

Rich was appointed Executive Director of INCOG in January 2008, replacing long-time director Jerry Lasker. Rich assumed leadership of the region's principal planning organization, serving approximately 50 local governments across the five-county Tulsa metropolitan area. Under his leadership, INCOG continued to expand its role as a regional convener, providing expertise in transportation planning, environmental programs, community development, aging services, land-use coordination, economic development, and public infrastructure planning.

Rich's leadership was anchored in the unwavering belief that the best way forward was always when communities work together across jurisdictional boundaries. This belief was perfectly captured through his contributions in the planning and coordination of Vision 2025, an \$885 million public investment initiative that the voters of Tulsa County approved in 2003. The initiative involved substantial coordination among local governments, businesses, and citizens that ultimately brought investments in economic development, education, recreation, and transportation.

One cannot recognize Rich without highlighting his passion for transportation projects and initiatives. Throughout his tenure, he has championed projects designed to enhance mobility, support economic growth, and improve connectivity in northeastern Oklahoma. Among the major infrastructure initiatives associated with his leadership are planning and development efforts related to the Gilcrease Expressway, Creek Turnpike, and the region's expanding trail network. He was able to utilize innovative financing programs to help fund the construction of the Gilcrease Expressway with the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority and Oklahoma Department of Transportation. His work helped advance the concept that transportation infrastructure should not only move people efficiently but also improve quality of life, create economic opportunities, and strengthen community connections.

During his tenure as Executive Director, Rich became a skilled advocate for securing Federal and State funding for regional initiatives. Over the past two decades, INCOG has successfully secured more than \$80 million in competitive Federal grant funding. Rich was also able to successfully advocate and secure State funding for projects such as the Tulsa/West Tulsa Levee project, the Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) program, and a new program dedicated towards structurally deficient bridges. Beyond large infrastructure projects, Rich has also consistently emphasized housing, community development, and neighborhood revitalization.

Rich was never the loudest person in the room, and in fact, he usually was the quietest. However, over the decades, he became a trusted adviser to

local elected officials, civic organizations, State agencies, and Federal partners, helping communities navigate growth, infrastructure investments, and long-range planning challenges. When Rich spoke, people would listen because they knew he was a man of integrity and that his ideas and knowledge of the issues would be respected. He became a subject matter expert on transportation, economic development, planning, and State and Federal programs.

As Rich retires, he leaves behind a legacy that will have a lasting impact across northeast Oklahoma. His expertise and institutional knowledge acquired from his 53-year career will be sorely missed. If you ask him, he has plenty of stories he can share about his former neighbor and Senator Jim Inhofe and numerous other Federal, State, and local officials that he has had the chance to interact with over his career.

Rich currently resides in Tulsa with his wife Claudia, a fellow lifelong INCOG staff member. His daughter Catharine lives and works in Tulsa, OK, and his son Will and family live in Fort Collins, CO. He is an avid cyclist, a member of First Presbyterian Church, and a lifelong St. Louis Cardinals fan. I know that he will enjoy spending even more time with his children and family in the years ahead. Rich, thank you for your leadership.●

TRIBUTE TO HANK THORNTON

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, the Gem State is made strong by the hard-working, dedicated, and selfless actions of Idahoans. Across our State, hundreds of thousands of veterans, first responders, volunteers, and public servants go above and beyond for the communities they call home. These people are pillars of our State and are essential to keeping Idaho the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

To recognize these exceptional individuals, I am proud to launch the Idaho Service Spotlight to honor the Idahoans whose service and leadership have made a lasting impact on the Gem State. It is especially fitting that we begin this initiative on Idaho Day, the anniversary of Idaho's statehood and a celebration of the people whose contributions continue to shape our exceptional quality of life.

Today, I am pleased to recognize Hank Thornton of St. Maries as an Idaho Service Spotlight recipient for the month of July 2026.

Hank has devoted his life's work to those who served our Nation. An Air Force veteran himself, Hank has seen firsthand the struggles many men and women face when returning home from military service. After a young local veteran took his life, Hank recognized a severe lack of support for veterans in north central Idaho and took action. He started knocking on doors, talking to the community, and eventually founded the Veterans Outreach Center, Inc., of Benewah County in 2018.

The outreach center has since become a lifeline for local veterans, providing mental health resources, warm meals, and so much more. Hank and his team make house calls to any veteran who may be experiencing difficulties, offering support and connecting them with community resources. Their selfless actions have helped hundreds of veterans build a life worth living and dramatically reduced veteran suicides in the region. As the organization grew, the center expanded to include a food bank, serving hot meals twice a week and ensuring Benewah County families and veterans do not go hungry. While the center initially began as Hank's vision, the entire community has rallied behind it, donating a property in downtown St. Maries, funding to maintain daily operations, and providing grants.

Outside of the center, Hank is the heartbeat of the St. Maries community. He is president and commander of the St. Joes Valley Search and Rescue, team leader for the Idaho Governor's Challenge on suicide prevention, vice president of the Benewah County Public Gun and Archery Range, and 2nd vice commander of American Legion Post 25.

On behalf of the people of Idaho, I thank and congratulate Hank for being selected as an Idaho Service Spotlight recipient for the month of July 2026. You reflect the very best of our State, and Idaho is stronger because of your actions.●

RECOGNIZING TITAN BATTERIES

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today, I am proud to honor Titan Batteries in Pocatello as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for July 2026.

Trent Clawson founded Titan Batteries in 2015 after learning that no commercially available drone battery could power a cross-country flight. He took matters into his own hands and began building high-performance, long-range batteries in the unfinished basement of his then-home in Bentonville, AR.

Four years later, in May of 2019, Trent moved the business to Idaho, where his wife grew up. As he became acquainted with the production process, Trent made the decision to keep all manufacturing right here in the Gem State. That investment paid off, as Titan quickly expanded from 11 employees to more than 80 in only 6 months.

Now, Titan engineers batteries for drone manufacturers supplying the U.S. military and other critical defense programs. Every battery design is crafted specifically to meet the unique demands of the mission it will power

and support America's fleet of drones. Titan's success is proof that American ingenuity and domestic manufacturing remain strong, encouraging more companies to keep their supply chain in the U.S.

Congratulations to Trent and the Titan Batteries team on being recognized as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for July 2026. Your dedication to excellence makes Idaho proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

TRIBUTE TO NARS DESAUTEL

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, the Gem State is made strong by the hard-working, dedicated, and selfless actions of Idahoans. Across our State, hundreds of thousands of veterans, first responders, volunteers, and public servants go above and beyond for the communities they call home. These people are pillars of our State and are essential to keeping Idaho the best place to live, work, and raise a family. Today, I am pleased to recognize Narcisse "Nars" Desautel as an Idaho Service Spotlight recipient for the month of July 2026.

Corporal Nars Desautel's life has been defined by service, perseverance, and love of country. In 1944, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. During World War II, Nars was stationed in the Philippines as a warehouse foreman, supporting military operations throughout the Asiatic-Pacific Theater and participating in the Luzon campaign. He stayed in the Army until the very end of the war, earning several awards, including the Good Conduct Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Service Medal, and the Philippine Liberation Service Ribbon with one bronze star.

After WWII, Nars returned home and built a life rooted in family and hard work. In 1957, Nars relocated to Lewiston, ID, where he began a successful 25-year career with Potlatch Corporation. Even in retirement, Nars' commitment to serving others did not waver. Alongside his wife Kathleen, he spent more than a decade as a campground host and maintenance employee at the Kelly Forks Work Center in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest. There, he welcomed visitors and cared for Idaho's public lands until the remarkable age of 87.

During fire season, Nars often went beyond his regular duties to drive trucks and assist with transportation to help keep recreationalists and firefighters safe. Kathleen supported these same efforts, working in fire camps to feed firefighters. Their children have many memories of the camps where their parents would run around caring for those protecting Idaho's lands from fire.

Through it all, Nars has remained devoted to his family, which includes 9 children, 20 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, and 10 great-great-grandchildren. Now a resident of the Idaho State Veterans Home in Lewiston, Nars continues to inspire those

around him with his patriotism and joy. As he approaches his 106th birthday, Nars is a testament to the values Idahoans and the "Greatest Generation" embody: service to country, dedication to family, commitment to community, and gratitude for every day.

On behalf of the people of Idaho, I thank and congratulate Nars Desautel for being selected as an Idaho Service Spotlight recipient for the month of July 2026. You reflect the very best of our State, and Idaho is stronger because of your actions.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 8595. An act making appropriations for national security, Department of State, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2027, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4225. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to the United Kingdom in the amount of \$25,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 26-056); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4226. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Israel in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 26-055); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4227. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Spain in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 26-053); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4228. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Singapore in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 26-046); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4229. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the

export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to the United Kingdom in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 26-033); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4230. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Algeria and Germany in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-138); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4231. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Canada, Morocco, and the United Arab Emirates in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-132); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4232. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Mullin, Texas" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2026-3765)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 13, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4233. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG Engines; Amendment 39-23376" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2026-4655)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 13, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4234. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Using Agency and Controlling Agency for Restricted Areas R-5301, R-5302A, R-5302B, and R-5302C; North Carolina" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2026-7162)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 13, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4235. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partnership (Type Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP); Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes; Amendment 39-23403" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2026-7211)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 13, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4236. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bell Textron Canada Limited Helicopters; Amendment 39-23395" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2026-3476)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 13, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4237. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to