House of Representatives
FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2019

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In these most important days and debates here in the people’s House, we beg You to send Your spirit of wisdom as the Members struggle to do the work that has been entrusted to them. Inspire them to work together with charity, and join their efforts to accomplish what our Nation needs to live into a prosperous and secure future.

Please keep all the Members of this Congress and all who work for the people’s House in good health, that they might faithfully fulfill the great responsibility given them by the people of this great Nation.

Bless us this day and every day. May all that is done here be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pledge of Allegiance

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. STAUBER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PROVIDING HEALTHCARE IN INSULAR AREAS

(Mr. SABLAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, good news for the Northern Mariana Islands and all the insular areas: The Territories Health Care Improvement Act was introduced on Tuesday, addressing the Medicaid cliff our areas face when special ObamaCare funding ends this year.

Thursday, the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee reported the bill without dissent. ’’Let’s keep it moving,’’ Chair ESHOO said. I believe full committee Chairman PALLONE intends to do so as well.

I thank them both and Ranking Members BURGESS and WALDEN for understanding the urgency of the Medicaid crisis in the insular areas. I also thank Mr. SOTO and Mr. BILLIRAKIS, who led the bill along with myself and seven bipartisan cosponsors.

It provides exactly what the Northern Mariana Islands Medicaid director testified she needed: $60 million per year. No local match is required as we recover from last year’s typhoons. After 6 years, we will get the FMAP any State is offered.

There are new program integrity requirements that I support because every Federal dollar should go to those intended, without fraud or waste.

So, healthcare in the insular areas can be as good as healthcare anywhere in America. That is good news.

RECOGNIZING INDEPENDENCE DAY AND PRESERVATION OF FREEDOM

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, last week, my wife, Penny, and I honored those who make Independence Day possible by attending our son Logan’s reenlistment and promotion to Army sergeant first class at Fort Drum, New York.

This occasion reminded me that our independence relies upon the vigilance of our citizens and those who have fought to defend our freedoms.

Regarding Independence Day, John Adams wrote to his wife, Abigail: “It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shews, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations from one end to the other, from this time forward, as the anniversary of our national independence."

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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

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of this continent to the other from this time forward forevermore.'

Following the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin was asked what sort of government the delegates had created. Without hesitation, he responded, "A republic, if you can keep it."

President Reagan aptly stated that freedom isn’t something passed to our children in the bloodstream. Preserving our freedom is certainly a responsibility of this generation as any past.

Madam Speaker, I commend those who continue to make these freedoms possible, and I look forward to a future where these freedoms will be defended for generations to come.

DEndef Against Attempts to Overturn ACA Protections

(Ms. UNDERWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, currently, 20 Republican-led States are suing to overturn the Affordable Care Act and the protections that it provides.

Rather than defend the law, the Trump administration is siding with these States and arguing the entire law should be overturned. This is an attack on every single American with a preexisting condition, including 300,000 people in Illinois’ 14th Congressional District.

If the ACA is overturned, insurers will, once again, have the power to refuse coverage to people with preexisting conditions, like cancer, asthma, heart conditions, and diabetes.

This is a fear for many of my constituents, including Mike DeBows of Shorewood, Illinois, who was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at a young age. Mike wrote to me because he is "deathly afraid"—his words—of losing his insurance.

Under the ACA, Mike doesn’t have to worry about being denied coverage for his preexisting condition. He can even stay on his parents’ plan until he turns 26. But if the Republicans’ lawsuit succeeds, 130 million Americans with preexisting conditions, including Mike, won’t have that peace of mind.

I am proud that my first vote in Congress was to protect the ACA by defending it in court so that Americans like Mike can focus on leading fulfilling lives, not whether their healthcare needs are covered.

Tribute to Ross Perot

(Mr. WILLIAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS. Madam Speaker, this week, Texas lost a son and America lost one of our finest patriots. Ross Perot was a leader, risk-taker, and a businessman who embodied the meaning of the American Dream.

Growing up in east Texas in what could be described as extreme poverty, Perot sought to make a difference in the lives of many, and he did just that. He was a leading example of the great things that can happen in this great country.

He left his home to serve our country in the U.S. Navy and later returned to grow his family and build his business empire. He was a self-made man who always remembered his humble beginnings, graciously giving time and resources to causes in both our Texas community and around the world.

He especially loved our men and women in uniform and was one of the first to speak out and do something about the treatment of our POWs. Perot also long warned us about the dangers of our growing national debt and sought to make politics and the economy less complicated.

Remember that he would say, "It’s just that simple."

Throughout his life, he prioritized love of his family and his country. We will all remember his service to our Nation and his fun and feisty spirit.

May we all say a prayer for his wife, children, and grandchildren and celebrate the life of this amazing man.

God bless Ross Perot. God bless his family. And God bless our country.

Investing in National Security

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the National Defense Authorization Act.

Just this week, I returned from a bipartisan congressional mission to the Middle East that underscored the importance of investing in our national security and, of course, in our men and women in uniform.

This year’s bill is the most robust military authorization in the history of our country and includes a much-needed pay raise for our troops.

I was also proud to add support for the Rock Island Arsenal, which is in my district and has supported our men and women in the military going all the way back to the days of the Civil War.

My amendment would allow Army arsenals to approve leases for underused space and would require the Army to study how they can better market available space on military installations.

The House also approved my amendment to expand important leasing protections for Gold Star spouses and injured servicemembers.

Finally, I amended this bill to recognize cadet nurses as honorary veterans for their patriotic service in World War II.

That is why today I will proudly cast a “yes” vote for this National Defense Authorization Act.

Honor the Life and Legacy of Marian Spencer

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of a Cincinnati legend and civil rights icon, Marian Spencer.

Ms. Spencer passed away Tuesday at the age of 99. She dedicated her life to shaping the community that she loved, Cincinnati, for the better.

Among her many accomplishments, in 1961, she successfully led the effort to integrate Coney Island, Cincinnati’s premier amusement park at the time. She was also a pioneer in Cincinnati politics, becoming the first woman to lead the local NAACP and the first African American woman elected to the Cincinnati City Council.

Over the years, I had the good fortune to get to know Marian Spencer and learn from her experiences.

We both served on the city council back in the 1960s, and she was never shy about sharing her opinions with me. I grew to respect her toughness, her honesty, and her conviction.

Madam Speaker, Cincinnati lost an exceptional leader on Tuesday, but Marian Spencer’s legacy will endure for generations to come.

Support Democrats’ Agenda to Lower Healthcare Costs

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, this week, the Trump administration is in court, arguing before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals to strike down the Affordable Care Act including taking away coverage for people with preexisting health conditions. If the President gets his way, tens of millions of Americans lose their health insurance, including a lot of people I represent in Michigan.

For the 130 million Americans with preexisting conditions, insurance companies would then again be able to discriminate against them and deny them coverage.

That is what happens if the Trump administration prevails. If they gut the ACA, caps on annual and lifetime coverage could come back again, and 800,000 Michiganders will lose coverage.

While the President and his followers seek to roll back to those days when people could be denied coverage because they are sick—think about that, denied coverage because you are sick—we are fighting to continue to bring down the cost of healthcare.

We have an agenda that is for the people to reduce the cost of healthcare and make sure no American has that fear.
Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express grave concern with the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020.

Every year, Congress is tasked with funding our military. These funds do everything from feeding our troops to equipping them for combat, to giving them and their families medical care. Because this funding is of such vital importance for our troops and our national security, these bills normally pass through Congress with wide bipartisan support.

However, despite the President, senior military officials, and a bipartisan Senate all agreeing on a funding level, House leadership has proposed a bill $15 billion less than what experts say is required.

This bill represents one of the worst political games I have seen in this House. It puts our servicemembers at risk and leaves our entire Nation vulnerable by underfunding personnel accounting for vital modernization initiatives, and deterrence against foreign aggression.

I call upon this House to follow us in this lead to set aside our differences and authorize these programs at the levels needed to protect our troops and our Nation.

EQUAL PAY FOR THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL SOCCER TEAM

(Ms. HAALAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAALAND. Madam Speaker, I stand in support of equal pay for equal work and in celebration of the women's national soccer team.

The team's World Cup victory highlighted a stark reality: There is still work to be done to ensure equal pay for the same work.

Last week, my colleagues and I in the Democratic Women's Caucus wrote to the U.S. Soccer Federation with a simple argument: Our most successful U.S. soccer team in history deserves equal pay.

The work of the women soccer players, coaches, and staff should not be worth less simply because they are women.

The women's soccer team is inspiring young girls everywhere to dream big. We must make sure those girls don't have to worry about equal pay. You shouldn't have to be a record-breaking world champion to get the same pay as your male counterparts.

As Megan Rapinoe said at the victory parade on Wednesday, "We have to be better."

IN REMEMBRANCE OF TIMOTHY McDoNALD AND DEB SCHOTT

(Mr. STAUBER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Timothy McDonald and Deb Schott, who both tragically perished in a helicopter crash at the Brainerd airport last month.

Both Timothy and Deb dedicated their lives to helping others. Timothy was a medical flight nurse for North Memorial's Air Care Unit and had previously served in the United States Army. He did two tours in Iraq. Deb was an emergency flight nurse for North Memorial's Air Care Unit. She had worked in the medical field since she was 19 years old.

Timothy and Deb both had outstanding reputations in their respective fields and were both beloved by their coworkers. My thoughts and prayers are with their loved ones.

Madam Speaker, our first responders are often the first on the scene, ready to help in times of crisis. We must never take the work they do or the sacrifices they make for granted.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10. GENERAL LEAVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 476, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My amendment, Madam Chair, would prohibit any Department of Defense resources from being used to allow Immigration and Customs Enforcement to expand its detention capacity.

The fiscal year 2019 appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security allows ICE detention for 46,550 beds for fiscal year 2019. In 2018, when ICE went beyond its detention bed limit, it took almost $200 million from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Coast Guard, TSA, FEMA, and ICE criminal investigations.

ICE continually expands beyond its means and then expects to be bailed out. This cannot go on.

ICE needs to operate within its appropriated limits and make more strategic decisions about whom to detain. ICE should prioritize detaining migrants who pose a serious threat to our society as well as those who will not be deported unless they are detained.

ICE cannot be given a blank check. Madam Chair, my amendment restricts defense resources from being used for ICE detention.

We have already seen President Trump defy the will of Congress on border wall funding. When Congress refused to fund this ineffective and wasteful border wall, he decided to take money away from other departments to build his wall, and his prime funder was the Department of Defense.

Madam Chair, I hope you will join me in preventing the Department of Defense from being used as President Trump's personal piggy bank to circumvent the will of Congress. I urge my House colleagues to support the Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10. PROHIBITION ON USE OF DOD EQUIPMENT, PERSONNEL, AND FACILITIES FOR ICE DETENTION.

No facilities, equipment, or personnel of the Department of Defense may be used to house or construct any housing for any foreign nationals who are in the custody of and detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 476, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.
Mr. THORNBERY. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. THORNBERY. Madam Chair, I have only myself to speak, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

ICE continually overspends on detention and does not face any consequences. Not only are they holding on to more people than ever before, they are doing so when there are alternatives to detention that have proven to be reliable and effective.

On average, it has cost $130 for ICE to detain an adult a day. One person in family detention costs $319 a day. Alternatives to detention cost less than $20 a day, and that includes services to help and expand our immigration system and show up for court hearings. I would note that Congress recently appropriated more money for ICE to use these alternatives to detention for migrants who do not pose a threat or have criminal backgrounds.

ICE needs to operate responsibly, and that includes following a budget. The Trump administration cannot be allowed to turn to the Department of Defense every time it has a new demand. Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERY. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, we had a number of these debates last night as far as DOD is concerned. We saw that DOD was called in to support the ICE mission. We ought not one dollar—or one person—from DOD to be sent to the border to support the ICE mission. We ought to fully fund border security on its own, because we have enough issues with broader national security for the Pentagon and the military to deal with.

Unfortunately, that is not possible when we don’t fully fund ICE and when we have an unprecedented situation at the border. Border Patrol stations are at a breaking point. They have been over capacity for nearly all of 2019. DHS has already apprehended more than 390,000 illegal immigrant members of DHS has already apprehended more than triple the number of migrants, if you don’t fund them to deal with that situation, then that is where DOD gets called in as backup and support.

As Ranking Member ROGERS mentioned last night, there are no ICE detainees in DOD facilities right now. I hope that there are not. Again, DOD has its own mission.

But you create the problem if you don’t fund ICE. If you say you can’t use DOD or anything else, then what happens? You have a humanitarian crisis. I think that we need to do better. This Congress needs to do better on the whole issue of border security. That will benefit the migrants that we are talking about; that will benefit DOD; and that will benefit the country.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question was taken; and the Act of the President was ordered to be engrossed and transmitted to the Senate with the amendments and with a report thereupon.

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Madam Chair, let me begin by saying what this amendment will not do. It will not end our security relationship with Saudi Arabia. It will not prevent us from helping the Saudis defend themselves against the Houthis or Iran or anybody else. It won’t prevent us from working with them to deal with maritime threats in the Persian Gulf or from sharing intelligence about terrorism.

It will not, in other words, preclude us from doing anything that is in America’s national security interest. All it will do is stop something that is categorically harmful to our national interest: the provision of offensive weapons that enable Saudi Arabia to keep defying our advice by bombing Yemen and prolonging the war there.

There is a reason why people say that this war has caused the world’s worst humanitarian crisis. More than 200,000 civilians have been killed or died of starvation.

While the Houthis are to blame for much of this, Saudi and UAE airstrikes are responsible for two-thirds of Yemeni civilian casualties.

There was a strike on a funeral where more than 150 civilians were killed, a strike on a school bus that killed 40 kids, on a Save the Children Hospital, on a wedding. These were not mistakes. These were deliberate and precise attacks. And everybody in Yemen knows that the bombs causing the suffering are made in the United States.

Who benefits from this? Certainly not us. From a strategic perspective, the only winner is Iran. By making a relatively small investment in Yemen, the Iranians have drawn the Saudis into this quagmire which tarnishes them and the United States and pushes Yemeni civilians into Iranian hands.

Over two administrations, the U.S. Government has tried to use its influence to change how Saudi Arabia fights this war. I know about this effort because I was in charge of it in 2015 and 2016, and the Saudi Government was not worth a try then, but the Saudis did not listen to us.

Under both the Obama and Trump administrations, we have given the Saudis specific lists of targets not to strike. We have told them: Do not hit this specific hospital or this port facility or that bridge. And then, repeatedly, they have gone ahead and hit the
precise coordinates on our no-strike list.

And then we just keep on selling them the bombs.

What does that say to the people of Yemen or to the leadership of Saudi Arabia?

Now, I know some have argued that, if we want to protect civilians in Yemen, it is better to at least make sure the Saudis have precision munitions to help them avoid collateral damage. This argument does not make sense. The Saudis are using our precision weapons to precisely hit the wrong targets.

Others have said that, if we don’t help the Saudis, the Russians or the Chinese will. That is nonsense. The Saudis use American aircraft. Last I checked, you cannot service an F–15 with MIG parts. They are, for the foreseeable future, utterly dependent on us.

The question we have to decide is: What kind of relationship are we going to have with Saudi Arabia? Is it one in which the Saudis can do whatever they please, or is it a relationship that is to our advantage, contrary to our interests, knowing that, whatever they do to us, we will take it on ourselves to save the relationship? Or will we finally recognize that, while we benefit from working with Saudi Arabia, the Saudis need us far more?

This is a measured amendment, Madam Chair, that deals with precisely the Saudi conduct that we most oppose, without undermining our ability to cooperate with Saudi Arabia on other issues. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Missouri is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the gentleman from New Jersey’s amendment, which would ban sales of all air-to-ground munitions to Saudi Arabia and UAE for a period of 1 year.

The gentleman and I have worked together on many human rights issues, including on legislation that would hold Saudi Arabia accountable for the killing of Jamal Khashoggi, and I share the gentleman’s concern for the Saudi-led coalition’s record on human rights.

But, while I understand the gentleman’s amendment is intended to address concerns about the Yemen conflict, which I share, this amendment is not the correct approach to do so.

Rather than provide clear conditions and benchmarks regarding our strategic partners’ wartime conduct, the effect of this amendment would simply slam the door.

Disengaging will not help us end the war in Yemen, nor will it help us contain Iran’s malign influence.

Iran has helped the Houthis target civil infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, and on June 6, Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen shot down a U.S. MQ–9 Reaper drone using an Iranian—surface-to-air missile. U.S. Central Command said the attack was “enabled by Iranian assistance.”

Iran’s increasingly reckless and aggressive behavior is deeply concerning. Saudi Arabia and the UAE are on the front lines of the struggle to contain Iran.

As partners like Saudi Arabia continue to endure Houthi attacks on civilian targets, we need a tailored approach that helps our partners protect their national security while minimizing casualties.

This amendment is not tailored, and it will not make the Arabian peninsula safer.

Madam Chair, I urge Members to oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Madam Chair, I yield ½ minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) of Washington.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for offering this amendment.

I do agree with the opponent on this issue, that we have tried to hold Saudi Arabia accountable. As the gentleman mentioned, we have countless showed them how to better target.

We have tried various things legislatively. We have introduced legislation. We have done different things to try to say we don’t like what Saudi Arabia is doing.

But we have never actually done any of it, because the Trump administration has decided—and, as the gentleman points out, it wasn’t just the Trump administration—that we are basically all in on Saudi Arabia. We are simply going to support them no matter what.

The murder of Jamal Khashoggi was appalling, and the fact that Saudi Arabia felt that they could do it and get away with it is the most alarming thing. Well, it is not the most alarming thing. The thing that is more alarming is they were right.

They figured that this administration would do nothing, just like as they bombed the schoolbus, as they bombed the funeral, as they bombed all of those civilian targets. As many times as we told them that we didn’t want them to do that, there wouldn’t be no consequences, that, at the end of the day, the U.S. was not going to hold them accountable for that.

And the consequences are grave. As the gentleman points out, it actually empowers Iran because it sends a message to the world that we are willing to bomb and kill civilians and participate, however good intentioned, in what has become the largest humanitarian crisis in the world.

And it empowers people into terrorists’ arms because, yes, Iran is a problem, but ISIS and al-Qaida, I would submit to you, are a larger problem.

And they use this. They use our blind support for Saudi Arabia and for this war in Yemen against us.

Madam Chair, this is a good amendment, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Chair, the last few months has seen Iran perpetrate a series of provocative actions against the U.S. and its regional partners.

On May 15, armed drones struck two Saudi oilfields, resulting in the ordered departure of nonessential personnel from U.S. Embassy Baghdad and the General Consulate Erbil.

On May 16, 17 rockets fired from Iran hit the Terrace of the Quds Force called on the terror groups to prepare for a proxy war.

Armed drones launched by the Houthis have repeatedly attacked a civilian airport in Saudi Arabia.

On June 19, Iran shot down U.S. military assets over international waters.

And, just yesterday, the British Navy prevented three Iranian parliamentary vessels from impeding the passage of a British oil tanker transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

This is not the time to walk away from our strategic allies. We share a common threat. We must be certain that they are equipped with the tools they need to defend their national security and to work with us in countering common threats that destabilize this region.

I firmly believe the United States can support our strategic allies while also insisting that they prosecute the war in Yemen more responsibly.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MALINOWSKI).

The question was taken; and the Acting CHAIR announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 440 OFFERED BY MRS. DINGELL

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 440 printed in part B of House Report 116-143.

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subsection (b) of title III, insert the following:

SEC. 4. DESIGNATION AS HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall designate all per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous substances under section 102(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9602(a)).
Designating this will jump-start the cleanup process at military facilities, which is needed, and in communities across this country; and that is why it is imperative that this amendment be included.

I am proud to have offered this amendment, and I thank all who have supported this approach and make this possible for us to consider today.

Today, we have a real opportunity to help accelerate the cleanup process wherever PFAS contamination exists and protect the health of all Americans, and our servicemen and women, and the environment, now and for future generations. I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment.

Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), who I have been proud to work with on this.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Chair, I thank my colleague for her leadership on this issue, and for yielding.

This amendment is really simple. It requires polluters who have contaminated drinking water with PFAS chemicals to clean it up. The amendment has the support of the Armed Services Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee, and I thank the chairs of those committees for their help.

It also has the support of the International Association of Firefighters and the National Farmers Union because they know how important it is to clean up PFAS.

Communities like the community of Oscoda, in the northern part of my district, have waited too long for the Defense Department to act. This is a step toward getting these dangerous chemicals out of the ground and out of our groundwater.

I do understand that some groups are concerned about this amendment, utilities and airports. We pledge to work toward getting these dangerous chemicals out of the ground and out of our groundwater.

I do understand that some groups are concerned about this amendment, utilities and airports. We pledge to work through conference to make sure that we deal with the concerns that they raise.

But this is simple. This says that we are going to protect public health. Every day that we fail to act, the cost of PFAS cleanup just gets more expensive.

I encourage my colleagues to support this important amendment and to support the underlying bill.

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Chair, this amendment is anything but simple. It is highly complex. Per- and polyfluorinated compounds, there are probably 5,000 different permutations, and my colleagues act like it is one formulation; and it is multiple.

So what they want to do is, in essence, do a de facto ban claiming a class of 5,000 chemicals as qualified for toxicology in the Superfund; and that is a de facto ban of all those applications.

We are all going to fly home tonight. We are going to close the door to the plane. We are going to have this seal, and this is what is used to protect the seal around the airplane door—us, so we don’t get sucked out. Banned, toxic Superfund.

No one disputes our colleagues concerning and maybe my concern about former installations, current installations, and water in ditches from firefighting foam. So let’s deal with that issue.

Let’s not do what this amendment and other amendments will do which is throw the proverbial baby out with the bathwater.

So what do we use some of these formulations of per-and polyfluorinated compounds—again, some 5,000—for? We use it to save the lives of people.

Here is a stent, which are in millions of people. PFAS banned, de facto banned because it falls under a Superfund. No one is going to make them because they don’t want to be held legally liable if this stent eventually goes into a landfill. So we don’t need that anymore.

More kids than I know are born with a hole in their heart. So what is the chemical compound that helps plug the hole, so these children can grow and mature? Oh, it is a PFAS-formulated compound. So let’s have a de facto ban on this device.

Remember, these medical devices are approved by our Food and Drug Administration. They say they are safe to be inserted into the human body. So why would we then say, if it is safe to be inserted into the human body, these medical devices are now going to be unsafe in a landfill, and then you have a Superfund act and, again, a de facto ban?

This shouldn’t be in this debate. I have great respect for the chairman and the ranking member, but this is a National Defense Authorization Act. It is not an Energy and Commerce Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee act; and I hope we will take this up.

EPA deals with toxicologists, analytical chemists, organic chemists, epidemiologists, chemical biologists, material scientists, theoretical chemists. Those are the ones who are going to help us decide which of the 5,000 permutations of PFAS are actually good and which ones are actually harmful.

But this says they are all bad. It is like—my folks don’t want me to use this example. It is like saying, an orange is bad. Let’s ban all fruit.

Okay. No, we are going to take the peeling of a banana and throw it in a dump. Oh, no, that is going to be a toxic dump under Superfund, and no...
one is going to have and harvest bananas anymore. That is just ridiculous.

It is moved by emotion. We understand that. It is moved by real problems and groundwater contamination. We are not against that.

My friends in the committee process, and help you and help me and these other communities affect change and provide safe drinking water to our communities.

We have got the water communities who are afraid of this amendment. They are afraid of this amendment because of previous practices, and then them falling under Superfund liability, and then having to raise rates based upon providing sludge to farmers who put it on their property, and then having to raise rates based upon providing sludge to farmers who put it on their property, and then having to raise rates based upon providing sludge to farmers who put it on their property.

We are not against that.

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Moreover, Amendments 440 and 48 would overwhelm EPA and the potentially needless reopening of vast amounts of remediated sites. Such an approach could also undermine the nascent progress towards clean up at some of the prevalent, known contaminated sites.

We are disappointed that an amendment proposed by Rep. Fitzpatrick, with Reps. Boyle, Gonzalez, Rouda, and Blunt Rochester, will not come up for a vote in the House. The approach of this bipartisan amendment, which mirrors provisions of the defense authorization bill that the full Senate, would have encouraged the development of a consistent approach and clear timelines for addressing and regulating specific PFAS activities to ensure that government regulations, actions, and communications are consistent and coordinated for maximum effectiveness. Congress’s goals should be to create conditions for cleanups to occur as expeditiously as practicable.

While we oppose Amendments 440 and 48, we applaud the work of the amendments’ sponsors and the other leaders of the PFAS issues in both parties for their important contributions. We look forward to working with you on this important matter as the legislative process continues.

Sincerely,

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 441 OFFERED BY MS. JAYAPAL

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 441 offered by Reps. Kildee and Dingell, and Amendment 48, offered by Rep. Pappas, to H. R. 2500, the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020.”

PFAS are a large and diverse class of chemicals with properties that have been used in a broad number of beneficial applications for decades. Heightened attention to potential health effects of certain PFAS chemicals has understandably led to increased public concern and interest in new regulatory protections in this area.

We support action to address these concerns, as long as it is consistent with the need to protect human health and the environment.

We applaud the leadership of Reps. Kildee, Dingell, and Pappas for pushing Congress to address PFAS contamination. Amendments 440 and 48, however well-intentioned, are unproductive approaches to expeditiously address PFAS contamination.

Amendment 440 would require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to designate all PFAS as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), or Superfund, within one year. Similarly, Amendment 48 would require EPA to add all PFAS to the list of toxic pollutants regulated by the Clean Water Act and establish effluent and pretreatment standards, which could trigger “back door” CERCLA designations.

CERCLA listing decisions are not political questions that Congress is best positioned to address. EPA should retain its traditional authority to study potentially hazardous substances and determine whether they should be designated under CERCLA. The Superfund program has a strong track record, and EPA’s career scientists have the requisite expertise to examine PFAS.

Moreover, Amendments 440 and 48 would likely lead to slower cleanups because of an overwhelmed EPA and the potentially needless reopening of vast amounts of remediated sites. Such an approach could also undermine the nascent progress towards clean up at some of the prevalent, known contaminated sites.

We are disappointed that an amendment proposed by Rep. Fitzpatrick, with Reps. Boyle, Gonzalez, Rouda, and Blunt Rochester, will not come up for a vote in the House. The approach of this bipartisan amendment, which mirrors provisions of the defense authorization bill that the full Senate, would have encouraged the development of a consistent approach and clear timelines for assessing and regulating specific PFAS activities to ensure that government regulations, actions, and communications are consistent and coordinated for maximum effectiveness. Congress’s goals should be to create conditions for cleanups to occur as expeditiously as practicable.

While we oppose Amendments 440 and 48, we applaud the work of the amendments’ sponsors and the other leaders of the PFAS issues in both parties for their important contributions. We look forward to working with you on this important matter as the legislative process continues.

Sincerely,
to examine options for reducing service contracts, reducing the nuclear security enterprise, rebalancing force structure, and reducing or realigning our overseas presence.

It would also examine realistic, cost-effective ways to use pre-award audits to negotiate better prices for weapons systems and services.

Additionally, it would require an updated and comprehensive series of studies from Federally-funded research and development centers as well as a non-partisan, nongovernmental think tank. These would supplement the GAO studies and look at cost savings resulting from alternatives to current force structures and our nuclear posture.

Now, I know the other side is going to say that we have done these studies; there is plenty of information out there. But the reality is we operate in a different world, and we need an updated, comprehensive study that deals with our current situation in the world.

Madam Chair, let me be clear that while I do have strong reservations about the top-line spending level in this bill, my amendment would not cut from the top line at all. Instead, it looks at how we can make better policy choices; we can better allocate a limited set of resources down the line. So, in the long term, I believe our defense spending levels are unsustainable, inefficient, and unnecessary. They force us to figure out how to cut that logically, comprehensively, with our national security in the center of that analysis.

So my amendment is a thoughtful solution to give us some of the data we need. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the distinguished Republican leader.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Chair, the NDAA has been a bipartisan bill for the last 58 consecutive years. In those decades, control of Congress changed hands many times, with Democrats in the majority and Republicans in the majority. We must maintain a consistent motto: The troops come first. The troops come before politics. We are making history this week because that all changed.

But not in the Senate, where the National Defense Authorization Act, the NDAA passed with bipartisan support, was, not just Republicans, but CHUCK SCHUMER voted for it as well; 86 Senators.

But it is not being continued in the House, not under this majority. The NDAA was a test for this new majority. It was to see whether they could put their radicalism aside and work across the aisle to do what was right for the country. The Democrats, or should I say, many call themselves socialist Democrats, failed that test.

After weeks of infighting they brought yet another partisan bill to the floor. So this year’s NDAA, at least the House version, will not and cannot be bipartisan. Now, let me give you a couple of reasons why:

First, the bill is filled with poison pills and rife with flaws. Here are some of the most harmful ones:

It makes it tougher to recruit and retain effective soldiers and negatively impacts military families. This bill cuts an astonishing $1.2 billion from the military personnel accounts.

Terrorists threaten us and threaten the homeland, but Democrats would close GTMO and, against all common sense, bring some of the world’s worst and most dangerous terrorists to the United States, instead of keeping them where they belong.

Madam Chairwoman, it is going to be quite interesting history when you cast this vote, and when these terrorists come to the homeland, how you answer to your constituents that you cast that vote to make.

The humanitarian crisis on the southern border continues; so does the Democrats’ refusal to address it. They are working to stop construction on the border and, worse, placing severe restrictions on the military’s traditional mission to support border security.

Democrats have spent the last 2 years accusing President Trump of being a Russian agent and telling us how big a threat Putin is. But what does the NDAA do? It actually empowers Russia and China, gives them an advantage.

Even when we worked with our NATO allies on what we would deal with when it came to our weapons, they deny it inside this bill.

When it comes to hypersonics, you cut it. When it comes to the future of this country, you just put us in a weaker position.

Any way you look at it, this bill will not make America safer.

But the problems here go beyond bad policy ideas. The Democrats’ partisan process is egregious. Let’s just look at the facts.

This year, 439 amendments, a record, were made in order. You would think that would be a high threshold for partisan amendments. Why do you think it would reflect bipartisanship? Because let’s look at the last 2 years, and I can look at that because the gentleman on our side of the aisle who was chair at that time ran two NDAA bills. At the end of the day, the vote tally was way into the 300s, almost 400.

But how do you build something in bipartisanship? First, you start in committee. Then when it comes to the floor with all the other Members, you allow their amendments to come.

And those 2 years of those NDAA bills with Republicans in the majority, do you know who had the majority of the amendments on this floor? The minority party. The minority party had the most amendments on this floor.

So of those 439, how was the minority party’s voice heard in this new NDAA that has become 44 percent. That is right. Forty-four percent. That is right. Fourteen percent of the amendments on this floor were allocated to the minority party, when history proves that we have done something different when somebody else was in charge.

The most egregious of all this was how they treated the rules that we fought for inside this House, that we had this body open. We are a country of the rule of law. We believe this House should work the same way.

So when I listened to the new Speaker talk about the changes in this body, one was a Consensus Calendar, that anybody who is elected to Congress, if they did their work, if they worked hard, if they were able to achieve more than the career cosponsor, you should have a voice on this floor. I heard Members on both sides of the aisle say they could not vote for a Speaker unless somebody would agree to this. It was agreed to, and it was changed.

So when the moment came when a Member had done the work, when it met that threshold—and we know that threshold is hard to meet. That Member’s name was Congressman JOE WILSON.

What did JOE WILSON put his effort, his sweat, and his tears in? What could he actually achieve by working on both sides of the aisle? It was the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act. It would make it easier for spouses of service-members who died to receive military benefits. He did everything that the new rule said you had to do.

And what did this new majority do after they quashed any ability for amendments on the other side? They changed the rule that they just created.

My father would look at me. He would question my character if I gave somebody my word and I broke it. Not only did we give somebody our word, we actually changed the rules in this House.

JOE WILSON has 365 sponsors—not just supporters, but cosponsors. That is nearly this entire House. It qualified for the Consensus Calendar that Speaker PELOSI promised to create so the floor would be open to the best, and most of us agreed with that idea. It turns out that was just another broken promise by the majority.

I wonder if anyone on the other side will bring it up. I wonder if it will bother them that, in the moment that you told this body what the rules would be, and somebody achieved it for the military spouses, that you had actually changed the rules so it cannot be voted on.

I have seen a lot of things happen on this floor; I have seen a lot of things that embarrass me; but this is probably...
one of the most shameful things I have ever seen a majority do.

The Democrat Socialists stripped the language from JOE WILSON's bill, discarded his legislation, and stuck the language into their own partisan NDA. This is the ultimate lack of support. They put it into a bill that JOE WILSON can't even support after he did all the work, after they made promises not only to the Members of Congress, but remember what promise you made to the American public. I don't think it is a game, but that is exactly how Democrats are treating it.

Madam Chair, this majority has reached new lows this week. They seem determined to prove to the American people week in and week out that they are incapable of governing responsibly.

They can walk out these doors; they can look down the hall; and they can see the Chamber on the other side taking up a similar bill that reaches 86 percent of the voting bloc of the members, with the leaders on the Republican and Democrat side agreeing to it, with the majority in the Senate not changing the rules that they laid out for the American public to see.

The NDAA for Fiscal Year 2020 will determine whether our military maintains its gains in readiness or languishes after years of progress.

The stakes of this year's defense budget are too high to be left to the wild fantasies of the left. It is time for them to stop the partisan games and send a message to the world that America is serious about protecting its interests, supporting our allies, and shaping the future of the international order for generations to come.

Madam Chair, I know what will happen on this floor today. History will be written about it. Fifty-eight years that this body has put troops first, this is one of the most shameful things I have ever seen a majority do. This is probably one of the worst things I have ever seen a majority do.

And, Madam Chair, I yield the balance of my time to close on this amendment. Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time to close on this amendment.

Mr. JAYAPAL. Madam Chair, I just want to say that this amendment is a smart, thoughtful way to think about how we reduce military spending over the long term without sacrificing national security. And, Madam Chair, I don't understand when patriotism got linked to how much money we give to defense contractors. That is not my idea of patriotism.

Patriotism, to me, and protecting the troops means that we make sure that we do not send them into harm's way unless absolutely necessary, which means that we look at the threats of the future, we assess our response to that, and we take care of our troops. This bill does that in many, many, many ways.

I believe that being patriotic means that we just continue to raise the top-line spending number because I don't believe that being patriotic means that we just continue to raise the amount of money that we give. I think we need to be thoughtful and comprehensive about what our national security looks like internationally.

And, Madam Chair, I also think that national security should mean how we treat people here in this country. If we send troops over to Iraq and we cut their healthcare, we take away pre-existing conditions for their family members, we refuse to provide public education, that is not helping our troops while they are overseas to worry about their families.

So national security is a big picture conversation. It is not about how much money we give to defense contractors, this amendment did. It says what we know about the future.

If a private corporation lost track of hundreds of millions of dollars, its shareholders would find that completely unacceptable. The reasoning is that we need to make sure we are thoughtful, and we should pass this amendment.

And, Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Chair, there is a train of thought, a political philosophy in the United States, at least since the sixties, that we are the problem, that the world would be a better place if we reduced our military, if we were weaker, if we did less; we are the problem.

In one political convention, Jeane Kirkpatrick called it the "blame America first" approach. I think we are seeing elements of that philosophy in this amendment, because this amendment requires a bunch of studies about how we cut stuff.

Now, it doesn't really talk about, okay, what are our adversaries doing. It doesn't really talk about the challenges in meeting the security needs of our neighborhoods, how we prevent terrorists from coming to America and blowing us up, how we prevent the Russians, the Chinese from doing a variety of things, the Iranians, North Korean missiles. No, it just talks about, okay, what can we do to cut us.

And, specifically, section (a)(1)(A) asks for studies on options for reducing the Nuclear Security Enterprise; B, options for reducing service contracts; C, options for reducing special operations forces; D, options for reducing overseas military presence; F, options for replacing military personnel with civilian personnel. It is not present.

I understand that there is that approach, but that approach has not been what has guided the broad majority of American political leadership for the last 70 years, because that approach has been that America needs to be strong. We are not perfect. Absolutely, the Pentagon is not as efficient as it should be, no question. But the idea is we should be strong and we have to pay attention to what adversaries are doing. That is not the approach that this amendment takes.

One other point, I think that Chairman SMITH made a very important point a while ago, and that is one of the worst things we can do is send men and women out on mission without providing the support, the training, all that they need to, the best equipment, all that they need to perform that mission successfully.

We owe them that when they risk their lives. Yet, that is exactly what
this government, and I think there is blame on both sides, has done so in the past.

The world did not get safer. We did not reduce the missions we asked them to do. Yet, the budget was cut by 20 percent. And it happened. More of them lost their lives. There are real consequences to cuts without taking into account a strategy and including what adversaries are doing.

The administration has, for the first time in a long time, a significant National Security Strategy. It is not perfect, but at least it is an approach to dealing with these things: Here is the strategy. Here are the resources we need to meet that strategy.

That is what they have given us. You can agree or disagree, but they have done that.

That is not what this amendment does. This amendment says cut. This amendment says, have America grow weaker and, somehow, the world will benefit. I don’t think that is true.

Madam Chair, I am opposed to this amendment. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Washington will be postponed.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 17 OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF WASHINGTON

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 476, I offer amendments en bloc.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 476, I offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 17 consisting of amendment Nos. 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, and 439, printed in part B of House Report 116-143, offered by Mr. SMITH of Washington:

AMENDMENT NO. 432 OFFERED BY MISS RICE OF NEW YORK

At the end of subtitle G of title V, add the following:

SEC. 10. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SUPPORT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY OPERATIONS ON THE SOUTHWEST BORDER OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) REVIEW REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of ongoing and planned future Department of Defense support for Department of Homeland Security operations to secure the southwest border of the United States.

(b) REPORT AND BRIEFING.—

(1) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after beginning to conduct the review required under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall provide to the Committees on Armed Services and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committees on Armed Services and Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a briefing on the review.

(2) REPORT.—Subsequent to providing the briefing under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committees on Armed Services and Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report on the review.

AMENDMENT NO. 433 OFFERED BY MR. STANTON OF ARIZONA

At the end of subtitle G of title V, add the following new section:

SEC. 567. INCLUSION OF QUESTION REGARDING HOMELAND SECURITY OPERATIONS ON PREPARATION COUNSELING CHECKLIST (DD FORM 2648).

Not later than September 30, 2030, the Secretary of Defense shall modify the preassignment counseling checklist for active component, active guard reserve, active reserve, full time support, and reserve program administrator service members (DD Form 2648) to include a specific block wherein a member of the Armed Forces may indicate that the member would like to receive information regarding the immigration status of that member and expedited naturalization.

AMENDMENT NO. 434 OFFERED BY MR. TAKANO OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle G of title V, add the following new section:

SEC. 530. REVIEW OF DISCHARGE CHARACTERIZATION OF COVERED MEMBERS.

(a) NOTICE REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall provide the Secretary of Homeland Security with a copy of the Certificate of Discharge (DD Form 214) for each individual who is not a citizen of the United States who is honorably discharged from the Armed Forces so that the Secretary of Homeland Security may note such discharge in an I-213 Record of Deportable/Inadmissible Alien for that individual.

(b) DEADLINE.—The Secretary of Defense shall provide each notice under this section not later than 30 days after the date of such discharge.

AMENDMENT NO. 435 OFFERED BY MR. AGUILAR OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle G of title V, add the following:

SEC. 567. COUNSELING TO MEMBERS WHO ARE NON-CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) NOTICE REQUIRED.—The Secretary concerned shall furnish to covered individuals under the jurisdiction of that Secretary counseling regarding how to apply for naturalization.

(b) COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘‘covered individual’’ means a former member of the Armed Forces who was not a citizen of the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 436 OFFERED BY MR. AGUILAR OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle G of title V, add the following new section:

SEC. 530. PROHIBITION ON INVOLUNTARY SEPARATION OR DEPORTATION OF COVERED MEMBERS.

(a) DACA.—No covered person who has received deferred action under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program of the Department of Homeland Security, established pursuant to the memorandum of the Secretary of Homeland Security dated June 15, 2012, may, solely on the basis of such deferred action, be—

(1) involuntarily separated from the Armed Forces;

(2) placed into removal proceedings; or

(3) removed from the United States.

(b) TPS.—No covered person who has temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a), may, solely on the basis of such status be—

(1) involuntarily separated from the Armed Forces;

(2) placed into removal proceedings; or

(3) removed from the United States.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 476, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY) each will control discussion.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CUNNINGHAM).

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Chair, I rise in support of my amendment to expand and improve the defense access security.
straight years. In recent years, we have together grappled with the problem that we were discussing a few moments ago, a readiness crisis that resulted in the highest number of aviation deaths in 6 years last year and an increasing number of accidents.

Together, we grappled to turn the corner and do a better job. There is a lot of pride in what the committee together has done over the years. There is not seen that in the Armed Services Committee is sincerely dedicated to doing work that does that are deemed necessary for our national security.

Additionally, this measure will expand the program to include roads to airports or seaports that are deemed necessary for our national security. Given Charleston’s indispensable role in supporting the rapid deployment of our servicemembers and their equipment, it is essential that our local infrastructure is maintained and reinforced.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment.

Mr. THORNBERY. Madam Chair, I would inform the Chair that I have only myself to speak on this amendment. I don’t know if the chairman has other speakers.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Chair, it is just me. I am going to close, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERY. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, let me start in a similar way that I started 2 days ago, and that is to express my appreciation to the staff, which has done a terrific job of wading through a ton of issues, a lot of paper, in bringing this bill to the floor.

I also want to express my particular appreciation to some unsung heroes, and those are the folks in the legislative counsel. Members and staff come and those are the folks in the legislative counsel. Members and staff come and go, but they are the backbone of the committee. There have been some inferences, and even more than inferences, on the floor that there is some sort of political maneuvering or games going on. I have not seen that in the Armed Services Committee. I believe, to a man and woman, every member of that committee is sincerely dedicated to doing the right thing for the troops and for the country’s national security.

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The truth is, together, we have done a lot of good work over the years, not just the work they put into it, but for their dedication and commitment to the country’s national security.

Additionally, this measure will expand the program to include roads to airports or seaports that are deemed necessary for our national security. Given Charleston’s indispensable role in supporting the rapid deployment of our servicemembers and their equipment, it is essential that our local infrastructure is maintained and reinforced.

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The truth is, together, we have done a lot of good work over the years, 58
We finally live up to the rhetoric and we give the widows the money that they have been asking for. Just about every single Republican Member of Congress is a cosponsor of this bill—JOE WILSON is the prime sponsor—that fully funds widows' benefits. After co-sponsoring it for 9 years, the Republicans were in charge and doing nothing about it, we actually put it in the bill and we are going to pass it. And yet, to hear them say that it is somehow a bad thing to basically do what they were saying was so promising for 8 years, I think, is a very big positive on the bill. We have a tenant's bill of rights to protect families and the housing that we have heard so many complaints about. We step up to try to protect those families. We have paid family and medical leave for all Federal employees, including all DOD employees. We have provisions to protect our militiamen from the dangers of chemicals in PFAS that we have learned so much about. We make sure that troops get the pay raise that they deserve: a 3.1 percent pay raise. And, yes, we also have provisions to try to make sure that the children who are being held by DOD within the migrant community are adequately protected. I think that is all important. And yet, for all of that, the Republicans oppose the bill, and it raises the question: Why? Earlier on, the chairman quoted me from a few years ago when we opposed the bill. As I said, opposing the bill doesn't mean you are against our troops, and I stand by that. Now, it is interesting to note that a large number of Members on that side at the time said that much and much more: that to oppose this bill means you are against national security and against those troops. To his credit, the then-chairman, Mr. THORNBERY, didn't say that. What he said was: Look, on the defense bill, you can always have a bunch of excuses for why you don't support it. But, at the end of the day, if you don't support it, you are not supporting funding our military and you are not supporting giving our troops what they need. That is now what, en masse, the Republicans are going to do. So, the question is: Why? What is their list of excuses? It starts with that top line. And this was their most brilliant political move. It has been quoted that Chairman Dunford said that we need to have inflation, plus 3 to 5 percent. That was in a newspaper article. I thought about that. That is not actually what they said. Secretary Mattis was very clear. Once we got the deal last year to get to $716 billion, he said we need inflation. That is what I remember. But how do we know that is true? Chairman Dunford and Secretary Mattis, a year ago, proposed $733 billion. So if they believed we needed inflation, plus 3 to 5 percent, are they just bad at math? Did they not have a calculator available to figure out that $733 billion isn't that? No. It is what they said they needed. I think we now know why the Republicans, in the last minute said: No, we have to have $750 billion: so they can come up here and claim that we cut stuff. That is just ridiculous. There are two great examples. The distinguished minority leader—it is possible that he is just this stupid, but I don't think it is true—said that we cut hypersonic weapons. How much did we cut them by? We increased them by $300 million over last year. But, yes, we reduced them. It wasn't actually a hypersonic weapon, but we made a reduction in the $750 billion request. So you create the $750 billion request and then you say you are cutting. We are not cutting, we are increasing. Which is why I say, if we had put in $750 billion, they would have said $800 billion and then stood up there and accused us of everything else that we cut. And the personnel account is another great example: a $1.2 billion cut. Last year, the Republicans cut the DOD personnel account by $1.7 billion because the Pentagon frequently asks for personnel funds that are not justified. That is our job. So only in the minds of a Republican can $735 billion defense budget, that is an increase over last year, be a cut. There are not cuts to this budget in that way. We fully fund the military. And then we hear their argument about one nuclear weapon that we are not going to field. You heard what they said: it is unilateral nuclear disarmament. To cut one weapon when we have thousands of nuclear weapons? There was no way the Republican Party was ever going to support a bill put together by Democrats. And these people behind me, they worked their butts off to make this bipartisan. What the minority leader said is the biggest insult I have ever heard to the members of the staff in 23 years on this committee. To dismiss them as partisan, not interested in national security is an incredible insult to the hard work that they do, and nobody in this House, Republican or Democrat, should let a statement like that stand. We have put together a good bill. The reason Republicans oppose it is for purely partisan reasons. And, that is, they want to be able to give speeches, like the one of the minority leader who said Democrats don't care about national security. We care about national security. In fact, I will tell you, our bill isn't just good, it is better than the ones that the Republican Party have put together. We believe the Pentagon should be accountable. They said $733 billion. As recently as December of this year, the ranking member put an op-ed in The Wall Street Journal saying we had to
and the amendment thing—and I love this—we made more amendments in order on this defense bill this year than ever. The Republicans actually submitted a lot fewer amendments than we did. We submitted 480, they submitted 201. And then we actually agreed with the overwhelming majority of their amendments and put them in en bloc packages. They didn’t agree with the overwhelming majority of our amendments, so we didn’t put them in en bloc packages, which gives them the statistic that only one of their amendments was debated.

So by working with them and agreeing with them to include 50 percent of their amendments—the most amendments ever offered—that is partisan. And I can’t help but feel like they were setting us up. They didn’t want to work with us. No matter how hard we tried, no matter how many hours we spent working with them, they wanted to come to the floor today and say that Democrats don’t care about national security.

That is shameful. I am going to get over it. We are going to work past it—I think national security is too important to get petty about these things—and we are going to keep working together.

The good news is that we have a very good bill. It is accountable. It doesn’t just give the Pentagon money. Yes, we eliminate senseless discrimination by stopping the ban on transgender troops.

I will say the other side is wrong. They have voted against the defense bill before. They voted against it in 2010 because we repealed Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell. They were wrong then and they are wrong now. Discrimination in the military doesn’t make us safer. Mindless bigotry doesn’t make us safer.

I believe strongly in this bill. The good news is, we got this, we are going to pass it, even if the other side is going to decide to play partisan politics.

Madam Chair, I urge support for the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. ROCAN. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of Amendment No. 439 which is based upon legislation that I have introduced every Congress since I was elected in 2012, the “Restore Honor to Service Members Act”. This amendment will require the Department of Defense to correct the military records of service members discharged solely because of their sexual orientation. And significantly, then amending service members’ discharge characterizations to an honorable discharge will enable impacted individuals to access the benefits they earned and to which they would otherwise be entitled. It is a significant moment for the more than 100,000 Americans estimated to have been discharged from the military since World War II due to their sexual orientation.

I thank Chairman Smith for his strong support of this amendment, Paul Arcangeli—Staff Director of the House Armed Services Committee—for his assistance, and Leslie Zelenko of my staff who has worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the amendment before us today.

Additionally, I would like to extend my deep gratitude to the Human Rights Campaign, the Modern Military Association of America, and VoteVets, for supporting this amendment, and Representatives KATIE HILL, CHRIS PAPPAS, MARK TAKANO, SETH MOULTON, JAMIE RASKIN, CHUY GARCÍA, ALAN LOWENTHAL, BARBARA LEY, BILL FRESCH, BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, SEAN PATRICK MALONEY, BRIAN HIGGS, ED CASE, PAUL TONKO, Denny Heck, Jan Schakowsky, Veronica Escobar, Robin Kelly, Julia Brownley, Kurt Schrader, Steve Cohen, Ilhan Omar, Suzan DelBene, Anthony Brown, Joe Kennedy, Donna Shalala, Suzanne Bonamici, and Katie Porter for cosponsoring. I would also like to recognize Senator Brian Schatz and Senator KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND for championing this legislation in the Senate. Without this outpouring of support, today would not have been possible. Again, I thank them.

Madam Chair, I urge all of my colleagues to support the Restore Honor amendment, and I urge a yes vote in favor of the en bloc amendment into which I proceed.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. Smith).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. McCOLLUM) having assumed the chair, Mrs. DEMINGS, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that the Committee, having 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, had come to no resolution thereon.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX. The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.
Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There is no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today, this body will, for what I hope is the final time, meet its moral obligation to provide for survivors and responders suffering from 9/11-related illnesses. This obligation is twofold.

First, on September 11, 2001, it was not just the city of New York and the Pentagon that were attacked, it was the entire country. A national attack has always required a national response. That is why responders from around the country rushed to New York to aid in the rescue and recovery effort in the immediate aftermath. Today, sick responders and survivors live in all 50 States. This is a national effort in the immediate aftermath. Sick responders and survivors continue to live in all 50 States. This is a national problem, and Congress must provide a national solution.

Second, tens of thousands of responders and survivors are sick because the Federal Government, in its rush to get Wall Street reopened, ignored the evidence and the expert opinions of scientists. The then-head of the Environmental Protection Agency repeatedly assured us that the air around the World Trade Center was “safe to breathe.” We knew it wasn’t, but the Federal Government kept insisting it was.

And, compounding the Federal Government’s culpability was its failure to conduct a comprehensive cleanup of the environmental disaster created when the World Trade Center towers collapsed. For example, the EPA administrator told the public that asbestos could be cleaned from apartments with a damp cloth and a wet mop.

Based on these false assurances, students were sent back to schools that had been contaminated by the toxic dust collected in ventilation systems, and thousands were being cleaned first. People kept working to clear the pile for months with no protective equipment. Quite simply, the Federal Government lied, and now tens of thousands of people are sick with 9/11–related illnesses. It now falls to us—in the words of Abraham Lincoln—to “care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and for his orphan.”

Three times, Congress has come together to provide a health program and compensation for the victims of 9/11 through a victim compensation fund, VCF. Most recently, in 2015, we made the World Trade Center Health Program effectively permanent, extended to 2090, but reauthorized the VCF, the victim compensation fund, for only 5 years.

As we heard in a Judiciary Committee hearing last month, a 5-year authorization was not nearly long enough. People are still getting sick as diseases, such as cancer, often emerge only after long latency periods. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that, in the coming years, cancer claims will represent 63 percent of all claims before the VCF, up from 44 percent today.

Further, as the number of sick responders and survivors continues to rise, the limited resources Congress provided to the VCF have proven inadequate and now thousands of families are facing up to 70 percent cuts in compensation.

I refuse to accept that. Every sick responder and survivor should be treated with the same dignity and compassion, regardless of when they became sick, and no one should be forced to spend their last days walking the Halls of Congress begging us to reauthorize this program.

That is why we are here today, to pass what I hope will be the last authorization we ever need for the VCF. Bipartisan legislation, with over 330 cosponsors, will reverse all of the cuts in compensation and make those families whole. It will extend the authorization for the VCF through 2092, and provide funding at the same level as the World Trade Center Health Program, and make technical improvements to the program.

We have asked so much of our responders and survivors. It is time for us to give them the peace of mind they deserve and pass this bill once and for all.

Finally, I want to take a moment to recognize the three men after whom we named this bill. James Zadroga, Ray Pfeifer, and Luis Alvarez passed away after battling 9/11–related illnesses. A month ago, Detective Alvarez testified before the Judiciary Committee, just 24 hours before he passed away. His name is on an act of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Mr. COLLINS.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

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The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.
I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, the attacks on 9/11, designed to murder as many innocent people as possible, were acts of war against the United States. It resulted in the deaths of almost 3,000 people and left a smoldering pile of toxic debris in New York. But thousands of noble and courageous first responders scaled that smoldering pile and exhumed the dead with dignity. Today, the site includes the National Memorial.

It is fitting that Congress do more than memorialize. We must also provide. The 9/11 first responders, like all first responders, deserve to have their sacrifices recognized through programs that reasonably limit their damage to their own selves and families and the sacrifice they entailed.

This legislation would reauthorize the current September 11 Victim Compensation Fund. It would include a program covering needed healthcare for those affected by the 9/11 incident, which has already been extended to the year 2090 in legislation enacted many years ago. This legislation would also create a separate program. To 2090, namely, the program designed to compensate the same victims for lost earnings and other losses they suffered as a result of the 9/11 attack. The compensation will, of course, cost money, recognizing that it is not mean-spirited in any way, but simply a necessity in a responsible budgeting process where limited Federal dollars and specific funds must be allocated in a formal budget cycles to specific dollar amounts divided up by a program.

Sadly, this bill comes to the floor without any provision to pay for the program, in fact, no provision at all. This bill, according to the Congressional Budget Office, will cost $10.2 billion, and that is during the first decade of the seven decades that this bill extends.

I, like the chairman, would havepreferred to touch this bill again because it is in honor of those who served us, but, unfortunately, his request that he made that this will be the last time is not going to be true because of, inherently, the way the bill is being passed today. We did not sit down and get this done. The Senate will then have to do that as we go forward.

So the process is, frankly, unfulfilling, although we need to continue forward. So as we look forward to this, it is unfortunate that we have chosen today to put risk on this compensation, given the fact that the Senate has got to now be a part of this solution.

What is the fiscal impact of this legislation will have to be addressed before it is signed into law, what is clear, though, is our collective duty to see that our first responders are treated fairly and in accordance with what they have already given of themselves to a grateful nation.

I look forward to supporting this legislation, and that is why I am a cosponsor of this legislation. I urge my colleagues to do so as well. But it is sad to know that we will have to touch this again. And time will pass before this happens because the Senate will have to take this up and have to do what we should have done here and find that bipartisan way so that we don’t have to touch this again and those who are suffering will know that this body is committed to them.

I commend my chairman, and I am glad that we are on this bill together. I just wish that we didn’t have to touch it again, but we are going to have to. But that is not going to stand in the way, today, of us honoring the names on this bill and honoring every face that this bill will help for those who served us and our Nation.

I fully commend this bill to the body of this House as we move forward today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), one of the chief sponsors of the bill.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 1327, the Never Forget the Heroes Act, and to thank the 332 colleagues of mine who have cosponsored this historic, bipartisan legislation.

When the planes hit on 9/11, our first responders did not hesitate. Firefighters, police officers, medical, construction workers, and volunteers from all around the country rushed to Ground Zero, the Pentagon, and the Shanksville crash sites. It was a national response to a national terrorist attack.

We lost nearly 3,000 lives on that day, and in the nearly 18 years since the attacks, the death toll continues to climb. We, as a nation, have a moral obligation, a double moral obligation, to take care of the people who took care of us and those who take care of them now—because they cannot work—first and foremost, for their service that day and in the days and weeks and months to follow; and secondly, because of the toxic lie our government told them: that it was safe to work on the site. Because of their exposure to toxins, many of them have cancers and are sick and dying.

In 2015, Congress passed the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, making the World Trade Center Health Program permanent, but it extended the Victims Compensation Fund only to 2020. Not only is the fund about to expire, but making matters worse, it is also running out of money.

In February, the special master announced that, due to more and more claims, the fund does not have enough money to make it to 2020. They have had to reduce payouts by 50 to 70 percent, and this is devastating for those who depend on this fund. That is why we need to pass the Never Forget the Heroes Act today to fully and permanently fund the Victims Compensation Fund.

These heroes and their families cannot wait any longer, and I hope they will again go to Congress again to ask again and again for help and support for their healthcare and their families. We need to make this fund permanent.

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING).

Mr. KING. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member for recognizing me, and let me also thank the gentleman for the support that the gentleman has given to this bill.

When the gentleman from Georgia went on the bill, it was a major turning point, so I thank the gentleman for that. It also shows that this is not a partisan or regional issue. It affects people in all parties, all districts in the United States, and all States throughout the country.

This was a major effort which the country came together on after 9/11, and as a result of that, there have been casualties and deaths from all over the country. Now, in my own district, I had 150 people killed, but I believe there are going to be even more than that by the time these illnesses run their course.

There are so many people in the prime of life who have been cut down from these 9/11 cancers, blood disorders, and the various intestinal tract illnesses. It has just been a horrible experience to go through for all of these people and their families.

Today is a new milestone on the road to full justice for all those who risked their lives both on the day of 9/11 and in the days, weeks, and months after 9/11: those who worked down at the pile of Ground Zero, those who risked their lives then and are now suffering the consequences of that and those who will suffer the consequences in the years ahead. These are late-developing cancers, and that is why it is so important that this bill be passed.

Let me stress again how bipartisan this is. I commend Jerry Nadler and Carolyn Maloney for the outstanding work they have done. This goes back more than 15 years that this fight has
gone on in one dimension or another. Hopefully, this will be the final struggle we have. Many details have to be worked out, but this should be it, today, as far as finally doing what has to be done for those men and women from 9/11.

Let me also thank the Speaker, NANCY PELOSI. She was instrumental in getting this passed back in 2010, and I want to thank the gentlewoman for keeping her commitment to making sure we got it done this year on a bipartisan basis.

Also, we have people here today like Jake Lemonda from the UFOA, the Uniformed Fire Officers Association, and Gerald Fitzgerald from the Uniformed Firefighters Association of Greater New York. We have people, again, on both sides.

I want to thank my colleagues, Congresswoman LEE ZELDIN and Congressman FITZPATRICK from Pennsylvania, for their efforts.

We have to, again, make sure that the message goes out to the American people that this is not a regional bill. This is something that involves the entire Nation. This involves the commitment of the United States to always stand with those individuals who lost their lives for the rest of us.

So, again, I can’t emphasize enough the importance of this. The men and women out there, those people in our districts, those people who we see day in and day out, week in and week out, those who are suffering, those who have had their benefits cut because of the shortage in the fund, that can never be allowed to happen.

We have to go forward.

And, again, I want to emphasize that this is bipartisan. This involves the entire Nation, and it is important that we target those who are the enemies here. The terrorists who attacked on 9/11 brought this about. They are the ones who caused this.

It is the men and women who responded, who went back down to that pile day after day after day, week after week, month after month, doing what they could in the rescue and recovery effort, who showed unusual courage. The least we should do is show what is expected of us, and that is to do what has to be done to make sure that they and their families receive the compensation that they need and are entitled to. This is part of the lasting debt America has to the men and women of 9/11 and those who worked in the days, weeks, and months afterwards.

Madam Chair, I urge full support of this legislation. Hopefully, when it goes to the Senate, it will be acted on quickly. The victims of 9/11 have been waiting too long as it is. We can’t allow a day to go by. I urge adoption of the bill.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER pro tempore

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now ask those in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Speaker of the House, someone who has done more for the 9/11 gentlemwoman’s strong support, this bill never would have passed back in 2010.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his kind remarks and for his tremendous leadership.

From the first minutes of the assault on our country, Chairman NADLER was there to meet the needs of our country as we protected, but also to meet the needs of those who rushed in to save lives.

I want to also salute Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY, who has worn a firefighters jacket through the heat of the summer now, but all spring, until this bill was brought up on the floor. I thank her not only for wearing the jacket, but for her relentless, persistent advocacy on behalf of our 9/11 heroes.

I am so proud that this time this bill is bipartisan, and I thank the distinguished gentleman, Mr. KING from New York, for his leadership, for his recognition of the bipartisan nature of what we are doing, what we did then and what we are doing now. I thank the gentleman, Mr. KING, for his leadership as well.

H.R. 1327 is the Never Forget the Heroes: James Zadroga, Ray Pfeifer, and Luis Alvarez Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act—a big name, a tall order, and long overdue.

When we talk about 9/11, we tread on sacred ground. On that dark day, our Nation suffered loss we could never have imagined, and we witnessed heroism that we will never forget.

Because of our heroes, 9/11 is etched in our Nation’s history not only as a day of profound loss and tragedy but also a day of powerful unity and resilience. On September 11 and in its aftermath, our brave first responders were there for us. We must always be there for them.

The Never Forget the Heroes Act takes long-overdue action to provide the financial security and support that 9/11 heroes, survivors, and families deserve. Today, we are honored to take this action to ensure that all people suffering from illnesses related to 9/11 or by the debris removal and cleanup efforts in their aftermath and their families get the full awards they have been promised.

It is critically important that we restore the compensation to those hit by drastic, unfair cuts and ensure that their claims will be fully paid in the future.

One of the reasons that we have to have this additional legislation is because there are so many more diagnosed cases of cancer and the rest that followed.

This bill honors the heroes after which it is named, James Zadroga, Ray Pfeifer, and Luis Alvarez. Those heroes showed courage beyond measure not only by running into a danger that did not exist but by giving their last days to fight for all harmed on 9/11.

We are blessed by the presence of members of their families and other advocates, including first responders suffering from 9/11-related illnesses, in the Capitol today. They have done the outside organizing as we did the inside maneuvering. They have made the complete difference.

I thank Jon Stewart for raising the profile of this issue so that when we pass the bill here today, it will be received positively by the United States Senate.

Two weeks ago, as we all know, America lost Luis Alvarez, an NYPD detective and advocate who died from 9/11-related cancer on a holy moment for us when he testified before Congress last month before he was scheduled to receive his 69th round of chemotherapy. He said then to Congress: ‘You all said you would never forget. Well, I'm here to make sure that you don’t’.

With this bill, we honor the sacrifice of Luis and many other heroes and say: We will never forget.

Madam Speaker, I urge a strong, overwhelming bipartisan vote for this bill for our responders, survivors, and their families and do so with eternal gratitude to them for what they have done. I urge a “yes” vote.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of our 9/11 victims, first responders, and their families, urging my colleagues to vote “yes” on the Never Forget the Heroes: James Zadroga, Ray Pfeifer, and Luis Alvarez Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act.

First responders who worked on the pile day and night, aiding in the search, rescue, and cleanup efforts, were breathing in toxic debris and ash that we now know have caused over 50 different types of cancer.

In 2011, the Zadroga Act was signed into law to help them. Five years later, it was permanently reauthorized and included $4.6 billion for the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund, the very fund that we are here debating today.

In February, the special master of the fund reported that current funding “may be insufficient to compensate all claims,” reporting that they would have to cut claims by up to 70 percent. As was noted, in the aftermath of 9/11, the EPA told New Yorkers and these first responders that the air at Ground Zero and the surrounding area
Madam Speaker, we all remember where we were on that fateful day of Tuesday, September 11, 2001. Today, we finally make permanent our Nation’s commitment to care for the heroes of 9/11 and their families.

We all know that within the first few seconds of the horrific attacks on the World Trade Center, our brave first responders rushed toward the wreckage to help their fellow Americans. As has been said before, many of the 9/11 first responders and the survivors are now living with serious illnesses due to toxic pollutants that filled the air surrounding Ground Zero. Many of those friends and advocates are no longer with us.

Congress created the Victim Compensation Fund in 2001, which committed to those Americans and their families that we will take care of those who rushed to the scene. I was proud to be an original cosponsor of the initial bill and its subsequent reauthorizations in 2010 and 2015.

Today, H.R. 1327 keeps Congress’ promise to our 9/11 responders and survivors.

I have never seen the New York delegation work this hard and together as we did for this bill. I thank Mr. Nadler, Mrs. Maloney, and all the people for the hard work and their leadership on this. We hope it gets passed soon in the other body.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I stand here today as a former FBI agent who worked in New York City side by side with these very people we are seeking to protect today. We are here united with our colleagues from both sides of the aisle to renew the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund.

Madam Speaker, as was said repeatedly on this floor, this matter is urgent and cannot wait any longer.

On that fateful day nearly 18 years ago, American heroes rushed to save their fellow citizens without regard for their own safety. They paid a heavy price, with many today suffering from respiratory illnesses from breathing in toxic dust at Ground Zero, dust that contained lead, asbestos, mercury, and many other contaminants.

Just last month, our Nation mourned the loss of Detective Luis Alvarez, who inspired us all with his visit to Capitol Hill this year. His bravery and the bravery of all the people who sacrificed must be honored appropriately. In his memory and to honor all the brave men and women who saved lives that day, we must get this done.

Madam Speaker, as the vice chair of the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus—Democrats and 24 Republicans—we have endorsed this bill. We worked very hard to get over the 290-cosponsor threshold to get this on the Consensus Calendar. It currently stands at 337 cosponsors.

I thank Jon Stewart for elevating the profile of this bill. It was incredibly important for its success.

I urge all of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans alike, to come together and support our Nation’s heroes. “Never forget” must mean never forget.

These are people who did the opposite of what their attackers did. These are all born with, as far as our instincts go, for every single one of us, based on our genetic DNA, are instincts to run away from danger. These are men and women who do the opposite. They run toward the danger at great physical sacrifice and at great psychological and emotional sacrifice, all in the name of serving a cause bigger than themselves.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this and make this unanimous.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), who is the chairman of the Democratic Caucus.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, I think the chair for yielding and for his tremendous leadership.

Since the tragedy on September 11, approximately 10,000 people have been diagnosed with cancer related to toxic smoke and dust. Approximately 15,000 people are suffering from asthma or other respiratory illnesses. Approximately 10,000 people struggle with PTSD. Almost 5,000 individuals are struggling with anxiety and depression. More than 3,000 people have died since September 11.

The overwhelming majority of these individuals who are sick and afflicted are 9/11 first responders.

The Victim Compensation Fund is expected to run out of money. In order to take care of these brave heroes and individuals, we vowed as a nation to never forget. That means looking after those brave men and women who sacrificed so much in the days, weeks, months, and years after September 11.

Support this legislation.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE).

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member and the chairman of the full committee for their work on this issue, and I thank all those who worked on what has been a bipartisan effort. This is exactly the type of substantive issue that we should be focused on in the Judiciary Committee.

On September 11, 2001, America was attacked America and our way of life. Nearly 3,000 people died in the attacks in New York, northern Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

When the shocking images of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon first appeared on television, first responders were already on the scene. In the weeks and months that followed, these first responders and construction workers worked hard to find victims and to clean debris.

At the time, they were told the air was safe to breathe. They and the American people found out later that wasn’t true. The health impacts for
Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. Swalwell).

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I was a congressional intern on Capitol Hill when September 11 happened, and I saw my colleagues go to work in a bipartisan fashion, “God Bless America.” I saw a generation of people go into service because of what they saw our first responders do in New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C., that day.

I am heartened to see today on this floor that we are uniting again to stand up for every victim of what happened that day. I hope we can get that passed in the Senate.

I want to thank and James Zadroga, Ray Pfeifer, and Luis Alvarez for their work, as well as Jon Stewart. I thank him for bringing attention to this. Also, I thank our colleague CAROLYN MALONEY.

I really want to thank our chairman. This was Chairman NADLER’s district, and this has been continuing casework that the gentleman has worked on. It has affected the gentleman, his staff, and his constituents. I think it is fitting that the gentleman is the chairman presiding over this today.

I am grateful the chairman has put the emotional effort and the force of his office into making sure this happened. It means a lot to the gentleman’s constituents and us as colleagues to see his leadership.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mrs. Demings).

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I retired from law enforcement 8 years ago, but I am still amazed by and grateful for the men and women who rush towards danger with little regard for their own safety.

First responders already do so much, but when there is a true emergency, a crisis, there is no one else who can do the job. That is why, when America was attacked on September 11, off-duty firefighters, law enforcement officers, and medical professionals showed up, and they joined their brothers and sisters on the front line, rushing into burning buildings.

Being a first responder is not just what they do, it is who they are. They have earned our unwavering and timely support. We cannot ask our first responders to continue being unappreciated, at risk, and then be failing to cope with the consequences.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation. Let us never forget our heroes.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. Dean).

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, we saw heroism and selflessness, especially the first responders who rushed toward danger, rescued survivors, and then spent months cleaning up the wreckage.

Their selflessness was on display again last month when first responders encouraged us, Congress, to reauthorize the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund. This Congress and I were particularly touched by Detective Luis Alvarez, who traveled to Washington during the final days of his life. He said: “I’m doing okay, but there are others out there who aren’t doing okay.” Detective Alvarez embodied the selflessness of so many.

On June 29, Detective Alvarez passed away, but he will be remembered and counted among those who gave their life for us.

Before he died, he said: “The government has to act like first responders, you know, put politics aside and let’s get this bill done.”

Detective Alvarez is right, and today we vote to permanently reauthorize VCF. First responders and their families must never again face uncertainty about whether their country will be there for them.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. Pascrell).

Mr. PASCRELL of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I thank our chairwoman, CAROLYN MALONEY, in particular, and PETER KING. From the very beginning, they have been steadfast. And I say to you, the angels are singing now.

We all know it took some kicking and screaming to get this fund established in the first place, but we got it through and it has helped these brave Americans focus on their personal health and well-being. It has been critical.

But the work isn’t over. They need our help again. Last year the fund announced that due to a funding shortfall, injured and ill 9/11 responders and survivors will receive cuts to the awards that they were expecting—big cuts, 50 percent, 70 percent—for future claims. This is unacceptable.

So the all-clear sign after 9/11 from the Federal Government was premature.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. Swalwell).

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, now is the time for us to pass this bill. I urge the Senate to pass it after the House, and I urge the President to sign it.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 9 1⁄2 minutes remaining.

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, this bill is called the Never Forget the Heroes: James Zadroga, Ray Pfeifer, and Luis Alvarez Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act. It honors thousands of others like them who have succumbed to their 9/11-related illnesses.

Madam Speaker, now is the time for us to act. I urge our colleagues to support this critical legislation. Let us never forget our heroes.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. Demings).

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Ms. Dean).

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, we saw heroism and selflessness, especially the first responders who rushed toward danger, rescued survivors, and then spent months cleaning up the wreckage.

Their selflessness was on display again last month when first responders encouraged us, Congress, to reauthorize the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund.

This Congress and I were particularly touched by Detective Luis Alvarez, who traveled to Washington during the final days of his life. He said: “I’m doing okay, but there are others out there who aren’t doing okay.” Detective Alvarez embodied the selflessness of so many.

On June 29, Detective Alvarez passed away, but he will be remembered and counted among those who gave their life for us.

Before he died, he said: “The government has to act like first responders, you know, put politics aside and let’s get this bill done.”

Detective Alvarez is right, and today we vote to permanently reauthorize VCF. First responders and their families must never again face uncertainty about whether their country will be there for them.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. Pascrell).

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I thank this body for bringing us here today.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand in support of the heroic men and women who ran towards the falling towers on September 11, 2001. I raise for those who labored that day and for months in the toxic plume of Ground Zero. Their service was exemplary.

Our friends keep dying. Mr. Alvarez, Mr. Pfeifer. Ground Zero.

Today we show that citizens care. We represent the citizens.

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Our friends keep dying. Mr. Alvarez, Mr. Pfeifer. Ground Zero.

Today we show that citizens care. We represent the citizens.
All three devoted their lives to helping others. Finally, I want to thank Congresswomen CAROLYN MALONEY for her tireless work getting this bill on the floor for a vote. We cannot let another day pass to help those who answered the call. I encourage my colleagues to vote yes and hope the Senate doesn’t play the same games we saw last time. Our first responders had and have America’s back. Today we show, we citizens represent those who stood up to terrorists that morning and ran directly into the burning buildings on 9/11 and stayed for the weeks and months that followed. They are our heroes, and they need our help. The Victim Compensation Fund is so important to so many people, real suffering that is going on in real families after people have dedicated their lives trying to serve other people and are now paying the consequences for us.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues. I want to thank Chair NADEL, Congresswoman MALONEY, Congressman KING, to thank all the Democrats and all the Republicans who cosponsored this bill, and those who will vote for it today.

I have so many friends, personal friends who volunteered days, months walking on the pile. They asked him what he is talking to his family, he said, “I am on the pile.” They asked him what he is walking in walking on the pile, Ground Zero, where he went time and time again.

And along with him, there were individual family members who came before our committee, those who were desperately in need, and to hear the special master say: I may have to cut their benefits 50 to 70 percent.

Lila Norstrom, who was a student, and, as well, Anesta Maria St. Rose Henry, the widow of Candidus Henry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. NADEL. Madam Speaker. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Lila Norstrom was a student, and she said no one told them anything, but just go back to school.

Anesta Maria St. Rose Henry said she walked around missing her husband, along with her children.

And so they are not just statistics; they are broken lives and families. And 3,000 more will die as we go further into this time, as 3,000 died on that date.

And as we would report in this Congress on 9/11, we will never, never forget.

To the young people today, be reminded of the heroes, firefighters, police officers, volunteers. Let us never forget, and let us always remember this bill and these heroes who are here, and that is James Zadroga, Ray Pfeifer, and, now, Luis Alvarez.

Madam Speaker, let us never forget, and let us vote.

Mr. NADEL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADEL. Madam Speaker, I yield time to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER).

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, we are here today to have the backs of our first responders, especially those who stood up to terrorists that morning and ran directly into the burning buildings on 9/11 and stayed for the weeks and months that followed. They are our heroes, and they need our help.

Hundreds of New Jersey and New York law enforcement, firefighters, EMTs, and others answered the call and rushed toward the pile as others ran out.

If you ask how they were able to summon the courage, they will tell you they were simply doing their job that day. And Congress now has the opportunity to do ours.

Too many first responders are still suffering from illnesses and cancers from 9/11 exposure to toxins, smoke, debris, including too many people who are still suffering in my district.

Congress set up the Victim Compensation Fund to help cover 9/11 injuries and medical expenses. Those who were exposed back in 2011 are, sadly, first developing symptoms now.

More than 37,000 claims have been filed with the fund, and more than 11,000 district claims are expected by 2020, when the fund is set to expire. We must act today.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of the bipartisan H.R. 1327, Never Forget the Heroes.

I thank Chairman NADEL, Representative CAROLYN MALONEY, and Representative PETER KING for their leadership on the Problem Solvers Caucus for strongly supporting it.

We have an obligation to do everything we can to stand by our first responders and survivors of those horrific attacks.

Mr. NADEL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I will inquire through the Chair, does the gentleman have any more speakers?

Mr. NADEL. Madam Speaker, I have one more speaker, and then I am prepared to yield.

Mr. NADEL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I will reiterate. I know our staffs have talked. If he actually needs it, I will be happy to yield some time, if he happens to need it.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADEL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI).

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker. I thank Chair NADEL for yielding.

Madam Speaker, this is what the American people are hungering for: Democrats and Republicans working together to solve real problems in real people’s lives.

The Victim Compensation Fund is so important to so many people, real suffering that is going on in real families after people have dedicated their lives serving other people and are now paying the consequences for us.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues. I want to thank Chair NADEL, Congresswoman MALONEY, Congressman KING, to thank all the Democrats and all the Republicans who cosponsored this bill, and those who will vote for it today.

I have so many friends, personal friends who volunteered days, months months at the pile who are now suffering the consequences of having done that volunteer work on the pile. This is an important day for those families.

I want to thank the advocates that helped to focus our attention. I want to thank everyone who worked together to solve a very real problem in real people’s lives.

This is what the United States Congress needs to be doing, and I am so happy to be a part of that.

Mr. NADEL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The names that have been talked about in this bill, and this bill has been named for them, especially Mr. Alvarez, who appeared before the committee, these are all stories and faces. This is definitely a bill that we have talked about many times.

We have talked about them in terms of numbers. We have talked about them in terms of bills and line numbers and this kind of thing. But these are actually lives, and I think that is the thing that struck me, and I am glad that there is such bipartisan support on this.

These folks should never be forgotten. They should be etched in our memories, for those of us, no matter where we were on 9/11, remember them going in. I can actually watch and still see the towers fall, knowing that at that moment lives perished and there were those who were saving others. And that is what we are here for.

I will say—and I want this to be said, because this is on the RECORD, and I want the Senate to hear me loud and clear—I wish we could have finished this bill.

We are not finished with this bill, but I am imploring Senator MCCONNELL and others to actually take this, find the pay-for, get it done, and send it back to us as quickly as possible so that we can stamp it and send it to the President. This needs to be done, and it is something that has to happen.

I would like to encourage the members of this body to vote for this bill and, at the same point, send a strong message to the Senate to fix it: Don’t change it; don’t dawdle with it; don’t do anything except do your job over there. Put the message attached to this.

We should have done that here. We didn’t. We didn’t have a pay-for, but they will, and we will get this done.
To everybody waiting on us, this is not waiting on us. We are doing our job. We are going to make sure these victims are compensated, and we need to get it done quickly. That is why I support this. That is why I hope everyone here today and the Democratic side supports this.

Madam Speaker, this has been an important part of us moving forward, remembering the lives that sacrificed for us as we move forward from that tragic day, and I appreciate everyone who has come down to speak on that.

Again, I encourage a “yes” vote on this as we move forward, and I ask the Senate to quickly—I know that sometimes may be strange for the other body—but to quickly do their job and get this back to us so that we can finish this process.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, 9 years ago, I stood here and called up for consideration the original 9/11 bill, the James Zadroga Act. I want to thank Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader HOYER, and Majority Whip CLYBURN for their roles in passing that bill, and now for moving us as quickly as possible to get this bill done.

I also want to thank my colleagues from New York, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), for standing with me in this fight for 9/11. In 2001, and to thank all the advocates, many of whom are here today, who have given so much and have worked so hard to pass this bill.

Finally, I want to thank Lisette Morton, my longtime legislative director and director of policy planning and member services for the Committee on the Judiciary, who is leaving my team at the end of this month after nearly 20 years.

Lisette worked for me on September 11, 2001, and she was tireless in her efforts to get a proper detoxification and cleanup after the attack in New York and to hold the EPA accountable for its failures. Without her fierce advocacy and dedication, there would be more victims today, and we would not be here considering this bill today. She will be greatly missed by this institution, by my staff, and by me.

Now, Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. NADLER. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, Mr. NADLER has just brought up something that I cannot let pass.

Lisette is not only someone who has given me a great deal of service. She has given a great deal of service to this House and to me and to my staff personally.

She will be missed on both sides of this aisle because she understands completely what this House should be about, and that is actually service and actually getting legislation done.

Mr. NADLER. She will be greatly missed.

Madam Speaker, I now urge all my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I am very proud to be a Never Forget the Heroes: James Zadroga, Ray Pfeifer, and Luis Alvarez Permanent Authorization cosponsor, along with another very strong group of bipartisan Members who will not let this opportunity to enact this legislation pass. Tragically, Mr. Alvarez just passed away last month of after providing heroic testifying in support of this bill.

Everyone remembers where they were and what they were doing. I was actually chairing a Veterans’ Affairs Committee hearing when a group of cowards hijacked four airliners in order to perpetrate the worst act of terrorism in American history.

Nearly 3,000 innocent people lost their lives that day, including 700 from my State. Who can forget the first responders running up the stairs of the burning buildings with total disregard for their own safety, saving others at the expense of their own lives.

No one remembers the shock, horror, and numbing sorrow of this day, however, more than the families and the close friends of the victims. I have worked with and befriended many family members of 9/11 victims, and I can state unequivocally that there would not have been a 9/11 Commission and other historic policy initiatives without their extraordinary tenacity, commitment, and courage. That includes what was known as the four Jersey girls, widows who simply would not take "no" for an answer. They were a driving force behind the establishment of that very important historic commission.

I got to know a lot of the others. I actually hired a school principal who lost her husband, Alan, in 9/11, and I am reminded every time I am in the district office, and other days as well, what she has lost and how painful and how sorrowful that day.

For more than 17 years, the families and the friends of those who died had to endure their loss and a broken heart. Now we know the carnage, the consequences, the ongoing loss of life, and the health crisis attributable to 9/11 are even worse than anyone could have imagined. New cases of 9/11-caused conditions are being diagnosed by the doctors at the World Trade Center Health Program every day, with close to 12,000 cases of 9/11–caused cancers diagnosed so far, including 700 cases of breast cancer, 2,500 of prostate cancer, 600 of thyroid cancer, 500 of lung cancer, and 500 of kidney cancer.

There have also been other kinds of catastrophic consequences, with people who are suffering from PTSD, some 9,500 so far and counting.

Congress enacted the World Trade Health Center Program Fund and September 11th Victim Compensation Fund to provide health services for responders at the three crash sites, and others in the vicinity of the World Trade Center, whose conditions related to toxic exposures from the attacks.

There are over 6,800 New Jerseyans receiving healthcare services from the World Trade Center Health Program, 1,200 of whom are from my district, constituents of mine.

In February of this year—and this was shocking, frankly—the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund special master announced that, due to a lack of funding, the Department intends on pending cases by 50 percent and any new claims that are filed by 70 percent.

These cuts will devastate the first responders, our firemen, police, and emergency personnel. They will also represent a gross injustice for survivors and their families who spent countless hours and days in search of their loved ones.

I remember going to the site a couple of days after. I went with Tony Principi, who was then the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Unfortunately, there was a sense, a falsely conveyed sense, that maybe you didn’t have to wear the mask, so many of those guys and those ladies on the ground were breathing in a toxic mix of chemicals that now have manifested into very serious diseases.

This is an important bill. It is bipartisan, and I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle; Congresswoman MALONEY for her leadership; and of course, all the others who are cosponsors of this bill. I urge the Senate to move swiftly in passing this bill so that these heroes can secure the health care benefits they deserve.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) that the House agree to the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1327, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yea and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule X, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARCIA of Illinois). Pursuant to House Resolution 476 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2500.

Will the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) kindly resume the chair.

In the Committee of the Whole

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of 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 strength for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, with Ms. McCollum (Acting Chair) in the chair.
The Clerk read the title of the bill. The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, the seventeenth set of en bloc amendments offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) had been disposed of.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part B of House Report 116–573 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 49 by Ms. LEELA of California

Amendment No. 50 by Mr. AMASH of Michigan

Amendment No. 375 by Mr. TIPTON of Colorado

Amendment No. 386 by Mr. TURNER of Ohio

Amendment No. 423 by Mr. KHANNA of California

Amendment No. 425 by Ms. LEE of California

Amendment No. 428 by Ms. GARCIA of Texas

Amendment No. 429 by Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ of New York

Amendment No. 430 by Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ of New York

Amendment No. 437 by Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi

Amendment No. 438 by Mr. MALINOWSKI of New Jersey

Amendment No. 441 by Ms. JAYAPAL of Washington

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 115, noes 307, not voting 16, as follows:

(ROLL NO. 459)

AYES—115

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Alford
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Axne
Bahnsen
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bera
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Bost
Boyle
Brennan
Brandon
Brou
Burchett
Burgess
Burton
Calvert
Carbajal
Carson (IN)
Carte (GA)
Carson (PR)
Case
Cassidy
Caulfield
Cicilline
Cirilo
Cloud
Cooley
Collins (NY)
Comer
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Couture
Courtesty
Cox (CA)
Cox (GA)
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Curts
Cumingham
Curtis
Davis (KS)
Davidson (OH)

NORCROSS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Messrs. BARBER, KRISHNA MOORTHY, CARTER of Georgia, CLOUD, GARAMENDI, Ms. FRANKEL, Messrs. SCHWEIKERT, NORCROSS, Ms. TONKO, and MORELLE changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 50 OFFERED BY MR. AMASH

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. AMASH) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 187, noes 236, not voting 15, as follows:

(ROLL NO. 459)

AYES—187

Bass
Clarke (NY)
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeSaulnier

Bass
Clarke (NY)
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeSaulnier

NOT VOTING—16

Bradley
Brady
Broun
Byrne
Cicilline
Crisco
Culver
Davila
Davis (CA)
Davis (OH)
Davis (PR)
Davis (TX)
Davis (WI)
DeLauro
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The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—aye 417, no 6, not voting 15, as follows:

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR**

**The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.**

**NOT VOTING—15**

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[Roll No. 461]
The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

Mr. ARMSTRONG changed his vote from "no" to "aye".

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Ms. DELAURO changed her vote from "aye" to "no".

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.
A recorded vote was ordered. The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 251, noes 170, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 463]

AYES—251

Abraham
Aderhold
Allen
Anderson
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bergman
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Bost
Boustany
Brittingham
Brooks
Brower
Brown (GA)
Brown (MD)
Brownsberger
Buchanan
Buchey
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comrey
Cook
Correa
Cotz
Cruz
Crow
Cuellar
Culkin
Cloud
Clyburn
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Crawford
Crist
Costa
Costello
Crowley
Curtis
Cutter
Córdova
DeBenedetti
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The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—aye 237, noes 183, as follows:

[Vote Results]

AYES—237

[Names of Ayes]

[Names of Noes]

[Names of those not voting]

[Vote Analysis]

[Vote Summary]
ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ACTING CHAIR.
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

MESSRS. MALINOWSKI AND RICH-MOND changed their vote from “aye” to “no”.

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 49 OFFERED BY MS. OCASIO-CORTES.
The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Ms. Ocasio-Cortes) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE.
The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device and there were—aye’s, noes, 241, answered “present” 1, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 467]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AYEs—179</th>
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[Roll No. 466]

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<tr>
<th>NOES—223</th>
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July 12, 2019

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE
The Clerk will redesignate the amendment offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. Norwood).

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. Norwood).

The Acting CHAIR redesignated the amendment.
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

1249

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 498 OFFERED BY MR. MALINOWSKI

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MALINOWSKI) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—aye 236, noes 182, not voting 20, as follows:

[Names of representatives as in the original document]
vice, and there were—ayes 230, noes 189, minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 230, noes 189, not voting 19, as follows:

- Adams
- Aguilera
- Allen
- Amodei
- Armstrong
- Arrington
- Babin
- Baird
- Baldwin
- Banks
- Barr
- Bargeron
- Berez
- Biliarakis
- Bishop
- Bost
- Brooks (AL)
- Brooks (IN)
- Brooks (NY)
- Brown (CA)
- Brown (OH)
- Brown (SD)
- Bratton
- Bratty
- Bray
- Breyer
- Brindisi
- Brown (MD)
- Brown (NY)
- Brown (PA)
- Brownley
- Broun
- Bucshon
- Budd
- Burgess
- Butterfield
- Buentello
- Bucy
- Cain
- Calvillo
- Calzada
- Calvert
- Calfani
- Calvey
- Cameron
- Campbell
- Canarutto
- Cannon
- Cantor
- Carcieri
- Carson (IN)
- Carson (NV)
- Cartwright
- Castro (NY)
- Casten (IL)
- Castor (FL)
- Cassara
- Caso
- Causin
- Castellano
- Castrillo
- Cavazos
- Chabot
- Chaffetz
- Chang
- Chambliss
- Chambers
- Chaney
- Carpenter
- Carnahan
- Carter (GA)
- Carter (TX)
- Carter (WV)
- Carter (NC)
- Carter (ND)
- Carter (MI)
- Carter (CT)
- Carter (OH)
- Carter (DE)
- Carter (RI)
- Carter (UT)
- Castrillo
- Castellanos
- Castaneda
- Castoro
- Caso
- Cash
- Chatfield
- Chell</p></div><div class="highlight"><p>So the amendment was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.</p></div><div class="highlight"><div class="page" data-page-id="1301" data-page-url="https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CR-20190712/pg-1301.pdf"><div class="header"><div class="title">

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. McGovern). Pursuant to House Resolution 476, he reported the bill, as amended by that resolution, back to the House with the sundry further amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Pursuant to House Resolution 476, the question on adoption of further amendments will be put en bloc. The amendments were agreed to.
</div></div></div></div>
SEC. 3. INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.

(a) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for PRIMARY COMBAT FORCES is hereby increased by $10,633,000.

(b) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for SPACE CONTROL SYSTEMS is hereby increased by $7,709,000.

(c) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operation & Maintenance, Air Force, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for Depot Purchase Equipment Maintenance is hereby increased by $10,000,000.

(d) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operation & Maintenance, Air Force, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for Base Support is hereby increased by $15,000,000.

(e) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operation & Maintenance, Air Force, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for Mobilization Preparedness is hereby increased by $40,000,000.

(f) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operation & Maintenance, Air Force, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for Specialized Skills Training (OJT, MAINTAIN SKILLS) is hereby increased by $9,000,000.

(g) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operation & Maintenance, Air Force, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for Airlift Operations is hereby increased by $6,800,000.

(h) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operation & Maintenance, Air Force, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for Other Combat Ops Spt Programs is hereby increased by $6,146,000.

(i) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operation & Maintenance, Air Force, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for Specialized Skill Training is hereby increased by $5,000,000.

(j) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operation & Maintenance, Air Force, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for Force Readiness Operations Support is hereby increased by $76,700,000.

(k) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operation & Maintenance, Army, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for Training Support is hereby increased by $4,000,000.

(l) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operation & Maintenance, Air Force, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for Depot Purchase Equipment Maintenance is hereby increased by $15,000,000.

(m) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operation & Maintenance, Air Force, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for Aircraft Operations is hereby increased by $15,000,000.

(n) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operation & Maintenance, Air Force, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for Contractor Logistics Support and System Support is hereby increased by $9,000,000.

(o) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operation & Maintenance, Air Force, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for Facilities Sustainment, Restoration & Modernization is hereby increased by $10,000,000.

(p) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operation & Maintenance, Air Force, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for Airlift Operations is hereby increased by $6,800,000.

(q) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operation & Maintenance, Air Force, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for Depot Purchase Equipment Maintenance is hereby increased by $8,500,000.

(r) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operation & Maintenance, Air Force, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for Mobilization Preparedness is hereby increased by $8,500,000.

(s) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operation & Maintenance, Air Force, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for Contractors Logistics Support and System Support is hereby increased by $9,000,000.

(t) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operation & Maintenance, Air Force, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for facilities Sustainment, Restoration & Modernization is hereby increased by $10,000,000.

(u) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operation & Maintenance, Air Force, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for Airlift Operations is hereby increased by $6,800,000.

(v) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operation & Maintenance, Army, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for Force Readiness Operations Support is hereby increased by $75,000,000.

(w) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operation & Maintenance, Army, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for Air Operations Support is hereby increased by $20,000,000.

(x) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operation & Maintenance, Army, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for Aviation Assets is hereby increased by $73,500,000.

(y) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operation & Maintenance, Army, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for Force Readiness Operations Support is hereby increased by $45,000,000.

(z) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operation & Maintenance, Army, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for Flight Training is hereby increased by $20,000,000.
corresponding funding table in section 4301, for MODULAR SUPPORT BRIGADES is hereby increased by $1,300,000.

(dd) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY RES, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for LAND FORCES OPERATIONS SUPPORT is hereby increased by $2,200,000.

(ee) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARNG, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION is hereby increased by $300,000.

(gg) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARNG, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for LAND FORCES DEPOT MAINTENANCE is hereby increased by $8,500,000.

(jj) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for ON-DEMAND AND OPERATIONAL HEADQUARTERS is hereby increased by $300,000.

(kk) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARNG, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for MANEUVER UNITS is hereby increased by $8,000,000.

(ll) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for AVIATION ASSETS is hereby increased by $8,000,000.

(mm) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARNG, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for MODULAR SUPPORT BRIGADES is hereby increased by $2,000,000.

(nn) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARNG, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for COMBAT SUPPORT FORCES is hereby increased by $10,000,000.

(oo) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for ECHELONS ABOVE BRIGADE is hereby increased by $2,500,000.

(pp) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for MISSION & OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS is hereby increased by $10,000,000.

(qq) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for COMBAT SUPPORT FORCES is hereby increased by $10,000,000.

(rr) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS is hereby increased by $7,500,000.

(ww) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS is hereby increased by $50,000,000.

(xx) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS is hereby increased by $50,000,000.

(yy) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS is hereby increased by $50,000,000.

(zz) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS is hereby increased by $7,000,000.

(aaa) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS is hereby increased by $50,000,000.

(bbb) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS is hereby increased by $5,600,000.

(ccc) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS is hereby increased by $300,000.

(ddd) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS is hereby increased by $1,300,000.

(eee) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS is hereby increased by $2,200,000.

(fff) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS is hereby increased by $7,000,000.

(ggg) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS is hereby increased by $50,000,000.

(hhh) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS is hereby increased by $50,000,000.
monthly basic pay for members of the uniformed services are increased by four percent.

(b) Waiver of Section 1009 Adjustment.—
The amounts set forth in section 1009 of title 37, United States Code, to the rates of basic pay for members of the uniformed services shall not be made during fiscal year 2020.

(c) Waiver of Pay for Military Personnel.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 1009, for MILITARY PERSONNEL APPROPRIATIONS is hereby increased by $650,000,000.

Mr. THORNBERY (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the motion be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his new amendment.

Mr. THORNBERY. Madam Speaker, this motion is the last opportunity to amend the bill, and it does so, of course, without delaying passage. The bill, as it was considered in committee, authorized $753 billion for defense. Thanks to the work of General Bacon, the committee added $2.3 billion for disaster aid, and then the Rules Committee added the widow’s tax, Afghan visas, and other items that brought the total up to $737 billion.

This amendment takes one more incremental step to fill essential funding gaps in the way that matters most to the troops. It restores $1.6 billion of readiness for things like repairs to F-15s of which only 59 percent are flyable today, and it restores money for training, the things that matter most in saving the lives of our men and women. It restores $308 million to the personnel account. Now, that is not as much as the $325 million that we asked for, but it does take it up to the level that passed the Senate by a vote of 86-8.

Finally, it provides a 4 percent pay raise for the troops.

Now, remember, Madam Speaker, the current underlying bill does nothing for pay. The formula is as it is, and those Members who have claimed the underlying bill did something have gotten three Pinocchios over it.

Well, this underlying measure does something. It provides a 4 percent pay raise to help with recruitment and retention and to send a message to our troops that we value them.

Now that is it, straight up the middle, three things, you either vote for them or you vote against them. It takes the total authorization to just about $740 billion. That is not enough in my opinion, but it is better.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he requires to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), who is a veteran of the war in Afghanistan.

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I was proud to serve my country in uniform in Afghanistan, and now I am proud to serve in this Congress. I am proud to serve in a new and different way on what has historically been the most bipartisan committee, the House Armed Services Committee. Truth be told, I had expected that this committee, above all other committees, would always work together in support of our national security.

After all, for over 50 years this committee and this Congress have risen above partisan politics and passed the National Defense Authorization Act. Sadly, today it appears that tradition might come to an end.

Madam Speaker, it doesn’t have to be that way. This motion is an opportunity for my friends on both sides of the aisle to rise above petty partisan politics and do what the American people sent us here to do: to support our troops and defend our homeland.

This year the NDAA has unfortunately become the Nondefense Authorization Act and instead has hijacked with a partisan political agenda, unlike the last couple of years when we all actually worked together to restore money for readiness.

At a time when our enemies are challenging us on the world stage, we simply cannot put our troops at risk and jeopardize our national security, which is exactly what the underlying bill would do.

Let us show the American people the leadership they deserve. Let us give our troops the raise they have earned. Let us restore readiness and pass a worthy National Defense Authorization Act.

Madam Speaker, mark my words, this is the moment of truth for this Congress. This is the single most defining moment of this Congress so far. This motion is an opportunity to show the American people we can rise above petty partisan politics.

Will my colleagues on the other side of the aisle really vote against a well-earned pay raise for our troops or for bolstering our readiness accounts?

Madam Speaker, our soldiers, our sailors, our airmen, and our marines deserve better. The American people deserve better.

Mr. THORNBERY. Madam Speaker, it is straight up: pay raise, restore personnel accounts, and improve readiness. It is straight up or down. You are for it or against it.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

Mr. SMITH. Madam Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL), who is a Navy veteran who has fought for our country as well and member of the Armed Services Committee.

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to oppose the motion to recommit. As a veteran and as an American, I urge all of you to put the political games aside, put our troops and our country first, and pass this defense bill.

For 58 years straight, this Congress has come together across party lines to pass a bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act. The only petty partisanship on this bill is coming purely from the Republican Party that will put their partisan desires against voting for it.

Why? Because Democrats are in charge. As we have seen time and again on this floor, no matter how much we work with them and how much we cooperate with them, at the end of the day, partisanship triumphs all. They will not vote for anything Democrats do, including, by the way, in this bill we have the largest pay raise for our troops in 10 years, and Republicans are going to vote against that pay raise.

We have in this bill money for widows. The Republicans have cosponsored this bill for 10 years, telling us how much they care about making sure that the widows of our troops get money, and now that we do it, after 10 years we put it in the bill, they are going to vote against it just so they can say that Democrats don’t support national security.

There is $733 billion in this bill, the largest Defense bill in the history of the country, and it is not enough. The reason is that it can always be more. No matter what it is, they are going to say do more. The Pentagon is apparently the only place in the country where Republicans feel that you can throw money at the problem relentlessly.

This body has raised pay for our troops every single year, and, again, I will simply close by saying that we have the largest pay raise in 10 years in this bill for our troops. We have worked in a bipartisan manner. It is easy to say: well, I am going to vote “no” and therefore it is partisan.

There is no good reason for it. This should be a bipartisan bill. It supports our troops, and it supports our national security.

Madam Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL), who is a Navy veteran who has fought for our country as well and member of the Armed Services Committee.

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to oppose the motion to recommit. As a veteran and as an American, I urge all of you to put the political games aside, put our troops and our country first, and pass this defense bill.

For 58 years straight, this Congress has come together across party lines to pass a bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act. The only petty partisanship on this bill is coming purely from the Republican Party that will put their partisan desires against voting for it.

As a U.S. Navy veteran who served for almost 10 years, I am proud to be part of the new class of veterans and national security professionals who...
Madam Speaker, this is the largest pay raise for U.S. military personnel, exactly what the President asked for. The vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage, and the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1327.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—aye 204, noes 212, not voting 16, as follows:

### CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

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By the Speaker pro tempore, the House voted to pass the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered. The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) that the House suspend the Rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2747) to extend the rules and pass the bill for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 through fiscal year 2090, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered. The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2747) to extend the rules and pass the bill for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 through fiscal year 2090, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

So the bill was passed. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: “A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strength for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.”

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NEVER FORGET THE HEROES: JAMIESON DRAZOLA, RAY FEPHEER, AND LUIS ALVAREZ PERMANENT AUTHORIZATION OF THE SEPTEMBER 11TH VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2747) to extend the rules and pass the bill for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 through fiscal year 2090, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered. The Clerk read the title of the bill.
Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, before I get into the schedule, I know that all of our thoughts are with my good friends in Louisiana and my good friend who represents Louisiana, his constituents, and the people of Louisiana as they brace for Tropical Storm Barry, expected to make landfall tomorrow.

This is a serious storm, and, when combined with the flooding we have already seen along the Mississippi, it poses a serious threat to the safety and security of many.

We hope everyone is safe and taking the necessary steps to get out of harm’s way, and I want the gentleman from Louisiana to know how much we are paying attention to his constituents in the State he represents and the region he represents.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I truly appreciate the concern, support, and prayers that have been offered. Obviously, we are all praying for the people of south Louisiana as Tropical Storm Barry approaches. In the next 24 hours, we expect landfall. We are surely expecting heavy rain.

I know, as I have talked to local officials, from the Governor to the mayor of the New Orleans and other elected officials on the ground, they are prepared. They have asked for different things, including the Governor had asked for an emergency declaration.

I spoke to President Trump yesterday, and he did, in fact, issue that emergency declaration. So, all of the Federal agencies, from FEMA to the Corps of Engineers, to other Federal agencies, are working well with State and local officials to make sure they have the tools they need.

Our first priority, of course, is the safety of the people of south Louisiana. As they protect their homes and property, we just encourage them to listen to their local officials, and, if evacuation orders are issued, we ask those folks to heed those warnings because it is a serious storm. And it is a storm that we are preparing for, but, as they say, you prepare for the worst but hope for the best, and we are doing all of that.

I appreciate the gentleman’s concern.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend.

Mr. HOYER. I know the gentleman is concerned. We share that concern, and we share the concern for the people of south Louisiana.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the House will meet at noon for morning-hour debate. 2 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

On Thursday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes of the week are expected no later than 3 p.m. on that Thursday.
Mr. Speaker, we will consider several bills under suspension of the rules, including H.R. 748, Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act of 2019. A complete list of suspension bills will be announced by the close of business today.

The House passed the FY 2020 National Defense Authorization Act. I am pleased to say that the bill was approved by unanimous voice vote in committee and would authorize funding and enable congressional oversight of the intelligence community.

Mr. Speaker, the House will also consider a resolution to hold Attorney General Barr and Secretary Ross in contempt over efforts to ignore congressional subpoenas and subvert the Constitution question meant only to deter minorities from participating, leading to an undervote in parts of the country.

In addition, the House will also consider S.J. Res. 36, S.J. Res. 37, and S.J. Res. 38.

Mr. Speaker, last month, the Senate passed 22 resolutions of disapproval related to the Saudi-UAE arms sale for which the administration declared an emergency, thereby bypassing the Congress of the United States. The House will take up three of these resolutions related to precision-guided munitions, the most controversial and significant sales contemplated.

Lastly, the House will consider H.R. 582, Raise the Wage Act. This legislation, authored by Chairwoman Scott, would gradually increase the minimum wage to $15 by 2024. This bill is an important step toward lifting millions of American workers out of poverty.

We believe that one should not be working a 40-hour week and still remain under the poverty level in our country. The minimum wage for the first time in nearly a decade, essentially, 10 years.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, as we look at the calendar next week and, specifically, the bill dealing with the minimum wage, I would ask the gentleman if he has looked at some of the studies that have been done, as well as some of the other actions.

If you look at the city of Baltimore, they had proposed and actually passed a $15 minimum wage, and the Democratic mayor of Baltimore vetoed that, specifically citing the job losses that would come with that kind of change.

The worry is that just a few days ago, as the majority leader knows, cited that you could have up to 3.7 million jobs lost in Seattle over the next week.

In fact, what the University of Washington study found was that you had roughly 5,000 jobs lost. They, in fact, found that the cost to low-wage workers in Seattle outweighed the benefits by a margin of 3-to-1, devastating low-income workers the most.

If you look at what might happen if we do this at the Federal level—where the estimates are we would lose 3.7 million jobs in America, mostly hurting lower income, entry-level jobs, those jobs where we want people to be able to get started to become part of the middle class, to become part of the American Dream, and taking that away from them—go look at what they did in Seattle when they actually did this, not when they talked about it, but when they actually did it, 3 years of data. The study showed it was devastating to low-income people.

I would hope that the gentleman has looked at some of this, the concerns that we have expressed along the way, and the recent CBO score that has underlined how bad and devastating this would be to low-income workers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his observations. He, I think, told a partial story of the CBO study and some other studies. Of course, he mentioned the city of Baltimore.

The problem with the city of Baltimore, as the mayor who vetoed it indicated, was that next door, the minimum wage was lower. Had the minimum wage been the same, there would not have been the same transfer, I suggest to the gentleman.

That aside, he mentions the CBO report on the impact of gradually raising the minimum wage to $15 an hour. The minimum wage was last raised in 2007. It then incrementally raised over 3 years to the present $7.25. It has not been raised in a decade. The poorest workers in America have not had a raise in 10 years.

We don’t think that is right, as we see this extraordinary disparity of income, where presidents of corporations now are making 1,500 times what their average worker makes.

Very frankly, we are a consumer-based economy. Seventy percent of our GDP is based upon income. If we raise their salaries, they are going to spend more, grow the economy, and, I suggest, grow jobs, not shrink jobs.

Let’s look at the CBO study. The CBO study had a number of different scenarios that we were considering, one of which were zero loss of jobs. 3.7 million was the maximum, not the average, the maximum loss.

I am not surprised that opponents of raising the minimum wage would point to that as if it were the figure. It is a maximum, the worst-case scenario.

We have a growing economy. I don’t expect the worst-case scenario to occur. The fact of the matter is that we believe that this bill and this raise will have little, if any, adverse impact.

What we do know is this, which the gentleman did not mention. CBO said the bill will give 27 million workers in America a raise, and that the worst-case scenario—we don’t want to see anybody lose their job—would be 3.7 million, but the average would be less than 2 million. That was their average estimate, and three of them were zero.

We believe that 27 million Americans, which will lift 1.3 million Americans out of poverty, is something that will be good for America. It will be good not only for those workers but good for business, for families, for children, and, frankly, for all of us.

The benefits of the Raise the Wage Act for America’s workers, in our opinion, far outweigh any potential risk. What the risk is minimal.

More than 10 years with no increase in the Federal minimum wage, I might point out, Mr. Speaker, is the longest period since the adoption of the minimum wage in this period we have gone without raising the minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, it has been 10 years since we Democrats were in the majority. I point that out because the last time we were in the majority, we passed and, very frankly, President Bush signed the raise that was to $7.25 an hour. But this is the longest period in history it hasn’t been raised.

Raise the Wage Act is a critical step, in my view, toward restoring the value of work and ensuring that working families—we all say we are for working families. Well, we ought to pay them, and we ought to pay them a decent wage.

By the way, this raise is probably a very, very infinitesimal percentage of the raises that those at the upper level, in the top 10 percent and the top 5 percent, have received.

This will allow working families to achieve some type of financial security. We believe that is essential.
We are very pleased that this bill is moving forward, and we urge all of our Members to support it.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I would first like to point out that it is not we who are paying those wages. It is small businesses, small and medium-sized businesses, that are paying those wages to workers.

What we have seen from the current economy, from cutting taxes, not from the government coming in and saying we are going to have some $15 minimum wage that has been proven in other places to evaporate jobs, to kill jobs and hurt lower-income people, with our current economy, because of cutting taxes, lower income people are benefiting the most. They are seeing wages go up. They are actually seeing wages go up, and the data shows that.

That is why you are seeing such strong economic numbers right now, because the tax cuts are benefitting people at every income level, especially at the lower end.

When you talk about the jobs that would be lost, if we split it in the middle, if we go with the median of the study, that is 1.3 million jobs lost.

Don't take my number. Don't take your number. Take the median number in the study. 1.3 million jobs. That is the entire State of Maine losing their jobs.

What we have also seen is that small businesses, as minimum wages go to a higher level, they look at automating jobs, which means those jobs go away.

It is the low-income workers, the first job for many people, their first entry into opportunity where they can then become a homeowner, then become part of the American Dream, those are hit the hardest. In fact, the study shows that this bill would reduce family income by $9 billion.

I know we can look at it from different sides, but, again, if you just took the median, split the difference between your numbers and mine, you end up with 1.3 million jobs lost and devastation for a lot of people at the lower incomes.

The Seattle study shows not theory but what really did happen in a city like Seattle where they did this. By a 3-to-1 margin, low-income people were hit the hardest and hit very hard in a negative way.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I would simply say that he said the entire State of Maine. Maybe he missed the fact that I said 27 million people, under this bill, are going to get an increase in their salary and in their ability to support themselves and their families. That, by the way, is about the size, perhaps, of New York. It is not quite California, which is 38 or 39 million people. But 27 million are going to get a raise.

My suggestion is, and I believe this sincerely, that that increase and raise, because they are consumers, those consumers all spend their spendable money. They need it to support themselves, and that is going to be an infusion.

When the gentleman says small business, I understand that. We all pay it in the end because the consumer of services and goods is who will pay it. We understand that. But not paying it perhaps advantages us because some families can't support themselves and, very frankly, may be on public assistance, so we pay for it one way or the other.

This is the right thing to do. Twenty-seven million Americans, that is about a sixth, I think, of our workforce, somewhere in that neighborhood, are going to get a raise under this bill.

I hope that the estimate of 1.3 million is wrong. I think it is wrong, as I explained. If everybody is doing the same, then the employer that needs to raise their wage is going to get those things done. He or she will be on a competitive level because others will be doing the same thing, in terms of the level of pay. They won't be competing with people who are paying their folks at a very low level, and people will be able to raise.

I understand the gentleman's position. By the way, I would say the gentleman's argument has been made since 1938.

Every time the minimum wage came up for increase, we have heard this. I didn't hear it in '38, I want to make that very clear. What has been made every time the minimum wage, while I have been involved in this floor over the last 30 years, has been made. And I suggest to you, as a result of the raising of the minimum wage, our economy is going to get better. It has grown more, people have been better off, and we have had a better country.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, when we talk about the 27 million, let's keep in mind that what they studied on the impacts, it is the lower income workers, as the wages might even go up.

And, by the way, wages are already going up today. Without this bill, wages, real wages, are going up and especially benefitting the lower income, the entry-level jobs.

What President Trump wanted to do to rebuild our middle class was to evaporating—it, literally, was going away. We were losing our middle class to foreign countries because we were not competitive as a nation. And now we are competitive—not only competitive, but the envy of the world, the economic envy of the world.

Again, why would we want to bring a bill that would devastate?

And so those 27 million people, if you look again at the Seattle study, what they showed was that the cost to lower-wage workers in Seattle outweighed the benefits by a ratio of 3 to 1.

So even for those people who were getting a higher wage because other costs went up and their hours went down, the amount of time they were able to work was reduced, it actually had a devastating impact to those low-income workers.

So on one hand it might sound really good: Hey, you are going to get a higher wage. But, on the other hand, we are not going to be able to give you as many hours to work. And you saw that over and over again in the study, it showed millions of hours lost.

So somebody that is working two jobs struggling to get by because they want to become part of the middle class, today they actually seeing a wage increase if that was evaporated because of this.

Even for the people who would see a higher wage, the costs to them would be more devastating by a 3-to-1 margin if you go by what actually did happen in Seattle when they did it.

So that is why I just say that study would be important to look at, because that data shows that which the CBO has a lot of good underlying data to back up with, but then Seattle is where it really did happen and it was devastating to lower income workers.

If the gentleman had anything else on this floor, I would yield but I do want to bring up another issue, though, but I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I think we have exhausted that subject. I think the facts have not changed since 1938, and I don't expect them to change in the next few minutes.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, maybe next week as this debate continues, we will see if I can be more persuasive with my friend, but likely not, but at least we ought to have that debate and at least get these sides out and aired.

Now, I do want to talk about something where I do think we have agreement, but that may be a lack of understanding of a timeline, and that is the United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement. And we have had many meetings. I know we were in a meeting together with the Prime Minister, Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada. We know our friends in Mexico want this. Our friends in Canada really want this. We want this, too.

With only 8 legislative days left before the August recess, could the gentleman give an indication of when there is the ability to include USMCA on the calendar in these next 2 weeks that we have available?

And I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I did have a question and in a bipartisan fashion, I think we are all hopeful that we can pass the USMCA.

I was here when we passed NAFTA, as was the Speaker. There were a number of promises made, as the gentleman knows from his knowing experience of NAFTA. We are very focused, as the gentleman knows, on workers' rights, environmental protections, the price of...
biologics, and the length of time that they would be protected from generic competition and bringing prices down.

But we are, as we discussed in the meeting to which the gentleman referred where we met with the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Trudeau, and many of his Cabinet, we are very concerned about enforcement. We want to say if we make this agreement that it will, in fact, be enforced. And, as the gentleman knows, there were meetings as late as yesterday, Mr. Speaker. The good news is, as the gentleman probably knows, Ambassador Lightizer has great respect and confidence on both sides of the aisle. I would say that he is one of those people who both sides of the aisle believe is credible, knowledgeable, straightforward and an honest broker. So we are working very hard with him.

Almost every Democrat has said we are trying to bring to the floor as quick as possible. I don’t think you have heard many Democrats, if any, say we are not for this agreement.

So I am hopeful that we can get there, personally. I think this is an improvement over the existing NAFTA. I would say, however, that I think it would be a mistake if, in fact, we don’t get to an agreement, which I hope we will, to back out of NAFTA, as the President has indicated, I think that would cause chaos in our economy and with respect to Canada and Mexico, as well. So I think that would not be a good policy. But I think a good policy would be, if we can get enforcement and improve our trade agreements, we will move it as quickly as possible.

Whether we can get this done by the August break, I can’t make that representation to the gentleman, which does not surprise him, I am sure. But I can tell you, yesterday, as you know, there was work being done on it, and I trust that there will be work being done on it in the coming days. And if we can agree on an agreement, I think the agreement, we will move it as quickly as possible.

But we may need to make sure that the protections that are referenced in the document will, in fact, be the protections that are affected and enforceable.

I thank the gentleman.

Mr. SCALISE. I thank the gentleman, and I share the sentiment that Ambassador Lighthizer has done a great job of working with Members on both sides to address questions, concerns, find ways to make sure that those concerns are addressed, whether they are already inside the agreement or if there are other things that can be done in an agreement, we will move it as quickly as possible.

But, in the meantime, hopefully, we can move beyond trying to get to yes and actually have a bill where we can whip that and get to yes. I know we have a whip team that I have put together on our side that is ready to go and, hopefully, your side will be able to get there.

It would be ideal if we can do that before we recess. Clearly, that is not the only way to get this done, but we do have to respect, as well, that the other countries, our friends, Mexico and Canada, have an interest in this, as well.

Minister Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Canada, has worked to get this agreement up. We don’t want to have this jeopardized and become something that gets pushed behind their national elections. Ideally, we can get it done well in advance of their elections and respect the fact that this is an agreement that is as well, and the good will that is being created between our three countries.

So I am hopeful that we can get through these final issues, get a bill that we can bring to the floor, work together to pass, and then see the benefits in our economy, see an improved NAFTA, a bill that is better for American workers and opening up more access to markets in Canada and Mexico that is right.

So I thank the gentleman for the encouragement, and I remain hopeful, as well, and would continue to encourage that we get this done as quickly as possible.

Finally, on the NDAA bill that we just finished, we had, of course, disagreement on a number of fronts in terms of the priorities of our military, but I would want to bring up one point, and that was the piece of legislation, the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act by our colleague, JOE WILSON.

When you all took the majority, you created a new mechanism for Members to bring bills to the floor called the Consensus Calendar. This was the first time that the parties agreed on a bill that actually met that criteria, in fact, far exceeded the 290 signatures—he had 365 cosponsors, incredibly bipartisan—to address a real serious problem for spouses of men and women in uniform who died fighting for our country, to make sure that an inequity is corrected that we both agree needs to be fixed.

Here is a bill that can quickly get to the President’s desk, and maybe it gets included in our defense bill that might come months away, but here is a bill where a Member worked in good faith, under the rules that were created, and it was unfortunate that the rule to bring the NDAA bill to the floor turned off the Consensus Calendar specifically for that bill, that one bill which happened to be the first bill that met that requirement.

I would just ask if the gentleman could look at bringing that bill to the floor as a standalone bill in respect of the hard bipartisan work that Congressman WILSON made to address a serious problem for spouses, widows of our men and women who died in uniform.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comment, JOE WILSON, of course, a member of his party.

JOE WILSON filed that bill five Congresses ago, 8 years ago, and it languished. It was not brought to the floor. It did not pass.

I understand the gentleman’s concern, but he ought to also reflect upon the fact that JOE WILSON introduced it four Congresses ago, so that we have now included it in the bill. We think it was a proper provision to have in our bill.

Of course, all your people voted against that bill, and I would observe, they voted against a bill that, frankly, the chairman of your committee, now the ranking member, wrote an op-ed in The Wall Street Journal that said the appropriate level of funding was exactly what we put in. The Wall Street Journal said that the figure for 2020 was 733.

I was deeply regretful that a bill which was the figure that Mr. THORNBERY put forward in an editorial in The Wall Street Journal—and, I might say, I had conversations with him subsequent to that, recently, which confirmed to me that he still held that view.

Most of his Cabinet, we are very hopeful that every one of your Republicans voted against it. And it was the largest—there was this complaint about the size of the military pay raise. It was the largest raise for our military in 10 years. Now, we were in charge 10 years ago and we are now back in charge, which means we have had the two largest raises, and that was included in your MTR.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope the whip would do us the honor of bringing a bipartisan fashion for these issues. The committee did work in a bipartisan fashion. I am very disappointed that this was made a political issue. Mr. Speaker, it was made a political issue. Mr. Speaker, we do not want to have this jeopardized and make sure the world knew we were going to get this done.

When you talk about JOE WILSON’s amendment, which we included in our bill, which you were supportive of and I think the level of funding was also, frankly, intellectually supported, if not politically supported. I regret that we did not have a bipartisan support for the defense bill.

With respect to his specific question, I respond to the whip, Mr. Speaker: We hope this bill is signed. If not, we hope it goes to conference. We hope we have a conference agreement, Mr. Speaker, and we hope that the Wilson amendment is kept in the conference report.
Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, let’s be crystal clear about what happened.

The chairman of the Armed Services Committee made this a political bill by putting poison pills in the bill that undermined our national security. That is not a partisan issue.

And so if you go back to the funding levels—I yield to my friend.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman specify what they were?

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I will absolutely be happy to specify what those are, but first of all, let’s talk about funding levels.

It is not just about funding levels. If you have a funding level and then you put policy underneath it that limits our men and women in uniform’s ability to train safely and to do their job safely and effectively, that is a poison pill approach.

It is a partisan approach. It should have never happened.

Mr. Speaker, it has been 58 years where Republicans and Democrats have worked alike together to pass a National Defense Authorization Act, not making it political, specifically in committee.

There are no Member of our Congress who works better with people on both sides of the aisle to support our men and women in uniform than Mac Thornberry. Mr. Thornberry worked overtime to try to heal this divide, to make sure a bill could come out of committee that was bipartisan, reflecting those 58 years.

In fact, the Senate did this, and I think the gentleman from Maryland knows this well. The Senate did not make it political. The Senate passed a bill with an 86-8 vote, with all the leadership of the Republican side and Democratic side voting together.

That was the approach we wanted to take, Mr. Speaker. If there was a better way, we should have done it together.

But the majority side went against even what Senate Democrats did and chose an approach, for example, that undermined our nuclear missile defense and that went against the AUMF agreement that, if your bill were to become law, would have made it harder for us to counter terrorism activities in the Middle East.

Why would we want to do that in legislation and hamstring our men and women in uniform? In fact, the bill that the majority just passed would undermine the gains we have made in enabling our men and women in uniform to train more safely.

Before we came up with the 2-year budget, a bipartisan bill that we got together, Republicans and Democrats, when we were in the majority, we were seeing our men and women in uniform die in training missions more than they were dying in combat. It was by a 5-to-1 margin that men and women in uniform were dying in training missions, planes falling out of the sky because they didn’t have enough spare parts.

We finally started to address that. This bill undermines that, making our men and women in uniform less safe. That is not the approach we should be taking. If the gentleman wants to call that bipartisan, then go look at the fact that Senate Democrats took eight votes to vote against that bill and eight Democrats voted against it. It was a partisan approach.

The Senate didn’t do that. The Senate came together the right kind of way. It is the way we should have done it here.

If the gentleman wants to talk about the pay raise, let’s be very clear and upfront about it. If we didn’t even have this bill, our men and women in uniform get that pay raise. It is current law. It is like they are putting a provision in their bill saying the Sun is going to come up tomorrow, and then if it does, they take credit for it.

The pay raise was already going to happen, so they put it in the bill and say they gave the pay raise. It was already there. We got it into law when we were in the majority working with the Democrats. The Senate did just say it was our way or the highway.

The NDAA bill, every year we were in the majority, was a bill that was worked on with Republicans and Democrats, because we have our men and women in uniform become part of the political divide in Washington. The Senate didn’t do it. Our Members didn’t do it and tried to work together.

If the chairman wanted to go his own way, that is not the approach we should be taking. It is not the approach we have taken for 58 years. It is not the approach that Senate Democrats took when they worked with Republicans to come up with a bill that put our men and women in uniform as a priority.

Mr. Speaker, the majority leader can look at the bill and talk about what is in it. I will tell the gentleman that is already current law anyway. I will also tell him what the Senate did to make sure that they didn’t have those poison pill provisions.

They shouldn’t have been in the bill.

Ultimately, they are not going to be in anything they want. The gentleman knows it, and I know it.

What happened today shouldn’t have happened. Maybe it is a lesson that when we get beyond this and we see what the final product is going to be, it will be the bill that we work together.

Ultimately, we will come together to make sure our men and women in uniform have the tools that they need to train safely and defend our Nation safely, but the bill that came out of the House today did not achieve that. It fell very short of where this House should have been in representing our men and women in uniform.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, obviously, we could debate a bill we just passed, a bill that has been debated on this floor for 3 days, a bill that was chairman and supported by somebody equally if not more a bipartisan in his work over the years on this matter of defense, Adam Smith, period.

It is a good bill, Mr. Speaker. It takes care of the men and women. It provides them the necessary resources. And, yes, it says we ought to have a new AUMF that is now 18 years old.

With respect to the pay raise that was going to happen anyway, I presume that the gentleman refers to the recommendation of the President of the United States, a Republican. We took the recommendations of the President of the United States and put it in our bill. It is higher than any figure that was put in for our men and women in uniform during the previous 10 years that the Republicans controlled the House and controlled this bill.

There were poison pills, from my perspective, in the defense bills in years past. I now note that I voted against those bills when they passed the House. I voted for the conference committee when it came back.

I am hopeful that the Republicans will decide that the rhetoric they used, “If you vote against this bill,” meaning the defense bill, to our side, “you are against the men and women in the Armed Forces, the men and women in uniform, the men and women at the point of the spear,” I hope you will remember that language, Mr. Speaker. I hope my Republican colleagues will remember that language. Now, apparently, it doesn’t apply.

This was a good bill. That was a bill worked on in a bipartisan fashion.

I will tell the whip, Mr. Speaker, that I had conversations with some of the top Republican leaders on that committee with respect to funding levels. I was told that the funding levels that were in our bill, as the Joint Chiefs told and as the ranking member said in an editorial in The Wall Street Journal, were appropriate levels that will fund the priorities of our country and the needs of our national security, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly, I hope that the Senate and the House can work on this. By the way, the Senate numbers are the same as our number as it relates to compensation. I believe, for members of the Armed Forces.

I would hope, Mr. Speaker, when this bill comes back from conference, that we will have agreement, will pass it, and will send it to the President for signature. That is the way it ought to be.

I am sorry that we didn’t get significant support, as is almost always the case, except when political games were played, not just that item, but put in that the Republicans didn’t like or the Democrats didn’t like. There were a lot of things in the defense bills that I
Mississippi is proud of the life that Lake lived, and we are grateful for the positive impact she had in her community and on our State. Today, Lake’s friends, family, and community have gathered to remember her and celebrating that. Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence on the House floor at this time as we join Lake’s loved ones in honoring her memory.

ELIMINATING UNNECESSARY ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY REGULATIONS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

(Mr. LaMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LaMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the Trump administration’s latest efforts to combat the skyrocketing housing costs in the United States.

There is likely no State in the country feeling the ill effects of unaffordable housing more so than my home State of California. That is why I applaud the President’s recent executive order establishing a White House Council on Eliminating Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing.

Over the past 20 years, there have been countless regulations implemented in California that make building a home so expensive that many people can no longer afford to buy them or even rent. The cost of building a home is nearly six times higher per square foot than it was 30 years ago, due to uncompromising and often unnecessary environmental and safety regulations.

I am glad there will now finally be a council tasked with looking into the true reasons behind these costs instead of continuing to offer Federal subsidies to simply mask the problem.

In my home area of the First District, housing is a critical issue, with the loss of the town of Paradise and so many people displaced there and the housing that needs to be put in place to help those communities to help people. The mandates that are put upon them make it almost impossible to afford.

I look forward to working with HUD Secretary Ben Carson and this White House council to continue and, hopefully, alleviate the housing crisis in California.

RECOGNIZING COACH JESSE BURLESON

(Mr. ARRINGTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a special guest who is here with us in the gallery today, Jesse Burleson, the head coach of the Hardin-Simmons University Cowboys football program, located in the heart of the big country and playing football at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas.

Under Coach Burleson’s leadership, the Cowboys have enjoyed unprecedented success, going 36 and 4 in the past four seasons, making four consecutive playoff appearances, and graduating 14 All-Americans and two Rimington Trophy winners.

Coach stresses the importance of hard work, discipline, and the necessity of making sacrifices to achieve goals. The most important thing that these Cowboys will learn while they are playing football at Hardin-Simmons is that Coach Burleson has a plan for them, that he has a plan for them, that if they follow him, there is nothing they cannot overcome or achieve in this world.

Thank you, Coach Burleson. Hooyah. Cowboys, Go West Texas.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOMERT. Mr. Speaker, it has been an interesting day. It is amazing we voted on a National Defense Authorization Act. That is normally a bipartisan action here in the House. It is normally quite a compromise. But this NDAA didn’t end up being that way because it had so many different leftist dreams inserted into it that had nothing to do with the national defense. It is rather a shame. It is something that has to be worked on. We have got to be able to defend ourselves and properly pay those who are doing so, or trying to do so.

It was a sad day that we did not pass that with the same bipartisan that we have had in the past. I hope that and moving along because there is no crisis occurring there. And by virtue of the fact that people in other countries saw that the majority of the House of Representatives was sending them messages about what they were doing and saying here, that there was not going to be any wall, there was not going to be any wall, that they would have to work with the bipartisan, that the United States Air Force and had already enlisted in the Mississippi Air National Guard.
The fact is that if a nation has no borders, it is no longer a nation. And yet, I know there are those here who think America is horrible, that it is this horrendous, imperialistic hegemony, always trying to take advantage of others. They refuse to face the fact that there have been a more generous nation than the United States. If we were imperialistic, they would not be speaking German in Germany, or French in France, or Japanese in Japan. This is not an imperialist nation. We are not out to colonize the world.

And it is amazing how some who would accuse us of that, they are doing what has become so common here in Washington, and that is projecting. If somebody does something inappropriate, harmful, or hateful, then they accuse their opponents of doing exactly what they did.

We will be getting into some of that type of projecting as we continue in our attempt to eliminate the FBI. In a couple of weeks, continuing to take up the Mueller report.

They know now, there is no question, the Clinton campaign paid a foreign agent to gather information, from what, we don't know, why would we admitted, which we believe probably worked for Putin—could have very well worked for Putin, that is—and gave false information that was used and was called a dossier—of course, giving dossiers a bad name—that was used to stop a Presidential candidate. And, at the same time, it was used by a newly weaponized Department of Justice, FBI, and intelligence community, in at least part of it, some at the very top, to try to win an election. We hadn't had that before.

Now, we have known for some time now that J. Edgar Hoover was at the FBI so long that he began to use the FBI, not as a political weapon to win for one party or another, but just as his weapon to be able to get what he wanted from presidents, regardless of their party.

I recall seeing the FBI interview, re-tired, talking about Hoover sending them to watch the apartment of a woman with whom President Kennedy was supposedly having an affair, and they watched it be burglarized. They didn't report it or didn't file charges. In fact, they wanted to find out what exactly was stolen during the burglary. The job became a personal project. The job was to gather information for the head of the FBI. The head of the FBI could then use it to prevent a president from doing anything the FBI director didn't want him to do, which, as I understand it, gave rise to the term limits for an FBI director. I think that was a very good thing.

I thought it was a bad thing when President Obama extended Robert Mueller's 10-year term by 2 years. He was a fiasco. He was a disaster. He ran off thousands and thousands of years of experience. And I can't help but think that if Mueller had not instituted a policy, personnel policy, that ran off thousands and thousands of years of experience, some of his best people around the country and the world, that would not have been the atmosphere that existed with McCabe as acting FBI director. People like Strzok in charge of counterintelligence, Lisa Page was used the FBI just as a political tool, a weaponized political tool, and people in the DOJ who we are finding out more about all the time, whether it is Loretta Lynch and, before that, Eric Holder.

But if the Mueller report had not run off so many of our best long-serving FBI agents, I still continue to believe there would have been people around when Strzok, McCabe, and others were trying to use the FBI as a political weapon. There would have been longer-serving people who would have said: You can't do this. This is not what the FBI is about.

But Mueller wanted nothing but yes people around him: people who would salutate him, immediately thinking of the flag and do exactly what he said without reservations. So he got much younger agents in charge all around the country and the world, people that would not be able to say: Sir, I know that is a good idea, but I would have done it 20 years ago when we tried that, and it was a disaster. I would recommend looking back at the failure before, before you push us into this new type of activity.

And, of course, he wouldn't listen to anybody when he wasted millions of dollars on computer and software programs. But that, to me, was not near the biggest problem as the damage he had done with the FBI.

He came out with a report that is just abysmal. I mean, when I was an assistant district attorney, fresh out of law school, and I was asked to put something together about this case or that case, what I put together was a lot better than what got knocked out together. That was a political document.

And I know I have some Republican friends, media friends, who think the new Horowitz IG report is going to be just breathtaking. But the trouble is, he already had one report. As I told him in our hearing, he spent about 500 pages documenting the most outrageous and unbelievable bias and prejudice against a candidate, Donald Trump, and in favor of a candidate, Hillary Clinton. And, of course, he documented this just as outrageous, blatant bigotry against a party, a candidate. And, as I told him at the hearing: I think you realize, as you gathered all of that devastating evidence of outrageous prejudice in the FBI and the DOJ, and you realize, whoops, Democrats got me here. This is not going the way my friends would want it to go, so perhaps I better throw them a bone, which he didn't just throw them a bone, he threw them the whole rib-eye and said: Even though we didn't have 100% of the evidence of the most outrageous, prejudice and bias, and even though every investigation ended up with a conclusion that was totally consistent with all the bigotry and bias and prejudice, I find that there was no relationship between the outrageous prejudice and the conclusion to the cases coming out exactly consistent with the bias.

It was ridiculous, absolutely ridiculous.

So he showed us that he was not capable of giving us a proper conclusion in the first Horowitz inspector general report. So I would just encourage people, don't get your hopes up that he is going to man up and do the right thing, or woman up, whichever you prefer, in the next Horowitz IG report. I hope he does. I pray he does do the right thing. But that remains to be seen.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING H. ROSS PEROT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) for 30 minutes.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a Texas legend, an American original, and a historic icon, H. Ross Perot. There is not enough time in the day and not enough words in the world to describe the remarkable life of this remarkable man.

Born and raised in Texarkana, Texas, Perot, as a boy, delivered newspapers on horseback before dawn. And that same entrepreneurial spirit led him in the 1960s to start Electronic Data Systems, a company that would revolutionize the business world and make him a household name.

It would be enough if Perot's life had been devoted to his business. But as a believer, he knew from scripture that to whom much is given, much is expected. So, his life became about much more than making money, it became about making a difference, and what a difference he made.

He spent his life, and much of his fort to other people. He gave to philanthropic causes, supported countless people in need, and even purchased the Magna Carta, which, in true Perot fashion, he gave to the National Archives so all Americans could see it.

He also worked tirelessly to help, support, and honor American prisoners of war in Vietnam. And when some of his own EDS employees got caught in the Iranian hostage crisis in 1979, he organized and supervised a rescue mission to get them out.

What made Perot so unique, so successful, so enduring? I think the answer lies in a Texas legend, an American original, and a historic icon, H. Ross Perot. There is not enough time in the day and not enough words in the world to describe the remarkable life of this remarkable man.

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When his long-time friend and lawyer, Tom Luce, was working for him, Perot once asked him to call a competitor about a business deal. The next day, Perot asked Luce if he had talked to the man. I left him a message,' was Luce's unfortunate response. ‘You are going to go broke leaving messages,’ Perot responded in rebuke. It was a message Luce never forgot and it is an example of the relentless drive that made Perot so successful for so long.

For me, I am grateful to have known Mr. Perot. As a friend, he could be loyal and loving. He gave advice when he was asked for it, and sometimes when he wasn’t asked for it, but it always came from his experience and his heart. If you were his friend, he was on your side and wanted you to succeed.

Of course, Perot’s greatest accomplishment was his family. He was married for more than 60 years to his wife, Margo, and he was the proud father of 5 and proud grandfather of 16. Each of them will continue in their own ways to carry on the great legacy of a great man. America has lost an amazing 5 and proud grandfather of 16. Each of them will continue in their own ways to carry on the great legacy of a great man. America has lost an amazing man. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Goehmert).

Mr. GOEHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I met Ross Perot while I was a student at Texas A&M. He was very much involved in activities at the Memorial Student Center, and he came more than once.

I owed the Army 4 years for the scholarship I was using at the time, and I got to meet this guy that had gone to the Naval Academy, served his country, and loved this country. Nobody could rival the love he had for the United States.

He was willing to lay down his life, if called upon to do it, for his country. But then, again, Ross Perot was willing to give everything he had for anything that he felt should be done.

Having grown up in the town of Mount Pleasant just down the road from Texarkana and New Boston, I heard about him for years before I met him in college. He was a legend even then, even though EDS had not grown to nearly the heights that it would under his leadership.

But everything that he was involved in, whether it was charitable, whether it was business, he demanded truth. He demanded the best that anyone could give, and hearing from so many people who worked for him, he rewarded truth, he rewarded hard work, and he has a lot to show for it.

They say, we are told in scripture that where your heart is, there your treasure will be. It is really uplifting to see a man who has been able to store up treasure without a dollar value, and, yet, has done so well in business. His son, Ross Jr., has been a friend, has been helpful, and I know we all grieve for the family that has the same kind of strong, productive heart that makes things happen in this world, and cares about America.

Many of us wonder if what we did in our life would really matter. Ross Perot didn’t have to worry about that. Everything he did mattered, not only to our country, but to a lot of individuals who were in need.

We were blessed by the life of Ross Perot, and he will be missed.

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PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred as follows:

By Ms. DEAN:
H.R. 3732. A bill to amend the Revised Statutes of the United States and title 28, United States Code, to enhance compliance with requests for information pursuant to legislative power under Article I of the Constitution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DUNN:
H.R. 3733. A bill to remove from the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System the areas included in Indian Peninsula Unit FL-92 and Cape San Blas Unit P-30 in Florida; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas (for herself, Ms. HAWLEY, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT):
H.R. 3734. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to report on access to credit for small business concerns owned and controlled by covered individuals, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DINGELL (for herself, Mr. PORTENSHERRY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. VELA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. CRIST, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. AMODUI, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. ESCH, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. SCHRADE, Ms. DEAN, Ms. JAGGER, Mr. CHAPA LEE, and Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. COLE, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CABRAJAL, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mrs. ANNE, Mr. MICHAL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. SOTO, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. RADWAGEN, Mr. MAST, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. SAMPSON, Mr. SCHEER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. HUDSON of Maryland, Mr. KEISHIN, Mr. DELBENGE, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. LUIJAN, Mr. STIVER, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HUSH, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. GRILJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Miss GONZALEZ-COLON of Puerto Rico, Mr. LONG, Mr. KIDDEE, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Ms. TAIB):
H.R. 3742. A bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. UDOW (for herself, Mrs. HAYES, and Ms. ADAMS):
H.R. 3743. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require that certain information with respect to nutrition assistance programs be annually disclosed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. WELCH, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. COLLINS of New York):
H.R. 3744. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make qualified biogas property and qualified manure resource recovery property eligible for the energy credit and to permit renewable energy bonds to finance qualified biogas property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LAWSON of Florida (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. CRIST, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RAFFETTI, Mr. RAFFETTI, Ms. WASHINGTON, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. ROYAL-ALLARD, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. VARGAS, and Ms. JOYCE of Ohio):
H.R. 3745. A bill to provide physical standards and reform the inspection process for housing assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. LOWEY:
H.R. 3746. A bill to provide that service of the members of the organization known as the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II constitute official military service for purposes of laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEGUSE:
H.R. 3747. A bill to require the Federal Government to acquire mineral rights, and prohibit disturbance, of the subsurface of federally owned sites listed on the National Priorities List to the extent necessary to protect cleanup remedies and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. PANETTA (for herself, Mr. CUSHEEK, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. MAST, Mr. WALTZ, and Mr. BACON):
H.R. 3749. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to entities that provide legal services for homeless veterans and veterans at risk for homelessness; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mrs. WATSON-COLEMAN:
H. Con. Res. 53. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall for an event to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first African slaves to the territory that would become the United States; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. BOST (for himself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. COLINS of New York, Mr. CRADFORD, Mr. GOMBERT, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. GARTZ, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. COMER, Mr. WALKER, Mr. RIGOLEMAN, Mr. BRADY, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. MOLÉNENAH):
H. Res. 480. A resolution recognizing the historic significance of the “Betsy Ross Flag”, a symbolic representation of America’s revolutionary period and our Nation’s commitment to freedom and unity; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio (for himself, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. MCKINLEY, Ms. CAPTAIN of New York, Mr. CRADFORD, Mr. KEATING, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. LATTA, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. NEAL, Mr.  }
PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
Under clause 3 of rule XII.
Mr. CLAY introduced a bill (H.R. 3750) for the relief of Rene Alexander Garcia Maldonado; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT
Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. DEAN:
H.R. 3732.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DUNCAN:
H.R. 3733.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. QUIGLEY:
H.R. 3735.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:
H.R. 3737.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution.

By Mr. COHEN:
H.R. 3738.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. COLLINS of New York:
H.R. 3739.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:
H.R. 3740.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mrs. DINGELL:
H.R. 3742.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. FUDGE:
H.R. 3743.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. KIND:
H.R. 3744.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. LOWEY:
H.R. 3746.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1.

By Mr. NEGUZE:
H.R. 3747.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 7, Clause 1.

By Ms. LAWSON of Florida:
H.R. 3745.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. PANETTA:
H.R. 3748.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. PANETTA:
H.R. 3749.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. CLAY:
H.R. 3750.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS
Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:
H.R. 35: Mr. LOJAN and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 36: Mr. SARBAZAN, Mr. DELAURO, and Mr. Ted Lieu of California.
H.R. 40: Mr. DeSALVADORI, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SARLAN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALINOWSKI of New Jersey, Mrs. CARRAL, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Ms. SANCHEZ, and Mr. CERDAN.
H.R. 154: Mr. DeSALVADORI.
H.R. 281: Mr. STIVER.
H.R. 338: Mr. Cloud.
H.R. 372: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 397: Mr. LEVIN of California.
H.R. 401: Mr. GALLEGOS.
H.R. 435: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 550: Mrs. Lesko.
H.R. 616: Mr. MEUSER and Mr. BURCHETT.
H.R. 663: Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 665: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 728: Mr. CROW, Mr. ALLEED, and Mr. LEVIN of California.
H.R. 748: Ms. WEXTON and Mr. SENSENIBRENNER.
H.R. 838: Ms. BASS, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. RASKIN, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. STANKTON, Mr. AMODEI, Ms. MUCARSEL-Powell, and Mr. CONAWAY.
H.R. 886: Mr. BACON and Mr. QUIEGY.
H.R. 948: Mr. ARMSTRONG.
H.R. 1002: Mrs. Davis of California.
H.R. 1011: Mr. PANETTA and Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 1128: Mr. CRIST and Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 1154: Ms. SHALALA, Mrs. McBATH, and Mr. MORELLE.
H.R. 1163: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
H.R. 1175: Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. ARMSTRONG, and Mrs. Dingell.
H.R. 1230: Mr. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 1236: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 1245: Mr. CARE.
H.R. 1252: Mr. NESSEKROS, Ms. PORTER, and Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 1253: Mr. NUNES, Ms. PORTER, and Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 1254: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 1274: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. RYAN, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 1289: Ms. TUTTLE and Mr. RODIA.
H.R. 1309: Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. LEVIN of California, and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 1364: Ms. JUDY CHU of California and Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 1374: Mr. BACON and Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 1375: Mr. LUTKEMEYER.
H.R. 1377: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 1384: Mr. LOPFRENN.
H.R. 1396: Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. MOUTION, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. SARLAN, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BRENDAN, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GALLIBO, Mr. HINES, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. HICK, and Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee.
H.R. 1398: Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
H.R. 1400: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 1406: Mrs. BRATTY, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. JORDAN.
H.R. 1449: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 1441: Mr. PERRY.
H.R. 1466: Mr. ROUDA.
H.R. 1530: Mr. WALLSTON and Mr. BRINDISE of Connecticut.
H.R. 1553: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 1571: Mr. NEGUZE.
H.R. 1579: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
H.R. 1588: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 1610: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. SCHRADE.
H.R. 1628: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 1643: Mr. DeSALVADORI and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 1665: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma.
H.R. 1692: Ms. UNDERWOOD.
H.R. 1713: Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. HARDER of California, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 1724: Mr. ROUDA and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 1746: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

SPeECH OF HON. ELIOI 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 immigration policies. These policies and military 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 AUTHORIZA-
TION 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 LEVINSTEIN, 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 cautions 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.
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阳光下的政府信息法; 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 military 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 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 military force 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 for 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 human life and treasure of U.S. military interventions abroad are often underestimated and the benefits overstated.

For example, more than 6,800 American service members have made 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 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 KRISHNAMOORTHI
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Her Holiness Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, known simply as “Amma” to her many admirers over the world,
for her exemplary humanitarian and conserva-
tion 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 serv-
ce to others, Amma began her lifelong prac-
tice of trying to alleviate suffering by sharing
food and clothing from her home while still a
young girl. This devotion to service was not al-
ways 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 prac-
tice 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 traf-
ficking and slavery. She founded two impor-
tant 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, Slo-
vania and Australia.

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

Amma continues to share her vision of
peace, understanding and love through speak-
ing programs, meditation retreats and her will-
ingness 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 edu-
cation, her outspoken advocacy against human
trafficking, and her efforts to encour-
gage sustainable practices and protect our
shared ecosystem.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION 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 mili-
itary 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 encour-
gaged 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 amend-
ment requires the “Annual Report on Military
and Security Developments Involving the Peo-
ples’ Republic of China” to include an assess-
mant of (1) China’s expansion of its surveil-
ance state; (2) Any correlation of such expan-
sion with corruption or perversion of its citizens and its
threat to United States national security inter-
ested around the world; and (3) An overview of
the extent to which such surveillance cor-
responds to the overall respect, or lack there-
of, for human rights.

This matter is one that I have long been at-
tuned to and concerned about, ultimately lead-
ing 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 surveil-
ance 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 abili-
ty, madly possible to an unprecedented extent
by modern technology, to spy on, steal from,
immate, 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 affin-
ey of the Chinese, the 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 Main-
land.

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 neigh-
bor 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 contin-
ually less critical, independent thought is a
prospect to tremble at.

It is my strong belief that U.S. policy, includ-
ing defense policy, should by no measure as-
sist, intentionally or unintentionally, the growth
of China’s surveillance. Instead, it should dis-
courage the expansion of the Chinese govern-
ment 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 mi-
norities.

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 neigh-
bor 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 contin-
ually less critical, independent thought is a
prospect to tremble at.

I have heard from many individuals who
warn against China’s rapid expansion and in-
fluence into the rest of the world, including Af-
rica and Central America, our nation’s own
backyard. Although the government-connected
interests bring economic promise (and exploi-
tation) to the developing world, they also bring
Chinese influence into the rest of the world, including Af-

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.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MRS. MARGARET A. JONES
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. Mar-
garet A. Jones. Margaret was a longtime resi-
dent of Guam, a wife, mother, a public-spirited
community leader, and a woman of business
on Guam. In 1965, she was a founding mem-
er of the Guam Memorial Hospital Volunteers
Association and gave her time and effort to
numerous charitable and non-profit organiza-
tions. Her family business, Triple J Enterprises
was founded in 1984 and has grown across
the Pacific region. Margaret was born on No-
ember 27, 1937 and passed away in North Carolina
on June 27, 2019, at the age of 81.

Margaret was the daughter of Early and
Vema 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 sup-
port for cancer research by participating annu-
ally 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 Wom-
en’s Club, Harvest Baptist Church, the Miss
Guam Universe Pageant, the Miss Guam
World Pageant, and the Board of St. John’s
School’s care 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, Mar-
garet cofounded Triple J Enterprises along
with her husband, Robert H. Jones, and Geor-
gia Stafford. Today, the Triple J group em-
loys 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 chari-
table 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.
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, 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 J–ROTC 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 cancer 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 his profound legacy. Mr. Perot left a lasting impression on the United States Armed Forces during World War II veteran Melvin L. Marks, a Santa Barbara city resident in my district, who turns 95 years old on July 10, 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 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 four teams 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 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 colleague and former colleague DONALD NORCROSS, to task the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) to investigate the contracting practices of the Corps of Engineers, 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 Act violations.

How the Corps of Engineers verifies that the contractors it uses 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 our gratitude:


TRIBUTE TO ROBERT J. GILLILAND

HON. STEVE COHEN
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 F-104 Starfighter—and to recognize the heroism and service to our country of the brave man whose valor and selflessness will be forever honored.

Robert J. Gilliland was a pilot and United States Air Force fighter pilot, who was killed in the line of duty on July 12, 1969. He was the first American pilot to fly the F-104 Starfighter, and his valor and sacrifice were honored by the United States government.

Mr. Gilliland was a true hero whose bravery and selflessness were recognized by his country and the world. He was a true American hero whose valor and sacrifice will be forever honored.

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 Expeditionsary 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 Valdorlo County, Commissioners in Florida Congressional District One, as they declare this day, July 12, 2019, to be “Samuel Lombardo Day.”

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 that our nation’s most ancient 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 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 reference 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.
Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session and stands adjourned until 3 p.m., on Monday, July 15, 2019.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 18 public bills, H.R. 3732–3749; 1 private bill, H.R. 3750; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 53; and H. Res. 485–488 were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors:

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

- H.R. 1327, to extend authorization for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 through fiscal year 2090, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–152); and
- H.R. 36, to provide for research to better understand the causes and consequences of sexual harassment affecting individuals in the scientific, technical, engineering, and mathematics workforce and to examine policies to reduce the prevalence and negative impact of such harassment, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–153).


Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.”

Agreed to:

- Dingell amendment (No. 440 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–143) that requires the Administrator of the EPA to designate all per and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous substances under section 102(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980;

- Smith (WA) en bloc amendment No. 17 consisting of the following amendments printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–143: Rice (NY) (No. 432) that requires GAO to conduct an audit of ongoing and planned future DOD support for DHS operations to secure the southwest border, with a subsequent briefing and report to Congress; Stanton (No. 433) that directs the Secretary of Defense to modify the pre-separation counseling check-list administered to servicemembers separating from the Armed Forces to provide further information regarding the expedited naturalization resources available to them; Takano (No. 434) that requires the Secretary of Defense to provide the Secretary of Homeland Security with a copy of the Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) for each noncitizen honorably discharged from the military for the purposes of including such record in an I–213 Record of Deportable/Inadmissible Alien; Aguilar (No. 435) that directs DOD to debrief non-citizens on how to
apply for naturalization when they transition out of the armed services; Aguilar (No. 436) that prohibits persons with DACA or TPS from being separated from the Armed Services to be deported; and Pocan (No. 439) that requires review of the discharge characterizations of former members of the military who were discharged because of their sexual orientation; requires boards to change discharge characterizations from dishonorable to honorable in such cases;

Pages H5740–43

Tippton amendment (No. 375 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–143) that was debated on July 11th that expresses the sense of Congress that military aviation training in Colorado, including the training conducted at the High-Altitude Army National Guard Aviation Training Site, is critical to the national security of the United States and the readiness of the Armed Forces (by a recorded vote of 417 ayes to 6 noes, Roll No. 461);

Pages H5752–53

Khanna amendment (No. 423 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–143) that was debated on July 11th that prohibits unauthorized military force in or against Iran (by a recorded vote of 251 ayes to 170 noes, Roll No. 463);

Pages H5753–54

Lee (CA) amendment (No. 424 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–143) that was debated on July 11th that repeals the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (by a recorded vote of 242 ayes to 180 noes, Roll No. 464);

Pages H5754–55

Lee (CA) amendment (No. 425 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–143) that was debated on July 11th that expresses the sense of Congress that the 2001 AUMF has been utilized beyond the scope that Congress intended; and that any new authorization for the use of military force to replace the 2001 AUMF should include a sunset clause, a clear and specific expression of objectives, targets, and geographic scope, and reporting requirements (by a recorded vote of 257 ayes to 183 noes, Roll No. 465);

Page H5755

Thompson (MS) amendment (No. 437 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–143) that prohibits DoD funding to house any foreign nationals who are in the custody of and detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (by a recorded vote of 213 ayes to 204 noes, Roll No. 469);

Pages H5733–34, H5757–58

Malinowski amendment (No. 438 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–143) that provides for a one-year prohibition on the sale of air-to-ground munitions used in the conflict in Yemen to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, while providing an exemption for any export or license suspensions that would incur a cost to the United States Government (by a recorded vote of 236 ayes to 182 noes, Roll No. 470); and

Pages H5734–35, H5758–59

Jayapal amendment (No. 441 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–143) that requires the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress independent studies regarding potential cost savings with respect to the nuclear security enterprise and force structure (by a recorded vote of 230 ayes to 189 noes, Roll No. 471).

Pages H5737–40, H5759

Rejected:

Lee (CA) amendment (No. 49 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–143) that was debated on July 11th that sought to reduce funding from the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) account by $16.8 billion (by a recorded vote of 115 ayes to 307 noes, Roll No. 459);

Page H5751

Amash amendment (No. 50 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–143) that was debated on July 11th that sought to repeal section 1022 of the FY2012 NDAA and amend Section 1021 of the FY2012 NDAA to eliminate indefinite military detention of any person detained under AUMF authority in the U.S., territories, or possessions by providing immediate transfer to trial and proceedings by a court established under Article III of the Constitution of the United States or by an appropriate State court (by a recorded vote of 187 ayes to 236 noes, Roll No. 460);

Pages H5751–52

Turner amendment (No. 386 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–143) that was debated on July 11th that sought to strike the provision relating to the prohibition on the use of funds for the deployment of low-yield ballistic missile warheads and requires the Secretary of Defense to certify on the availability of proportional response options (by a recorded vote of 201 ayes to 221 noes, Roll No. 462);

Page H5753

Garcia (TX) amendment (No. 428 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–143) that was debated on July 11th that sought to prevent DOD facilities from being used to house or detain unaccompanied migrant children (by a recorded vote of 198 ayes to 223 noes, Roll No. 466);

Pages H5755–56

Ocasio-Cortez amendment (No. 429 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–143) that was debated on July 11th that sought to prohibit the President from deploying troops on the southern border if the purpose of this deployment is to enforce immigration law (by a recorded vote of 179 ayes to 241 noes with one answering “present”, Roll No. 467); and

Pages H5756–57

Ocasio-Cortez amendment (No. 430 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–143) that was debated on July 11th that sought to prohibit the President from using the authorized funds to detain undocumented immigrants in Department of Defense facilities (by
a recorded vote of 173 ayes to 245 noes, Roll No. 468).

Agreed that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment, including corrections in spelling, punctuation, section and title numbering, cross referencing, conforming amendments to the table of contents and short titles, and the insertion of appropriate headings.

H. Res. 476, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2500) was agreed to Wednesday, July 10th.

Suspension: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:


Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To extend authorization for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 through fiscal year 2092, and for other purposes.”

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12 noon on Monday, July 15th for Morning Hour debate.


Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

**Committee Meetings**

**KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON: ADDRESSING CYBER THREATS TO THE GRID**

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled “Keeping the Lights On: Addressing Cyber Threats to the Grid”. Testimony was heard from Karen S. Evans, Assistant Secretary, Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response, Department of Energy; J. Andrew Dodge, Sr., Director, Office of Electric Reliability, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; and a public witness.

**LESSONS FROM THE MUELLER REPORT, PART III: CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES FOR ADDRESSING PRESIDENTIAL MISCONDUCT**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Lessons from the Mueller Report, Part III: Constitutional Processes for Addressing Presidential Misconduct”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION’S CHILD SEPARATION POLICY: SUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS OF MISTREATMENT**

*Committee on Oversight and Reform:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Trump Administration’s Child Separation Policy: Substantiated Allegations of Mistreatment”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Escobar, Ocasio-Cortez, Pressley, Tlaib, Lesko, Cloud, Biggs, and Roy; Jennifer L. Costello, Acting Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security; Ann Maxwell, Assistant Inspector General for Evaluation and Inspections, Department of Health and Human Services; Thomas D. Homan, Former Acting Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and public witnesses.

**Joint Meetings**

No joint committee meetings were held.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, JULY 15, 2019**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

**Senate**

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

**House**

*Committee on the Judiciary,* Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship, hearing entitled “Overcrowding and Prolonged Detention at CBP Facilities”, 5:30 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Oversight and Reform,* Full Committee, hearing entitled “Violations of the Hatch Act Under the Trump Administration, Part II: Kellyanne Conway”, 4 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

*Committee on Rules,* Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Trump Administration’s Child Separation Policy: Substantiated Allegations of Mistreatment”; H.R. 3494, the “Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020”; H.R. 582, the “Raise the Wage Act”; and a Resolution Recommending that the House of Representatives find William P. Barr, Attorney General of the United States, and Wilbur L. Ross, Jr., Secretary of Commerce, in Contempt of Congress for Refusal to Comply with Subpoenas Duly Issued by the Committee on Oversight and Reform, 5 p.m., H–313 Capitol.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
3 p.m., Monday, July 15

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Peter Joseph Phipps, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 5:30 p.m.

The filing deadline for first-degree amendments to Protocol Amending the Tax Convention with Spain (Treaty Doc. 113–4), Protocol Amending Tax Convention with Swiss Confederation (Treaty Doc. 112–1), Protocol Amending the Tax Convention with Japan (Treaty Doc. 114–1), and Protocol Amending Tax Convention with Luxembourg (Treaty Doc. 111–8), is at 3:30 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
12 noon, Monday, July 15

House Chamber

Program for Monday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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