

for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 5856, Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2013. H.R. 5856 provides \$519.2 billion for the base budget of the Defense Department in fiscal year 2013 which is \$3.1 billion above the President's request and \$1.1 billion above the fiscal year 2012 level.

In addition, the Department of Defense (DOD) appropriations bill provides \$88.5 billion in fiscal year 2013 contingency funding for ongoing military operations in Afghanistan, at the President's request and \$26.6 billion below the fiscal year 2012 level. The contingency funding being \$26.6 billion below the fiscal year 2012 level reflects the continued drawdown of U.S. activities in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I support this bill for three reasons:

(1) Provides all service members a pay raise of 1.7 percent, the level included in the President's request;

(2) Provides \$33.9 billion, \$334 million above the President's request, for Defense health care programs for our troops, their families, and retirees; and

(3) Provides \$1.6 billion for measures to counter improvised explosive devices in Afghanistan.

I would like to thank Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member DICKS for ensuring that there were no reductions in the number of C-17s that are in use by our Armed Services in the Fiscal Year 2013 Defense Appropriations bill. The C-17 is the Air Force's premier strategic transport aircraft and remains the military's most reliable and capable airlift aircraft. The C-17 has proven capable of delivering more cargo, troops, and non-war humanitarian missions than any other aircraft. The C-17 delivered needed relief supplies and search and rescue teams immediately in the aftermath of the destruction in Japan. The C-17 also delivered over 10,005 tons of disaster relief supplies and carried 13,812 passengers in response to the earthquake that struck Haiti in 2010.

Mr. Chair, in my remaining time let me briefly highlight additional key provisions. This legislation provides increased funding of \$246 million for cancer research, \$245 million for medical facility and equipment upgrades, \$125 million for Traumatic Brain Injury and psychological health research, and \$20 million for suicide prevention outreach programs. Also, provides \$2.3 billion for family support and advocacy programs.

This bill provides \$181 million in additional funds not requested by the President to keep open production lines for the M-1 Abrams tank and the Bradley Fighting Vehicle. As our nation goes through an Armed Forces reduction, protecting critical industries such as U.S. combat vehicle is imperative. Maintaining a modest and continuous Abrams production line is necessary to persevering superior battlefield capabilities. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey said, "capability is more important than size." I agree. In April, I signed onto a letter to Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta expressing that sentiment.

H.R. 5856 maintains our military superiority by continuing the research and development of current and future military equipment. This bill provides \$5.9 billion for procurement of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. Provides \$2.6 billion

for procurement of modified F-18 Super Hornets, which is \$562 million and 11 aircraft more than the President's request. Also, provides \$1.8 billion to develop the KC-46A, the Air Force's next-generation aerial refueling aircraft.

This bill also provides \$250 million above the President's request for the Rapid Innovation Fund. This will continue the efforts started by the Armed Services Committee in fiscal year 2011 to promote innovative research in defense technologies among small businesses. H.R. 5856 includes \$519 million for the Cooperative Threat Reduction program, known as Nunn-Lugar, to assist in the denuclearization and demilitarization of the states of the former Soviet Union.

Finally, let me note my opposition to a number of provisions in this bill. This bill provides no funding for the Medium Extended Air Defense Systems (MEADS) program, which is a joint U.S.-German-Italian effort planned to replace Hawk and Patriot systems worldwide by 2018. Provides \$118 million less than the President request for necessary F-22 warplane modifications. Reduces the Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund (DAWDF) by \$224 million from the fiscal year 2013 budget.

Mr. Chair, this bill is based upon a \$1.028 trillion discretionary spending cap for fiscal year 2013, which is \$19 billion below the \$1.047 trillion discretionary spending cap agreed to in the bipartisan Budget Control Act. With my colleagues across the aisle squeezing our discretionary spending, they are hampering our ability to support many key national security priorities.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support and join me in voting for the bill on final passage.

A TRIBUTE TO MASTER POLICE OFFICER JEREMIAH GOODSON

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Master Police Officer Jeremiah Goodson of Lumberton, North Carolina, had his life taken from him while protecting his community on July 17, 2012. Officer Goodson had served on the City of Lumberton Police Department since 2006, and is the first Lumberton Police officer to be killed in the line of duty in 76 years. Officer Goodson will be remembered by all those whose lives he touched as the finest example of bravery, honor, and public service.

Officer Goodson, a native of Lumberton, worked selflessly to make a positive difference in his community. In addition to his service with the Lumberton Police Department, Officer Goodson was also a member of the police force's Gang Unit and served as a Resource Officer at Lumberton High School. Officer Goodson's colleagues at the Police Department spoke of Goodson as a personable officer and a great person who never met a stranger. Students at Lumberton High School recall Goodson as a good, loving, gentle person who will be remembered for doing his work diligently and cheerfully.

Over his lifetime, Officer Goodson earned countless friends because of his readiness

with a lighthearted joke or kind word. Because of his six years of service with the police department and his friendly personality, Officer Goodson had one of the most respected and recognizable faces in his community.

He was so widely admired within his community that the celebration of his life was held at Lumberton High School to better serve the huge amount of people attending to honor and remember him. The outpouring of grief from the Lumberton community is a testament to a life well-lived, and one that ended too soon.

Above all, Officer Goodson will be missed by his family and friends. He was the son of Bettie and Jerry Goodson, a brother to Isis and Joshua Goodson, the loving husband of Lametria Goodson and father to their children, Jurnee Amiah Goodson, Tyrin Hueston, and Josiah Malachi Goodson. Though their sorrow must run deep, we hope they may take comfort in knowing that this man is a hero to his community and he will rest in peace with his Savior. May God bless his family, and may we always keep in remembrance the life of Master Police Officer Jeremiah Goodson.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call No. 503 had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING PATRICK VAN GRINSVEN

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Patrick Van Grinsven, a vital member of my staff for over the past 3 years.

Friday, July 20th was Pat's last day serving the people of the Illinois Fifth Congressional District. He has served with distinction since June 2008 when he joined the staff of my predecessor in office, the Honorable Rahm Emanuel. In April 2009, after I was sworn in, Pat joined my staff as a Legislative Correspondent and now departs as a Legislative Assistant.

Pat began his career in public service when he became an intern in the office of his hometown Congressman, the Honorable Rahm Emanuel. Pat quickly moved up and in late 2008 he was promoted to Staff Assistant. After Congressman Emanuel left to become President Obama's Chief of Staff and I was elected as his successor, Pat joined my office as a Legislative Correspondent to continue serving the Fifth District. Pat managed all my constituent correspondence—an exceptionally difficult task amidst the controversy of the 111th Congress. In 2010, I promoted Pat to Legislative Assistant and since then he has handled some of my highest priority issues including transportation, veterans, postal, and labor. As the longest-tenured staff member serving the Fifth District in Washington, DC, Pat will be sorely missed.

It has been a pleasure to work with Pat over the past 3 years. He is passionate and serious about his work and he has a great sense of humor, an underrated trait in Congress. As a native Chicagoan, Pat is an ardent supporter of the Cubs, Bulls, Blackhawks, and Bears. We will also miss his devotion to soccer or, as I like to call it, weed hockey.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Pat the best of luck as he begins a master's program at the School of Advanced International Studies at the Johns Hopkins University. I thank him for his service to the Illinois Fifth Congressional District.

SEMINOLE HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to join with the students, faculty, staff and past graduates of Seminole High School in celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Located in Seminole, Florida, Seminole High is an institution with students who excel, not only in the classroom, but in the arts and sports as well. It was established in 1962 to meet the pressing need for a high school in the rapidly growing Seminole area. Now, 50 remarkable years later, this comprehensive public school, that I have the privilege of representing, has quite a history, which would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the students, teachers, and faculty alike, who have devoted their time and energy into making Seminole High School what it is today.

Home to several National Merit Scholars and the three-time winner of the "St. Petersburg Times' All Sports Award" for best athletic programs in the Tampa Bay area, it is no wonder that Seminole High is a seven-time winner of the Florida Department of Education's Five Star School Award, which is presented to schools that have "shown evidence of exemplary community involvement." Seminole High School's academic record also has received special attention as it exceeds the state average with a higher graduation rate than most other schools, not only in its district, but in the entire State of Florida.

With such a gifted student body, this school has many famous alumni ranging from professional football players, Olympic swimmers, a Miss America, and my wife, Beverly. The Seminole Warhawk marching band has performed in famous events such as the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City, as well as the Rose Bowl Parade, which they are due to participate in for the second time this New Year's Day.

With half a century of history and a record of sterling accomplishments, it is no surprise that Seminole High School has progressed from what was once only a simple two-building complex in the 1960s, to a superior academic and athletic high school that it is today. It is due to the extraordinary faculty, and of course, the talented student body that has allowed Seminole High School to excel for 50 years. Certainly, Seminole High has much to be proud of and I look forward to seeing what successes they will achieve over the next 50 years.

IN MEMORIAM AND
REMEMBRANCE OF SYLVIA WOODS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness, but also great pride, that I rise today to share a few words about Sylvia Woods, founder of Sylvia's Restaurant in Harlem, who passed away on Thursday, July 19, 2012. Ms. Woods was a local hero and a world renowned restaurateur, but also a dear personal friend; her death marks a devastating loss to Harlem and the greater New York City community, and she will be sorely missed. On behalf of the Harlem community, my wife Alma and I extend our sincere and heartfelt support, love, and sympathy to Ms. Sylvia's entire family.

Ms. Sylvia was an exceptional woman whose extraordinary work ethic and wonderful character should serve as a model for all Americans. Her life epitomized the American dream. Growing up on a farm in Hemingway, South Carolina, she began working in the field as a young girl and then made her way to New York in search of opportunity. After working as a teenager in a Queens hat factory for several years, she began working as a waitress at a luncheonette in Harlem.

This would mark the beginning of her fortuitous journey to the center of Harlem society. Ms. Sylvia would eventually purchase that luncheonette and, with hard work and patience, transform the small restaurant into a commercial empire boasting a catering service, banquet hall, and a nationally distributed line of prepared foods. Her farm to fame journey should remind us all of the great opportunity this country represents, and the hard work necessary to achieve it.

But Ms. Sylvia's success was as much a result of her charming personality as it was of her work ethic. She was a dynamic, warm, and kind woman who greeted every customer with a friendly and inviting smile. Her incredible hospitality and personable nature were symbolic of Harlem's rich communal character, and for that she was beloved. Her energetic personality attracted local and national politicians, international celebrities, tourists, and ordinary neighborhood residents, and created an environment so comfortable that it naturally became the social center of our community.

I want to thank Ms. Sylvia for her decades of service to our community, and for the many personal memories that I will cherish forever. Thank you for creating such a special, magical place at the soul of Harlem. Nothing can replace you, but your legacy will live on forever in our hearts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in mourning Ms. Sylvia Woods' passing. It is my hope that her example will serve as a testament that, with hard work and genuine character, we can achieve our greatest dreams.

FEDERAL RESERVE TRANSPARENCY AND POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, in response to the recession and financial crisis, the Federal Reserve had to take a variety of unorthodox measures to stabilize our credit markets and resuscitate the economy. Many in Congress have felt uneasy as the Fed took emergency actions to rescue individual companies and launched a variety of new credit facilities for an increasing number of banks, financial institutions and even investors. I share this unease and I believe that Congress should have the ability to gather information about the Fed's actions. That is why I voted in favor of H.R. 459, the Federal Reserve Transparency Act.

However, I do want to register my caution about opening up the Fed's monetary policy deliberations and actions to a government audit as it could erode the Fed's political independence. Even the appearance of politicians gaining some measure of influence over monetary policy decisions could have disastrous consequences. Political independence is not simply a luxury for our central bank. It is a core principle of good economic policy that yields real benefits for the American people. A number of empirical studies have shown that countries with independent central banks tend to have steadier economic growth and low and stable rates of inflation. This is not surprising. Just as politicians involved in fiscal policy have a bias toward greater spending, monetary policy influenced by politics would have a bias toward looser credit over the short term and therefore higher rates of inflation over the longer term. Financial markets would immediately recognize this and push up our borrowing rates and weaken our currency.

Congress should strive for robust oversight of the Fed, but it must guard against political interference. In the end, an independent Federal Reserve with a clear and focused mandate is the best way to achieve the desirable ends of sustainable economic growth, job creation, and low inflation.

FEDERAL RESERVE
TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, while I fully believe that the Federal Reserve is in need of greater transparency and accountability, I rise in opposition to this bill, which I believe approaches the issue in a problematic way. I want to be clear that the Fed should not take my vote against this bill as a vote of confidence.

In order for the Federal Reserve to function properly as an independent central bank, I believe that its monetary policy functions must be independent of pressure from Congress, which would be jeopardized by a GAO audit of