

RECOGNIZING BARBARA CLELAND

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2017

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude for Barbara Cleland, the Aurora City Councilwoman at-large, for her extraordinary work and dedication to the city of Aurora for the past three decades. Her leadership has contributed to many of Aurora's most successful programs and initiatives.

Barb Cleland has made the decision to retire from politics so that she may spend more time with her family and five grand-children. Her tenure in local politics was one that brought positive change and development to a city that has experienced great growth since she was first elected.

Throughout her tenure, Councilwoman Cleland has sought to advance this city to its greatest potential. From relocating the University of Colorado Health Center, to putting stop signs on a street, her work is as meticulous as it is beneficial to the community around her. Despite retiring from the City Council, she will continue serving on the board for the Aurora Housing Authority, the Colorado State Housing Board, and as the Legislative and Community Relations director at Aurora Mental Health. Her focus on Public Safety, Courts, and Civil Service during her decades of dedicated service on the City Council for the City of Aurora reveals her commitment to her constituents and to their well-being.

Barb Cleland has enhanced the quality of life for every citizen in the City of Aurora. Her leadership during the last 28 years have made the City of Aurora the great place it is today.

Mr. Speaker, a great nation cannot exist without great representatives in local government. I believe that Ms. Barbara Cleland is among the very best and I am very grateful for her unyielding dedication to public service.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAMS THAT PREPARE STUDENTS FOR CAREERS IN CYBERSECURITY

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2017

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a House Resolution supporting the development of programs that prepare students for careers in cybersecurity.

As a Member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I have come to understand that we need to invest in our nation's students to make sure our country is prepared to combat the cyber challenges of the 21st century. It is critical that the United States develop cybersecurity programs that allow students to keep up with the demands of rapidly evolving technology and to address the risks associated with cyber threats.

The United States faces a critical shortage of trained cybersecurity professionals, a shortage that includes an estimated 10,000 cybersecurity employment openings in the Federal Government alone. This number is likely to

grow to as many as one million unfilled positions throughout the United States by 2019. Educating and training our students is vital to bolster the cyber capabilities of our government, military, and private sector.

By encouraging students to develop cyber skills, we can begin to work towards building robust cybersecurity education. It is well known that early exposure to skills such as computer programming and ethical hacking increases accessibility to higher education and can encourage students to pursue a career in cybersecurity.

Over the years, the United States has become a target of a growing number of malicious cyber attacks, including large-scale breaches that compromise the personal identities and personal information of millions of Americans. These cyber threats pose a significant risk to the protection of our critical infrastructure, privacy, and national security.

It is essential that our country continues to support the development of cybersecurity education programs to ensure the United States is protected from cyber attacks. Our students are the key to the future, and we must do everything we can to make sure they are equipped with the skills necessary to combat the cyber challenges of the 21st century.

CONGRATULATING THE JEFFERSON CITY JAY'S BASEBALL TEAM

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2017

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Jefferson City Jays' Baseball Team for their 2017 Missouri Class 5 Baseball State Championship.

This team and their coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the State championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the Jefferson City Jays' Baseball Team for a job well done.

H.R. 2810, THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

HON. PETER A. DEFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2017

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, I voted against H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018.

The legislation includes several provisions that I strongly support, including giving servicemen and women a well-deserved raise of 2.4 percent. Those who serve in uniform have made extraordinary sacrifices for our country and have earned and deserve a pay raise. It also includes funding for Ukraine and Eastern Europe security initiatives to counter Russia's heightened military provocations and annexation of Crimea.

Despite these important initiatives, I have strong concerns with H.R. 2810. This legisla-

tion authorizes more than \$688.3 billion, which is \$70.4 billion more than the FY 2017 authorized level and \$28.5 billion more than the president's request. This includes \$74.6 billion to the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) fund, an account which is not counted in the budget and is not paid for. It adds to the deficit and is used as a slush fund by the Pentagon.

Unlike every other federal agency, the Department of Defense (DOD) refuses to complete a financial audit so taxpayers know 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 and our men and women in uniform. A more accountable and transparent department would ensure taxpayer dollars are 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.

I have always advocated for maintaining Congress's constitutionally-confirmed prerogative to declare war under the War Powers Act and limiting the President's authority to engage in armed conflict without the consent of Congress. I strongly oppose the NDAA's continued authorization of spending for wars that are not congressionally approved. The Pentagon uses the 2001 Authorization of Use of Military Force (AUMF) to continue to justify the 16 years our troops have been fighting in the Middle East. In his short time in office, President Trump has already sent troops to Iraq, Syria and elsewhere without seeking a new Authorization of Use of Military Force (AUMF), a violation of the War Powers Act.

Additionally, the bill prohibits the closing of Guantanamo Bay, which costs more than \$100 million each year to house 41 prisoners 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, has eroded relationships with our allies, undermined U.S. missions abroad, and put U.S. citizens and our troops at risk of retaliation.

Congress can make responsible cuts to our defense budget without jeopardizing the safety of our troops or undermining our national security. Fiscal responsibility and accountability at the Pentagon would allow for funds to be better spent supporting the basic needs of our troops, meeting our obligations to veterans of past wars, and ensuring our true defense needs are prioritized.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2017

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes in the afternoon of July 18, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 385; NAY on Roll Call No. 386; NAY on Roll Call No. 387; NAY on