EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF DR. RALPH RUSH HENDRICKS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great respect and honor that I rise today to recognize the life of Northwest Florida's beloved Ralph Hendricks.

Born in Jay, Florida on June 3, 1927, Ralph Hendricks lived a life deeply rooted in his strong faith in God and love for his family and community. Dr. Hendricks began preaching along the Gulf Coast after graduating from Asbury College and Candler School of Theology at Emory University. An ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, Dr. Hendricks served pastorates throughout the Alabama-West Florida Conference for 40 years, including those in Escambia, Santa Rosa and Okaloosa counties.

His service to the Northwest Florida community, however, spread beyond the doors of the church. A pivotal leader in the local community, Dr. Hendricks served six years as a District Superintendent of the Andalusia District. He also served 37 years in the United States Navy and became chaplain of the Alabama Army National Guard. During his role as chaplain, he obtained the rank of Colonel and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. After his retirement, he continued to dedicate his time to those in need as Hospice chaplain in Escambia County, Florida.

To some, Ralph Hendricks will be remembered as a community leader and to others as a dedicated pastor and chaplain. To his family, he will forever be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. Ralph is survived by his wife Betty of 57 years; his children, Randy, Steve, and Mary Kaye; 7 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the life of Dr. Ralph Hendricks for his honorable leadership and service to Northwest Florida and to this great nation. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for his entire family. He will be truly missed.

RECOGNIZING MARITIME INTERNATIONAL FOR THE 2011 LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LANTERN AWARD

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Maritime International, a company from South Louisiana, for being named winner of the 2011 Lantern Award, District 4. The Lantern Award is presented by Louisiana Economic Development to salute manufacturers from across the state for their outstanding contributions to the Louisiana economy and to their communities.

Maritime International is owned by David Leblanc, John Deats and Donald Nassar and provides full service marine engineering and manufacturing. It serves many different clients including the U.S. Navy, oil companies, government agencies and port authorities. Maritime's goal is to offer clients effective and economical solutions for their mooring and berthing needs. Five engineering and sales offices are located in the U.S., China, the U.K., UAE and France.

Maritime makes an effort to purchase items from Louisiana vendors and is very involved in the local community. The company provides support to community events and charitable needs including Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, St. Jude, UNICEF and many more. Maritime International has steadily grown and innovated since beginning in 1996 and is continuing to do so with new expansion jobs underway.

It goes without saying that Maritime International is very deserving of the honor of being given the 2011 Lantern Award. The staff at Maritime International is innovative and effective in what they do. I wholeheartedly thank Maritime International for their service to Louisiana, and I congratulate the company on this award.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2017) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition of H.R. 2017, the FY 2012 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill. As a member of the House Homeland Security Committee, I cannot stress enough the importance of ensuring state and local officials have the resources they need in order for them to efficiently and effectively respond to national and local emergencies. This bill breaks faith with first responders, who are essential to our national security, by significantly underfunding them.

In particular, this bill proposes to cut firefighter assistance grants by more than fifty percent. The Assistance to Firefighter Grant program (FIRE) focuses on equipping firefighters with the necessary resources they need to respond to any national or local emergency in a post 9/11 environment. The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant program is designed to allow fire departments to increase their training and hiring of more firefighters. By cutting FIRE grants by 51 percent, from $405 million in FY 2011 to $200 million in FY 2012 and SAFER grants by 63 percent, from $405 million in FY 2011 to $150 million in FY 2012, we ultimately risk jeopardizing the safety of our communities. In addition, this bill takes away direct funding for nine key state and local security grants (including State Homeland Security Grants, Urban Area Security Initiative, Transit Security Grants, and Port Security Grants), combines them into a separate block grant, and slashes the funding of the block grant by 55 percent—from $2.2 billion in FY 2011 to $1 billion in FY 2012. By requiring all of these critical programs to compete against one another for essentially half the funding they each received the previous year, this bill will force many of these programs to be underfunded or zeroed out entirely.

This bill also significantly cuts Homeland Security Research and Development projects by 42 percent—from $688 million in FY 2011 to $398 million in FY 2012. By implementing these cuts, this bill would force us to eliminate more than 144 research projects in areas such as biological and explosives detection, advanced cyber security, and interoperability. In a time when our nation remains highly vulnerable to terrorism, we cannot afford to lose these essential counterterrorism research projects.

In response to our troubling debt, many cuts were already made to H.R. 1473, the FY 2011 Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act (P.L. 102–10) For example, State Homeland Security Grants were cut from $950 million in FY 2010 to $725 million in FY 2011; the Urban Area Security Initiative was cut from $887 million in FY 2010 to $725 million in FY 2011; Transit Security grants were cut from $300 million in FY 2010 to $250 million in FY 2011; Port Security Grants were cut from $300 million in FY 2010 to $250 million in FY 2011; and SAFER grants were cut from $420 million in FY 2010 to $405 million in FY 2011. By continuing to make substantial cuts, this bill will undoubtedly hinder the capabilities of our nation's first responders.

According to The International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) these cuts would have disastrous effects on the safety of our communities. They have stated that "[a]t a time when state and local public safety budgets are shrinking, it is unconscionable to implement cuts of this magnitude. Make no mistake, if this proposal is enacted, it would devastate local fire department budgets and threaten public safety nationwide." In addition to the cutting of research programs, this bill also makes a foolish mistake of preserving a cap on the total number of TSA screeners at 46,000—which will prevent the additional hiring of personnel needed to staff new security technology.

There will be a number of other troubling consequences if this bill is to pass: