

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

SPEECH OF

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to the Fiscal Year 2026 Defense Appropriations Act, which provides \$10 million to support testing of tethered unmanned aircraft system prototypes.

Tethered drones, which are physically connected to a ground-based power source, offer critical protection against cyberattacks—an increasingly important safeguard given rising threats from adversaries like China and North Korea.

My amendment 275, included in Bipartisan En Bloc No. 2, provides the Army with the necessary resources to procure and test tethered drones.

Tethered drone testing could lead to further innovation and advance the Army's mission capabilities.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

HONORING DONALD DWIGHT

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and mourn the passing of Mr. Donald R. Dwight of Holyoke, Massachusetts. Mr. Dwight was a Marine, newspaper executive, and dedicated public servant. Born in Massachusetts, he attended Deerfield Academy and Princeton before serving as an active-duty Marine, where he earned the rank of captain. A man dedicated to his country, Mr. Dwight held multiple public offices, including serving as the 64th Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts. As Lieutenant Governor, he worked behind the scenes to serve his state and always stood up for what he felt was right.

After leaving public office, Mr. Dwight led newspapers in Minneapolis and New England and was responsible for printing seven separate publications. He was dedicated to local, independent journalism and never hesitated to follow a difficult story.

Outside of his public life, Mr. Dwight was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. To those who knew him, he was endlessly curious, and never afraid to try new things. He always knew how to ask the right questions and was driven by unflinching dedication to the common good. The mark he left on his community, state, and country will never be forgotten, and for that, we are forever grateful.

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HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to the Fiscal Year 2026 De-

fense Appropriations Act, which provides \$7.5 million to support continued research of conductive pigments and coatings in batteries.

Advancing battery technology is essential to providing our military with longer-lasting, more reliable energy sources. Better battery technology will also benefit the American people through broader energy innovation.

My amendment No. 274, included in Bipartisan En Bloc No. 7, continues the Navy's work to research and test conductive pigments and coatings for batteries. This research will help in building towards eventual wide-scale production.

Continued research on innovative battery coatings will heighten military readiness, improve energy efficiency, and benefit the American people.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

HONORING ANDRES OLMEDO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andres Olmedo, a leader and public servant who has been named California's 4th Congressional District 2025 American Dream Award Recipient for Yolo County. This award recognizes the achievements of immigrants in our district who have made remarkable contributions to our communities in the areas of Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, or Community Service.

Mr. Olmedo was born in Jcoteppec, Jalisco, Mexico to Andres and Concha Olmedo. Mr. Olmedo and his wife Carolina are the proud parents of Andrés, Alexis Andrea, and Johan Adrian, and the proud grandparents of Nicholas. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and a master's degree in Sports Science and Recreation.

In 1998, Mr. Olmedo started his teaching career instructing elementary, middle, and high school students in the Woodland Joint Unified District. Since then, he has served as an AP World Language Teacher, Girls Varsity Head Soccer Coach, and Boys Junior Varsity Soccer Coach at Woodland High School. He is also the founder and head coach of Woodland Community College Soccer and serves as a college advisor for Davis Legacy Soccer Club.

Mr. Olmedo has led his various soccer teams to local, regional, and state championships. He has helped countless student-athletes receive soccer scholarships to schools like UCLA and Stanford. Even more impressive, his World Language students have more than a 90 percent pass rate on their AP Exam. Under Mr. Olmedo's leadership, 9 out of every 10 of his students earns a high enough score on this very rigorous test that qualifies them for college credit.

Around our district, Mr. Olmedo is known for his constant mentorship and dedication to his students and players. He is always looking for ways to help students and athletes alike reach their goals, whatever they may be. For his work, Mr. Olmedo was recognized as this year's American Dream Award for Yolo county.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor Andres Olmedo for his service, leadership, and dedication to California's Fourth District.

HONORING WORLD WAR II HERO
BUD LOMELL**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor one of the bravest and most highly decorated combat soldiers of World War II—Leonard G. "Bud" Lomell—by naming the new Veterans outpatient clinic in Toms River, New Jersey in his honor.

While Bud Lomell passed away in 2011, at age 91, his dear wife Charlotte is turning 104 in September; she and her family deeply loved Bud and continue to deeply cherish his memory. I spoke to Bud's youngest daughter Renee on the phone this morning and they are very pleased that Congress is poised to honor him.

I also want to extend special thanks to former Toms River Mayor and retired Admiral Mo Hill for originally coming up with this idea to name the clinic for Bud Lomell, as well as, his incredible advocacy on behalf of Bud and his family.

On June 6, 1944, D-Day, First Sergeant Bud Lomell of D Company, 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion, and his Army Rangers were tasked with the nearly impossible mission of scaling the 100-foot cliffs at Pointe du Hoc and to destroy the Germans' 155-millimeter artillery guns with a range of 10 to 15 miles that threatened the entire allied invasion, which they believed were positioned at the top of the cliffs.

Bud Lomell and his Rangers, upon successfully climbing the cliffs despite heavy casualties—Bud was actually wounded leaving the landing craft but tenaciously continued and said in one interview, "I lost half my guys"—were dismayed to find at the top of the cliffs, that Allied military intelligence was misled by decoys, and that the entire invasion was now at risk.

After forming patrols to search for the guns, First Sergeant Lomell and another Ranger, Sergeant Jack Kuhn, found the five guns camouflaged in a nearby orchard. He discovered they were all aimed at Utah Beach, but could reach Normandy as well. With Kuhn providing cover, Bud Lomell used thermite grenades to singlehandedly destroy three of the Nazi big artillery guns, got more thermite grenades and went back and destroyed the other two, five massive artillery guns destroyed, ultimately helping to ensure the success of the Allied invasion and saving countless lives.

Historian Stephen Ambrose has described Bud Lomell as the single individual, besides Allied Supreme Commander Dwight Eisenhower, who was most responsible for the success of the D-Day invasion.

In his book, *The Greatest Generation*, Tom Brokaw devoted an entire chapter to Bud Lomell, who he first met forty years after the invasion at D-Day. He noted that during their interview, even after several decades, he "could almost see the tough, young First

Sergeant Lomell directing his men as they landed under the withering fire of the German forces.”

For his amazing leadership and extraordinarily brave acts, Bud Lomell received the Distinguished Service Cross—the second highest military decoration. The citation said in part: “First Sergeant Lomell led a patrol of men through the heaviest kind of automatic weapons fire to destroy an enemy machine gun nest. Later on, the same day, while leading another patrol, he penetrated through the enemy lines to the rear and discovered five enemy 155-mm. guns . . . he gallantly led his patrol against the enemy and successfully destroyed the guns . . . First Sergeant Lomell’s bold and outstanding leadership in the face of superior numbers is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army.”

Lomell also received a rare battlefield promotion to Second Lieutenant, and it was said that “there was not a man who did not feel proud to serve under him.”

Six months later, Bud Lomell served in the Battle of Hurtgen Forest, where he and D Company helped capture and defend the Notorious Hill 400, which had claimed thousands of his fellow servicemen’s lives. He was subsequently awarded the Silver Star for his valor in combat. His Silver Star citation states: “Conspicuously leading from the front, Lomell directed the successful defense of the hilltop in the face of a nearly overwhelming German counterattack midday . . . Refusing shelter and, at risk of life with blood oozing from his ears, nose, and mouth, firing his machine gun cradled in his bandaged left arm with his right hand, he continued to lead his men against another ruthless German assault throughout the entire afternoon.”

Bud was wounded at Hurtgen and again weeks later in the Battle of the Bulge.

In addition to the Distinguished Service Cross and Silver Star, Bud Lomell received other awards including the Bronze Star, Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters and France’s highest medal—the Legion of Honor.

A little further background: born in Brooklyn in 1920, Bud Lomell was adopted by Scandinavian immigrants and raised in Point Pleasant, New Jersey, along with his four siblings. His parents instilled in him a strong work ethic and he often worked odd jobs to help support his family during the Great Depression, which included delivering mail, caddying at Manasquan River Golf Club, and selling his father’s paintings to guests at local hotels. This relentless drive also followed him in sports, where he became a stellar boxer and played football and baseball. He earned a partial football scholarship at Tennessee Wesleyan University, where he worked part time to support his aging parents.

Bud Lomell married Charlotte Ewart, a public health nurse in Long Branch. They settled in Toms River, where they raised three daughters, Georgine, Pauline, and Renee. They also took in Elizabeth “Buffy” and Jay Bergson, the children of Charlotte’s sister who passed unexpectedly, and raised them as their own. Lomell’s daughter Renee describes her beloved dad as a caring and devoted father who loved and valued their mother and taught them to, as he would say, “work hard, be respectful, and do the right thing.”

Bud Lomell was appointed to serve as the first director of the newly organized Ocean

County Veterans Service Bureau to assist veterans with their transition to civilian life. He later graduated from Rutgers Law School and opened one of Ocean County’s largest and most successful law firms. Initially a member of the prestigious Ocean County Lawyers’ Club, he resigned in protest when the club would not admit a Jewish lawyer whom he had recommended. “I’m not going to tolerate any anti-Semitism,” he said at the time. “I didn’t fight Nazis in Europe to come home and find anti-Semitism in my backyard.”

He was an active participant in civil life, serving as president of the Ocean County Bar Association, a director of the First National Bank of Toms River, a member of the Dover Township Board of Education, and a co-founder of the Garden State Philharmonic.

The 68,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility, which we hope will soon bear his name, provides both primary care as well as specialty care, including dental care, women’s health care, mental health counseling, physical therapy, and laboratory services. It is only fitting that a clinic that has already done so much for our community be named after a true war hero who dedicated his life to the service of his country and its veterans.

As President Reagan famously put it in his speech at Pointe du Hoc, the men who invaded Normandy, including and most especially Bud Lomell, “had faith that what they were doing was right, faith that they fought for all humanity, faith that a just God would grant them mercy on this beachhead or on the next.” They were “the men who took the cliffs.” They were “the champions who helped free a continent.” They were “the heroes who helped end a war.” In enduring gratitude to them, Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in bestowing this posthumous honor on Second Lieutenant Bud Lomell.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I missed the second vote in the series on July 14, 2025. Had I not missed the vote, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call 192, H.R. 177.

HONORING RIITTA DEANDA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Riitta DeAnda, a leader and public servant who has been named California’s 4th Congressional District 2025 American Dream Award Recipient for Solano County. This award recognizes the achievements of immigrants in our district who have made remarkable contributions to our communities in the areas of Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, or Community Service.

Mrs. DeAnda was born in Turku, Finland, and immigrated with her parents to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, where they became Canadian

citizens. Eight years later, they moved to Richmond, California, fulfilling her father’s longstanding goal of settling in the United States. Mrs. DeAnda became a U.S. citizen at age 22.

Mrs. DeAnda worked for a large commercial insurance company in San Francisco for many years, after which she founded an insurance agency in Vallejo and later moved its office location to American Canyon. She became involved in the communities where her office was located by joining the local Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. DeAnda feels it is important to make a difference in the communities in which you work and live. In 2018, she sold the insurance agency but has not slowed down.

Around the district, Mrs. DeAnda is known for her enthusiasm and dedication to various organizations, many of which she has been involved with for years. Currently, Mrs. DeAnda serves as the Chair of the Napa-Solano Area Council on Aging, the Treasurer of Sierra Club Solano, and the Secretary of the Northern Solano Democratic Club. Additionally, she was a Board Member of Travis Unified School District and served as its President from 2020–2021. Mrs. DeAnda actively engages with our community as she serves as a Committee Member of Walk to End Alzheimer’s Solano, leadership of Solano Together, and a Board Member of the Finnish American Home Association (FAHA). She is involved in organizations that reflect her personal experiences and values, allowing her to advocate for causes that resonate with her identity and represent the needs and perspectives of her community.

Mrs. DeAnda also aids our district by helping community members. Licensed by the IRS, Mrs. DeAnda has been able to help our community members prepare their tax return documents. Additionally, Mrs. DeAnda has helped produce a monthly newsletter for Councilmember Jeannette Wylie, has become a Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy counselor, and has helped distribute quilts to those in need through Lutheran World Relief. Her dedication to philanthropy and helping others is admirable and has a positive impact on our community.

Mrs. DeAnda is a powerful embodiment of civic engagement, where she has exercised her rights and voted in every election since she became a citizen. It is a right she is proud to have and even spurred her to join the Northern Solano Democratic Club, later becoming the organization’s Secretary, and has phone-banked during numerous election cycles, motivating others to become civically involved.

Mrs. DeAnda earned her master’s degree from San Francisco State University. She was married to the late James DeAnda and is the proud mother of their daughter, Kristina, who resides in Denver, Colorado, and their son, James, who lives in Vacaville with his wife and their five children.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor Riitta DeAnda for her service, leadership, and dedication to California’s 4th District.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference.