

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 5895, ENERGY AND WATER, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, AND MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

SPEECH OF  
**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 13, 2018*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank Ranking Member LOWEY and all of the Ranking Members of these subcommittees for their leadership and negotiation skills. This bill is truly a testament to Democratic leadership.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Appropriations Committee, I rise today to speak on H.R. 5895, the conference report that contains the Fiscal Year 2019 bills for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, Energy and Water, and the Legislative Branch.

While this is not a perfect bill, I support this bill, which provides \$8.8 million in new funding for Members to pay interns. As someone who started as an intern in the office of the late Congressman Ron Dellums, I know how important interns are to ensure that Capitol Hill runs smoothly.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Military-Veterans Affairs Subcommittee, I am proud that this bill provides a total of \$97.1 billion in spending—which is \$5.15 billion more than the fiscal year 2018—for our veterans.

The bill also includes important report language which ensures greater oversight of jointly managed projects between the VA and the Army Corps of Engineers, like the Alameda Point project in my district.

Finally, while this is a good bill, I worry that this bill is short-sighted and will not address future funding needs for the VA Mission Act. As the daughter of a veteran, I know that our servicemembers and their families make enormous sacrifices to serve our nation.

Their tireless service more than earns them our commitment to addressing this funding issue. So, I look forward to continuing to work on this and improve quality of life for our servicemembers and their families.

But I am deeply concerned, Mr. Speaker, about the \$65 million included in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill for a new low-yield nuclear weapon. I tried in Committee and on the Floor to cut this funding, but Republicans rejected my amendment.

Mr. Speaker, the warhead funded in this bill would set a dangerous precedent—that of arming our submarines with a low-yield ballistic missile—something that has never been done in the many decades of our nuclear deterrence.

What's worse—funding this warhead lowers the threshold for nuclear weapons use and could put us on a dangerous path to war.

And frankly our nation shouldn't just rely on building more nuclear weapons. We must ensure that diplomacy is our nation's first pathway to address these global challenges.

Mr. Speaker, we are making Americans less safe with this nuclear weapon. I am deeply disturbed with this inclusion and I hope my colleagues will join me in opposition to this funding of a nuclear weapon.

HONORING CHRIS MAZDZER FOR  
WINNING A SILVER MEDAL IN  
THE 2018 WINTER OLYMPICS

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 24, 2018*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chris Mazdzer, who made history at the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Pyeong Chang.

Hailing from our very own Saranac Lake, New York, Chris is an American Olympian sensation. Chris made his debut in the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver and then again in the 2014 Sochi games, where both times he finished 13th in men's singles luge. But it was not until 2018 that Chris made history and finished with an incredible silver medal win, Team USA's first ever medal in that event. Chris trained tirelessly at the Olympic Training Center in Lake Placid, and I know he has inspired the next generation of athletes from across our region.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I am proud to congratulate Chris Mazdzer for his well-earned silver medal, and honor him for showing the world just what the North Country has to offer.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF SERGEANT COLIN GEORGE  
DRAKE

**HON. SEAN P. DUFFY**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 24, 2018*

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and honor the life and service of Sergeant Colin George Drake from New Richmond, Wisconsin.

As a member of the U.S. Army, Sergeant Drake embodied the best qualities of all Americans. He was loyal to his country, respected by his battalion, and loved by his family and community. Sergeant Drake committed his life to help others. He enlisted in the United States Army as a Behavioral Health Technician and voluntarily served on two consecutive deployments to Kuwait in 2012 and 2013 as a member of the 785th Medical Detachment, Combat Operational Stress Control, in Madison. Sergeant Drake faithfully served his country until his death on June 1, 2018.

Sergeant Drake's exemplary service will always be remembered. His family, his home State of Wisconsin, and his country are eternally grateful for his sacrifice. It is my honor to

pay tribute to him and I urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of Sergeant Colin Drake for the sacrifice he made for this country and for our freedom.

HONORING ALONNA K. RUBIN

**HON. LEE M. ZELDIN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 24, 2018*

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the service of Alonna K. Rubin, President and Founder of Families In Arms, a non-profit dedicated to help children with autism and their families.

Mrs. Rubin received her B.S. in Broadcast Journalism and Speech Communication in 1995. She went on to get her M.S. in Education in 1997. Married to David in 2000, they welcomed their first son, Jack in 2001. When Jack was diagnosed with Autism at age two, Alonna resigned from her teaching position and became a full-time advocate for her son. She immersed herself in Jack's therapies, and worked alongside specialists to ensure effectiveness of therapies and strategies. In 2005, David and Alonna were blessed with another little boy, Carter. Since 2008, Alonna has been Co-President of her local school district's Special Education PTA and was an instructor with The Long Island Institute of Professional Studies, teaching "Assisting Students With Autism in the Classroom" for several years. Alonna has been a guest lecturer for Touro College, "Identifying and developing Programs for Gifted Students with Learning Disabilities", as well as giving presentations for Superintendent's Conference days for various school districts on Special Education and Autism. Alonna is the founder of Families in Arms, Inc., along with her father and co-founder Ric Mango.

The mission of Families in Arms is to give families of children with Autism, the opportunity to create memories that go far beyond the walls of therapy. 1 in 59 children in the United States are diagnosed with Autism. Early intervention is the key to helping children with Autism begin to make the greatest strides. Children with Autism typically begin therapy at or around the age of two, often times between 25–40 hours per week.

Families In Arms works to help these very special children and their families step out beyond the walls. Studies show that declarative memory in children with Autism is unharmed, untouched and often stronger than your average person. Children with Autism will always remember the hard work they put in every day for their entire lives. They will never forget the special moments they create with the people that love them the most.

Families In Arms assists families to alleviate financial strain and provide relief so that they are free to create memories that last a lifetime.

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