

strategic partnership with Taiwan. As our tenth largest trading partner and a critical geopolitical counterbalance to Chinese expansionism, Taiwan deserves the full attention of our government.

On January 4, 2018, China's civil aviation authority unilaterally announced that it would activate four air routes along its southeast coast near Taiwan, consisting of the M503 route and three east-west extension routes. These new air routes endanger aviation safety and threaten the delicate cross-strait status quo between China and Taiwan. China's newly declared air routes also violate International Civil Aviation Organization regulations and international norms. This unilateral action risks stoking instability in an already tense region and demonstrates China's bullying behavior towards its smaller neighbors.

Our relationship with Taiwan is crucial for preserving Taipei's independence and maintaining the beacon of liberty in East Asia. We are Taiwan's largest foreign investor and third largest trading partner. Over the years, the United States has provided Taiwan with billions of dollars in defense equipment to deter repeated Chinese aggression. Let us not forget that China is not a free society and has for decades aspired to subjugate Taiwan to its communist rule.

If we do not challenge Chinese unilateral action at each juncture, Beijing's influence, military power, and economic might are sure to dominate the region—dimming the prospect of freedom for millions. Our allies in the region and our strategic interests are threatened by China's campaign of expansion. Right now, Taiwan and the greater region look to the United States to check the aggressive, communist regime in China. China's incursion on Taiwanese air routes echoes its seizure of international waters in the South China Sea as well as its territorial disputes with our Indian and Japanese allies.

The United States should act to restore consultations between Chinese and Taiwanese authorities regarding aviation routes. We should target a rollback of China's aviation routes to the status quo and allow Taiwan to negotiate for an agreement on this controversial airspace. Small and subtle incursions on Taiwan by China should not be mistaken as insignificant. They represent a larger Chinese strategy to intimidate neighbors and bend international order towards its will. We must stand firm with our allies and block Beijing's efforts to dominate the region. And that's just the way it is.

COST ESTIMATE ON H.R. 4555, THE
DHS INTERAGENCY COUNTER-
TERRORISM TASK FORCE ACT OF
2017

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2018

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, the following cost estimate for H.R. 4555, the DHS Interagency Counterterrorism Task Force Act of 2017, prepared by the Congressional Budget Office was not made available to the Committee at the time of filing of the legislative report.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, January 26, 2018.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 4555, the DHS Interagency Counterterrorism Task Force Act of 2017.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Mark Grabowicz.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL, *Director*.

Enclosure.

H.R. 4555—DHS INTERAGENCY
COUNTERTERRORISM TASK FORCE ACT OF 2017
As passed by the House of Representatives
on January 9, 2018

H.R. 4555 would authorize Customs and Border Protection in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to assign personnel to participate in overseas interagency task forces to combat the threat of terrorism. DHS is currently carrying out activities similar to those that would be authorized by the act; thus, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4555 would not significantly affect spending by DHS.

Enacting H.R. 4555 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4555 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

H.R. 4555 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. The estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

USS "PUEBLO" 50TH
ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2018

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the capture of the USS *Pueblo* by North Korea so I rise today in honor of her crew members and their unwavering courage.

The USS *Pueblo* is an intelligence ship named after the city of Pueblo, located in Colorado's Third Congressional District. On January 23, 1968 she was attacked and captured by North Korean forces while sailing in international waters during the Cold War. The unlawful seizure of the USS *Pueblo* resulted in the imprisonment and torture of 82 of her crew members. Tragically, one crew member died during the seizure of the ship.

For 11 months, the crew was subjected to brutal torture at the hands of their North Korean captors. In recent years, survivors have recounted being forced to walk around the floor on their knees, holding chairs over their heads for long periods of time, being slapped, punched and hit with gun butts, and having firearms held to their heads with threats of death if they did not reveal classified information.

While the United States government was eventually able to negotiate the freedom of the crew members, unfortunately, the USS *Pueblo*

was never released by North Korea and remains in their possession. It sits in the Potong River in Pyongyang where it serves as propaganda for the North Korean government. The state of Colorado, Pueblo County, and Pueblo have all passed resolutions and proclamations requesting the return of the ship, but to no avail. I too would like to see our ship returned home.

In 1989, the United States government finally recognized the crew members' sacrifice and granted them Prisoner of War Medals. However, the public didn't truly become aware of the gruesome torture that the crew endured until 2012, when the National Security Agency released a classified report detailing the abuse and the loss of intelligence documents.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely thankful for the service of the crew members of the USS *Pueblo*. In the face of great adversity they survived brutal conditions, starvation, and torture, both physical and psychological. On behalf of Colorado's Third Congressional District I would like to express my deepest gratitude for their bravery. It is my great privilege to honor them and remember their sacrifice here today.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF POLICE CHIEF JOHN D.
MANDARINO

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2018

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Monessen Police Chief John D. "Mando" Mandarino on his recent retirement from the Monessen Police Department in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

Chief Mandarino first joined the City of Monessen as a police officer in May, 1990. From that point on, John became a decorated officer within the local force and the State because of his leadership in helping combat the ongoing opioid crisis that his community and Pennsylvania faces. His dedication propelled him through the ranks, eventually he became Chief of the Department in June of 2013.

In 2003, Mandarino was presented with the Outstanding Police Performance Award from the Pennsylvania Narcotics Officers Association and an accommodation from the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office for his work investigating and arresting three illegal drug dealers within the City. As his career continued, Mandarino became vital in arrests in both the City of Monessen and Westmoreland County. Not only is John respected amongst his peers on the force, he is also a respected member of the community where his heroism to the people of Monessen will never be forgotten.

Today I am honored to recognize John Mandarino for his exceptional law enforcement career and his many accomplishments. His impact on the community has been too great to put into words, and he has represented Western Pennsylvania and Westmoreland County with great distinction. May God continue to bless Chief Mandarino, his wife Kelly and son Gianni, and may he continue to bless all the men and women in the law enforcement community.