EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING SYSMEX AMERICA FOR ITS CONTINUED INNOVATION, COMMITMENT TO QUALITY AND POSITIVE IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sysmex America on the opening of its latest research and development laboratory, and to honor their contributions to global health care.

Headquartered in Lincolnshire, IL, Sysmex America distributes diagnostic analyzers, reagents and information systems all across North and South America, helping countless laboratories provide better services and countless patients receive better care.

Health care is increasingly dependent on new, innovative technologies, and Sysmex America is on the cutting edge of research and development. The opening of this new facility will only add to their capabilities and long-term success.

Illinois's Tenth Congressional District has a rich tradition of innovation in health care and manufacturing, and Sysmex America perfectly embodies the contribution of both industries, building some of the finest medical technology and information systems in the world.

With such dedication to core values like innovation, teamwork, unmatched quality and the advancement of health care, Sysmex America demonstrates remarkable responsibility not only to their clients and shareholders, but also to the community as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, our Tenth District is home to a number of excellent corporate citizens, and each enriches the community in its own way. I am proud of the companies that make our community strong, and I am honored that Sysmex America calls our district home. I congratulate them once again on the opening of this remarkable new lab, and I look forward to following their future innovations and success.

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF CARLA ANDERSON

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary woman, Carla Anderson, who passed away on July 23, 2013, in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Carla Anderson was born on September 15, 1960, to Donald and Cecelia Albers in Bismarck. She never lost her love for her home town of Center, North Dakota and her rural America roots. For the past eight years, Carla served as Deputy Executive Director of the Next Generation (NG) 9–1–1 Institute, a not-for-profit organization that works with the Congressional NextGen 9–1–1 Caucus to promote the deployment of advanced and effective NG 9–1–1 services across the nation.

Throughout the years, Carla worked tirelessly to help the Caucus raise awareness of 9–1–1, develop and pass legislation to support the transition to NG 9–1–1, and make 9–1–1 a national priority. No one in our country did more to promote 9–1–1 education. Carla was instrumental in creating a coalition of national public safety and industry organizations to come together to promote 9–1–1 education.

Carla's dedication and enthusiasm to advance 9–1–1 and promote public safety was unmatched. Her impact has been felt not only throughout the United States, but internationally as well. Her smile and positive demeanor brought cheer and enthusiasm to everyone she touched and she will be missed by all those who have had the privilege of working with her. The 9–1–1 community has lost one of its greatest and most prominent champions.

Carla will forever be remembered as a devoted wife to her husband Tracy Anderson and extraordinary mother to their two beautiful sons, Brandon and Andrew. Her memory will always be cherished by her parents and bring joy to her siblings Kurt Albers, Scott Albers, Jeff Albers and Karen Thomas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Carla Anderson. As Co-Chair of the Congressional NextGen 9–1–1 Caucus, I'm very proud and grateful to have had the opportunity to know and work with Carla. She took on every cause with a passion—whether it was cheering on the Center Wildcats basketball team, volunteering as the community photographer, or leading the charge on 9–1–1 education. Her untimely death is a loss not only for her family but to the entire Congress, the public safety community and our nation.

AMENDMENT NO. 77 TO H.R. 2397, FY14 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT

HON. JIM BRIDENSTINE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, the House passed H.R. 2397, Fiscal Year 2014 Department of Defense Appropriations Act on July 24, 2013. My amendment, made in order as Amendment #77, was adopted by the House in En Bloc package number one offered by Mr. YOUNG of Florida. I want to be clear about the intent of this amendment. The amendment reduces the Defense-wide Operations and Maintenance account by $11 million and reallocates $10 million split evenly between Army and Air National O&M accounts for National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP) activities. Specifically, this amendment would reduce the lowest priority internal media activities within the Defense Media Activity (DMA) Operations and Maintenance account. The Department should not apply this reduction to DMA overseas media activities. My intent is that the increases in Army and Air National Guard O&M accounts specifically fund the National Guard State Partnership Program.

I would like to thank my colleagues, Ms. BORDALLO and Mr. WILSON, for co-sponsoring this amendment. These two members are champions of the National Guard and its security cooperation programs. The BORDALLO-WILSON bill, H.R. 641, codified SPP in statue and became Section 1204 of this year's House–passed National Defense Authorization Act.

The State Partnership Program is a vital component of the DOD's security cooperation mission. In contrast, Defense Media Activity includes numerous "nice to have" activities such as the Pentagon Channel and all of those glossy brochures that fill our in–boxes during budget season. This very modest funding readjustment signals Congress's commitment to fully leveraging SPP as a security cooperation tool. SPP is particularly important given the budget cuts to active duty deployed forces that will be less able to fulfill these requirements.

SPP is a DOD security cooperation program run by the National Guard that links state and territorial National Guards to military and civilian personnel in 70 partner nations. Almost every state and territory participates in SPP. In my state of Oklahoma, our National Guard has developed a robust relationship with Azerbaijan, a country increasingly important to energy security in Europe and Israel.

Unlike some security cooperation programs, SPP is not a "talking shop" where nothing of substance takes place. Typical SPP missions include:

1. Subject matter expert exchanges
2. Demonstration and training of certain capabilities and technologies
3. Senior leader visits; and
4. Mentor and liaison teams in which National Guardsmen actually embed with partner personnel on operations.

In times of budget cuts and sequestration, regional combatant commanders will reduce active duty participation in theater security cooperation activities. SPP can help plug this hole in support of joint COCOM and Chief of Mission objectives. No activities can occur without the joint approval of the COCOM and Chief of Mission. The types of activities eligible for funding are limited to those within the National Guard's core competencies.

By using the National Guard, SPP adds value in ways that, frankly, active duty forces cannot match. SPP brings three unique attributes to the table. First, SPP creates enduring relationships between particular individuals over the course of careers. Some National Guard and foreign military personnel have literally been training with each other for over two decades. As a Navy pilot, I can tell you that trust is indispensable in terms of fighting shoulder-to-shoulder with allied forces. Trust is built through constantly engaging with our allies and friends.