

Finally, it imposes a lifetime ban on former Members becoming lobbyists, because there should be no doubt that Members come to Congress to serve the public, not to line their own pockets.

It is up to Congress to take the tough but necessary steps to earn the public's trust. The American people's faith in Congress has been damaged, and it is our job to repair it.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF ERNIE SIMONS

(Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Ernie Simons, a longtime Georgia resident, a brave hero of the Vietnam war, and a dedicated public servant who has worked tirelessly on behalf of the men and women who have served in our Armed Forces.

Having first served as a marine in Vietnam, Mr. Simons continued to serve as an employee of the Georgia Department of Veterans Service. During his 30 years there, he worked in a number of capacities, including as the director of the Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery and director of the Health and Memorials division of the Georgia Department of Veterans Service.

In April, the community renamed Veterans Drive, a road adjacent to the veterans home where Mr. Simons dedicated so many years, as Ernie Simons Veterans Way. There is perhaps no better tribute for a man who has given countless hours and his undivided attention to our local heroes than to have this road named in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please stand with me to honor the life and legacy of this Georgia hero, greatly deserving the respect of all Americans.

#### 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS

(Mr. ARRINGTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special group who will celebrate their 75th anniversary this Saturday in Sweetwater, Texas: the Women Airforce Service Pilots.

When the forces of fascism and totalitarianism were upending the entire global order, it took every ounce of our Nation's measure and every man and woman to win World War II.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, 28 female pilots volunteered to form America's first female squadron. From 1942 to 1944, over 1,000 women trained to fly "the Army way" at Avenger Airfield in west Texas.

As the first women to fly American military aircraft, they logged more than 60 million flight hours, flying

every plane in the military's arsenal. They ferried equipment, towed gunnery targets, and flight-tested aircraft, serving at over 120 bases across America so we could win the war abroad.

These brave ladies were vital to the war effort and, ultimately, to our victory. Seventy-five years later, their legacy continues to inspire us all.

God bless these female freedom fighters who served with less recognition than their male counterparts at the time, but with no less honor and distinction.

God bless America, and go west Texas.

#### DEMOCRACY REFORM

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, President Trump promised to drain the swamp. In reality, he has made corruption much worse here in Washington.

Yesterday, we learned that a foreign government paid the President's personal attorney \$400,000 for a meeting with President Trump; the Secretary of the Treasury requested a government plane for his honeymoon; the VA Secretary took a \$125,000 taxpayer-funded trip to Europe with his spouse; and the Republicans who control Congress have done nothing about it. They are putting politics ahead of our country by turning a blind eye to this administration's corruption, and they are focusing on getting things done for their wealthy donors instead of their constituents.

The culture of corruption must end. That is why, early this week, Democrats introduced A Better Deal for our democracy: a bold, comprehensive proposal to bolster our Nation's ethics laws, overhaul our campaign finance system, and create more transparency and accountability so government works for all of the American people.

That is the Better Deal the American people deserve; that is the Better Deal Democrats will deliver; and that is why Democrats are fighting for it.

#### RECOGNIZING OFFICER MARK DALLAS

(Mr. KINZINGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KINZINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Dixon Police Officer Mark Dallas, for his heroic actions during the shooting incident at Dixon High School last week.

On the morning of Wednesday, May 16, a student opened fire inside Dixon High School. Without hesitation, Officer Dallas chased down the student and returned fire. He disarmed the shooter and took him into custody.

The swift, decisive actions by Officer Dallas demonstrate the difference between a job and one's calling. His fearless sacrifices are core to who Mark is and who God called him to be.

As more details emerge surrounding the shooting incident, one thing is certain: Officer Dallas is an American hero. He stepped into harm's way to prevent a terrible tragedy and saved countless lives. He heroically protected the students, including his own son Josh, the faculty and staff, and the entire Dixon community.

Mr. Speaker, it is the men and women of our law enforcement, like Officer Dallas, who embody the very best of who we are as a nation. The courageous service of America's finest is truly the thin blue line between order and chaos.

On behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I thank Officer Mark Dallas for his bravery and heroism, for his steadfast commitment to protection and serving, for being a role model to so many, and for making us all Dixon strong.

#### STOP HIDING THE TRUTH

(Mr. JEFFRIES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, while Democrats continue to focus on better jobs, better wages, and a better future for hardworking Americans, Republican indifference to the chaos, crisis, and corruption in this town, for example, at the EPA, is at an all-time high.

Why in the world, in the context of the fact that we have 17 different intelligence agencies who concluded that Russia interfered with the election and an ongoing investigation into whether the Trump campaign was involved in selling out our democracy, do some folks continue to try to undermine this investigation?

The ongoing criminal inquiry is a legitimate undertaking. It is not a witch hunt. In fact, everyone leading that investigation is a Republican: Bob Mueller, Republican; Rod Rosenstein, Republican; James Comey, Republican; Christopher Wray, Republican.

What exactly are you all complaining about? It is time for the cover-up caucus in this institution to stop hiding the truth from the American people.

#### NATIONAL POPPY DAY

(Mr. BOST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, on May 25, we celebrate National Poppy Day.

After World War I, the poppy flourished in Europe. Scientists said the growth was because the soil in France and Belgium became enriched with lime from the rubble left by the war. From the dirt and mud grew beautiful red poppies.

The red poppy came to symbolize the blood shared during battle following the publication of a wartime poem, "In Flanders Fields," by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae while serving on the front lines.

The poppy honors those who served and died for our country in all wars and

reminds the American people of the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedom.

To those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, we say thank you.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, May 24, 2018.

The Hon. PAUL D. RYAN  
The Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 24, 2018, at 8:12 a.m.:

That the Senate agrees to the House amendment to the bill. S. 2372.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 121.

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 5515.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 908 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5515.

Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI) kindly take the chair.

□ 0914

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of 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, with Mr. AMODEI (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, May 23, 2018, amendments en bloc printed in House Report 115-702 offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY) had been disposed of.

□ 0915

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. THORNBERRY OF TEXAS

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to House Resolution 908, I offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 4 consisting of amendment Nos. 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, and 109 printed in House Report 115-702, offered by Mr. THORNBERRY of Texas:

AMENDMENT NO. 93 OFFERED BY MR. CUELLAR OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle B of title III, insert the following:

SEC. 3 . CORE SAMPLING AT JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS.

(a) SITE INVESTIGATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Air Force shall conduct a core sampling study along the proposed route of the W-6 wastewater treatment line on Air Force real property, in compliance with best engineering practices, to determine if any regulated or hazardous substances are present in the soil along the proposed route.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the results of the core samples taken pursuant to subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 94 OFFERED BY MR. YARMUTH OF KENTUCKY

At the end of subtitle C of title XV, add the following new section:

SEC. 15 . ENDURING COSTS FUNDED THROUGH OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

Beginning with the submission of the annual budget for fiscal year 2020, and for each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress, as a part of the documentation that supports the President's annual budget for the Department of Defense for such fiscal year (as submitted to Congress under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code), an estimate for the costs of operations currently supported in part or in whole by funding for overseas contingency operations that are likely to continue beyond such contingency. The Secretary shall ensure that each estimate is consistent with the recommendations included in the Government Accountability Report entitled "Overseas Contingency Operations: OMB and DOD Should Revise the Criteria for Determining Eligible Costs and Identify the Costs Likely to Endure Long Term" published January 18, 2017.

AMENDMENT NO. 95 OFFERED BY MR. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY OF NEW YORK

At the end of subtitle F of title V, add the following new section:

SEC. 5 . INFORMATION REGARDING COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS.

(a) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary of Defense, and with respect to members of the Coast Guard, the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating when it is not operating as a service in the Navy, shall ensure that a member of the Armed Forces who is separating or retiring from the Armed Forces may elect to have the Department of Defense form DD-214 of the member transmitted to the appropriate county veterans service officer based on the mailing address provided by the member.

(b) DATABASE.—The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Vet-

erans Affairs, shall maintain a database of all county veterans service officers.

(c) COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER DEFINED.—In this section, the term "county veterans service officer" means an employee of a county government, local government, or Tribal government who is covered by section 14.629(a)(2) of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations.

AMENDMENT NO. 96 OFFERED BY MR. CORREA OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of title X, add the following new section:

SEC. 10 . STUDY ON RECRUITMENT OF STUDENTS WITH EXPERIENCE IN CERTAIN TECHNICAL FIELDS.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a study to determine how the Department of Defense can attract and recruit from institutions of higher education, including the institutions described in subsection (b), students with educational backgrounds in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including the fields of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and cybersecurity.

(b) INSTITUTIONS DESCRIBED.—The institutions described in this subsection are—

(1) Hispanic Serving Institutions (as defined in section 502 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a));

(2) Historically Black Colleges and Universities (as defined in section 322 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1061)); and

(3) Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (as defined in Section 371(c) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1067q(c)).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 97 OFFERED BY MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle C of title XV, add the following new section:

SEC. 15 . COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON USE OF FUNDS PROVIDED BY OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on how funds authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2018 for overseas contingency operations were obligated.

(b) FORM.—The report under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

AMENDMENT NO. 98 OFFERED BY MR. ROHRBACHER OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle B of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12 . SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO DR. SHAKIL AFRIDI.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The attacks of September 11, 2001, killed approximately 3,000 people, most of whom were Americans, but also included hundreds of individuals with foreign citizenships, nearly 350 New York Fire Department personnel, and about 50 law enforcement officers.

(2) Downed United Airlines flight 93 was reportedly intended, under the control of the al-Qaeda high-jackers, to crash into the White House or the Capitol in an attempt to kill the President of the United States or Members of the United States Congress.

(3) The September 11, 2001, attacks were largely planned and carried out by the al-Qaeda terrorist network led by Osama bin