

THE JOHN S. MCCAIN NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act of 2019, NDAA, provides crucial resources to our Armed Forces and our national defense. Although I have serious concerns with this law, many of its provisions play a vital role in strengthening our national security.

I championed numerous initiatives in this law that directly benefit the people of Maryland and our nation as a whole. The NDAA increases pay for our brave men and women in uniform by 2.6 percent. It authorizes essential funding for Federal agencies in Maryland, including the National Security Agency and U.S. Cyber Command. It includes resources for important infrastructure projects in Maryland, such as cleanup efforts in Edgewood and Aberdeen Proving Ground and road improvements at Fort Meade. It also ensures that the mission of the Defense Information Systems Agency and those working on it at Fort Meade will continue and protects thousands of jobs from potential loss.

I also support the NDAA's reforms to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States. These reforms, which I debated and supported in the Senate Banking Committee, balance our ability to maintain an open environment for foreign direct investment and to protect our national security. The reforms are essential in responding to foreign nations that strive to gain a strategic advantage over the United States through the acquisition of our advanced technologies.

However, I find several elements of this law detrimental to our national security. For instance, the law eliminates the requirement for congressional authorization for the development of low-yield nuclear weapons. It also authorizes \$65 million in funding for a new low-yield submarine-launched ballistic missile, an unnecessary new weapon that increases the risk of miscalculation and unintended escalation.

In addition, the NDAA authorizes over \$716 billion in defense funding for fiscal year 2019, a \$133 billion increase in the defense budget since President Trump assumed office. I look forward to working with the Defense Department to ensure additional funds are prioritized to improve readiness, enhance training, and focus our procurements on tomorrow's challenges—particularly those in the information space—but this steep expansion in military spending may reduce the Pentagon's incentives to address cost overruns of weapons systems. This dramatic increase in defense spending follows massive tax cuts for the wealthy and proposals from the administration to slash healthcare and other basic needs for middle-class families, which sets a fiscal course that weakens the Nation's long-term prosperity and security.

Furthermore, in his fiscal year 2019 budget request for the Defense Department, President Trump elevated the possibility of great power conflict with China. Secretary of Defense Mattis reiterated this in the 2019 National Defense Strategy, asserting that China was a "revisionist power" and "strategic competitor using predatory economics" to its advantage. Despite this, Republican conferees stripped a bipartisan provision that imposed tough sanctions on ZTE—a Chinese telecommunications company that has stolen U.S. technology, repeatedly violated our laws, and poses an espionage threat. Republicans removed this critical provision at the request of President Trump, who tweeted his intention to provide ZTE with sanctions relief because "Too many jobs in China lost." I remain deeply disappointed that Republican conferees caved to White House pressure and ZTE's lobbying efforts at the expense of the American people and our national security. I will continue to work with like-minded colleagues in the Senate to hold ZTE accountable.

Ultimately, however, the benefits of this law—for our country, for our security, and for the American people—outweigh my concerns; therefore, I voted in support of the fiscal year 2019 NDAA.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES DOWD

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Charles Dowd of Deer Lodge County, MT for his honorable service in uniform at a pivotal time in our Nation's history and as a leader in his community.

In January of 1941, at the age of 17, Charles volunteered for service at sea in the U.S. Navy. He completed boot camp in Newport, RI, and later communications school in San Diego. In September, as a basically trained radio operator, he was transferred to his first permanent duty station: Pearl Harbor, HI. Three months later, he would take his place in history.

On Sunday morning, December 7, just after completing a night shift, he and his fellow shipmates came under attack by more than 300 enemy aircraft. The Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service conducted a successful military strike on the heart of the U.S. Pacific Fleet—destroying or severely damaging 21 ships and claiming the lives of 2,400 Americans. In only a t-shirt and trousers, he sprinted from the barracks to the armory, where he climbed to the roof with a .30-06 Springfield rifle and began firing at the pilots of low-flying torpedo bombers. He suffered burns on his arms and neck from the nearby USS *California*, which was engulfed in flames.

Following the attacks on Pearl Harbor, Charles volunteered for duty in Solomon Islands during the bloody Guadalcanal campaign, where he earned the nickname "Devil Dog Dowd," harkening to the marines of

Belleau Wood in World War One. Once U.S. forces secured the islands, Dowd would climb a signal tower on the island of Tulagi and message a nearby destroyer that he was willing to exchange duties with any willing radioman. The ship's commodore, CAPT Arleigh Burke, accepted his request. Burke would later reach the rank of four-star admiral and serve as Chief of Naval Operations. In Burke's stateroom, Dowd shared his experiences at Pearl Harbor and Tulagi. Burke was so impressed by Dowd's fighting spirit, that he assigned Dowd as his flag radioman.

During the course of his service, Dowd was awarded seven Bronze Star medals. After the war, Charles and his wife returned stateside, where he worked in masonry and carpentry construction, before completing his degree at the University of Florida. After graduation, he spent the next 18 years passing on his knowledge of industrial arts and drafting to high school students. An avid sportsman with a passion for the outdoors, Dowd later relocated to Anaconda, MT. He has been an active member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, dedicated to preserving the memory of the events of World War II and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Charles continues to speak for civic groups and museums around the State.

It is my privilege to honor the life of this esteemed Montanan, who contributed so much to the preservation of freedom and improving the lives of others. On behalf of a grateful nation, I want to thank Charles, whose courage and selfless dedication to others are a hallmark for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO RICKY RALEY

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Purple Heart recipient Mr. Ricky Raley for his valiant service in the Indiana National Guard Alpha Company, Task Force 1-151. Also known as the Avengers, Task Force 1-151 covered more than 250,000 miles in convoy escorts and were continuously involved in combat operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Ricky served in Iraq from 2007 to 2008 and was stationed near Tikrit at COB Speicher. He served as a lead gun truckdriver for various patrols and security missions. In 2008, Ricky's truck activated an improvised explosive device, leaving Ricky with sustained traumatic brain injuries.

On April 17, 2009, Ricky was involved in a car accident causing paralysis from the waist down. Since then, Ricky has joined the Boot Campaign, a non-profit organization providing life-improving programs for veterans and military families. He also works with the Paralyzed Veterans of America, serving on the board of directors for the Kentucky-Indiana Chapter.

To remain active, Ricky has become a devoted handcyclist, training up to 6 days a week. Currently, Ricky is

handbiking from New York to Florida, covering 1,500 miles in 14 days to raise awareness for veterans across the Nation.

As a marine, it is with overwhelming pride that I recognize Ricky for his service to this country. As his journey progresses, I wish him the best of luck, and I look forward to his further contributions to our veterans and the great Hoosier State.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL DARREN W. MCDREW

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, it is my honor and privilege to pay tribute to an outstanding leader and warrior, Air Force Gen. Darren W. McDew, commander of U.S. Transportation Command. General McDew is retiring this month, having served this great Nation for 36 years and completing a most distinguished career.

General McDew graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1982, where he was regimental commander and received a degree in civil engineering. A command pilot in both the KC-135 and C-17, General McDew held assignments from Maine to California, while accumulating over 3,300 hours in 10 different types of aircraft.

His desire to serve grew from the example set by his father who achieved the rank of master sergeant in the Air Force. General McDew has commanded at virtually every level that the Air Force has to offer: squadron, group, wing, numbered Air Force, and major command. His first command was of the 14th Airlift Squadron at Charleston Air Force Base. He often speaks of his time leading the mighty Pelicans in the great State of South Carolina as being one of his most rewarding assignments.

A constant voice of reason, motivation, and inspiration, General McDew has devoted his life to this Nation. He has provided counsel to three Presidents, served as the Air Force liaison to the U.S. Senate, and built trust with the American people as the Air Force's Director of Public Affairs. I personally have sought his advice, as have my colleagues. The Members of this Chamber and workers across many parts of the Federal Government will miss his leadership and candor.

General McDew's illustrious career is culminating with his current position, where he leads the 144,000 men and women of U.S. Transportation Command. He is responsible for coordinating the Department of Defense's global deployment and distribution enterprise. His transformational leadership has bolstered readiness, increased cyber awareness and security, and prepared the Department of Defense for challenging transportation and logistics missions in the future. He challenged old ways of thinking and compelled the Joint Force to adapt and evolve for the dynamic and uncertain security environment of tomorrow.

For 36 years, his wife, Evelyn, has selflessly cared for the families under

his command and in their community. I cannot overstate the importance of the support the spouses and families provide to their servicemember in our Armed Forces. Service and sacrifice are not limited to just the servicemember, but often extends to the entire family. On behalf of the Senate, we thank Evelyn and their children, Keisha and Keith, for their dedicated service to our military and our Nation. The Air Force will not lose just General McDew, but an exceptional family as well upon his retirement.

I would like to help close out the final chapter of this inspiring airman and Joint Force leader's career with a heartfelt thank you from all the men and women of the U.S. Senate, the Congress, and Nation. General McDew, Godspeed. We thank you, Evelyn, and the entire McDew family, for their service over a remarkable 36-year career. We wish you well in your future endeavors, and we pray that those who follow in your footsteps do so in the same spirit of selfless service to our great Nation that you have so ably shown.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND G. HUNTHAUSEN

• Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, Today I wish to honor the memory of a Montana native who, through his faith and devotion to justice, touched the lives of thousands.

Raymond G. Hunthausen was born in the mining town of Anaconda.

Over the next two decades, he developed a strong faith in God, a devotion to humanity and peace, and a heart of compassion and advocacy.

He was ordained a priest for the diocese of Helena in 1946. He took over as president of Carroll College at the age of 35, where he taught, coached, and served as athletic director. In 1962, he was appointed bishop of Helena by Pope John XXIII. He attended the Second Vatican Council, which was convened by Pope John XXIII in the early 1960s to reconcile church teachings and practices with the modern world. He described the experience as transformative, and after, he set about making his mark on the church and on society.

In 1975, Pope Paul VI appointed Father Hunthausen archbishop of Seattle. Archbishop Hunthausen led reform efforts in the church. He led protests against nuclear weapons stockpiling, let a group of gay Catholics use a cathedral for mass, gave women leadership roles in the parish far before it was common, and defended the use of birth control. He wrote what is believed to be the first letter from an American bishop calling for the church to value the gifts of women equally with those of men.

He stood for peace and justice in all matters, even when it meant risking

condemnation from the church, and he advocated strongly for conservation and human rights, all while remaining a humble servant of his religion and his diocese.

Above all, Archbishop Hunthausen stood for those who couldn't stand for themselves.

His legacy is one of peace and compassion and unrelenting devotion to others. I stand here today to honor that legacy and to implore us all to reflect on the lessons he had to offer during his remarkable lifetime.●

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-286. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing its support of the right of American citizens to keep and bear arms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 87

Whereas, the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 11 of the Constitution of Louisiana guarantees the right of Louisiana citizens to keep and bear arms; and

Whereas, in recent years, Congress as well as certain states have passed laws which have eroded or attempted to erode the right of the citizens of this country to keep and bear arms; and

Whereas, Americans have the right to protect themselves at home with a firearm; and

Whereas, the United States Constitution recognizes that the right to keep and bear arms is necessary to the security of a free nation and for its citizens to protect themselves and their families; and

Whereas, there are some who would repeal or impair the right to keep and bear arms. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express support of the right of American citizens to keep and bear arms and does not support any actions that would impair or erode that right, including but not limited to the right of citizens to protect themselves and their families in their home; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-287. A resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Palm Springs, California memorializing its opposition to the separation of children from their families at the border, detaining immigrants and their children indefinitely, and criminally prosecuting immigrants lawfully seeking asylum, and calling on the United States Congress to immediately enact fair and humane comprehensive immigration reform; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute: