

While our efforts have grown, we still only reach half of all people eligible for HIV treatment; and more must be done.

Working together, we must continue to strengthen—not weaken—our national and international efforts to combat AIDS and other infectious diseases.

We must work to achieve the Obama Administration’s goal of an AIDS-free generation.

We must honor the memory of those we have lost and act on our hope, optimism, and determination to end the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

We must continue to work with programs and clinics, like the Harris County Hospital District (HCHD), who are treating and caring for patients with HIV/AIDS.

In 1989, HCHD opened Thomas Street Health Center, the first free-standing facility dedicated to outpatient HIV/AIDS care in the nation. The center has become the cornerstone of all HIV/AIDS care available to Harris County residents.

The Thomas Street Health Center has dedicated their services to about 25 percent of Harris County’s HIV/AIDS.

Annually, the health center, along with HCHD, serves 4,463 unique patients for about 37,000 patients’ visits.

We will continue to fight a tough fight against HIV and AIDS.

We will continue to strengthen and support centers like Thomas Street Health Center that work diligently with HIV/AIDS patients.

Our focus on HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness will be to ensure all of our friends, relatives and children live healthy and full lives.

There is a pressing need to raise awareness and engage in education within the African American community where HIV infections have been and continue to rise.

The incidence of HIV has decreased for the majority population, while it has grown nearly unchecked among African Americans.

This must change—decisions regarding funding for agencies charged with infectious disease education and minority health must be supported.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 5, 2016

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 599.

OVERTIME PAY FOR SECRET SERVICE AGENTS ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6302, “The Overtime Pay For Secret Service Agents Act”.

This important legislation will provide an increase in premium pay for United States Secret Service agents performing protective services.

H.R. 6302 will raise the cap on overtime compensation for U.S. Secret Service agents tasked with the responsibility for protecting the president, vice president and major presidential and vice presidential candidates during campaigns.

Under current law, an executive branch employee’s premium pay, including overtime combined with basic pay cannot exceed the maximum rate of basic pay for a GS–15 or Level V executive schedule, whichever is greater.

The maximum rate for a GS–15 employee in the Washington, D.C., area is set at \$160,300 in 2016, while the pay rate for Level V is set at \$150,200 adjusted for the current cost of living.

H.R. 6302 will increase the pay rate cap by nearly \$35,000.

The H.R. 6302 will also apply to agents responsible for protecting candidates’ spouses, former presidents, their spouses and children, high profile foreign visitors, as well as other government officials.

More than 1,000 agents have exceeded the overtime pay limit this year and can greatly benefit from the prospective adjustments.

Some by as much as \$60,000, according to the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association.

For these reasons I support H.R. 6302.

IN HONOR OF BEAUREGARD WINNING AHSAA CLASS 5A HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TITLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 5, 2016

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House’s attention today to recognize Beaugard High School for winning their first ever Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) Class 5A football state title.

The Hornets sealed their victory by beating Wenonah 33–13 on December 1st at Jordan-Hare Stadium in Auburn.

Not only was this Beaugard’s first state title, but also Lee County’s first ever state champion!

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the students and faculty of Beaugard High School, Coach Braun, the players and all the Hornets fans on this exciting achievement. Go Hornets!

HONORING THE LIFE OF KATHLEEN O’DAY

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 5, 2016

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Kathleen O’Day.

Kathleen passed away on November 28, leaving three brothers, nieces, nephews, cousins and many dear friends. She resided in Arlington, Virginia, but was born and raised in my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts. Her loved ones gathered in Worcester today to honor her life and pay tribute to a truly remarkable woman.

Kathleen had a distinguished legal career. After graduating from Assumption College and Boston College School of Law with honors, Kathleen began working in the legal division of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in 1978. She served in the Board’s legal division for decades and became a well-known expert in international banking and trade negotiations.

Those who knew her best will miss her warmth, wit, and generosity. Scott Alvarez, the Fed’s General Counsel, remarked, “Kathleen was a dedicated employee, serving nearly 40 years in the Board’s Legal Division. She was a kind, brilliant, generous, witty, and wonderfully warm friend to all of us, and we will all miss her tremendously.”

Mr. Speaker, Kathleen touched the lives of so many around her, and had a profound impact on all of us through her work with the Federal Reserve.

I deeply admire Kathleen’s life-long commitment to public service, and extend my deepest sympathies to the family and friends she leaves behind. We will all miss her.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Kathleen O’Day, and recognizing the important contributions she has made to our country.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 34, TSUNAMI WARNING, EDUCATION, AND RESEARCH ACT OF 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6392, SYSTEMIC RISK DESIGNATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 34, the 21st Century Cures Act. It is vital that we ensure that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have the resources they need to continue to advance biomedical and mental health research, and improve access to innovative treatments for some of the most debilitating illnesses.

The additional \$4.8 billion authorized for the NIH to improve biomedical research and treatment innovations is commendable, particularly the \$1.8 billion for the Vice President’s Cancer Moonshot, in line with the President’s budget request, that will advance critical life-saving research. I fully support the Cancer Moonshot’s mission to speed up the advancement of other treatments that will help individuals and families who are fighting diseases or disorders. As a Cancer survivor, I know all too well the value of these investments and how many lives can be saved as a result.

Additionally, the allocation of \$1 billion to step up federal efforts combating the growing opioid and heroin epidemic is a positive step towards better treatment of addicted individuals. Every day, families across California and the nation are torn apart by a loved one or neighbor abusing opioids. Hopefully our Republican colleagues consider this the first of many steps to advance meaningful policies designed to erode the strong grip these drugs have on so many Americans.

Unfortunately, key aspects of this legislation fall short and are clearly designed to benefit Big Pharma over American consumers, patients, and doctors. I am deeply troubled by the Majority's decision to drastically reduce new NIH funding in the legislation compared to H.R. 6, stifling new research and vital progress. Additionally, it is disappointing that an amendment I authored, which would have helped to improve doctor-patient communication around the diagnosis and treatment of severe or chronic illnesses, was not included in this legislation. This oversight shows the lack of understanding of the importance of communication between patients and doctors in a patient's treatment and recovery.

IN HONOR OF PIEDMONT WINNING
AHSAA CLASS 3A HIGH SCHOOL
FOOTBALL TITLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 5, 2016

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Piedmont High School for winning the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) Class 3A football state title for the second year in a row.

The Bulldogs sealed their victory by beating Mobile Christian 22-12 on December 1st at Jordan-Hare Stadium in Auburn, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the students and faculty of Piedmont High School, Coach Steve Smith, the players and all the Bulldogs fans on this exciting achievement for the second year in a row. Go Bulldogs!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 5, 2016

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to state that I was not able to be on the House floor for roll call vote 600—Adoption of the Conference Report to Accompany S. 2943—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 taken on December 2, 2016. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted aye.

Congress has a duty to ensure our military has every resource necessary to fight and defeat the threats that exist in the world today. The National Defense Authorization Act provides America's uniformed men and women with the tools and support they need and deserve. It gives our troops a much needed pay raise and ensures that promises made to them are kept. This strong defense bill will strengthen our national security and help bring our military into the 21st century.

As I close, I ask everyone to continue praying for our country, and for our military and first responders who selflessly serve and sacrifice to protect us.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 2943, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2016

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, which was passed by a 375-34 vote on Friday. I commend Chairman THORBERRY, Ranking Member SMITH and the committee staff who worked many long nights on the FY17 NDAA. I worked with Mr. SMITH and members of the committee, particularly Readiness Chairman ROB WITTMAN, to include a number of provisions and funding levels that will address certain readiness shortfalls and continue to support the Asia-Pacific Rebalance.

This conference agreement, along with the House report passed in May, includes a number of provisions that are particularly important for the people of Guam. Over the past few months of negotiations, we were able to secure the provision that authorizes the payment of claims to the survivors of the occupation of Guam during World War II and the heirs of those who were killed during the occupation. During World War II, Guam was the only U.S. civilian population occupied by Japan, and during this time our people were subjected to rape, torture, assault, murder, and other inhumane atrocities. The provision does not add to federal spending and utilizes mandatory federal spending provided only to the Government of Guam for taxes paid by federal personnel stationed on Guam. This is an important step towards recognizing the men, women, and children who endured injustice yet remained and remain loyal and patriotic Americans, and its inclusion this year is a hard fought victory for the people of Guam. I look forward to working with the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, the Trump Administration and stakeholders on Guam to ensure that the war claims program is implemented in a fair, transparent and equitable manner. I will work to ensure the process is as clear to the people of Guam as possible so that we can truly bring closure to this matter.

We also successfully repealed the remaining restrictions on civilian infrastructure projects related to water and wastewater, as well as the construction of a cultural artifact repository, and authorized \$67.5 million for these investments. This bill also authorizes military infrastructure projects, including full funding for six military construction projects for housing, munitions, and power infrastructure development. These projects total nearly \$250 million and demonstrate further the continued commitment of the U.S. government to the Guam build-up and the realignment of Marines.

At the same time, this build-up must continue to reflect the 2011 Four Pillars agreement that commits the Navy to being a responsible community partner. Because of local concerns raised about land returns and how that will be calculated and tracked, we hold the Navy accountable to its "Net Negative" commitment by including in this bill a reporting requirement on past, current, and future Navy land usage on Guam. It is important that we

have a mutual understanding about what lands will be returned to ensure that the Navy's commitment to hold no more land than it already has is upheld.

There are other challenges associated with the Guam build-up that are addressed this year. The Senate Judiciary Committee majority objected to the House-passed provision that would address workforce challenges affecting the health care and construction industries by providing flexibility to U.S. Customs and Immigration Services as it evaluates H-2B visa renewal applications. These industries directly support the military mission on Guam and having an inadequate workforce on island could negatively impact our national security. However, in order to gather additional data and continue to build the argument in order to address the situation in the coming year, there is a reporting requirement that asks the Navy to document the mission specific impacts of a reduced workforce associated with increased denials of these applications. I am deeply disappointed that this tailored provision was not ultimately included in the Conference Report but I will work with the Department of Defense to address this matter in next year's defense bill or any other appropriate legislation next year. Immediately, I will work with USCIS to see if any additional emergency authorities exist to find a temporary solution to the matter so that we do not hold up military construction projects. We must find a more permanent solution to the repeated denials of H-2B labor on Guam so we can have a stable and consistent workforce to meet construction timelines and provide critical health care to the military and residents of Guam.

Additionally, ballooning cost estimates and associated scheduling delays because of Navy requirements for clearance of munitions and explosives of concern have disrupted numerous projects and need to be addressed. While the Navy has demonstrated a commitment to finding a balance that assures public safety while eliminating unnecessary, burdensome, and duplicative requirements, there is more that needs to be done. Early next spring, I expect the Navy to brief us on steps they are taking to mitigate redundancies and find acceptable efficiencies and we will continue to track this issue closely.

Additionally, this bill mandates a review of distinguished Asian American and Pacific Islander war heroes who may have been unjustly overlooked in consideration of the Medal of Honor. I especially want to thank Ranking Member SMITH for his leadership on issues important to Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) and working to get that provision included in the Conference report. This review was first conducted for AAPIs who served during World War II, but did not include those who served during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Similar reviews have been conducted for African, Jewish, and Hispanic Americans and I believe that it is prudent to also conduct a comprehensive review for AAPIs who may have faced similar discrimination. It's important we appropriately recognize those who have given so much in support of our freedoms.

There are numerous provisions in this year's NDAA which help develop or restate our national security priorities in the Asia-Pacific region. We included several provisions which aim to help continue to build our relationship with Taiwan, including requiring a feasibility report on replenishment stops for Taiwanese