

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5515) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Chair, I thank the Speaker for allowing a vote on my amendment, number 17, which would for the first time include blast exposure history in service records. This would drastically improve the care our service members receive when they return from theater by identifying injuries sustained from blasts on the field.

This bipartisan policy was recently recommended by the Center for a New American Security, and is supported by my co-chair of the Brain Injury Task Force, Congressman THOMAS J. ROONEY (R-FL), as well as independent researchers and brain injury advocates.

The effects of our service members' repeated exposure to blast events are largely unknown and could take years to show up. Accurate records of blast exposure, including during training, are needed to improve our understanding of blast-induced brain injury.

NDAAs in recent years have authorized funding for critical programs like DOD's Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury Research Program. Throughout the appropriations process, I hope to see continued funding for this and other brain injury programs at Defense, such as the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center and the National Intrepid Center of Excellence.

This funding, coupled with this amendment, will allow us to further understand and improve the care provided to service members who have sustained a brain injury.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to attending the graduation of my eldest son, Eli Westerman, from Yale University, I was unable to attend votes on Monday, May 21, 2018. Had I been present in the House of Representatives, I would have voted Aye on Roll Call No. 207 (H.R. 4830—SIT—REP Act); Roll Call No. 208 (H.R. 4451—Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act); and Roll Call No. 209 (H.R. 3832—Veterans Opioid Abuse Prevention).

IN RECOGNITION OF JERRY FORTE

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, for over twelve years, Jerry Forte has served the Colorado Springs area tirelessly and with great success as CEO for Colorado Springs Utilities. During his tenure, Mr. Forte oversaw production of electric, natural gas, and water services for over a half million customers in our area. In his work, he has streamlined large projects in order to save customers money and improve overall efficiency. He will retire this year, but not without leaving a lasting legacy—he has delivered reliable service and low rates to our communities.

He also operated the nearly \$1 billion utility budget with a high degree of professionalism and incredible stewardship. Community leaders like Mr. Forte are the reason our region thrives and remains one of the best places to live in the nation. As a Colorado Springs native, he understands and appreciates that.

Mr. Forte returned to his hometown of Colorado Springs after serving the communities of Sterling, Colorado and Woodland Park, Colorado. He also worked in the private sector as a consulting engineer. He managed Johnson Control's five-service utility in support of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, where he received awards for excellence in customer satisfaction and leadership excellence. He also has several publications to his credit.

Mr. Forte is dedicated to delivering safe and reliable public water and power. I'm extremely thankful for his service and commitment. Our region has been in good hands. Mr. Forte, thank you for over twelve years as CEO of Colorado Springs Utilities and decades more of service to our state. I wish him well and I pray that God will bless him in whatever he decides to do next.

RECOGNIZING JAY ROBERTS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Jay Roberts, who is retiring after thirty years of dedicated service in music education and as a community leader.

Mr. Roberts began his career in 1988 as a part-time elementary music education teacher while working at home repairing musical instruments. He began teaching full-time at Brentwood Union School District in 1990. In 1995, he entered the Elk Grove School District system, teaching music education at Harriet Eddy Middle School, and will retire as the music director for the award-winning Toby Johnson Middle School Band in Elk Grove, where he's taught since 2001.

Mr. Roberts has served admirably as an outstanding and accomplished music educator and leader in our community. He can be credited with the recognition of Toby Johnson's Middle School Jaguar Marching Band and Color Guard, an award-winning marching and jazz band. As a music education teacher, Mr. Roberts has impacted the lives of hundreds of students, giving them a sense of confidence and accomplishment. He's challenged them in a way to make them realize their potential, and the results are an award-winning middle school music program—an incredible accomplishment. In the community, he founded the Elk Grove Community Concert band, the Jay Roberts Swingtime Orchestra and he also conducts for River City Theater Company.

Mr. Roberts holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from California State University, Fullerton and completed his graduate work at California State University, Hayward.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Roberts has served our student community with admirable leadership, passion and dedication. He leaves a remarkable legacy. It is my honor to thank him for the positive impacts he's had on his students and wish him the very best for an enjoyable retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for Roll Call No. 165 (H.R. 4, FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018). Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes" on this vote.

HONORING BARKEATER CHOCOLATES ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Ms. STEFANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Barkeater Chocolates on its 10th anniversary.

In 2008, Debbie Morris decided to turn her passion for chocolate into a business. With the help of her husband, Jim, she set out to provide the Adirondacks with artisanal chocolate. The Morris's renovated an old home into a chocolate factory and retail store in the North Creek area, and have not stopped making chocolate since.

Unsatisfied with the lack of variety and quality of chocolates available in their community, the Morris's set out to provide the North Country the delicious sweets it deserves. Barkeater Chocolates proudly offers dozens of flavors of truffles, caramels, bars, bark, peanut butter cups, and cocoa. Now a thriving business,

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