

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RE-  
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-  
TIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 2, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2055) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 2055, the fiscal year 2012 Military Construction and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Appropriations Act. This legislation, which provides \$129.7 billion in funding for the VA, is critical for our veterans returning from multiple tours of duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world, and all those who have so bravely and honorably served our nation in the Armed Forces, including the 46,370 veterans living in the 15th district of Michigan.

There are a number of provisions in this bill with which I am pleased. First, it continues the Democratic-initiated effort to provide advance appropriations for the Veterans Health Administration so the VA may adequately plan for our veterans medical needs. Second, it builds on the previous Democratic Congresses' commitment to our veterans by providing funding to reduce the VA claims backlog, allow for quality medical care, and ensure the promise of a college education.

I am particularly pleased efforts to weaken workers' rights were defeated during consideration of this legislation. Both a proposed ban on implementation of Project Labor Agreement requirements as well as a proposal to bar VA and the Department of Defense from enforcing the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirement on contracts would have unjustly harmed middle class working families and led to poor construction on VA and DoD facilities.

Mr. Chair, this legislation continues the Democrats tradition of caring for our veterans. This job is never done and at a time when we are engaged in conflicts around the world, it is imperative our current and former military men and women know that their government supports them.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting our veterans by voting "yes" on H.R. 2055.

HONORING JIM LEHRER

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2011*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished journalist. On May 12, 2011, Jim Lehrer announced that he is leaving the "NewsHour" as a regular anchor effective the week of June 6, the final step in a carefully planned retirement. He said he will still appear many Fridays to moderate an analysis of the week's news.

Born in Wichita, Kansas in 1934, Jim Lehrer received an A.A. degree from Victoria College and a B.J. in 1956 from the University of Missouri before joining the Marine Corps. From 1959 to 1966, he was a reporter for The Dallas Morning News and then the Dallas Times-Herald. He was also a political columnist at the Times-Herald for several years and in 1968 became the city editor.

Lehrer's newspaper career led him to public television, first in Dallas, as KERA-TV's executive director of public affairs, on-air host and editor of a nightly news program. He subsequently moved to Washington, DC to serve as the public affairs coordinator for PBS, and was also a member of PBS's Journalism Advisory Board and a fellow at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Lehrer went on to join the National Public Affairs Center for Television. (NPACT) as a correspondent.

Lehrer has been honored with numerous awards for journalism, including the Chairman's Award at the 2010 National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences News & Documentary Emmy Awards, the 1999 National Humanities Medal, presented by President Bill Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and in October 2011, the National Press Club will present him with their top honor, the Fourth Estate Award. In 1999, Lehrer was inducted into the Television Hall of Fame with Robert MacNeil and into The Silver Circle of the Washington, DC Chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. He has won two Emmys, the Fred Friendly First Amendment Award, the George Foster Peabody Broadcast Award, and the William Allen White Foundation Award for Journalistic Merit and the University of Missouri School of Journalism's Medal of Honor. In 1991, he was elected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jim Lehrer on an extraordinary career. This trailblazing journalist has made a lasting impact on his profession. I thank Jim for his important contributions, and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. SUDIE TATUM

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2011*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give tribute to Dr. Sudie E. Tatum who passed away on June 1, 2011. On Sunday, June 5, 2011, services were held at Greater Galilee Missionary Baptist Church. The church had long planned to celebrate her life on this date; they felt no need to change it and held her funeral as part of "Dr. Tatum Day."

Dr. Tatum was born as Sudie Ethel Ware in Harrell, Arkansas and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She was a high school dropout, who became an educator. She graduated from UW-Milwaukee with qualifications for both teacher and social work. Dr. Tatum earned a master's degree in education administration and a doctorate in theology. Dr. Tatum taught adult basic education at Milwaukee Area Technical College.

She was active in church leadership and for 38 years served as president of the Women's Auxiliary of the General Baptist State Conven-

tion of Wisconsin. As president, she was a strong advocate for women, raising funds for mission work and was quite able of reminding men in authority that women kept the churches going.

Dr. Tatum's work with the church led her to distant La Hatte, Haiti, where she felt compelled to build a new church and school. She asked her family for money to help build the church and school. She contributed money that she had saved to purchase a car and family members donated the rest of the needed \$18,000.

Dr. Tatum was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, Earl Tatum. She never gave birth but raised her late sister's children as her own. Survivors include the children she raised, David Hollins Sr., Jynette Hamilton, Pastor Sudie B. Jones, Shirley Owens, Ruthie L. Darrough and James Hollins Jr.; and their children. Instead of flowers, she requested an offering for home and foreign ministries; therefore, a collection was taken as people left her service.

Mr. Speaker, I rise because Dr. Sudie E. Tatum is an example of the best of what Milwaukee and the Fourth Congressional District has to offer. She will be remembered as a woman who packed plenty of life into her 92 years and, who took the opportunity to combine the joys of her life: love of family, education, social work, guidance and missionary work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. NIKI TSONGAS**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2011*

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on the evening of June 13, 2011 because of pressing matters in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted for the LaTourette Amendment to the FY 2012 Military Construction and VA Appropriations bill to remove language from the bill which rolls back worker protections by discouraging the use of Project Labor Agreements. In this fragile fiscal climate, Congress should be defending our skilled laborers, whose essential work contributes to our economic recovery. Restricting existing policies which permit the establishment of basic terms and conditions on complex, large scale construction projects is harmful for workers and a distraction from the important programs which are funded in the underlying bill.

Additionally, I would have voted against the Amash Amendment, which would have prohibited compliance with the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage law. The Davis-Bacon Act has been a cornerstone of labor protection for 80 years, and I would have proudly voted to uphold it.

SALUTING SERVICE ACADEMY  
STUDENTS—KEVIN CARRINGER

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2011*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary group of