

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2019

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2500) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Chair, I rise to support the amendment offered by Mr. MALINOWSKI. I'm horrified that the humanitarian crisis in Yemen—the worst such crisis in the world, according to the United Nations—has gone on this long.

The crisis has been exacerbated by the ongoing conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and Iranian-backed Houthi rebels. Since 2015, the Saudi-led coalition has undertaken 18,000 airstrikes, and far too many of these have killed innocent civilians. In fact, more Yemeni civilians are killed or wounded in their own homes than anywhere else.

That is why I am co-sponsoring this amendment, to prohibit the sale of all air-to-ground munitions to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates for one year. It is our obligation to make sure the United States is not enabling civilian deaths.

I thank the gentleman for his leadership in offering this amendment.

LIGHTS FOR LIBERTY VIGILS

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, as thousands take part in vigils across Oregon, the U.S., and the globe, I rise today in strong opposition to the Trump administration's inhumane detention policies. These policies and practices have led to families being ripped apart, children dying, and a shameful chapter written in our nation's history.

That's why I voted for the House-passed bill which had strong health and safety requirements for care of unaccompanied minor children, tightened restrictions on detention shelters, created accountability for contractors violating essential standards at detention shelters, and more. Instead, the Republican-controlled Senate stripped these essential reforms from the bill. Congress ultimately passed the weak and flawed Senate version.

I voted against this toothless legislation. If we don't address this crisis head-on with proper oversight standards and commitment to holding this administration accountable, nothing will change and people will continue to suffer. That is unacceptable.

Make no mistake, we can't solve the problems at our border if we don't address the reasons that so many individuals are fleeing their home countries. The Trump administration's plan to cut aid to countries like El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras will only make the situation worse, likely increasing violence and government dysfunction. Instead, we should be investing in a plan similar to the Marshall Plan after World War II to restore safety, stability, and promote economic opportunities in Central America.

We must act—now—to get serious about reforming our broken immigration system by passing bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform. This is the only course of action that will allow us to protect these vulnerable individuals while also producing real, long-term solutions to our immigration crisis.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2019

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2500) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the en bloc amendment, which includes my proposal to require the Administration to report to Congress on the status of United States military-to-military and diplomatic deconfliction channels with Iran.

This amendment is cosponsored by my colleagues JAN SCHAKOWSKY, GERRY CONNOLLY, JOHN YARMUTH, LLOYD DOGGETT, BARBARA LEE, PETER WELCH, and EARL BLUMENAUER. I thank them for their support, and I thank Chairman SMITH for his consideration.

Last month, President Trump came dangerously close to conducting a military strike on Iran in retaliation for the downing of an American surveillance drone.

During that week in June, officials from the U.S. and Iran traded public accusations before any investigation into the downing of the drone was complete.

Meanwhile, oil tankers have been attacked in the Strait of Hormuz, the Iranian regime is beginning to increasingly enrich uranium, and U.S. troops are being moved around the region.

These events demonstrate the extraordinary need for established military-to-military and diplomatic channels of communication and deconfliction to prevent miscalculation, define ambiguities, and correct misunderstandings that could otherwise lead to unintended and possibly devastating consequences.

In January 2016, such diplomatic lines of communication saved U.S. sailors on two

Navy riverine command boats that were seized by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps after entering Iranian territorial waters. Secretary of State John Kerry called Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif. Within 15 hours, the sailors were released unharmed.

Since withdrawing from the JCPOA, the Trump administration has eliminated those channels of communication. Can you imagine what would happen now should U.S. forces be captured by Iranian forces? Can you imagine the cost and consequences of military action provoked by a misunderstanding or miscalculation?

Even Department of Defense officials caution that spiraling escalations put our troops in the region at risk, and that we cannot be pulled into an unnecessary armed conflict with Iran.

This amendment would assert Congressional oversight to ensure that we have information about the status of vital military and diplomatic channels of communication that must be in place to prevent miscalculation.

I urge the adoption of this En Bloc amendment.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MENARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor a remarkable organization, the Menard County Farm Bureau. The Menard County Farm Bureau in central Illinois is a vital organization in the area that promotes agricultural prosperity. After many years of success and service, the Menard County Farm Bureau is celebrating their 100th anniversary.

The Menard County Farm Bureau was chartered on March 19, 1919, to unite farmers in the area and advocate for central Illinois agriculture collectively. Today, the members of the organization work hard to support the community and economy throughout the county.

The Menard County Farm Bureau provides a voice for farmers, promotes the development of agriculture, and educates and empowers future leaders in the industry. Additionally, Menard County Farm Bureau coordinates with other associations and agencies to promote the wellbeing and interests of its members.

Illinois has become a major economic force within the agricultural sector because of farm bureaus like Menard County that come together and enhance opportunities for farmers, their families, and the community. I extend my sincere congratulations to Menard County Farm Bureau for their outstanding accomplishments and contributions to Illinois.

• 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.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the American Association of Law Libraries' legislative advocacy program. The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), representing more than 4,100 members, is the only national association dedicated to the legal information profession and its professionals. Founded in 1906 on the belief that everyone—lawyers, judges, students, and the public—needs timely access to relevant legal information to make sound legal arguments and wise legal decisions, AALL members are problem solvers of the highest order.

In 1989, the AALL Executive Board appointed AALL members Robert L. Oakley of Georgetown University Law Library and Joanne Zich of American University Washington College of Law Library as the first Washington representatives for the Association. Since that time, AALL's advocacy efforts ranged from the creation and dissemination of government information to copyright to the privacy of library users. Its successes include ensuring permanent public access to official, authentic government information by advocating for the essential work of the Library of Congress, the Law Library of Congress, and the U.S. Government Publishing Office; contributing to the enactment of transparency laws including the E-Government Act of 2002 (P.L. 107–347) and updates to the Freedom of Information Act; and, most recently, supporting my own legislation to provide public access to Congressional Research Service reports that resulted in language included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 (P.L. 115–141) directing the Congressional Research Service to make its nonconfidential reports available to the public on the internet.

The AALL Executive Board and its members will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Association's legislative advocacy program by convening on Capitol Hill today, July 12, 2019, for AALL Day on the Hill. AALL members will meet with their elected officials about the Association's legislative priorities that include greater access to government information, access to justice, government transparency, balanced copyright laws, and privacy for library users.

I congratulate AALL on three decades of effective advocacy and wish them many more years of success.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2019

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2500) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for mili-

tary activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I rise to speak in support of Amendment No. 423 to H.R. 2500, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2020, offered by the gentleman from California, Congressman RO KHANNA.

The Khanna Amendment is simple and straightforward in its prohibition against unauthorized military force in or against Iran.

Earlier this year, the Trump Administration sent an aircraft carrier and a nuclear-powered submarine to the region in a show of force.

The Khanna Amendment would make clear and explicit that nothing in the FY2020 NDAA can be construed as congressional authorization or acquiescence regarding the use of military force against Iran.

The Framers understood that while the military does the fighting, the entire nation goes to war.

That is why the Framers lodged the power to declare war in the Congress, the branch of government closest to the people.

They knew that the decision to go to war was too important to be left to the whim of a single person, no matter how wise or well-informed he or she might be.

The President must consult with Congress and to obtain an AUMF before undertaking any military offensive against Iran.

Over the last 18 years, we have seen 3 Presidents use the 2001 Afghanistan AUMF as a blank check to engage in serious military action.

In 2016, the Congressional Research Service issued a report detailing 37 unclassified uses of this authorization in 14 countries, including for operations at Guantanamo Bay, warrantless wiretapping, and recent military action in Libya, Syria, Somalia, and Yemen.

The overly broad 2001 AUMF represents a critical deterioration of Congressional oversight, which should be repealed, rather than repeated with respect to Iran.

As our brave service members are deployed around the world in combat zones, Congress is missing in action.

As provided under the War Powers Resolution of 1973, absent a Congressional declaration of war or authorization for the use of military force, the President as Commander-in-Chief has constitutional power to engage the U.S. armed forces in hostilities only in the case of a national emergency created by an attack upon the United States, its territories or possessions, or its armed forces.

As a co-equal branch of government, it is Congress's right and responsibility to be fully consulted regarding any potential plans to conduct military operations in Iran, to assess whether such action is in the national security interest of the United States and its allies, and to withhold or grant authorization for the use of military force based on this assessment.

As we have learned from the painful and bitter experience of the past 18 years, at the initiation of hostilities, the costs in terms of blood and treasure of U.S. military interventions abroad are often underestimated and the benefits overstated.

For example, more than 6,800 American service members gave the last full measure of devotion to their country on battlefields in Afghanistan and Iraq, with hundreds of thousands more returning with physical, emotional, or psychological wounds that may never heal.

The direct economic cost of the war in Afghanistan exceeds \$1.07 trillion, including \$773 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations funds, an increase of \$243 billion to the Department of Defense base budget, and an increase of \$54.2 billion to the Veterans Administration budget to address the human costs of the military involvement in Afghanistan.

We should not repeat the mistakes of the past and my position on this issue is directly aligned with the will of the American people.

I commend my colleague, Congressman KHANNA for offering this important amendment and urge all Members to join me in voting for the amendment and restoring Congress's preeminent constitutional role in the decision to take the nation to war.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN "DOC" BLANCHON

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of John "Doc" Blanchon of Yarmouth, Massachusetts, a dedicated family man, soldier and teacher who lost his battle to Parkinson's Disease.

A native of Quincy, Doc attended Bridgewater Teachers College where he excelled in athletics, playing baseball, basketball and soccer. Later, he was admitted as a member of the initial class of Bridgewater Athletic Hall of Fame. After graduating, Doc joined the U.S. Army and served his country in Korea. When he returned home he continued his education and obtained his master's degree in School Administration from Northeastern University. He then taught Social Studies at Sharon High School and coached the school soccer team. Doc Blanchon was named Principal of Sharon High School in 1982, serving as the school's leader until his eventual retirement in 1994.

Doc and his wife, Lorraine, eventually relocated to Cape Cod in retirement, though they spent much of their time following their passion for travel in Europe once their children finished college. Those who knew Doc knew him as a good man, full of kindness and the desire to help those others. He was a man of deep faith and devoted his life to following the practices of Christianity.

Doc passed this Father's Day; his loss was felt deeply by his family and community. His memory and spirit will live on through his loving wife Lorraine, his two children Bonnie and Donald, and his five grandchildren as well as his legacy and devotion to his community, military and God.

RECOGNIZING HER HOLINESS MATA AMRITANANDAMAYI DEVI

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Her Holiness Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, known simply as "Aamma" to her many admirers over the world,

for her exemplary humanitarian and conservation efforts and her work to build bridges of love, peace and understanding not only to the people of India, but to all nations.

Amma was born in 1953 in a small, coastal village in the South Indian state of Kerala. Drawn from a very early age to a life of service to others, Amma began her lifelong practice of trying to alleviate suffering by sharing food and clothing from her home while still a young girl. This devotion to service was not always appreciated by her family, who faced their own economic challenges and could ill afford to give away any of the little they had, but Amma persisted and soon began her practice of embracing those in need of comfort and support.

As she matured, Amma grew to understand that hugging and personal acts of kindness were not sufficient to heal our world, and she began to speak publicly on the importance of selfless service, compassion towards all beings, conservation, the importance of inter-religious harmony, and against human trafficking and slavery. She founded two important charitable organizations, Mata Amritanandamayi Math and Embracing the World, which have provided essential disaster relief, food, clean water, housing, health care and education to thousands of needy men, women and children in India and in Mexico, Costa Rica, France, Spain, Kenya, Brazil, Slovenia and Australia.

Amma is beloved by many as their guru and has a large following in my district. Her humanitarian efforts have been recognized and celebrated by, among others, the United Nations, the Parliament of World Religions, and Rotary Club International, and she has been awarded an honorary doctorate in humane letters from the State University of New York in Buffalo.

Amma continues to share her vision of peace, understanding and love through speaking programs, meditation retreats and her willingness to embrace all in need of blessing. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize Amma's selfless and compassionate devotion to all people, the work of her charities to relieve poverty and provide health care and education, her outspoken advocacy against human trafficking, and her efforts to encourage sustainable practices and protect our shared ecosystem.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2019

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2500) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chair, I am encouraged that my amendment to the National De-

fense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year passed the House of Representatives by voice vote on July 11, 2019. This important amendment requires the "Annual Report on Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China" to include an assessment of (1) China's expansion of its surveillance state; (2) Any correlation of such expansion with its oppression of its citizens and its threat to United States national security interests around the world; and (3) An overview of the extent to which such surveillance corresponds to the overall respect, or lack thereof, for human rights.

This matter is one that I have long been attuned to and concerned about, ultimately leading me to draft and introduce the "Protect American IPR Act", which is H.R. 902 this session, and seeks to stop Chinese theft of U.S. intellectual property through duties on Chinese merchandise. For this reason, I have been encouraged to see President Trump prioritizing the Chinese stealing of American intellectual property.

Mass and unabated government surveillance does not only offend individual liberties; in the hands of an authoritarian government, it poses the Orwellian threat of the government always watching, and ultimately using this ability, made possible to an unprecedented extent by modern technology, to spy on, steal from, intimidate and persecute not only those it views as "political enemies" and "threats", but anyone it deems as expedient.

This Orwellian threat is becoming a reality, perhaps nowhere more so than in China, where the government vigorously pursues a national video surveillance network. The affinity of the Chinese government to control its population in part by mass monitoring is not a new phenomenon, but advancing technology makes its prospects more frightening every day for those within and outside of the Mainland.

One internet privacy expert warns, "What China is doing here is selectively breeding its population to select against the trait of critical, independent thinking". Since China is a neighbor to many and more importantly an actor on the world stage, that erosion will not simply negatively impact the Chinese, it will spread—it arguably has already. A world with continually less critical, independent thought is a prospect to tremble at.

It is my strong belief that U.S. policy, including defense policy, should by no measure assist, intentionally or unintentionally, the growth of China's surveillance. Instead, it should discourage the expansion of the Chinese government into the rest of the world, while at the same time encouraging greater human rights for the Chinese people, including expectant mothers and Christians and other religious minorities.

I have heard from many individuals who warn against China's rapid expansion and influence into the rest of the world, including Africa and Central America, our nation's own backyard. Although the government-connected interests bring economic promise (and exploitation) to the developing world, they also bring the Chinese surveillance state with them. To counter this very real and growing threat, we need to first understand its scope, its impact for individuals in China as well as those

around world, and the extent to which it threatens the U.S. national security interests.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. MARGARET A. JONES

HON. MICHAEL F. Q. SAN NICOLAS

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Margaret A. Jones. Margaret was a longtime resident of Guam, a wife, mother, a public-spirited community leader, and a woman of business on Guam. In 1965, she was a founding member of the Guam Memorial Hospital Volunteers Association and gave her time and effort to numerous charitable and non-profit organizations. Her family business, Triple J Enterprises was founded in 1984 and has grown across the Pacific region. Margaret was born on November 5, 1937 and passed away in North Carolina on June 27, 2019, at the age of 81.

Margaret was the daughter of Early and Verna Page. Margaret was born in Willow Spring, North Carolina.

Margaret married Robert H. Jones in 1957. They raised three children and were blessed with eleven grandchildren.

In 1965, Margaret was a founding member of the Guam Memorial Hospital Volunteers Association (GMHVA), known as the Pink Ladies for the pink vests worn by their volunteers. GMHVA has raised millions of dollars for improvements to the Guam Memorial Hospital.

Margaret was active in the American Cancer Society and led Triple J Enterprises in its support for cancer research by participating annually in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and sponsoring an annual 5k run/walk event.

Margaret had been active with other non-profit organizations, including the Guam Women's Club, Harvest Baptist Church, the Miss Guam Universe Pageant, the Miss Guam World Pageant, and the Board of St. John's School.

Margaret started her career in Guam at the Marianas Travel Agency. In 1975, she joined Pan American Airlines, working as a Special Sales Representative until 1991. In 1984, Margaret cofounded Triple J Enterprises along with her husband, Robert H. Jones, and Georgia Stafford. Today, the Triple J group employs over nine hundred employees across the Micronesia region, many of whom have been with the business for over twenty years.

I am deeply saddened by the passing of Margaret A. Jones and I join the people of Guam in celebrating her life. She was pillar of the island community, leading both in charitable and non-profit service and in business on Guam. My thoughts and prayers are with her family, loved ones, and friends.

I extend my condolences to her husband, Robert H. Jones, her children, Julie Jones Murrell, Jeff Jones, and Jay Jones, and their spouses, and her grandchildren. She will be deeply missed, and her memory will live on in the hearts of the people of Guam.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2019

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2500) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the en bloc amendment, which includes my bipartisan World Language Advancement and Readiness amendment co-sponsored by Representatives DON YOUNG, GIL CISNEROS, RICK LARSEN, JIMMY PANETTA, JIM LANGEVIN, and SETH MOULTON.

Our amendment would direct the DoD to award three-year competitive grants to Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools and to local education agencies (LEAs) that host a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program for the establishment, improvement, or expansion of world language programs in elementary and secondary schools.

The future national security and economic well-being of the United States will depend substantially on the ability of our citizens to read, speak, and understand the languages and cultures of other nations.

Unfortunately, multiple studies and GAO reports have found that "by several measures, the United States has neglected languages in its educational curricula, its international strategies, and its domestic policies." The U.S. puts itself at a disadvantage in our inability to communicate with our international peers.

Research has shown that the "critical window" for language learning is from ages 10–18, making investment in our elementary and secondary schools a top priority.

DoDEA schools and school districts with JROTC programs are uniquely positioned to reach children who are likely to join the military or work for our intelligence communities.

Language comprehension is not just a luxury: it is vital to our economic interests, to our diplomacy, and to our national security.

I urge adoption of this critical amendment.

AWARENESS OF CANCER MORTALITY IN WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness to the incidence of cancer and cancer mortality in Wayne County, Michigan. Wayne County ranks in the top four counties with the highest incidence of cancer in Michigan.

In 2013, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a part of the World Health Organization, has classified outdoor air pollution as a carcinogen, citing 223,000 lung can-

cer deaths worldwide in 2010. It's no coincidence that Wayne County is home to some of Michigan's most heavily industrialized areas. Wayne County is home to Michigan's only oil refinery, one hundred eleven Superfund sites, massive transportation infrastructure, steel mills, and more.

More telling than the clouds of smoke, the odors, and the haze hanging in the air, is the pollution's toll on human lives. There is no doubt that the cancer, respiratory disease, and other illnesses have caused great distress to the families impacted. Too often, we sacrifice the quality of life for our residents. We have lost too many lives and it's time to say enough. We have an opportunity to reverse course and do better by future generations.

Therefore, I rise today to honor those whose lives were cut short by cancer and will continue to fight for environmental justice for the people of Michigan's 13th Congressional District.

IN HONOR OF MR. HENRY ROSS PEROT

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Mr. GOODEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of a great Texan, Mr. Henry Ross Perot. Born and raised in Texarkana, he was a lifelong advocate for improving the education of our nation's children, having provided initial funding for Teach for America. Always the innovator, Mr. Perot attended the U.S. Naval Academy where he helped to establish its honor system, which to this day encourages its midshipmen to conduct themselves with honor and integrity.

After serving honorably in the Navy, he became a salesman for IBM where he quickly distinguished himself among its ranks. This inspired him to start what would become a business empire in Dallas. He was a pioneer in the field of electronic data management, winning a contract to digitize Medicare records in the 1960s.

Shortly after the Iranian Revolution of 1979, two of his employees were imprisoned by the government of Iran over a contract dispute. In true Texas fashion, he hired a former Army Special Forces Colonel to break them out of prison and, while some might leave such a dangerous mission to others, he insisted on taking part in the assault himself. Though he eventually agreed to sit out the mission, it was a great success and speaks directly to Mr. Perot's maverick nature and bias for action.

Mr. Perot was always a politically outspoken public figure and never backed down from his principled positions. Eventually, his concern for the future of our nation fueled his presidential candidacy in the election of 1992. His revolutionary, yet simple message allowed him to do what no third-party candidate had done before as he drew nearly one-fifth of the popular vote.

Mr. Perot left a lasting impression on the technology industry and political atmosphere, which is outweighed only by the fond memories he left with those who knew him. We will cherish those memories as we strive to continue his profound legacy.

THANKING MAJOR TIMOTHY W. TRIMAILLO FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE AS EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE, OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Major Timothy W. Trimaillo for his outstanding service as Executive Officer, Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Legislative Liaison.

Major Trimaillo has been a diligent, valued member of the Office of Legislative Liaison. He has been integral in ensuring Congress receives the information it needs from the U.S. Air Force. During his tenure, Major Trimaillo was able to significantly increase the U.S. Air Force responsiveness to Congress. His insight, intellect and ability to clearly communicate complex issues were invaluable assets during his tenure.

Major Trimaillo also assisted with the development of the Space Force engagement strategy. His role is very important as Space Force is vital to the future security of the United States.

Major Trimaillo has served the Air Force with distinction and honor since receiving his commission in 2005 from the United States Air Force Academy. He completed basic space operations training and Defense Satellite Communications System (DSCS) III qualification training at Vandenberg AFB, California, in May 2006.

I also want to recognize his wife Lori and his children Kellen and Bailey for their service, support and sacrifices.

Major Trimaillo's presence in the Office of Legislative Affairs will be missed by his Leadership and his coworkers. Please join me in thanking Major Trimaillo for his service, and in wishing him well in his new endeavor.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF MELVIN L. MARKS

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the military service of World War II veteran Melvin L. Marks, a Santa Barbara city resident in my district, who turns 95 years old on July 10, 2019.

Mel Marks was born in Des Moines IA in 1924, and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1943. In his three years of service as an intelligence observer in the 124th Battalion, he participated in a number of notable campaigns, including the Battle of Britain and the Battle of the Bulge. His service brought him to England, Holland, Belgium, and Germany, where he crossed the Rhine in March of 1945.

Mel Marks is a member of the Greatest Generation, as journalist Tom Brokaw calls it, meaning the men and women who fought not to seek fame or recognition, but simply because it was the right thing to do.

Of the more than 16 million who served in the United States Armed Forces during World

War II, fewer than 500,000 are still with us today, and we're losing about 350 of them every day.

After the war, Mel came to Chicago and married the former Mary Harris, who herself just turned 89, and the two of them have raised three children, have five grandchildren spread across the country, and will be celebrating their 69th wedding anniversary this Fall.

Mel has had a distinguished career as a journalist, management and marketing consultant, and published author. One of his best-known books is "Yesterday's Warriors," which recounts his experiences in the War and his band of brothers who remained friends for a lifetime.

It is with particular pride that we recognize the service and wonderful life of a veteran who is not just still with us, but alive and kicking.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY J. PALMER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Mr. PALMER. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call No. 439.

IN RECOGNITION OF COACH RICKY GRIFFIN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Ricky Griffin, an outstanding North Texas educator and coach. Coach Griffin, from Argyle High School, was one of eleven coaches in the United States named National Coach of the Year by the American Baseball Coaches Association.

Coach Griffin guided the Argyle Eagles to their second consecutive Class 4-A title this season and posted a 77-1-1 record over the last two years. Under his direction, Argyle High School become the first school in Texas UIL history to follow up an undefeated state title season with another state championship. Argyle had two outstanding winning seasons: 37-0 in 2018 and 40-1-1 in 2019. Under Coach Griffin's leadership, the Eagles have a combined 130-10-2 record for the last four seasons—an unprecedented accomplishment. In this case, coaching is a family affair. Coach Griffin's son, Storm Griffin, recently joined his father on the Argyle coaching staff.

In addition to his remarkable career as head coach of the Eagles baseball team, Coach Griffin also serves as the defensive backs coach for the Eagles football team. Notably, the Argyle football coaches have established a football program that dominates the Texas 4-A high school football scene. With one state title under their belt and ranking as one of the top football programs for the upcoming season, the Argyle Eagles and their fans should credit their coaches, including Ricky Griffin, for leading Argyle students to success.

While Coach Griffin has compiled a long list of achievements, his professional mission goes beyond the field as he strives to develop his students into remarkable young men. Winning seasons, state championships, and national recognition have been the icing on the cake. For his efforts, Coach Griffin will be honored at the annual ABCA convention in January 2020 in Nashville, TN.

It is my privilege to recognize Coach Ricky Griffin for leadership of the Argyle Eagles baseball team and our North Texas community, and I wish him continued success.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2019

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2500) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Chair, for over 25 years, I have made multiple oral and written requests to federal contracting authorities including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to explain why our labor unions have been systematically excluded from contract awards—especially at military installations like the Joint Base in New Jersey.

Over the years, everyone we've met in meeting after meeting on the federal side have always been polite and courteous, but the bottom line—the highly trained unionized women and men don't get the jobs.

Most recently, I brought labor leaders including Mike Maloney—Business Manager for the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 9, Mike Ricca—Business Agent of IBEW Local 400, and others to meet with the Corps of Engineers regarding contracting processes that make it near impossible for union members to get work on the base.

I—we—raised deep concerns that nonunion contractors may purposely be misclassifying workers in order to low bid, which if true could be a serious violation of federal law and contrary to Davis Bacon.

We are concerned that irresponsible contractors and subcontractors may be engaging in two different types of misclassification: craft misclassification and independent contractor misclassification. Craft misclassification occurs when dishonest contractors misclassify high-skilled workers as general laborers or lower wage classifications in order to avoid paying the higher prevailing wage rate applicable to the high-skilled work actually performed. Independent contractor misclassification occurs when contractors misclassify employees as independent contractors to avoid paying prevailing wages in order to reduce labor costs and avoid state and federal taxes.

Today, I am offering an amendment, joined by my good friend and colleague DONALD NORCROSS, to task the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) to investigate the contracting practices of the Corps of Engi-

neers, with a specific focus on how the Corps complies with and enforces the requirement to pay prevailing wages on federally financed construction jobs, and its probe will include:

Any programs or protocols the Corps of Engineers has in place for the purpose of carrying out its Davis-Bacon Act enforcement obligations as set forth in the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

Any programs or protocols the Corps of Engineers has in place for the purpose of identifying and addressing independent contractor misclassification on projects subject to the Davis-Bacon Act.

The frequency with which the Corps of Engineers conducts site visits on each covered project to monitor Davis-Bacon Act compliance.

The frequency with which the Corps of Engineers monitors certified payroll reports submitted by contractors and subcontractors on each covered project.

Whether the Corps of Engineers accepts and investigates complaints of Davis-Bacon Act violations submitted by third parties, such as contractors and workers' rights organizations.

Whether the Corps of Engineers maintains a database listing all contractors and subcontractors who have, in one way or another, violated the Davis-Bacon Act and whether the Corps consults this database as part of its contract award process.

The frequency, over the last five years, with which the Corps of Engineers penalized, disqualified, terminated, or moved for debarment of a contractor for Davis-Bacon violations.

How the Corps of Engineers verifies that the contractors it hires for its projects are properly licensed.

This amendment will require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report to Congress summarizing the results of their findings, in addition to any recommendations for legislative or regulatory action that would improve the efforts of enforcing the requirement to pay prevailing wages on federally financed construction jobs.

Our military installations deserve quality workmanship, not substandard facilities that could create potential hazards and diminish readiness.

The bill, to which I am adding this amendment, authorizes \$11.5 billion for military construction projects for fiscal year 2020. Madam Chair, we need to ensure that taxpayer dollars—and critical investment in military infrastructure—are being spent in accordance with the law, including Davis Bacon.

HONORING THE WORLD WAR II, KOREAN WAR, AND VIETNAM WAR VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C. on July 10, 2019 with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans the opportunity to visit their memorials on The National Mall in Washington, D.C.

These memorials were built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on July 10th answered our nation's call to service during several of its greatest times of need. Across the world, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorials. I am proud to include in the RECORD the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude:

John G. Aister, Victor J. Alvarez, Brownie J. Andrews, Jr., Joseph J. Arcara, William J. Arndt, Gordon W. Atkins, George E. Batson, Charles Bennett, John C. Bierman, James Terry Blue, Sr., John J. Borg, Walter L. Brooks, Robert A. Bryant, Patrick Butler, John W. Cannon, James M. Clemons, Leroy Cobb, Matthew W. Connor, William J. Dierks, Jack H. Doyle.

William Thomas Dzingel, Duane Arthur Foss, Charles W. Fruehe, Dennis W. Gallo-way, Richard Gardner, Philip L. Givens, Robert Wesley Godfrey, John P. Greaney, Robert L. Gurley, James A. Haegele, Sr., Ernest R. Hanna, Edwin W. Hendry, James John Hennessy, Thomas J. Henry, Superman J. Horn, Archie Hubbard, Jr., Michael M. Hughes, Holman B. Ingram, Angelo Irizarry, Nello D. Isabelli.

Ronald J. Janiak, Robert E. Jensen, Theodore B. Knapp, Harold B. Koenen, Ronald J. Konetsky, James J. Kosinski, Richard Kowalski, Joseph Kwak, Earl M. Laib, Andrew Leverenz, James O. Lewis, William R. Lindberg, Robert B. Locknar, Stanley R. Lokaj, Bernard LoMonaco, David L. Lowe, Stewart G. Margolis, Joseph Martinek, Dwight C. McConnell, Stuart W. McDowell.

Edward W. McQuiston, Robert J. Misevich, Fernando E. Montilla, Leonard W. Morris, Jerry I. Mosenon, Charles E. Nichols, Earl A. Nordmeyer, Harlan W. O'Cull, William O'Neill, Paul M. Obinger, Stanley J. Penczak, Steven L. Penczak, George L. Peso, Dennis R. Rokita, Kent Romanus, Ralph H. Schmalfeld, Terrence Lee Schmidt, James Schwartz, Robin P. Schwartz, Auberay L. Smith, Lynwood Smith, Gerald S. Snarski, Joseph J. Stachon.

Leroy E. Stahr, Willard Stockfisch, Myron I. Strepka, Albert F. Struska, Alexander C. Styrzula, Edward Sulita, Robert Sweeney, James J. Sykucki, Donald G. Tollefsen, Gregory B. Tweedy, Sr., John J. Valverde, Hector H. Villarreal, Robert W. Vogelanz, Leonard A. Wantroba, Lawrence Weiss, Edward K. Weyna, Edward S. Weyna, James C. Wightman, Clyde Wilson, Samuel Wilson, Leo W. Wysocki, Ascher Daniel Yates, Daniel R. Yatsko.

HONORING LT. COLONEL SAMUEL LOMBARDO

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 100th birthday of Lt. Col.

Samuel Lombardo in honor of his service to our country. Mr. Lombardo and his family legally immigrated to the United States of America from Italy when he was just 10 years old. He grew up in Pennsylvania, where he enlisted to serve in the Army National Guard's 28th Infantry Division just one month following the start of World War II.

After training, he was deployed to Europe, where served as platoon leader and executive officer of I Company, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Division. He served in the "Battle of the Bulge," and he continued his service to America in the Korean conflict and in the Vietnam War.

Throughout his service to our county, Lt. Colonel Lombardo earned the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with "V Device" for valor, as well as an oak leaf cluster for meritorious achievement, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, American Campaign Medal, European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three Campaign Stars, WWII Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, United Nations Medal, Vietnam Expeditionary Forces Medal, French Legion of Honor, the Belgian Fourragere, and the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.

Madam Speaker, please join me in support of the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners in Florida Congressional District One, as they declare this day, July 12, 2019, to be "Samuel Lombardo Day."

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT J. GILLILAND

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert J. Gilliland, the first man to fly the world's fastest supersonic manned aircraft—the SR-71 Blackbird—who died on Independence Day last week at the age of 93. Mr. Gilliland, a native of Memphis, attended what is now the Campus School at the University of Memphis and the Webb School at Bell Buckle, Tennessee. He was a 1949 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, where he took his commission in the newly created U.S. Air Force. After patrolling the skies over post-war Germany, he won his air wing's "top gun" competition. In the Korean War, he flew F-84s from the Taegu Air Base with the call sign "Dutch 51." Returning to the United States, Mr. Gilliland got a plum assignment to the Air Force's research and development group at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, but soon left that post to help his father run the family's Memphis commercial real estate business. After his father died, Mr. Gilliland joined Lockheed as a test pilot for the F-104 Starfighter in California, then as chief pilot for the European production of the F-104 at Turin, Italy. In 1962, he got a call from Clarence L. "Kelly" Johnson, the chief of Lockheed's advanced research and development team at what is called the Skunk Works outside Burbank, California. There, he worked on the secretive SR-71 Blackbird, the first manned stealth aircraft and the fastest of its day, sometimes at the super-secret Area 51 in

the Nevada desert. On December 22, 1964, he piloted the hypersonic SR-71 for the first time and continued testing an aircraft that could attain speeds in excess of Mach 3.2 and climb to the edge of outer space at 85,000 feet. Mr. Gilliland logged more test flight hours at or above Mach 3 than any other pilot. His life is the subject of a book due for release next year with a forward by Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, who landed a U.S. Airways flight on the Hudson River in 2009. I want to extend my condolences to Mr. Gilliland's daughter Anne Gilliland Hayes and her husband Richard; to his son Robert J. Gilliland Jr. and his wife Kim; to his grandchildren Laura, Nathaniel, Stuart, Scott and Heather; and to his brother, my friend James S. Gilliland and his wife Lucia. Service was a family quality that was instilled in Mr. Gilliland and he was a true hero whose bravery was repeatedly demonstrated in the harshest possible circumstances. He was the embodiment of the Air Force motto, "Aim High, Fly-Fight-Win." The nation owes him a debt of gratitude for an American life well lived.

HONORING ALEXANDER V. MITRENKO

HON. FRED KELLER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize and congratulate Alexander V. Mitrenko of Selingsgrove, Pennsylvania, who will take his oath of citizenship today in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Nearly 19 years ago, Alex arrived in Selingsgrove for the first time as a 16-year-old high school exchange student from the Ukraine. Upon his arrival, Alexander knew no one, had no family to accompany him but in spirit, and spoke very little English. But as Alex stood at the beginning of a journey that would eventually bring him to raising his right hand today in allegiance to our nation, he held with him what our nation's earliest settlers had established and would take him toward a brighter and better future: the promise of America.

Alexander readily adapted to American life by forging new friendships in Central Pennsylvania and joining several groups in his school: the soccer and baseball teams, chess club, and the school band, to name a few. He worked tirelessly to improve his English, studied hard, frequently offered a unique perspective on world events to his classmates, and was always willing to offer a helping hand to a friend in need. To this day, he continues his close friendship with his host father in the United States, George Kinney.

Upon his graduation from high school, Alexander attended Susquehanna University and earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in Finance and Information Systems in 2005. He worked full-time after college and attended Drexel University's LeBow College of Business at night. In 2011, he received a Master's of Business Administration in Investment Management and International Business. In July 2015, Alex obtained his green card and married his wife, Erin, later that same year in October. They currently reside in Selingsgrove with their three adopted cats and are currently

restoring one of the town's historic properties on Market Street.

Today, Alexander remains a selfless member of his community. He previously served as a volunteer firefighter, takes part in 5k races and soccer games to raise money for charitable causes, and frequently participates in

volunteer opportunities through his employer, Prudential Financial. He is also an avid fan of the Philadelphia Eagles, Flyers, and Phillies.

Madam Speaker, if today we were tasked with finding some living proof that demonstrates how alive and well the promise of America is today, I would respectfully ref-

erence this invitation to congratulate Alexander V. Mitrenko on becoming a citizen of the United States of America. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate and welcome him, as he is officially guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.