

would like to offer my sincerest appreciation and wish him a long and happy retirement.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Clyde "Ernie" Hiers on his 39 years of service to our communities.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 2020

SPEECH OF

**HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2019*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2740) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes:

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the amendment offered by my colleague Congresswoman SPANBERGER and my fellow members of the New Democrat Coalition National Security Task Force, Congressmen BOYLE and BROWN. Our foreign policy rests on three interconnected pillars of defense, diplomacy, and development. All three elements are critical and work in concert to promote American leadership in global affairs. We cannot shortchange one without harming our overall foreign policy.

As former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis put it succinctly: "If you don't fully fund the State Department, then I need to buy more ammunition."

That is but one reason I am so deeply concerned by the many critical foreign service positions that remain unfilled in the Trump Administration. These empty posts include the assistant secretaries overseeing the Middle East, East Asia, South Asia and Political-Military Affairs, as well as key ambassadorships around the world.

Our amendment would encourage the State Department to implement recommendations from a recent GAO study that found foreign service vacancies are undermining our foreign policy objectives. In addition, the amendment encourages GAO to expand its study to include the impact of vacancies in senior leadership and politically appointed positions at the Department of State on the United States' ability to meet its foreign policy, diplomacy, aid, and national security priorities and objectives.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment to ensure all three pillars of our foreign policy are working together at their best to promote our interests abroad and ensure our national security.

IN HONOR OF MS. SUE SWANN

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2019*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Sue Swann's forty

years of service to the Essex County Department of Social Services.

Ms. Swann was known as a diligent and determined employee who gave everyone she worked with countless reasons to admire her work ethic. Not only did she dedicate four decades of her life to the Department, but she worked three years in other state offices as well.

At work, she was frequently requested personally by clients for face-to-face meetings to discuss the benefits entitled to them. She did her job with unmatched love and care. Over forty years, she decided to stay in her position and reject countless promotions. Had she chosen to move to other localities, she could have been a Benefit Program Specialist 4 or 5, but because of the passion she has for what she did, she remained a Specialist 2.

Ms. Swann plans to go into retirement now after decades of her tremendous work, and I wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring the service of this great woman, Ms. Sue Swann, to the people of Virginia's 1st District, to the Commonwealth of Virginia, and to the entirety of our great nation. May God bless Sue and her family for her countless hours of labor in service to her country.

RECOGNIZING THE 2019 PRINCE  
WILLIAM CHAMBER OF COM-  
MERCE VALOR AWARD RECIPI-  
ENTS OF THE STONEWALL JACK-  
SON VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2019*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Stonewall Jackson Volunteer Fire & Rescue and its outstanding members who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and are the 2019 recipients of the prestigious Prince William Chamber of Commerce Merit Award and Valorous Unit Award for their service. The annual Prince William Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery above and beyond the line of duty exemplified by our public safety and law enforcement professionals.

For the past 33 years, the Prince William Chamber of Commerce has paid tribute to our firefighters, police officers, and emergency personnel for their extraordinary service. These brave men and women put their lives at risk on a daily basis to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. These dedicated service members of a combination career and volunteer system fight fires, provide emergency medical services, perform rescues, and work in our community to promote fire safety and prevention. In recognition of their acts of valor, it is my honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the Stonewall Jackson Volunteer Fire & Rescue public safety personnel:

Merit Award for Valor: Firefighter/EMT Carlos Ambrosini.

Silver Medal for Valor: Firefighter Ian Lauderdale.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 2019 Prince William Chamber of Commerce Valor Award recipients

of the Stonewall Jackson Volunteer Fire & Rescue. The selfless acts of heroism by this distinguished group of men and women truly merits our highest praise. I thank each honoree, as well as all Stonewall Jackson Volunteer Fire & Rescue public safety professionals for their dedication and commitment to the protection of our communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE,  
LEGACY, AND SERVICE OF  
MAJOR GENERAL JAMES LISON,  
JR.

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2019*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of the life, legacy, and service of Major General James Lison, Jr., who passed away on Friday, June 7, 2019 at the age of 98.

Maj. Gen. Lison was born in Green Bay on October 23, 1920. He graduated from Green Bay East High School in 1938, where he met the love of his life, Marian Kehl. Upon graduating from the Reserve Officer Training Course at St. Norbert College, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army and ordered to active duty at the U.S. Army Infantry Replacement Training Center, Fort McClellan, Alabama on June 10, 1942. He returned to Green Bay to marry his sweetheart on September 11, 1942. The couple had four children, Kathy, Peter, Susan and Joan.

Maj. Gen. Lison served on active duty from 1942 to 1946, of which 14 months was in the European Theater as a rifle company officer, combat liaison officer and assistant operations officer with the 42nd "Rainbow" Division.

Separated from active duty in March 1946, Maj. Gen. Lison accepted immediate assignment to the U.S. Army Reserve. In November 1947, his Army Reserve unit commander, then organizing a Wisconsin National Guard regiment, recruited him to organize and command Tank Company, 426th Infantry Regiment, 32nd Infantry Division. In 1951, he was assigned to the G-3 Section, Headquarters, 32nd Infantry Division.

In 1953, Maj. Gen. Lison transferred to State Headquarters, Wisconsin Army National Guard, to accept full-time employment in the state Adjutant General's Office, where he served in a variety of staff assignments, culminating in his appointment by Governor Warren Knowles as the State Adjutant General in February 1969. He was promoted to Brigadier General in December 1968, and to Major General in March 1970. He retired from the active National Guard in 1980, and from state employment with the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs in 1983.

Through his service, Maj. Gen. Lison earned many awards and decorations which include the Legion of Merit, with Oak Leaf Cluster (second award), the Bronze Star Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal (two campaigns-Rhineland and Central Europe), the World War II Victory Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge, as well as a number of State decorations and awards.