

American Trans Air, now ATA Airlines. Moreover, he founded Terrell Materials, a very successful company that specializes in high-volume concrete manufacturing for runways and taxiways at major airports.

Understanding the power of influence, Pat served as a role model and leader. He advocated for many of his teammates during pivotal moments in their lives and has been involved in many community advancement initiatives. Alongside his wife Beth, Pat founded Team Terrell to help promote and fundraise for the American Diabetes Association. He also served as a regional spokesman for United Way and was honored as an NFL Player representative for the United Negro College Fund. During his time as a pilot, Pat volunteered to transport hundreds of American and allied troops through the Middle East during Operation Iraqi Freedom. On top of that, Pat and Beth have poured countless hours into volunteering with local schools, educational programs, and park district programs.

It is an honor to bestow Pat with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to our Nation. I thank him for all he has done.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a House resolution along with my colleague, Representative LIZZIE FLETCHER (TX-08), to reaffirm the principles of the Constitution of the United States of America, including the separation of powers, checks and balances, the independence of the judiciary, and the power of Congress to control spending, declare war, and conduct oversight. This resolution also reaffirms the key individual protections enshrined in the Constitution, including due process and equal protection under the law.

This resolution comes six months into President Donald Trump's second term, a period which has been marked by escalating erosions of constitutional norms and executive overreach by his administration.

Article I of the Constitution grants Congress broad powers, including the power to declare war, regulate commerce, raise revenue, appropriate funds and conduct oversight. For decades, Congress has gradually ceded more of these Constitutional responsibilities to the executive branch. As our country's founders warned, this has created a dangerous situation ripe for Presidential abuse. It is essential that Congress reclaim its legitimate authority as the first branch of government.

My resolution declares that appropriations made by Congress are law, not mere suggestions. It quotes James Madison, who said "this power over the purse may, in fact, be regarded as the most complete and effectual weapon with which any constitution can arm the immediate representatives of the people." I urge my colleagues to hear this message today.

This resolution is endorsed by more than a dozen public interest and legal advocacy orga-

nizations, who stand united in reasserting the essential roles of the legislative and judicial branches and in declaring unequivocally that no individual—especially the President—is above the law.

This resolution affirms what should be non-partisan truths: that the separation of powers is vital for a functioning republic, that Congress controls the public purse, and that the rule of law and the protection it affords are for everyone. In the face of escalating threats to our constitutional order, Congress must not remain silent. This resolution is a declaration of principle and a call to action.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members of the House to cosponsor this important resolution.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT "BOBBY" EDWARD PIETRANGELO

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to a courageous advocate, passionate man of faith and service, and devoted son, partner, and friend—Robert (Bobby) Edward Pietrangelo. We honor Bobby following his passing on January 3, 2025.

Born on December 14, 2001, in Abington, Pennsylvania, Bobby entered the world showcasing true strength and resilience. He spent the first five and a half weeks of his life in the neonatal unit, but he quickly grew to be the smart, funny, and compassionate person his family and friends cherished.

Bobby attended Upper Moreland schools and Pennridge High School, where he excelled in the honors and gifted programs, even taking college courses at Bucks County Community College while still in high school. His talents also shone through his musical ability. By playing the trombone and trumpet, competing in jazz competitions, and singing every song he knew, Bobby expressed his passion and creativity with infectious enthusiasm.

Beyond the classroom and his love for music, Bobby grew up serving his community. After years of dedication with Boy Scout Troop 354, he became an Eagle Scout—just one example of his passion for leadership and service. He also volunteered as a firefighter for the Silverdale and Perseverance Fire Company in Souderton, Pennsylvania.

Bobby continued his devoted service into his young adulthood. In April 2022, Bobby traveled to Ukraine to support humanitarian relief efforts. On this noble mission, he initially assisted in rescuing and recovering the injured and deceased from bombed civilian areas, including a maternity ward. Working with the Believe Family Foundation, he became a combat life-saver trainer to provide aid and deliver medical supplies to the front lines.

In June 2024, Bobby courageously enlisted in the Ukrainian military—standing shoulder to shoulder with brave Ukrainian men and women to defend Ukraine. He was deployed to the front multiple times, even surviving a drone attack in October 2024, which left him with a severe concussion and brain injury. Despite this, Bobby returned to the fight as soon as he was medically able—once again showcasing his true determination and spirit.

In an effort to defend Pokrovsk from Russian invasion, Bobby gave his life to protecting the people of Ukraine. A true hero, he was a man who transformed his values into action—exhibiting resilience and valor in every chapter of his journey.

It is with profound respect that I honor Bobby's memory. I send my heartfelt condolences to all who had the privilege of knowing him.

REMEMBERING CARROL EUGENE FRANKLIN

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise with a heavy heart, but a grateful spirit, to honor the life of my friend, Commissioner Carrol Eugene Franklin, who passed away peacefully in Hilliard, Florida, at the young age of 76. Born in Booneville, Mississippi, Carrol lived a life shaped by hard work, deep faith, and a quiet but profound dedication to others.

He was a proud combat veteran who served in the U.S. Army's 9th Infantry Division during the Vietnam War. That same courage and resolve stayed with him throughout his life, whether it was in service to his country, in business, or in leadership with the Nassau County Ocean Highway & Port Authority.

Carrol was a man who showed up—not just when it was easy, but when it was needed. He believed in faith, integrity, and perseverance. He loved his family dearly. And for 42 years, he stood side by side with his beloved wife, Judy, raising their sons, Garrett and Greg, and cherishing their granddaughter, Diana Del.

To his church family at First Baptist of Boulougne, his brothers and sister, and his many friends, nieces, nephews, and neighbors who knew him—Carrol was the kind of man whose legacy is etched not in headlines, but in the lives he lifted.

Mr. Speaker, we say goodbye to a veteran, a man of character, a family man, and my friend. It hurts, because that's the impact that Carrol has had on so many. May his memory continue to inspire us all to serve with heart, live with purpose, and love without hesitation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during votes on Monday, July 21, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call 213, and YEA on Roll Call No. 214.

HONORING CORPORAL DENNIS C. ZAVADA

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Corporal Dennis C. Zavada USMC

(Ret.), a proud United States Marine, Vietnam veteran, and the devoted parent of a U.S. military veteran. Mr. Zavada has served his country not only in uniform, but also through his unwavering dedication to preserving the Fallen Hoosier Heroes Memorial in Westfield, Indiana.

Since 2009, Mr. Zavada has volunteered his time and labor to care for this living tribute to 210 Indiana service members, who lost their lives in the wars following September 11. The Memorial was founded by fellow Vietnam Veteran Command Sergeant Major Donald E. Peed, who initially placed white crosses on his property to honor the fallen. What began as a few simple crosses grew each year, becoming a powerful community landmark. The first cross honored Marine Sergeant Jeanette Winters, the first woman killed in combat during Operation Enduring Freedom. The most recent cross honors Marine Corporal Humberto Sanchez, who was killed outside the Kabul airport in Afghanistan during the 2021 withdrawal.

Mr. Zavada has devoted hundreds of hours to maintaining the Memorial. He mows the grass, clears snow in winter, salts the walkways, replaces worn flags, and commissions plaques for newly fallen heroes. Beyond upkeep, he has become a steward of memory—sharing the stories behind each cross and ensuring that every name is remembered with dignity.

Each spring, local elementary school students visit the Memorial, where Mr. Zavada teaches them about the service and sacrifice represented there. Through his words and care, young people learn the deep cost of freedom and the value of honoring those who gave everything.

Local businesses support his work anonymously, providing funds for flagpole upgrades, flowers, and supplies. The Carmel VFW also contributes to maintenance and expenses, helping preserve this hallowed ground.

On behalf of Indiana's 5th District, I thank Corporal Dennis Zavada for his honorable service in Vietnam, his continued care for the Fallen Hoosier Heroes Memorial, and his lasting contributions to the community and the country.

RECOGNIZING PAIGE KITTS

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Paige Kitts. Paige is a member of Girl Scouts of Michigan Shore to Shore, Troop 4504. She has exemplified extraordinary leadership, innovative problem-solving, and a demonstrated commitment to making a lasting, positive impact by earning the most prestigious award in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award.

Gold Award Girl Scouts are recognized as trailblazers who are willing to tackle the most pressing challenges facing their communities with measurable, sustainable, and far-reaching results. To earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, high school-age Girl Scouts must identify and investigate an issue they care about, devise a plan, and then lead a team of experts and community members to implement a project

that produces lasting change. Over the course of 1 to 2 years, Gold Award Girl Scouts demonstrate significant initiative, commitment, and leadership, distinguishing them from their peers. Through their resourcefulness and perseverance, they embody the Girl Scout Law to truly make the world a better place.

Paige's project, "Growing Hope", in partnership with Growing Roots, addressed the challenge of finding accessible programs and opportunities for those with disabilities in our community. Paige took action by designing and building a wheelchair-accessible garden bed to help existing programs become more inclusive. She created an instruction manual to share with other organizations, providing a supply list, step-by-step instructions for building, and insights regarding the benefits of wheelchair-accessible garden beds. This project will have a positive impact on our community for years to come.

On behalf of Michigan's 3rd Congressional District, congratulations to Paige Kitts for achieving the highest distinction in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award. We thank Paige for her leadership and for making such a positive, enduring change in our community.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ALAN BARRY CARR

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mr. Alan Barry Carr of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, who peacefully passed away on June 8, 2025.

Alan was born on January 17, 1937, to James and Olive Carr. He attended the University of Maryland and the Virginia Polytechnic Institute for his bachelor's degree and master's degree. Alan later earned his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University. For many years, he worked as a congressional researcher for the Department of Agriculture and the Library of Congress. Afterwards, Alan taught Economics at Texas A&M University and spent some time teaching in Armenia. In addition to his passion for teaching, Alan enjoyed hunting, gardening, taking care of his dogs, and telling good stories to those around him.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Alan's wonderful life and legacy. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE WILLIAM LACY CLAY, SR.

HON. WESLEY BELL

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and remember the Honorable William Lacy Clay, Sr.

"We have no permanent friends, no permanent enemies, just permanent interests."

Our country lost a trailblazer. Congressman Clay passed away after a lifetime of service that reshaped St. Louis and our Nation.

Already a civil rights icon before he was elected, he didn't come to Washington to play politics. He came to fight for working people, Black families, union members, and those too often left out and unheard. He carried their voices into this chamber and made sure they echoed.

Bill Clay was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. I—and so many others—would not be here without the doors he opened and the example he set.

I'm holding his son, my friend and predecessor Lacy Clay, the entire Clay family, and the St. Louis community in my prayers.

HONORING DR. BARBARA NEMKO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Barbara Nemko, Ph.D., on the occasion of her retirement after 28 years as Napa County Superintendent of Schools and a lifetime of service to education.

Dr. Nemko was born in the Bronx, New York, where her journey in education began. She earned her Bachelor of Arts and Master's degrees from Queens College, and started her career as a second-grade teacher in New York City. Her academic work continued at the University of California, Berkeley, where she earned her Ph.D. in Reading and Evaluation of School Programs in 1981, a milestone that also began her love affair with California.

After joining the Napa County Office of Education in 1991, Dr. Nemko was appointed as the Napa County Superintendent of Schools in 1997, and later elected to the position in 1998. Dr. Nemko held this role for an unprecedented 28 years. At the time of her retirement, Dr. Nemko was the longest-serving county superintendent in office in our state. Her tenure transformed Napa County's education system, establishing the Office of Education as a regional leader in early learning, special education, career technical education, mental health services, and professional development for educators.

Dr. Nemko was known for her forward-thinking leadership, particularly in advancing educational technology. She was an early advocate for closing the digital divide, securing technology and internet access for thousands of students in Napa County. She pioneered programs like the Superintendent's Fund to provide children with eyeglasses, orthotics, and other critical needs not covered by existing budgets.

Her leadership has extended beyond the classroom. Dr. Nemko served on the Community Corrections Board and Juvenile Justice Committee for her entire tenure as Superintendent, completed Leadership Napa Valley in 1999, and later joined its Board of Directors. She also served as President of the Rotary Club of Napa from 2013 to 2014. In recognition of her advocacy, she was named Woman of the Year for the 7th Assembly District by the California Legislature in 2009, received the Public Policy Advocate Award from the International Society for Technology in Education in 2014, and earned the Platinum Disk Award from Computer Using Educators in 2019.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Dr. Nemko is deeply committed to her family