

VA MAJOR CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION AND EXPIRING AUTHORITIES EXTENSION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this long overdue legislation. Among many worthy projects included in this legislation, this bill authorizes the uncompleted construction on the operating rooms at the Miami VA Medical Center.

Every month this construction is delayed, the VA has to pay an additional \$500,000 for a portable operating room. Since this was first brought to our attention in May, that will be over \$2.5 million as of the end of this month. That is \$2,500,000 that could better be spent on the veterans of Florida for their care and comfort.

This project is over 95 percent completed. This bill needs to be passed now.

I want to thank the Chairman of the Veterans' Committee, Mr. MILLER for his help in getting the issue included in a vehicle that could pass both the House and the Senate. There is a dire need for this Medical Center to be whole, with veterans from all over the State of Florida traveling there for treatment.

The original plan for this project was to divide the operating room in half and renovate it in stages. When I visited the Medical Center in June, I heard directly from the administrators of the facility about the project. The planners on the ground realized soon after the construction began that patients could have been put at risk due to contamination of the operating room by the construction on the other side of the room.

Veterans health was being put at risk, and rather than let that happen, it was decided, by those who know veterans health the best, those at the health facilities, to combine the projects into one and rent the portable operating rooms.

It is time for Congress to pass this bill and finish the construction in Miami that our veterans deserve through their service protecting the freedoms this nation hold so dear.

HONORING JOHN LOWRY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Rep. MIKE THOMPSON to recognize the outstanding career of John Lowry. John is retiring after 28 years of service with Burbank Housing. His inspirational leadership in providing affordable housing in Sonoma County, California has given thousands of disadvantaged and low-income Sonoma County residents a place they can call home.

Originally from New York City, John graduated from New York University and holds BA and MA degrees with majors in economics, politics and history. He later decided to obtain a general contractors license and build his

own home. This sparked his interest in self-help housing, which he would later incorporate into Burbank Housing's Homeownership Program.

John began his career of providing affordable housing to Sonoma County California as a project manager on Burbank's first two projects. He was their second employee. Under John's leadership, the non-profit has grown to 140 employees who build, manage and maintain 2,700 affordable rental units as well as helping another 750 families own their homes.

John's work has been lauded by his peers, including being named an Inspirational Non-Profit Leader. The Sonoma County Housing Coalition has honored him with both their Lifetime Achievement Award and their Housing Hero Award.

John also serves our community by working with the California Coalition for Rural Housing and the Home Builders Association of Northern California. He has served on the board of Nonprofit Housing Association of Northern California as well.

In retirement, John plans to continue working to influence state and local housing policies. Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank John Lowry for his many years of service on behalf of the people of Sonoma County. He has worked tirelessly to demonstrate his unwavering belief that low-income people of all ages, backgrounds and special needs deserve to live in decent, affordable housing. For this, he deserves our appreciation.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR
GENERAL PETER J. BOYLAN

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Major General Peter J. Boylan who is celebrating his twentieth year as President of Georgia Military College (GMC), and is the longest serving President of the college since its founding in 1879. General Boylan has worked wonders for GMC as he is responsible for restoring the reputation and financial stability of the school, which is now ranked one of the best community colleges in the nation. Through his unwavering determination, he planned and secured funding to rebuild and renovate every structure on the GMC-Milledgeville campus, made possible the addition of previously non-existent athletic fields and facilities, and renovated, relocated, or established-as-new every GMC distant learning and extension center in the state.

Not only is General Boylan a tireless leader and a staunch champion of the academics, he is also a distinguished military retiree himself. He served for more than thirty years in the United States Army which included two tours in the Republic of South Vietnam, and he also participated in the invasion of Grenada with the 82nd Airborne Division. General Boylan's devotion to his country led him to later work with the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon and eventually as Deputy Inspector General of the Army. His list of achievements is monumental, which is a testament to how blessed

the student body, staff, and faculty of GMC are to have him as President. Some of his most notable awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart amongst many others.

General Boylan's academic accomplishments are equally as impressive. He has a Masters degree in engineering from the University of Michigan as well as a Doctor of Laws from Flagler College. For much of his tenure at GMC, General Boylan has stressed that character building is an integral part of a good education. Having also served, I understand the importance of teaching our youth these traits, and couldn't be more supportive of General Boylan in his efforts. Moreover, General Boylan still finds the time to be an active community servant and a faithful family man. He has been honored with the Floyd Harrington Community Leadership Award, he served on the Committee for the Selection of White House Fellows (New York Region) and was appointed by the Governor of Georgia to the Board of Directors for the Department of Juvenile Justice. Most importantly, he and his wife, Kathleen, have five children and thirteen grandchildren.

I know that GMC, the entire state of Georgia, and this nation are forever grateful to General Boylan for his unwavering love for his country, his dutiful service within the military, and his constant willingness to give back to our nation's youth. I am honored to stand here today and congratulate him on twenty years as President of Georgia Military College.

IN TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL E. TRAIN

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Russell E. Train, one of our country's most influential and accomplished environmentalists, who died on September 17, 2012 at age 92.

Russell Train was instrumental in developing our nation's environmental policies. He served under Presidents Nixon and Ford as the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Under his leadership, the nation made large strides in protecting our air, water, and wildlife, including the adoption of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Toxic Substance Control Act, the Clean Air Act, coastal zone management, national land-use policy, environmental impact statements and the Endangered Species Act. During his tenure, EPA banned four extremely toxic farm chemicals—aldrin, dieldrin, heptachlor and chlordane—and instituted automobile emission limits.

Mr. Train developed the concept and promoted the establishment of UNESCO's (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage program, which provides vital protection to 730 cultural and natural sites around the world and builds on the American national park concept.

Mr. Train's passion and dedication for conservation and the environment were strengthened by travels with his wife Aileen to Africa. In 1961 he founded the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation and in 1965 he resigned as a United States Tax Court judge to become