

of America, and the politicians responsible for its policies. The most demeaning day for me was just a few days ago when my supervisor ordered me to fill out EPA's "Request for Leave" form to "request" my own furlough days. This sequestration was never supposed to happen. It is unfair and unreasonable. But it has happened anyway.

I am happy that Air Traffic workers and other co-workers throughout the federal government have by now been exempted from furloughs. It pains me terribly that no similar consideration is expressed for those of us who are charged with caring for the environmental, economic, health, housing and other equally important concerns of the American people.

Finally, I would like to thank your staff for listening to me and submit this letter for your consideration.

Sincerely,

HERIBERTO LEÓN.

HONORING COL. SCOTT W. GORDON

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 14, 2013*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of an exemplary public servant, Col. Scott W. Gordon. After over thirty years of service, Col. Gordon is retiring at the end of August from the United States Army.

Col. Gordon was born in Utica, NY and grew up in Youngstown, OH. He earned his undergraduate degree in Zoology from Miami University in Oxford, OH in 1973 and went on to earn his masters in entomology from The Ohio State University in 1976. He was awarded a Ph.D. in Microbiology from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO in 1993.

Col. Gordon joined the military in 1984 after being employed as a medical entomologist by the Vector-borne Disease Unit of the Ohio Department of Health. Throughout Col. Gordon's thirty years of service to his country, he worked in several distinguished capacities within the United States Army. Col. Gordon's work and dedication is exhibited through the numerous awards and decorations he has accrued throughout his three decades of service.

Since joining the military, Col. Gordon has remained active in entomological research as a member of numerous professional organizations including the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, The American Mosquito Control Association, and the Entomological Society of America. Col. Gordon has authored or co-authored over 20 publications in peer-reviewed journals.

I want to extend my warmest and sincere thanks to Col. Scott W. Gordon for his many years of service to his country. His long and illustrious military career will not be forgotten and I would like to wish him congratulations and all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF  
CHARLOTTE TASHJIAN AARON

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 14, 2013*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Charlotte Tashjian

Aaron, who passed away on June 7, 2013 at the age of 97. Charlotte's thoughtfulness, generosity, and overwhelming love for others will be greatly missed.

Charlotte was born into a family with very strong Armenian roots. The Tashjians immigrated to the United States to escape the Armenian Genocide. They settled in Madera, California, and ran a small family business, "Simon Cleaners." After Charlotte graduated from Madera High School, she decided to stay close to home and work for her parents.

Charlotte's faith in God and her religion were extremely important to her. For over 50 years she was a part of the Fidelis Society, and served as a choir member at the First Armenian Presbyterian Church in Fresno, California for almost 70 years. Charlotte was singing in the choir when she saw the love of her life, Isaac, for the very first time. Isaac and Charlotte got married, and raised three beloved sons: James, Edward, and Richard.

For Armenians, family is everything, and Charlotte loved her family dearly. She leaves behind her sons and daughter-in-laws: Heather, Kris, and Nancy; her grandchildren: David, Michael, Janelle, Stephanie, Steven, John, Kirsten, and Danielle; and her brother Ed and her sister-in-law, Wilma.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life of Charlotte Tashjian Aaron. Charlotte will undoubtedly be missed many, and she will always be in the hearts of those who love her deeply.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 14, 2013*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding one missed vote on June 12, 2013.

Had I been present for rollcall 217, On Motion to Recommit with Instructions for the Swap Jurisdiction Certainty Act, I would have voted "aye."

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

SPEECH OF

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1960) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Chair, it has been over 10 years since the start of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and I fear we are still not properly addressing traumatic brain injury, also known as "the signature injury of the war." I would like to thank Chairman MCKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for their commitment to this issue in recent authorizations. I would also like to thank Mr. THOMPSON for his co-sponsorship of my first amendment.

Over the last few years, Congress has continued to emphasize the importance of this issue and has made funds available for the identification and treatment of brain injuries in our soldiers. It is important these funds be used wisely to ensure that our men and women in uniform are getting timely and proper care. A January 2012 GAO report highlighted the need to coordinate TBI and psychological health activities within the Department.

In the National Defense Authorization for FY 2013, Congress mandated that the Secretary of Defense submit a plan to Congress that would improve coordination and integration of the programs that address traumatic brain injury and psychological health of members of the Armed Forces. Specifically, this report would require the identification of gaps in services and treatments, a plan for addressing any gaps or redundancies and identifying an official to lead the implementation of any changes. This report is due in July of this year, and my amendment underscores the importance of this mandated report, and strongly urges the Secretary to deliver it to Congress within the appropriate timeframe.

My second amendment addresses the continuing issue of identification of traumatic brain injuries. Although the Department of Defense has made a strong commitment to identifying, and treating those men and women who have suffered a traumatic brain injury while serving our Nation, there are still problems with screening our troops.

In June 2010, a memorandum issued by the Department of Defense made a 50-meter distance from an explosion the criterion to identify, refer, and treat members for potential traumatic brain injury in theater. However, the Department of Defense has yet to address those service members who may have been exposed to a blast prior to that time. Many of these soldiers remain on active duty and we must ensure they are tested and treated. My amendment mandates a report on how the Secretary of Defense will identify, refer, and treat possible traumatic brain injuries with respect to members of the Armed Forces who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom prior to June 2010. This is a vitally important report for ensuring the health of our troops. I ask that my colleagues support these amendments for those service members who are struggling with invisible wounds.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

SPEECH OF

**HON. DANA ROHRABACHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1960) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Chair, included in this en bloc package is an amendment I offered that relates to Pakistan. It adds,