

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2019

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3351) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes:

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3351, the fiscal year 2020 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act.

Let me begin by thanking Chairman QUIGLEY and Chairwoman LOWEY for their leadership on this important bill. I would also like to recognize their staff for reaching out and listening our concerns and priorities in this bill.

The Federal Government shutdown, changes to the tax code, and difficulty accessing experts increases IRS casework in many District Offices, including my own. As the chair of the Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee, I believe it is critically important that Congress restore desperately needed funding for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

For many years, the National Taxpayer Advocate underscored the necessity of providing the agency with the resources, staff, and tools it needs in order to improve taxpayer services. Although Congress needs to restore the agency's funding to at least \$12.3 billion, I believe that this bill finally moves the agency in the right direction.

I would also like to reiterate my appreciation for the Appropriations Committee's support when the House considered the Taxpayer First Act. As you know the Taxpayer First Act, which the House and Senate adopted earlier this year, is the most important improvement to taxpayer services in a generation. We worked hard to correct misinformation that our bill would tie the hands of the IRS and hurt taxpayers' options. During a time when there is so much tension and rush to judgment, our coalition remained thoughtful and fair.

As you know, Mr. Chair, the Taxpayer First Act resulted from years of bipartisan hearings, roundtables, and a public comment period on the draft bill. This legislation authorizes \$30 million dollars in matching grants for the popular Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, which helps low and moderate-income taxpayers complete and file their taxes. The Taxpayer First Act also protects certain low-income taxpayers from the private debt collection program, and authorizes desperately needed new initiatives to protect and serve taxpayers, who are victims of identity theft. I hope that this bipartisan, bicameral bill will become public law in the near future.

In closing, I would also like to recognize the Chairman's hard work to remove problematic policy riders from the FY20 House bill. I know that it was not easy, and I thank him and his staff for taking the time to consider our concerns. I offer my strong support and commitment to continue working with the Chairman and the Subcommittee so that this critical agency receives the funding and guidance so that the IRS may provide the highest quality, timely and secure taxpayer experience.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH WORLD TAMIL CONFERENCE

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 28, 2019

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the International Association of Tamil Research, the Federation of Tamil Sangams of North America, and the Chicago Tamil Sangam on the occasion of the 10th World Tamil Conference, commencing on July 4, 2019 in Schaumburg, Illinois.

Since the first World Tamil Conference in 1966, various cities around the world have hosted this important gathering of scholars and the Tamil community. The oldest sangam in the United States, Chicago Tamil Sangam is honored to observe its Golden Jubilee 50th Anniversary in concert with the four-day World Tamil Conference, its important scholarly presentations on Tamil language and history, and its celebration of the rich heritage of Tamil culture and art.

This year's research conference theme is "New Historist, Scientific and Comparative Study of the Antiquity of the Tamils, Tamil Language, Literature, Culture and Civilization." In addition to this scholarly focus, the World Tamil Conference will feature a host of cultural programs, the International Conference Seminar on Tamil Studies, a Global Tamil Entrepreneurs meeting, and a festive parade and banquet. Above all, the conference is a celebration of the vibrant Tamil community and preserves and shares the rich history and culture of Tamil people worldwide.

The 2019 World Tamil Conference also will recognize the passing of the late Dr. V.C. Kulandaisamy, former Vice Chancellor of Anna University and Vice Chairman of the International Association of Tamil Research. In addition to his outstanding contributions to the science of hydrology, Dr. Kulandaisamy was instrumental in bringing the International Association of Tamil Research conference to the United States, and was honored for his contributions to science, engineering and education by the nation of India with the prestigious national Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awards.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the World Tamil Conference and the Chicago Tamil Sangam, International Association of Tamil Research, and Federation of Tamil

Sangams of North America for their tireless efforts to bring together proud Tamils from around the world, for their commitment to preserving one of the world's oldest languages and civilizations, and for their many years of service to the Tamil diaspora in the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 28, 2019

Mr. KINZINGER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present to cast votes on the afternoon of June 27. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 426; YEA on Roll Call No. 427; NAY on Roll Call No. 428; YEA on Roll Call No. 429; and YEA on Roll Call No. 430.

CONGRATULATING THE VANDERBILT BASEBALL TEAM

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 28, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate and celebrate the accomplishments of the Vanderbilt Baseball Team and their College World Series Championship victory. Vanderbilt University won the College World Series on Wednesday, June 26, 2019 for the second time in school history. I also want to commend head coach Tim Corbin for leading the team to a record-setting 59 victories this season. They showed tremendous perseverance through the season, but most especially when they came back once again in Game 3 to beat Michigan 8–2 and clinch the Championship. The team's season was also saved by a remarkable pitching effort, led by Kumar Rocker, who pitched a no-hitter against Duke during the Super Regional. The Commodores represented Vanderbilt University and the state of Tennessee with distinction and did so while remembering their fallen teammate, Donny Everett. As the Vanderbilt fight song states: "if vict'ry's won, when battle's done, Then Vandy's name will rise in fame; Dynamite; Dynamite." I'd like to once again congratulate the 2019 Vanderbilt Baseball team for their College World Series Championship and dynamite season.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 28, 2019

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, June 27, 2019, I was unable to be

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.