

YEAR IN REVIEW

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight some of the great work that my office delivered in 2025 that was reflected in my year-end report.

Last year was full of legislative victories. From ensuring more milk options in public schools to making certain that rural schools receive the funding that they need, we continue to deliver for Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District.

I was proud to lead the charge to bring whole milk back into our schools, push for the largest investment in American agriculture in a generation, advocate for career and technical education, and establish a Federal regulatory framework for digital assets like cryptocurrency.

On the policy front, I helped to ensure the passage of the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act. I secured numerous provisions in the Working Families Tax Cuts Act, which benefited American agriculture, as well as a provision authorizing Workforce Pell Grants.

The Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act will soon be signed into law, and the House approved both my Digital Asset Market Clarity Act of 2025 and the U.S. Grain Standards Reauthorization Act of 2025.

At home, I was honored to nominate seven exceptional students to our Nation's service academies, celebrated a talented young artist, and delivered more than \$6.1 million in Federal funding for nine excellent community projects.

My office responded to more than 81,000 constituent letters, answered nearly 8,000 phone calls, and closed nearly 1,600 constituent cases, helping folks navigate the Federal agencies and Federal bureaucracy.

The most rewarding part of being a Representative is helping individuals and families get the assistance that they need. Throughout the year, my staff hosts office hours across the 18 counties in the 15th Congressional District to assist constituents with issues related to the Social Security Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, IRS, and other Federal agencies. Appointments are not necessary, and I am pleased that we are available to help those in need. Personally, I hosted over 1,200 meetings in 2025 and sponsored and cosponsored 183 bills.

Mr. Speaker, as many around the Capitol complex know, I often come to this floor to share good news from Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District. I spoke 91 days on the House floor in 2025, delivering 120 speeches. I am glad to have had the ability to communicate with my constituents in this way and to recognize their achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the people of the 15th Congressional District for allowing me the privilege to be their voice in Congress, and I firmly believe that our best days lie ahead. I look for-

ward to working hard in 2026 to continue to earn their support.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE STENY HOYER

(Ms. PELOSI of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today is a day of joy but also a day of some sadness that our great leader, STENY HOYER, has announced his retirement from Congress.

He still has another year. He still has another year, and I know a lot will come.

I join the gentleman in saluting Elaine, Stefany, Susan, Anne, and Judy. Judy—we loved Judy when she was here, and now we rejoice in the gentleman's happiness with Elaine.

My colleagues, we all know that STENY HOYER has been a pillar of strength in the House of Representatives and a champion for the people of Maryland for more than four decades. His patriotism, mastery of the legislative process, and steadfast commitment to America's working families have left an indelible, positive mark on our Nation.

STENY has been a steady presence in our Caucus and the Democratic leadership and a valued colleague. He has been a great leader in bipartisanship in this body. He spoke in his remarks of how it was when he came here. Many of us were here at that time. We didn't get along because we always agreed; we got along because we respected the differences that we brought in representing our districts. It was a very positive time, which he harkened us back to and challenged us to return to.

I thank STENY.

Mr. Speaker, his deep knowledge of the institution, respect for its traditions, and commitment to public service have earned him the admiration of colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Personally, STENY has not only been a trusted partner in leadership but a dear friend. He mentioned the Presidency of John F. Kennedy. When President Kennedy was President, STENY and I worked in the office of Danny Brewster of Maryland. That is when I got to know him. I was just out of school. He was in law school. Sadly, we saw the assassination of the President, and that was a horrible thing.

As he concludes his extraordinary leadership and service in the Congress, we celebrate his legacy of decency and devotion to our country. He has been just so remarkable. Our gratitude to him and his family is boundless, and we wish them every happiness in the years ahead.

STENY has been a leader to us and a mentor to many. He has really been an example of leadership and can be viewed as one of the most substantial, respected Members of Congress in the history of this body.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. HOYER for his leadership.

RECOGNIZING DOUG MCMILLON

(Mr. WOMACK of Arkansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I also offer my personal thanks and congratulations to my dear friend, STENY HOYER, on the announcement that he has made today. We wish him the very best.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great friend and fellow northwest Arkansan, Doug McMillon, who steps away at the end of this month from a 12-year run as chief executive officer of Fortune 1, Walmart, in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Doug's is a story of incredible American success. Much like the company he has led, his journey started with humble beginnings.

At 16, Doug's family moved from Jonesboro, Arkansas, to Bentonville. The eldest of three children, Doug was a guard on the Bentonville High School Tigers basketball team. I had the privilege of watching him play high school sports with no way of knowing where his dreams and ambitions would take him.

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He began his career at Walmart as an hourly associate in 1984, picking orders and unloading trailers in the warehouse. He attended the University of Arkansas and worked part time at the Bank of Bentonville. Later, he enrolled in the MBA program at the University of Tulsa.

He later became an assistant manager at Walmart Store 894 in Tulsa, and that launched a career with the Nation's leading retailer, with promotions to CEO of Sam's Club in 2005, Walmart International in 2009, and finally CEO of the entire enterprise in 2014.

With a market cap of \$195 billion, under his tenure Walmart's value has increased by more than 350 percent and a current market cap of around \$900 billion. His leadership in the company's digitization and strong e-commerce platforms was a major shift for the company from that as a brick-and-mortar company to an omnichannel retailer.

Supply chain automation in warehouses and major pay increases for hourly associates were instrumental in his visionary leadership and success.

Mr. Speaker, I could speak volumes about Doug McMillon's legacy. Suffice it to say, his quiet and patient demeanor, his bold and innovative leadership, and his commitment to the shareholders and associates of Walmart make him one of America's true success stories, and not only that, but his spirit of charity and funding opportunities for young entrepreneurs and in healthcare for fellow citizens.

I am proud of what he has accomplished and the inspiration he has given to thousands of people who have had the privilege of serving under his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I know Doug McMillon well enough to know that he would be embarrassed by all of this fuss that we are making about him. That is who he is, but this tribute is well deserved. Few among us have lived the American Dream like he has, and what a difference he has made.

Mr. Speaker, I say to Doug and Shelley: Well done. I know I speak for a lot of people. I thank him for his example of selfless service and his commitment to helping his fellow man. Godspeed and may he enjoy a well-earned retirement.

FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF
ARIZONA MASS SHOOTING

(Mr. STANTON of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark a solemn anniversary.

Fifteen years ago today, Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords was doing her job, holding a “Congress on Your Corner” event at a grocery store in Tucson, standing outside in the January sunshine, listening to her constituents, figuring out how she could help them.

Then the unthinkable happened. In an instant, this moment of democracy turned into a tragedy. A gunman targeting Congresswoman Giffords killed six of our fellow Arizonans: Federal Judge John Roll, a dedicated public servant; Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard, beloved members of the community; 9-year-old Christina-Taylor Green, born on September 11, 2001, a budding public servant who had just been elected to her middle school student council; and Gabe Zimmerman, Gabby’s director of community research who died doing the work that he loved.

Thirteen others were wounded, including Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. She survived a gunshot wound to her head through the sheer force of her will, exceptional medical care, and the unwavering support of her husband, Captain MARK KELLY.

I worked closely with Gabby when she was in the State legislature, and I served on the Phoenix City Council. She was a singularly talented leader, brilliant and tough as nails, with the rare gift for bringing people together. There is no doubt in my mind that if it were not for that day, Gabby Giffords would be sitting in the United States Senate right now or the Governor’s office, maybe even the White House.

We have seen the consequences when political disagreements metastasize into something darker. In the last few years, political violence has increased in frequency and intensity, and this violence has been directed at both Republicans and Democrats.

Gabby Giffords herself has shown us the path forward. Despite a long and difficult recovery that continues to this very day, she has transformed unimaginable tragedy into courageous action.

Through GIFFORDS, the organization she cofounded with MARK KELLY, she leads the fight for a future free from gun violence, not with bitterness, but with courage, determination, and with hope.

Her example stands as a rebuke to the cynicism that too often characterizes our politics. Gabby reminds us that we can disagree and disagree strongly while still recognizing the fundamental humanity in one another. We can fight for our principles without demonizing our opponents.

On this 15th anniversary, we honor those who we lost by recommitting ourselves to the work that they believed in, a democracy where disagreement is not just tolerated but celebrated, where robust debate strengthens rather than threatens our institutions, and where every American can engage in civic life without fear.

That is the America Gabby Giffords fought for then. That is the America she fights for now, and that is the America we must build together.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL
KEITH CONNOLLY

(Mr. CISCOMANI of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brigadier General Keith Connolly, who sadly passed away on Christmas Eve.

Keith lived a life defined by service, by family, and by purpose. He was married to his wife, Pat, for 65 years, and together they raised four children and were blessed with nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, with another expected this spring.

A devoted husband, father, and friend, Keith chose a life of service to his country. He served with distinction for 33 years in the United States Air Force as a general officer and a fighter pilot, flying more than 4,800 hours and serving across the United States and overseas, including in Japan, Thailand, and Vietnam. He was awarded two Legions of Merit and seven Air Medals for combat missions, primarily in the Pacific theater.

After retiring to Tucson in 1990, Keith continued serving veterans at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, volunteering more than 23,000 hours over 26 years, helping veterans navigate VA claims. He also recruited and mentored volunteers, assisting thousands through tax assistance programs, and he shared his passion for aviation through the Pima Air & Space Museum.

In 2016, Keith was inducted into the Arizona State Veterans Hall of Fame in recognition of his many years of volunteer service.

It was an honor to recognize General Connolly as part of the initial Veteran Servant Leader Award that I have the pleasure and the honor of conducting every year.

General Keith Connolly’s life reflected deep love for his family, his

community, and his country. His legacy of service will endure.

Mr. Speaker, I thank him for his service and may he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING MICA MOUNTAIN FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mica Mountain High School’s football team on winning the championship for the second year in a row.

Number 7 Mica Mountain Thunderbolts defeated number 1 undefeated Acadia High School with a score of 42–17. Mica Mountain started the season 2–2 and ultimately finished 12–2. It was the first time a southern Arizona school repeated as champions among the big-school ranks since 1976 and 1977.

Head Coach and Mica Mountain Assistant Principal Jay Campos led the Thunderbolts to their second consecutive State championship and the first of his coaching career.

Evan Wheeler finished with 194 yards and three touchdowns which earned him both offensive and overall MVP.

Sergio Raygada had an 18-yard pick six and was named the defensive MVP.

Mr. Speaker, this team has made their school and community very proud. This was a great victory for the Thunderbolts and one they earned. I congratulate them on yet another successful season.

CELEBRATING THE MEMORY OF
DOLORES OWENS

(Mr. CORREA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the memory of one of my constituents, Dolores Owens.

She came to Santa Ana 60 years ago when she married Dewey Flournoy, and together they raised five boys. After Dewey’s passing, Dolores later married Neddie Owens and continued to build a life rooted in love, family, and faith in Santa Ana.

Dolores was a strong and active woman, always cooking for her family, even at the age of 92. She had a deep love for the word of God and a heart for giving, donating to community. Whenever she found anybody in need, she would give, no questions asked. She was a true example of a strong woman and a loving mother who took care of everybody in her community.

Mr. Speaker, my prayers are with her family.

RECOGNIZING THE 2025 CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE WINNER

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the winner of the 2025 Congressional App Challenge in my district, Xiong Yi.

Xiong’s app, MathFluent, helps students understand math by transforming complicated equations into helpful visualized stories. Users can input an equation or a problem, and MathFluent will generate a story or art piece that helps explain the solution.