

that Mr. Charles Anderson, a relentless fighter for veterans throughout North County, is my Constituent of the Month. Mr. Anderson has dedicated his life to supporting veterans and their families, serving as Commander of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Tri-Cities Chapter 95, and belonging to the Oceanside Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 10577 and the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) Chapter 493.

As Commander of the local Disabled American Veterans chapter, Mr. Anderson has made sure that veterans in our community receive rides to medical appointments and helped veterans receive the Veterans Affairs benefits they've earned. He's helped veterans find gainful employment and financial security, and he's worked to ensure that veterans do not become homeless.

Mr. Anderson's service with local veterans groups is commendable, but there are also several cases where he went above and beyond to help a local veteran and their family in a desperate time of need. When my office heard that a Marine Gulf War veteran was struggling to make ends meet due to a service-connected terminal illness, it was Mr. Anderson who immediately made arrangements to support the veteran's family financially until the Veterans Benefits Administration could deliver benefits. When I heard from a caregiver of a Marine veteran who was at risk of becoming homeless, Mr. Anderson stepped up to cover the veteran's rent until we could work out aid from the VA.

On this Veterans Day, we must do more than pay lip service to our veterans. We need to fight for the support and resources that veterans have earned and deserve, and that's exactly what Mr. Anderson does every single day. As long as I have the privilege to serve on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I will look to Mr. Anderson as a shining example of what it means to serve our veterans with reverence and resolve. I am deeply grateful for Mr. Anderson's service to our veterans, and I am proud to recognize him as my Constituent of the Month.

CONGRATULATING SAINT MARIA GORETTI SCHOOL ON BEING NAMED A 2019 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding school in my district that is being honored as a 2019 National Blue Ribbon School. I am delighted to congratulate Saint Maria Goretti School in Westfield, Indiana, for the second time since I've been in Congress, in celebration of this special occasion.

Started by President Reagan in 1982, the United States Department of Education awards the National Blue Ribbon designation to both public and private schools across our great nation. The award celebrates great American schools like Saint Maria Goretti that achieve very high learning standards or are making significant improvements in the academic achievements of their students. Throughout the country this award is given to

recognize the upper echelon of educational institutions, that through the dedication and passion of their amazing educators, students, and parents have strived to ensure that every student reaches their full potential and maximizes their academic success.

Having previously received this prestigious award in 2013, the Fighting Angels of Saint Maria Goretti School have shown just how deep the commitment to excellence is ingrained in their staff, faculty, parents and student body. This honor is a wonderful acknowledgement of the school's commitment to providing its students with an exceptional education. While hundreds of schools nationwide were nominated, only 362 schools were designated as 2019 National Blue Ribbon Schools. Of the 362 schools, Saint Maria Goretti School was one of 12 Indiana schools to receive recognition, making this achievement all the more impressive. Under the guidance of the Archdiocese of Lafayette and the leadership of Principal Vince Barnes, Saint Maria Goretti School has become a beacon of educational excellence.

Saint Maria Goretti School is committed to providing a nurturing environment for the intellectual, physical, and social development of each child. As a Catholic institution the clergy and staff work diligently with students to provide an excellent education, focusing on the spiritual, academic, emotional, and physical well-being of each child. This commitment to the well-being and development of the student body is led by a dynamic staff of teachers, working to shape the future by the lives they are positively influencing in their classrooms daily. The dedicated staff at Saint Maria Goretti School engages students in meaningful educational tasks that promote thinking and reasoning and it is because of their hard work that Saint Maria Goretti School has been deservedly honored with this Blue Ribbon Award.

As an advocate for education and youth, I have great respect and admiration for our nation's educators and their mission to provide the students of this great nation with the strong academic foundation critical to future success. Schools like Saint Maria Goretti School are an example of how we accomplish this vital mission. The outstanding educational techniques developed at Saint Maria Goretti School should stand as a model for school districts throughout the nation. The commitment to excellence from the students, parents and educators at Saint Maria Goretti School has transformed the school into a beacon of educational achievement. Once again, congratulations to Saint Maria Goretti School. I am very proud of them.

VOTE EXPLANATION ON H.R. 3055

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, yesterday I voted against H.R. 3055, a Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the government through December 20, 2019.

Let me be clear: I strongly support the majority of the funding extensions and protections in this CR. This includes the well-deserved 3.1 percent pay raise to our men and women in uniform, of which I also voted in favor earlier

this year in separate legislation. The compensation for our men and women in uniform should never be compromised by Congress's inability to pass annual funding legislation.

I am also pleased that this CR includes a provision that would protect federal highway funding and generate new jobs. Using my position as Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I worked to ensure that the CR included a provision that would repeal Section 1438 of the FAST Act of 2015. Section 1438, which was included at the insistence of Republican leaders in 2015, will rescind \$7.6 billion of federal highway funding in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 if it is not repealed.

I strongly support repeal of Section 1438, which is long overdue. Transportation agencies in all 50 states and the District of Columbia are counting on Congress to prevent this massive, multi-billion dollar cut from going into effect. Although I unfortunately had to vote against the CR for unrelated reasons, I applaud my colleagues for taking this issue seriously and including the rescission repeal in this must-pass bill. I'm pleased we are taking a positive step to finally give states the certainty they need to carry out long-term projects that create jobs and help their communities.

Furthermore, I strongly support the extensions in the CR to protect funding for Community Health Centers, which provide a vital lifeline for health care services to thousands of Oregonians and millions of Americans across the country. I am also pleased that this legislation extends funding for the National Health Service Corps and the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program, two health care workforce programs that provide resources to support the training of health providers in rural and underserved areas.

In addition, I am pleased that this legislation protects funding for important health care programs including Medicare and Medicaid programs, disproportionate share hospitals, the Community Mental Health Services Demonstration Program, the Special Diabetes Program, and funds to respond to the Ebola outbreak in Africa.

I also strongly support the funding extensions provided to ensure the Census Bureau has the funding it needs to continue carrying out the 2020 Decennial Census.

Moreover, I support the CR's funding extension for the critical Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, which allows the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to match state child care expenditures and make scheduled contingency fund payments. The legislation also ensures that the current caseload in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which serves low-income seniors, is maintained.

However, I opposed the CR because it includes absurd provisions to extend mass surveillance programs under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). This includes Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act, which has allowed for mass surveillance of Americans' call records, as well as roving wire tap provisions and so-called "lone wolf" authority.

I am strongly opposed to these data collection and mass surveillance programs, which I believe are unconstitutional. I voted against the original PATRIOT Act in 2001, and I have continued to oppose reauthorization of this and related mass surveillance programs unless and until significant reforms are made to protect the constitutional privacy rights of U.S. citizens.

For years, I have urged congressional leadership under both parties to take up meaningful reform of these government spying programs and allow for sincere, robust debate on how to restore Americans' constitutional rights to privacy while also protecting our nation's security. In July, I was one of 7 Democrats to vote against the Intelligence Authorization Act because it did not contain any significant reforms to curb government surveillance.

That's why I joined my colleagues in sending a bipartisan letter to the House Judiciary and Intelligence Committees urging them to finally take up meaningful surveillance reform legislation before Section 215 and related FISA provisions expire on December 15 of this year.

Regrettably, this CR is yet another example of Congress's habit of kicking the can down the road instead of engaging in long-overdue, substantive debate on surveillance reform legislation. Congress owes it to the American people to end government mass surveillance and restore Americans' civil liberties and constitutional rights.

As I've always said, while we must ensure that law enforcement officials have the tools they need to assess, detect, and prevent future terrorist attacks, I don't believe we have to shred the Constitution and Bill of Rights in order to fight terrorism.

The bottom line is that it is beyond time for Congress to provide long-term stability and funding in its annual appropriations process. The Democratic-led House completed nearly all of its appropriations bills before September 30, the end of the Fiscal Year. Because the Senate did not get its work done in time, bridge funding in the form of continuing resolutions has been needed to keep the government open. Congress needs to get its act together and halt the ridiculous and irresponsible lurching from short-term fix to short-term fix.

I hope the Senate can get its work done so we can finally stop the budget gimmicks and spend our time working on important issues like fighting climate change, improving access to health care, upgrading our dilapidated infrastructure, investing in public education, and more. That is what Americans expect, and that is what they deserve.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the *Extensions of Remarks* section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2019 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 3

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine testimony from the Government Accountability Office on privatized housing findings to

include responses from the military services on ongoing reports of sub-standard housing conditions and services.

SD-G50

9:45 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the future of United States policy towards Russia.

SD-419

DECEMBER 4

10 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

To hold a joint hearing with the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management to examine United States Navy ship and submarine maintenance.

SD-106

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Personnel

To hold hearings to examine testimony about servicemember, family, and veteran suicides and prevention strategies.

SR-222

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Paul J. Ray, of Tennessee, to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget.

SD-342

DECEMBER 11

10 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the Inspector General's report on alleged abuses of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

SD-226