

Following the war, Mr. Young returned to North Carolina where he started a family and began a career at the N.C. Cooperative Extension. After 31 years with the Cooperative Extension, he retired and now works part-time for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mr. Young is a living example of the American spirit, a man who answered the call of our nation in its time of need. As one of the dwindling number of WWII veterans, his story is one that needs to be cherished and shared so that we may continue to learn from their example. Mr. Young personifies both courage and patriotism and there is no doubt that he is part of the Greatest Generation. It is my hope that Mr. Young will continue to share his story so that we will never forget the lessons of his sacrifice. I wish Mr. Young and his entire family well, and thank him for his service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the incredible legacy of Mr. Wendell Young.

RECOGNIZING WORLD KIDNEY DAY

HON. ROBIN L. KELLY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, we recognize World Kidney Day and the impact of Chronic Kidney Disease, or CKD, across the globe. In the U.S., 26 million adults have kidney disease and 1-in-3 is at risk. We have to reverse this trend.

African Americans, in particular, suffer from kidney failure at more than three times the rate of Caucasians and constitute more than 32 percent of all patients receiving dialysis for kidney failure. A study says that Hispanics develop kidney failure at a rate of 2:1 compared to Whites. Improving care earlier to stop or slow progression of the disease, and improving access to kidney transplantation for those who do experience kidney failure, are successful tools in order to assist millions of Americans impacted by CKD.

Over 675,000 Americans have irreversible kidney failure, or end-stage renal disease, and need dialysis or a kidney transplant to survive. CKD shortens life expectancy by 5–11 years and more than 95,000 people died of kidney disease last year. Those with diabetes, high blood pressure, a family history of kidney failure, aged 60 or older, or from minority populations are at the greatest risk.

In order to avoid an irreversible stage, there are two simple, quick, and inexpensive tests for chronic kidney disease. If caught early, diet, exercise, and medications can help slow or even reverse some of the damage caused by kidney disease, allowing patients a better life.

I had the opportunity to meet with kidney patients, including Leilah Sampson from Chicago, who is a volunteer with the National Kidney Foundation. When she was 19, Leilah was studying to be a nurse at the historic Tuskegee University when she discovered that she had kidney disease. It quickly progressed to kidney failure, and has since caused significant physical and mental health issues.

How many lives can be improved or saved by a simple set of tests that costs \$80 to \$140? More needs to be done in order to promote testing by physicians and reward them

for identifying and managing this chronic disease. In addition, empowering patients through education can help allow them to make informed decisions about all available treatments, further improving their lives.

As Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust, I am committed to working with Congress and stakeholders in the public health and research communities to promote strategies to fight kidney disease.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I will vote against H.R. 1301, the Fiscal Year 2017 Department of Defense (DOD) Appropriations Act.

The legislation includes several provisions that I strongly support, including giving service men and women a well-deserved raise of 2.1 percent. The bill provides much-needed funding to address traumatic brain injuries, PTSD, sexual assault and suicide prevention, and vital cancer research. It also includes funding for Ukraine and Eastern Europe security initiatives to counter Russia's heightened military provocations and annexation of Crimea.

However, H.R. 1301 funds provisions I do not support, including \$61.8 billion to the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) fund, an account which is not subject to the budgetary caps imposed on all other discretionary programs, and is used as a slush fund by the Pentagon.

Unlike every other federal agency, the DOD has been unable to complete a financial audit to inform taxpayers how the biggest bureaucracy in the federal government spends their money. In fact, a shocking report released last December exposed \$125 billion in administrative waste that the Pentagon tried to bury from being viewed by the public. I refuse to support increased bureaucratic waste at the expense of American taxpayers. A more accountable and transparent department would ensure more taxpayer money is directed towards the needs of our troops and the benefits they deserve rather than buying unnecessary weapon systems, sustaining a Cold War era military force, and giving the President a blank check to fund wars Congress hasn't authorized.

Along with bloated defense spending, the bill prohibits the closing of Guantanamo Bay, which costs more than \$100 million each year and has been used as a top recruiting tool by terrorists. Frankly, the prison at Guantanamo Bay has been a black eye for the United States. It has eroded relationships with our allies, undermined U.S. missions abroad, and put U.S. citizens and our troops at risk of retaliation in places where the Geneva Conventions are not followed.

Congress can make responsible cuts to the DOD budget without jeopardizing the safety of our troops or undermining our national security.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
CAPTAIN DALE HARRIS, JAGC, USN
CORPS, U.S. NAVY (RET)

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Dale Harris, JAGC, USN (ret), who recently retired after 23 years of combined active duty and reserve service to our nation with the United States Navy.

Captain Harris was born in Two Harbors, Minnesota and raised in nearby Duluth. After graduating first in his class at East High School in 1985, he received a Bachelor's of Mechanical Engineering degree from the University of Minnesota in 1990. He subsequently earned his J.D. from Hamline University School of Law, cum laude, in 1993 and began his Navy career.

Captain Harris served on active duty in the Navy JAG Corps from 1993–2000. He was an honors graduate of the Naval Justice School and winner of the school's trial advocacy competition. He spent three years assigned to Everett and Bremerton, Washington, serving stints both as a defense attorney and as a prosecutor, where he handled more than fifty courts-martial and forty administrative discharge boards, quickly gaining notoriety as one of the Navy's best young litigators. Captain Harris then worked as appellate defense counsel at the Navy-Marine Corps Appellate Review Activity in Washington, D.C. In that role, he filed briefs in over one hundred cases, and argued twenty-five cases before military appellate courts. Following his release from active duty in 2000, Captain Harris continued his military service in the Navy Reserve, including distinguished tours as a judge on the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals and as the Commanding Officer of the Navy and Marine Corps Appellate Review Activity support unit. Over the past 23 years, he earned a well-deserved reputation as one of the preeminent uniformed lawyers of his generation in the area of appellate litigation. For his outstanding service to our Nation, Captain Harris earned numerous personal awards, including four Meritorious Service Medals, three Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and three Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

Captain Harris returned home to northeastern Minnesota in 2000 and served the citizens of Minnesota's Eighth District as an attorney in private practice and later as an Assistant St. Louis County Attorney, where he handled state and federal civil litigation, and provided counsel for the sheriff and Arrowhead Regional Corrections. He continued his appellate work by arguing cases at the Minnesota Court of Appeals, Minnesota Supreme Court, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. Since 2010, Captain Harris has served his community as a state District Court Judge chambered in Duluth, establishing himself as a fair-minded and extremely capable jurist. The integrity, work ethic and leadership skills that were the hallmark of his military career will continue to define his ongoing public service as a judge.

I commend Captain Harris for his commitment to our country and the sacrifices he and his family made on its behalf. On the occasion