



(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. _____

Impeaching John Edwin Steele, Senior District Judge for the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. STEUBE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Impeaching John Edwin Steele, Senior District Judge for the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

1 *Resolved*, That John Edwin Steele, Senior District
2 Judge for the United States District Court for the Middle
3 District of Florida, is impeached for high crimes and mis-
4 demeanors, and the following article of impeachment be
5 exhibited to the Senate:

6 Article of impeachment exhibited by the House of
7 Representatives of the United States of America in the
8 name of itself and of the people of the United States of

1 America, against John Edwin Steele, Senior District
2 Judge for the United States District Court for the Middle
3 District of Florida, in maintenance and support of its im-
4 peachment against him for high crimes and mis-
5 demeanors.

6 ARTICLE I: ABUSE OF JUDICIAL DISCRETION, DERELIC-
7 TION OF DUTY, AND ENDANGERMENT OF PUBLIC
8 SAFETY

9 John Edwin Steele, Senior District Judge for the
10 United States District Court for the Middle District of
11 Florida, has engaged in conduct incompatible with the
12 trust and confidence placed in him as a judicial officer,
13 as follows:

14 On July 8, 2026, in *Miadel Guerra Morales v. Field*
15 *Office Director, Miami, et al.*, Judge John E. Steele grant-
16 ed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus and ordered the
17 release of Miadel Guerra Morales from a U.S. Immigra-
18 tion and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facility.
19 Guerra Morales is a Cuban national who took part in the
20 hijacking of a commuter aircraft in Cuba in 2003 and
21 forced the pilot to land in Key West, Florida. He was sen-
22 tenced to 264 months in prison for aircraft piracy and
23 conspiracy to interfere with a flight crew.

24 After spending 21 years in prison, ICE placed Guerra
25 Morales in removal proceedings, accompanied by an immi-
26 gration judge's order for him to be removed from the

1 United States. Notwithstanding the deferral of his re-
2 moval to Cuba due to a claim made in 2023 pursuant to
3 the Convention Against Torture, ICE detained Guerra
4 Morales on December 30, 2025, with the intention of re-
5 moving him to Mexico instead.

6 In Judge Steele’s subsequent order releasing Guerra
7 Morales from detention, he ignored the executive branch’s
8 suggestion that granting Guerra Morales’ habeas petition
9 would not respect the presumptively reasonable detention
10 period typically afforded to such petitions, which typically
11 requires habeas petitions to be filed after 180 days of de-
12 tention. In his reasoning for accepting the petition, Judge
13 Steele suggested that the executive branch’s request for
14 Guerra Morales to refile the same petition after 180 days
15 would “add to the crushing amount of case management”
16 associated with petitions filed during the previous 6-month
17 period. Judge Steele let an alleged backlog of casework
18 serve as a reason to release an alien convicted of aircraft
19 piracy into American communities.

20 In his order, Judge Steele disregarded a justification
21 for continued detention for illegal aliens posing a special
22 danger to the public. Specifically, Judge Steele failed to
23 adequately consider that continued detention was in com-
24 pliance with Federal regulations authorizing such deten-
25 tion for aliens determined to pose a special danger to the

1 public. Judge Steele's order relied in part on an apparent
2 delay in removal proceedings as a justification necessi-
3 tating the release of Guerra Morales from detention.
4 Moreover, by ordering the release of Guerra Morales from
5 an ICE detention facility within 24 hours, Judge Steele
6 denied the executive branch an opportunity to pursue ap-
7 pellate review and allocate sufficient resources to ensure
8 the safety of the public from such a dangerous individual.

9 In taking this action, Judge Steele marginalized core
10 public safety, homeland security, and national security
11 considerations, and thereby contributed to an environment
12 of impunity for illegal aliens convicted of grave and violent
13 offenses against the United States. His ruling placed the
14 interests of criminal illegal aliens seeking residence in the
15 United States by any means necessary above the security
16 of the United States and the American people. By releas-
17 ing an illegal alien convicted of aircraft piracy from an
18 ICE detention facility, it is evident that Judge Steele com-
19 mitted an egregious dereliction of duty by abusing the dis-
20 cretion entrusted to him as a Federal judge, especially at
21 a time of elevated public concern about national security
22 and terrorism.

23 Accordingly, Judge Steele has engaged in conduct so
24 utterly lacking in judicious restraint and basic fidelity to
25 public safety and national security that he is guilty of high

1 crimes and misdemeanors, is unfit to hold the office of
2 United States District Judge, and should be removed from
3 office.