless the Fallen Five and their families, and may God continue to bless Chattanooga and our great Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CORPORAL EDMUND "ED" BURKE

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2025

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Corporal Edmund "Ed" Burke of Wilton, Connecticut who will celebrate his 100th birthday next week.

Born and raised in the Bronx, he attended Fordham Prep High School and was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1944. Just eighteen at the time, Corporal Burke reported for basic training at Camp Wheeler, Georgia without hesitation, knowing his call to serve came when his country needed him most.

Assigned to the Seventh Armored Division, he was an Infantry Machine Gunner in the European theatre of World War II. He saw action at the Battle of the Bulge, where his division took over 100,000 German prisoners, with Corporal Burke personally capturing enemy soldiers. His bravery earned him multiple commendations, including: a Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, ETO ribbon with four battle stars, Presidential Unit Citation, Meritorious Unit Citation, Belgian Fourregiare, and the Combat Infantry Badge.

After receiving an honorable discharge in 1946, Corporal Burke pursued engineering degrees on the G.I. Bill, first at Manhattan College where he earned his Bachelor of Civil Engineering, later at Columbia University, where he completed his Masters in the same field. Throughout his tenure as an engineer, Corporal Burke would join the New York State Department of Public Works, as well as Corbett, Tinghir & Co. Engineers, ending his career as a partner at Moran, Proctor, Mueser, and Rutledge. There, he was renowned for meticulously and thoughtfully applying his expertise in foundational engineering to the projects on which he worked, including over one hundred sites right here in Washington, D.C.

Corporal Burke's life stands as an all-American success story, one which we would all do well to share with our constituents as a model of how service, hard work, and patriotism come together to form a life well-led. On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Ed Burke for his service, our congratulations on reaching this milestone in a full life, and a sincere happy birthday. May this be his best one yet.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE CONGRESSIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS RECIPIENTS OF FLORIDA'S 16TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2025

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to law enforcement men and women who have provided distinguished service to the people of Florida's 16th Congressional District.

Law enforcement is a demanding profession that requires sacrifice, courage, and dedication to serve others. Every day, brave men and women put themselves in harm's way to enforce the laws of our society and protect public safety. They deserve our gratitude and respect.

Fifteen years ago, I established the 16th District Congressional Law Enforcement Awards to give special recognition to law enforcement officers, departments, or units for exceptional achievement.

This year, I will present Congressional law enforcement awards and include in the RECORD the following recipients chosen by an independent panel comprised of current and retired law enforcement personnel representing a cross-section of the district's law enforcement community:

Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award: Special Agent Matthew Murray of ATF, Deputy John Howes III of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, Officer Chris Bennett of the Holmes Beach Police Department, Deputy Leonel Barboza, Deputy Stephen Cook, Deputy Michael Davis, Deputy Jackson Dugmore, Deputy Robert Pereyra, Jr., and Detective Randall Walker of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office;

Dedication and Professionalism Award: Deputy Jeffery Merry of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, Captain Mark Morie of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office, Corporal Quinn Moriarty of the Palmetto Police Department;

Gary Tibbetts Career Service Award: Chief Melanie Bevan and Sergeant Michael Kriebel of the Bradenton Police Department, Captain Araseli Stanley of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office;

Preservation of Life Award: Deputy Judd Beckwith, Deputy Lashonda Bowden, Deputy Colin Caldwell, Deputy Brian Fullbright, Deputy Adrian Harrison, Deputy Micah Osornio, Deputy Erika Perez-Ramos, Deputy Luis Rivera-Lopez, Deputy James Workman, and Deputy Javier Zuniga-Mejia of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office;

Unit Citation Award: Bradenton Police Department Crime Reduction Team: Sergeant Todd Freed, K-9 Officer Michael Wall, Officer Steven Bembry, Officer Jordan Miller, Officer Aaron Smith, Officer Connor Horsley, Acting Sergeant Jeff Beckley, K-9 Officer Nicolas Leeman, Officer Enzo Rovira, Officer Brett Heagney-Sciamatore, Officer Marisol Valente, and Officer Maddie Johnson, Bradenton Police Department Elder Fraud Unit: Detective James Curulla and Officer Deana McNeal, Manatee County Sheriff's Office Homicide Unit: Major Anthony Williams, Captain Darin Bankert, Sergeant Salvatore Levita, Detective Charles Butler, Detective Darryl Davis, Detective Mark Pearson, Detective Garrick Plonczynski, Detective Michael Smith, Detective Justin Warren and Sergeant Jeremy Liddell, Manatee County Sheriff's Office Resource Assistance Program (RAP Unit).

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

SPEECH OF

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Chair, my amendment supports the circuit rider health program, which Cannon Air Force Base spearheaded to make sure military families in rural