

Santa Barbara VA on July 1, 1982. In 1995, as the youngest primary care physician on staff, Dr. Gaines was promoted to Chief Medical Officer by the VA Greater Los Angeles System, and remained the clinic's leader and advocate for twenty-three years.

During his decades with the VA, Dr. Gaines has remained unsinkable, despite relentless and conflicting demands, perpetual resource shortages, and high leader turnover within the Los Angeles VA system, and the VA Central Office.

Despite the persistent challenges of his career, in the last decade Dr. Gaines became a volunteer with the Doctors without Walls and provided weekly "street medicine" to the homeless in our community. He also volunteered to be trained for the Federal Employee Response Team, serving victims of disasters in our country. In 2005, along with his VA team, the Santa Barbara Independent honored Dr. Gaines as a "Local Hero".

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join with the VA Santa Barbara and the VA Greater Los Angeles in celebrating the exemplary thirty-six-year career of Dr. Robert Gaines as he retires. His leadership and commitment to our Veterans has been both exceptional and unprecedented.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I had an urgent family commitment that caused me to miss my normal flight, and therefore evening votes. I, like the rest of this body, am fully committed to fighting the opioid epidemic. Had I been able to vote, I would have joined my colleagues in supporting the opioid combatting legislation that passed the House yesterday.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5895) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019 and for other purposes:

Mr. KIND. Mr. Chair, I will vote against H.R. 5895, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, because the process failed to live up to the Majority's promise of regular order, didn't invest in Americans back home, and included controversial policy riders that have no place in appropriations bills. Rather than investing in Americans by fully funding critical domestic programs, this bill overspends on wasteful programs under the guise of national security. Further, it included controversial policy riders, which

should be considered under their own merit—not hidden in a spending bill.

I am particularly concerned about the additional money in the bill that is allocated for new weapons systems that may actually threaten our national security. In particular, the bill included new funding for nuclear weapons activities at the expense of critical defense nonproliferation accounts, while offering little evidence as to how new nuclear weapons could be used to improve national security.

Despite voting against the bill, I am happy to see over \$52 million provided to the VA to implement the Jason Simcakoski PROMISE Act. The funding will assist in increasing programs to help medical professionals and patients understand the risks associated with pain medication and examine alternative treatments. I am also encouraged that the bill included over \$196 million for veteran suicide prevention, \$5.6 billion for homeless veterans' treatment costs, and \$270 million for rural health initiatives. These efforts will help address the opioid epidemic and give veterans and their families the tools they need and the accountability they deserve.

I understand how important it is to provide ample support for our military, which is why I recently voted in favor the National Defense Authorization Act. Supporting the brave men and women who defend this nation is of paramount importance; however, we should not be inserting partisan riders into our spending bills. I will continue to work with my colleagues to support our military and pursue fiscally responsible policies that invest in Americans.

TRIBUTE TO ANAHEIM UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the notable contributions and meaningful progress made by the Anaheim Union High School District (AUHSD) to protect its 30,000 students by taking unprecedented actions to implement school safety measures, including the installation of a pioneering digital mapping system at my alma mater, Anaheim High School.

This technology can potentially save the lives of teachers, students and first responders, especially critical in a time when hundreds of students have been victims of gun violence in more than 200 school shootings. In 2018 alone, there have been 20 incidents in which someone was injured with in firearm on the campus of an U.S. school.

More than 214,000 students have experienced gun violence at 216 schools since Columbine. The Washington Post found that at least 141 children, educators and other individuals have been killed in assaults, and another 284 have been injured.

Anaheim High is the first school in the nation to be digitally mapped using technology developed by former law enforcement officer, David Sobel, whose wife and mother are both public school teachers.

This new technology will provide up-to-date floor plans, aerial maps and site plans virtually to responders within minutes of an emergency.

Through the use of 15,000, 360-degree high resolution photos, the digital map will provide first responders with important details such as potential hiding places, what furniture or other materials could be used as a barricade, and even what kinds of locks and hinges are on the doors.

What's more, the AUHSD is actively embracing its philosophy that "school safety means physical, intellectual and emotional safety" by enacting mental health initiatives to create positive school climates that promote kindness and compassion.

A dedicated team of social workers provide intensive mental health and crisis intervention services and they work with numerous community partners to raise awareness about adverse childhood experiences (or trauma), and to identify mental health issues at early stages and develop coping skills.

In addition, the AUHSD is to be commended for its establishment of Southern California's first high school Cybersecurity Pathway through collaborations with the business and education community.

Also notable is the District's creation of an Offensive Security Society and the formation of high school chapters to teach students how to ethically and proactively discover weaknesses in technology systems and to make corrections before the weaknesses elevate to crisis level.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Anaheim Union High School District for its leadership in addressing the critical issue of how to keep our students safe through a multi-faceted approach that employs pioneering technology and lessons in kindness and compassion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for votes on 6/12/2018.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 258; YEA on Roll Call No. 259; and YEA on Roll Call No. 260.

REMEMBERING MR. RALPH RODRIGUEZ, JR.

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a great American hero, Mr. Ralph Rodriguez, Jr., who passed away this month at the age of 100. Mr. Rodriguez bravely served our country in World War II and survived years of inhumane treatment as a prisoner of war.

Born to Mexican immigrants, Mr. Rodriguez was sent to train in the Philippines prior the United States' entrance into the war, but was ambushed by Japanese forces on December 8, 1941, just hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor. After months of intense fighting, Mr. Rodriguez and his fellow servicemen were ordered to surrender. They were then forced to