

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING ARMY NATIONAL  
GUARD SPECIALIST SERGIO  
EDUARDO PEREZ

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2012*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with immense sadness and great respect that I rise to remember Army National Guard Specialist Sergio Eduardo Perez for his bravery and willingness to fight for his country. Specialist Perez was a member of the Indiana National Guard 713th Engineer Company, headquartered in Valparaiso, Indiana. While Specialist Perez was on a route clearance patrol in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, he was killed in an attack that involved rocket-propelled grenade fire and small arms fire. His sacrifice will forever be remembered by those he fought to protect.

A native of East Chicago, Indiana, Sergio graduated from Lake Central High School in 2010. Sergio's high school principal recalls that Sergio was a quiet, reserved young man and a hard worker. His classmates speak of his kindness, respect, and willingness to help others. Shortly after graduating, Specialist Perez joined the National Guard, and his company mobilized at the end of September 2011. Sergio is remembered by friends as an all-around great guy who made a strong impression on those who knew him. According to loved ones, Sergio was a person who genuinely cared about everyone around him. He had a gentle spirit and a deep devotion to his family. In Sergio's own words, "It takes a lot to make me mad, and when I am, I can't be mad for long. I get along with almost everyone. I work way more than I should and I'm starting to realize how short life is." For his remarkable courage and selfless commitment to the Army, Specialist Perez is worthy of the highest praise. His life was taken from us far too soon. He will be greatly missed and forever cherished by those who loved him.

Specialist Perez leaves behind a beloved host of family and friends. He is survived by his adoring parents: Sergio E. Perez, Sr. and Veronica Orozco. Sergio also leaves to cherish his memory three loving sisters: Candice Perez, Andrea Jimenez, and Karyme Jimenez, and his half brother, Axel Perez Martinez. He will be greatly missed by his maternal grandparents, Alicia and Charles Orozco, and his paternal grandparents, Severo and Ramona Perez. Specialist Perez also leaves behind many other dear friends and family members, as well as a grateful, yet deeply saddened community.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army National Guard Specialist, Sergio E. Perez. Specialist Perez sacrificed his life in service to his country, and his passing comes as a great loss to our nation, which has once again been shaken by the realities of war. Specialist

Perez will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country. Thus, let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2012*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall votes 499–503. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "no" on No. 499, "no" on No. 500, "yes" on No. 501, "no" on No. 502, and "no" on No. 503.

RECOGNIZING THE 302ND AIRLIFT  
WING'S REDEDICATION OF THE  
SUMIT 38 MEMORIAL

**HON. DOUG LAMBORN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2012*

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the rededication of the 302nd Airlift Wing's SUMIT 38 memorial.

On Saturday, May 13, 1995 a C–130 with call sign SUMIT 38 assigned to the Air Force Reserve Command's 302nd Airlift Wing based at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, crashed near Bliss, Idaho. SUMIT 38 had flown 15 support personnel to Boise, Idaho for firefighting training and crashed during its return flight to Colorado. Six Air Force Reservists lost their lives that day.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert R. Buckhout, 1st Lieutenant Lance Dougherty, Captain Geoff Boyd, Chief Master Sergeant Jimmie D. Vail, Master Sergeant Jay Kemp and Staff Sergeant Michael L. Scheideman perished in the crash. The men and women of the 302nd Airlift Wing, their families and the community will continue to mourn the loss.

Let us always remember the crew of SUMIT 38, and never forget the sacrifice they made in the service of our Nation. On Saturday, August 4, 2012, the 302nd Airlift Wing will rededicate the memorial to the fallen crew at Peterson Air Force Base in its new location. The memorial will become the centerpiece of the new Total Force Integration C–130 squadron operations facility.

I ask the Members of Congress to join me in remembering and honoring the crew of SUMIT 38.

H.R. 5856

**HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2012*

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, last week the House of Representatives passed H.R. 5856,

the Department of Defense Appropriations Act. While I strongly oppose some provisions of H.R. 5856, I voted in favor of this legislation in order to support our troops, military families, and veterans, and to advance other important priorities for our national defense.

I applaud the leadership of Chairmen ROGERS and YOUNG and Ranking Member DICKS in crafting a bill that provides an increase to service members' pay, strengthens health care services, and advances critical research for cancer, Traumatic Brain Injury, and other conditions. H.R. 5856 supports a continued investment in small businesses through the Rapid Innovation Program, provides for the production of two Virginia-class attack submarines, advances the Iron Dome program, and seeks to hold Pakistan accountable by ensuring they are cooperating with the United States in counterterrorism efforts, including dismantling and disrupting the manufacture of improvised explosive devices—an issue that I specifically addressed through two successful amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act offered earlier this year.

However, I must also note my strong disappointment that this legislation breaches the Budget Control Act of 2011—the bipartisan, bicameral agreement enacted into law last year, which was designed to help rein in spending and stabilize our nation's finances. Despite the fact that over \$1 billion in spending was reduced through the successful adoption of an amendment offered by Representative MULVANEY and Representative FRANK, effectively freezing defense spending in the bill at current levels, H.R. 5856 still exceeds the budgetary cap set by last year's Budget Control Act by several billion dollars. An additional amendment was offered by Representatives LEE, VAN HOLLEN, and SMITH that would have brought the bill's spending in line with the levels set by last year's Budget Control Act. Unfortunately, while I voted in favor of this amendment, it was not adopted by the full House. Moreover, I offered an amendment to H.R. 5856 to strike funding for the Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund (AIF). As originally presented in the full House of Representatives, H.R. 5856 proposed \$375 million in spending over the next fiscal year for large-scale water, power, transportation and other projects in Afghanistan through the AIF while our national infrastructure is crumbling here in America and in my home state of Rhode Island. While my amendment did not pass, I did vote in favor of a successful amendment offered by Representative COHEN to reduced AIF funding by \$175 million.

With President Obama's announcement of the U.S.-Afghanistan Strategic Partnership Agreement in May 2012, our nation took another step toward the end of combat operations in Afghanistan and the transition of military and security operations to the Afghans by 2014—a timeline that had not yet been identified in 2011 during consideration of the FY 2012 Department of Defense Appropriations Act. I, and many of my colleagues in Congress, would prefer an accelerated drawdown

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