

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.