

seven children, all of whom were instilled with the values of compassion, faith, and kindness. I'm pleased to recognize Beth today for her important contributions to our community, and I wish her continued success.

It is an honor to bestow Beth with the Patriot Award for her exceptional service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE MOJAVE
WATER AGENCY ON THE OCCA-
SION OF ITS 65TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 65th anniversary of the Mojave Water Agency, an institution that has stood as a pillar of responsible stewardship, innovation, and public service in California's High Desert since its founding in 1960.

For over six decades, the Mojave Water Agency has safeguarded one of our region's most precious resources: water. Formed by local voters in response to declining groundwater levels, the Agency has grown into one of the most respected and visionary water management organizations in our state.

As one of California's original State Water Project contractors, the Mojave Water Agency was instrumental in bringing imported water to the region. That achievement helped pave the way for responsible population growth, economic development, and long-term sustainability in one of the most arid areas of our Nation. Today, the Agency's service area spans nearly 5,000 square miles and provides water resource management for nearly half a million residents.

Over the past 65 years, the Mojave Water Agency has distinguished itself through its technical excellence, long-range planning, and commitment to the efficient and responsible use of water. Its leadership has fostered strong partnerships with local governments, businesses, and residents, building a foundation of trust and shared responsibility.

Equally commendable is the Agency's focus on public education and outreach. Through this work, the Mojave Water Agency has not only fulfilled its operational mission but has cultivated a strong culture of civic pride and community stewardship.

The Mojave Water Agency has helped ensure that life across our region remains sustainable, secure, and well-prepared for the challenges ahead. On behalf of California's 23rd Congressional District, I extend my deepest appreciation to the leaders, staff, and partners of the Mojave Water Agency for 65 years of exemplary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable institution and in wishing it continued success for decades to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KELLY MORRISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 22, I did not vote on Roll Call No. 215.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 215.

SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2025

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, there is another critical point I must make about the rescissions proposal that the House is now considering. OMB's defiance of the norms around review of special messages and the law mandating disclosure of apportionments appears to be designed to evade review of the rescission proposals by the Congress, Congress's watchdog, and the public alike.

Unlike in the past, OMB has refused to make the apportionments for the accounts at issue available to the Government Accountability Office for their required review under the Impoundment Control Act of 1974. In its report to Congress on the June 3, 2025, special message proposing these rescissions, the Government Accountability Office noted that for "previous special messages, GAO has reviewed updated apportionment data to ensure [OMB's] instructions were consistent with the special message." But for these rescissions proposals, OMB flat out refused "to provide GAO with updated apportionment data that would permit GAO to conduct the same analysis for the President's special message of June 3, 2025."

This is unacceptable, and it is unlawful. In the FY 2022 and FY 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Acts, when I was chair of the Appropriations Committee, Congress—on a bipartisan basis—required OMB to post apportionments publicly. If OMB were obeying this law, then not only would Congress and the GAO have critical information we needed to consider the rescissions package before us, but the public would have had the critical information they needed to share their opinions with us about the impact of these cuts and any other funds OMB or these agencies may be withholding in violation of the Impoundment Control Act. Congress has required OMB to make this information public, and once again, I urge OMB to comply with the law and do so—now.

And, yes, I know that OMB has made the wrongheaded argument to the Committees that somehow apportionment decisions on congressionally passed and duly enacted appropriations are both legally binding as well as predecisional and deliberative, and that the requirement to post such information is unconstitutional, but that is not so. OMB and Director Vought continue to be deeply confused about the Constitution, the rule of law, and foundational fiscal laws like the Antideficiency Act and the Impoundment Control Act. The Constitution vested the power of the purse in the Congress, not the President, and the Congress assigned the President the responsibility to apportion appropriations to protect Congress's power, not cede it to the Executive Branch. And as the constitutional stewards of the power of the purse, Congress can—through enacted laws—certainly require the apportionment information to be published to the benefit of both the Congress and the pub-

lic, who deserve access to information about the use of taxpayer dollars.

Finally, I must speak out against the pattern of unlawful impoundment that is being led by OMB Director Russ Vought, who insists that there is somehow a loophole in the Impoundment Control Act that permits the Executive Branch to unilaterally cancel appropriations—that otherwise expire under current law at the end of the fiscal year—by transmitting a special message proposing rescissions late in the fiscal year and withholding the amounts until they can no longer be used. But to quote the late Justice Scalia, the Congress "does not, one might say, hide elephants in mouseholes." Indeed, unilateral actions by the Executive Branch that would impound congressionally passed and duly enacted appropriations is the very thing the Impoundment Control Act prohibits.

Director Vought refers to his unlawful maneuver as a "pocket rescission," which is just another name for unlawful impoundment. The December 2018 Government Accountability Office legal opinion (B-330330), requested jointly by then House Budget Committee Chairman STEVE WOMACK and Ranking Member John Yarmuth, is exactly right though and confirms that the Impoundment Control Act bars this maneuver. The Government Accountability Office stated unequivocally that "[t]his interpretation would, in effect, give the President power to amend or to repeal previously enacted appropriations merely by calibrating the timing of the submission of a special message" and that "[a] withholding of this nature would be an aversion both to the constitutional process for enacting federal law and to Congress's constitutional power of the purse." As part of its analysis, the Government Accountability Office reasons that "[t]he plain language of section 1012(b) provides that absent Congress's completion of action on a rescission bill rescinding all or part of amounts proposed to be rescinded within the prescribed 45-day period, such amounts must be made available for obligation," which requires that the "budget authority must not be expired." And I remain in agreement with Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM and Representative HAL ROGERS, as the Senate Chairman and House Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs of the Appropriations Committees, when they wrote in 2019 to President Trump that "[w]e supported the budget deal and did so in good faith. Preventing agencies from obligating such large sums seems an abdication of this bipartisan agreement, and Congress thus expressed strong opposition to this precise exercise last year. Furthermore, the U.S. Government Accountability Office's December 2018 legal opinion concluded that the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act does not permit the withholding of funds through their date of expiration and notes the President's responsibility in ensuring prudent obligation of funds."

Republicans and Democrats alike should reject this ploy for what it is: a direct assault to Congress's Article I power. Allowing any Administration to erase duly enacted funding through procedural delays that amount to unlawful impoundment would destabilize the appropriations process and corrode the separation of powers that the Impoundment Control Act was enacted to defend.

I remind my colleagues that Congress alone holds the power of the purse. It is right there

in the Constitution. Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 proclaims that Congress, not the President, determines how the taxpayers' dollars are spent. I urge my colleagues to reject this rule, which would automatically adopt the rescissions package pursuant to the June 3, 2025, special message.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF JOSÉ RONALDO JARABO

HON. PABLO JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of José Ronaldo Jarabo, known to many of us as Rony, whom we said goodbye to on June 29, 2025. He was a son of Puerto Rico, a brilliant speaker, a sharp parliamentarian, and a courageous defender of Puerto Rican democracy.

Rony began his activism during difficult times—the four-year period from 1969 to 1972. The Popular Democratic Party (PPD) had just lost the elections for the first time, and Rony was one of many young people who stepped up to renew the institution. At 25, he was one of the young people who organized the march on July 25, 1969, under the slogan “growth without assimilation.” The march took place against all odds. Muñoz Marín opposed it; Rafael Hernández Colón supported it. And the young people, with Rony among them, prevailed with dignity.

From then on, he stood out as one of the brightest young talents in the Popular Party. He finished second in a youth public speaking contest in 1970—something my grandfather never failed to remind him of, jokingly. He lost to Papo Vázquez, and as Hernández Colón wrote, Rony claimed, half seriously and half-jokingly, that he lost because Papo brought a claque that applauded him louder. I saw them laugh about it years later at a Popular Youth event.

In 1972, Rony successfully ran for representative by accumulation, a position he held until his retirement in 1992. He won the support of his caucus to preside over the House on three occasions, although he did not prevail the first time, and he is the only one since Ernesto Ramos Antonini to have presided over the body for two consecutive terms.

My grandfather said that Rony had a gift for words like few others, and that he had what it takes to be governor. And although he did not hold that position, he did hold a permanent place in the history of our country.

I met Rony in the halls of the Capitol when I was just 13 years old. Despite my age, he never treated me like a child. He spoke to me as adults speak to each other, with respect, affection, and purpose. I remember him at every public event, with his lively greeting and that fiery rhetoric that came from his soul.

I offer my deepest condolences to his family and friends, as well as my brotherly embrace. May Rony's legacy not only be a memory in the halls of the Capitol, but a force that inspires us to be better speakers, better thinkers, better public servants.

Rest in peace, Rony.

Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my constituents, I include in the RECORD my remarks in Spanish.

El 29 de junio, despedimos a un hijo de Puerto Rico, a un orador brillante, a un parlamentario agudo, a un defensor valiente de la democracia puertorriqueña: José Ronaldo Jarabo, o como muchos lo conocimos, Rony.

Rony empezó su activismo en tiempos difíciles—el cuatrienio de 1969 a 1972. El Partido Popular Democrático (PPD) acababa de perder por primera vez las elecciones, y Rony fue de los muchos jóvenes que se abrieron paso para renovar la institución. A sus 25 años, fue uno de los jóvenes que organizaron la marcha del 25 de julio de 1969, bajo la consigna de “crecimiento sin asimilación”. Marcha que se celebró contra viento y marea. Muñoz Marín se oponía; Rafael Hernández Colón la respaldaba. Y los jóvenes, con Rony entre ellos, se impusieron con dignidad.

Desde entonces, se destacó como uno de los talentos jóvenes más brillantes del Partido Popular. Llegó segundo en un concurso de oratoria juvenil en 1970—algo que mi abuelo nunca dejó de recordarle en tono de broma. Perdió ante Papo Vázquez, y como dejó escrito Hernández Colón, Rony alegaba, medio en serio y medio en chiste, que perdió porque Papo llevó una claque que lo aplaudía más duro. Los vi reírse de eso, años después, en una actividad de la Juventud Popular.

En 1972, Rony aspiró con éxito a representante por acumulación, posición que ocupó hasta retirarse en 1992. Obtuvo el respaldo de su caucus para presidir la Cámara en tres ocasiones, aunque en la primera no prevaleció y es el único, desde Ernesto Ramos Antonini, que ha presidido el cuerpo por dos términos consecutivos.

Mi abuelo decía que Rony tenía el don de la palabra como pocos, y que tenía madera de gobernador. Y aunque no ocupó ese cargo, lo que sí ocupó fue un lugar permanente en la historia de nuestro país.

Yo conocí a Rony en los pasillos del Capitolio, cuando tenía apenas 13 años. A pesar de mi edad, nunca me trató como a un nene. Me hablaba como se habla entre adultos: con respeto, con afecto, y con propósito. Lo recuerdo en cada actividad popular, con su saludo animado y ese verbo encendido que le salía del alma.

A su familia, les ofrezco mi más sentido pésame. A sus amigos, mi abrazo fraterno. Que el legado de Rony no sea sólo un recuerdo en los pasillos del Capitolio, sino una fuerza que nos inspire a ser mejores oradores, mejores pensadores, mejores personas de estado.

Descansa en paz, Rony.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was not present to vote on Roll Call No. 207. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on Roll Call No. 207. I support the Israeli Cooperative Programs as they are essential for Israel to defend itself and protect U.S. interests.

RECOGNIZING THE IGBO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA, DALLAS-FORT WORTH

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great joy and honor to recognize the Igbo Community Association of Nigeria (ICAN) DFW and its annual Igbo Day Celebration.

For over 25 years, ICAN DFW has played a pivotal role in preserving the rich customs, language, values, and traditions of the Igbo people, while also fostering cross-cultural understanding throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. The annual Igbo Day Celebration is much more than a cultural gathering—it is a powerful celebration of identity.

ICAN DFW has been instrumental in building bridges across communities, empowering families, and supporting generations of Igbo descendants as they navigate life in the diaspora. From cultural education and youth mentorship to advocacy and charitable outreach, ICAN DFW has consistently demonstrated what it means to lead with purpose and pride.

The Igbo Day Celebration stands as a vibrant reminder of the strength and beauty of the Igbo spirit. It is a time to reflect on the Igbo heritage, honor ancestors, and inspire future generations to carry the legacy forward.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the Igbo Community Association of Nigeria DFW's continued dedication to cultural enrichment, community service, and social impact. Their efforts have not only strengthened the Igbo community but have enriched the broader Dallas-Fort Worth landscape. I congratulate them once again on this remarkable occasion and wish them continued success, growth, and many more milestones in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT PAT TERRELL

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Patrick “Pat” Terrell of Burr Ridge, Illinois, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Pat has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community and country.

After receiving over forty Division I scholarship offers, Pat ultimately decided to play football at the University of Notre Dame as a member of the Fighting Irish's 1988 National Championship team. He graduated in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in business administration and a minor in international marketing. During the 1990 NFL Draft, Pat was drafted in the second round by the Los Angeles Rams and part of the 1990 All-Rookie Team. He also played with the New York Jets, Carolina Panthers, and Green Bay Packers from 1994 to 1998. After retiring from football in 1999, Pat flew corporate jets for United Airlines and Delta Air Lines before becoming a Captain at