

he has spearheaded public and government relations efforts in the DMV area. Kurt has been named Legislative Chairman of the Maryland Impaired Driving Coalition, an appointee by the Governor to the Virginia's Task Force to Combat the Influence of Drugs and Alcohol and has served on multiple boards and associations.

Among his many duties, Kurt oversees the SoberRide Program which provides free and discounted rides home during the holidays. This program is considered one of the most successful programs of its kind in the nation. Kurt has Chaired the Checkpoint Strikeforce for the last 18 years, working with local and state law enforcement to get impaired drivers off the roads. WRAP also has aggressive outreach programs for adults as well as youth and provides multi-media presentations and school resource guides.

In recognition of his years of service and dedication, Kurt has received numerous awards including the 2014 Kevin Quinlan Award, the 2008 Metropolitan Police Department's Chief of Police Special Award, the MADD—Chesapeake Region Community Champion Award, and the National Highway Safety Administration's Public Service Award. Under his leadership, WRAP has also earned multiple honors including the 2019 Peter O'Rourke Special Achievement Award from the Governors Highway Safety Association and the Virginia Governor's Transportation Safety Award.

While Kurt has been publicly lauded by local, state, and national organizations and received many awards, I believe that his most precious possession is the knowledge of the countless people who have been kept safe and the tragedies that have been prevented through his efforts. Since its inception in 1991, nearly 79,000 safe rides home have been provided by SoberRide, the vast majority occurring during Kurt's tenure. It is not possible to know how many possible injuries or deaths have been prevented, but these unknown potential victims all owe a deep debt of gratitude to Kurt and WRAP.

Madam Speaker, for two decades Kurt Erickson has played an integral role in the effort to eliminate impaired driving and underage drinking. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kurt on his 20th Anniversary with WRAP and in thanking him for his tireless advocacy and unending efforts to keep our roads and our residents safe.

RECOGNIZING JAKE AND TIFFANY SACHE OF LAKE CITY

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2019

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jake and Tiffany Sache of Levy County, Florida for their dedication to the agriculture industry.

Jake and Tiffany raise beef cattle and harvest hay and grass seed on several farms throughout Levy and Gilchrist counties. They understand the importance of land conservation and have been recognized on numerous occasions for their outstanding conservation practices on their farm land.

Their commitment to agriculture production extends beyond their farm and into the com-

munity, where this couple serves in multiple capacities. They are active in their local County Farm Bureau organization and serve as members of the Levy-Gilchrist County Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee.

During Florida Farm Bureau's annual meeting this past October, they received the highest statewide honor for agriculture producers known as the Achievement in Agriculture Award. This honor is given to those who are not only skillful in farm production, but have also successfully developed their agricultural enterprise and extensively serve their local community and Farm Bureau.

Agriculture sustains our economic growth, promotes environmental stewardship, and continuously replenishes our food resources. I encourage you to thank a farmer whenever given the opportunity. I thank Jake and Tiffany Sache for choosing a career path and lifestyle that sustains our economy and puts food on the table.

SMALL AIRPORT MOTHERS' ROOMS ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROL D. MILLER

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2019

Mrs. MILLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask for support for my bill, H.R. 3362, the Small Airport Mothers' Room Act of 2019.

Travelling with infants, while rewarding, can often be stressful on new mothers. This legislation helps lessen this anxiety and allows for mothers to have a quiet, private space to care for their young ones.

As air travel continues to be one of the most preferred and popular means of transportation, we need to make sure that airport infrastructure is properly updated to fit not only the needs of American mothers but American families as well.

H.R. 3362 would require small hub airports to construct mothers' rooms, which are areas where mothers can nurse their children in privacy.

The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 required all large and medium hub airports to construct mothers' rooms by 2021. My bill would help fill the remaining gap and similarly require small hub airports to install mothers' room, extending this coverage to 97 percent of all travelers.

Thank you to Chairman DEFAZIO, Ranking Member GRAVES and my colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for their support on my bill.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the T&I Committee staff for their assistance with this legislation.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 3362.

HONORING SARAH E. NAKATA

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2019

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my Carmel District Office

intern, Sarah E. Nakata for her work and service to the citizens of the 5th District of Indiana. Sarah has the spirit of a giver, the strength of a fighter and a heart of gold. She truly is an inspiration to all of us and I am proud to have her as a part of my team. The first time I met Sarah, I was presenting her an offer of appointment to the prestigious United States Military Academy at West Point during my second year as a Member of Congress in 2014. Her dream was to serve our nation in the United States Army and on that day, her dream became a reality.

While Sarah attended high school at Covenant Christian in Indianapolis, she thrived inside and outside of the classroom both academically and athletically. She was a part of the Rifle Team, Rocket Team, Math Club, a member of the National Honor Society, attended NASA Explorer School and participated in band and pep band. Sarah was a tutor for English, Math, Science, and Spanish, all while volunteering her time at English as a Second Language classes as well as at the National Rifle Association's National Rifle Matches. She graduated high school with a 4.3 GPA and ranked first in her graduating class. She had a love for science, space, and mathematics but her true passion was rifle shooting.

While on the Rifle Team at Covenant Christian High School, Sarah earned nine state titles, three national junior titles and served as a team captain. She was an Indiana Rifle State Champion in 2011 and 2012 through the Indiana State Rifle and Pistol Association. She joined the USA Shooting Team and was a National Junior Olympic Rifle Championship qualifier and participant in 2012 and 2013. Sarah was named the National Metric Grand Aggregate Prone and Position Intermediate Junior Champion in 2012 by the National Rifle Association and was National Metric Iron Sight Position Junior Champion in 2013. These achievements caught the attention of multiple colleges and educational institutions, including the United States Military Academy at West Point. Sarah was recruited for her skills in rifle shooting and received a Letter of Assurance from the academy. The last thing she needed in order to attend was a congressional or presidential nomination.

As she was finishing her time at Covenant Christian High School, Sarah started the application process to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point through my office. As many know, it is no easy feat to be accepted into an academy and it takes hard work, dedication and commitment, which is exactly what Sarah had. These academies have the best and brightest students and Sarah was among those ranks. In the spring of 2014, Sarah received a congressional nomination from my office and on May 1, 2014, I presented her with an offer of appointment. Sarah reported to duty as a cadet at West Point in June of 2014 to begin her Plebe year.

During the summer between Sarah's sophomore and junior year in June of 2016, she began to have abdominal pains and severe nausea while participating in summer training. Several days passed and Sarah continued to feel sick, was unable to digest food, and developed chronic dehydration. She was flown to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. Sarah was diagnosed with severe gastroparesis, preventing her stomach from appropriately digesting food. A

year passed, Sarah's condition had not improved, and the United States Army medically separated her.

I learned of Sarah's condition and I knew her dreams of attending the United States Military Academy at West Point and serving in the Army had come to a close. I reached out to her in late 2017 and offered her an internship in my Carmel District Office and she joined my team in January of 2018. Despite all Sarah has been through, her spirit, smile and laughter lifts up my team each and every day she is in the office. After years of testing, hospital visits, surgeries and medications, Sarah and medical professionals still do not have a full understanding of her illness, symptoms or a pathway for treatment, recovery or for a cure.

Sarah is resilient and strong. I know her illness will not hold her back from accomplishing her new goals and striving for her dreams. Sarah has taught us all to not let the little things bother you, as you never know where life will take you. Life is precious and Sarah is a true inspiration to all of us. She will go on to do many great things after her internship ends and I thank her for her service to the residents of the 5th District of Indiana and to our country. It is with immense hope and great optimism that we look forward to watching Sarah embark on her future endeavors, with her parents Heidi and David by her side.

APPROPRIATIONS BILLS FOR FY
2020, H.R. 1865 AND H.R. 1158

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2019

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, this week the House passed two bills that will fund the federal government through Fiscal Year (FY) 2020.

The first package, which I voted in support of, includes a number of provisions which I strongly support.

First, I am proud to have worked in conjunction with Senators MERKLEY and WYDEN as well as Rep. SCHRADER to ensure that this package forgives a multi-million-dollar interest burden owed by Oregon's Pacific groundfish fisheries. This burden was created solely by bureaucratic incompetence, and the inclusion of this provision is a huge win for Oregonians.

The bill also increases funding for programs that hundreds of Oregonians depend upon, such as YouthBuild, JobCorps, and Senior Corps. I led the charge to secure an additional \$13 million above FY 2019 levels for the Senior Corps program, ensuring volunteers earn an increased stipend which will allow them to take hundreds of more dollars home a year. It also increases funding for Pell Grants—easing the way for more people to afford an education. It also included record investments for early childhood education programs, more funding for rural broadband, and a reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools program through 2020. In addition, it includes the highest funding level for the Land and Water Conservation Fund in 15 years.

The bill makes robust investments to support our nation's veterans, including funding for suicide prevention, homeless assistance programs, rural health initiatives, opioid abuse prevention, and funding for the VA's electronic

health record initiative to ensure our veterans get the care they have earned and deserve.

The package also includes \$25 million for gun violence research at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH)—the first time in more than 20 years. The bill secures record-level funding for life-saving healthcare research at the NIH and CDC, and it extends funding for vital community health centers, the National Health Service Corps, and Teaching Health Centers.

Unfortunately, I am deeply disappointed that this bill included a provision that would extend market exclusivity rights to Big Pharma for certain medicines, allowing these companies to price-gouge consumers for longer periods of time without competition from more affordable, generic drugs.

The second appropriations bill also includes a number of provisions that I strongly support, including a 3.1 percent pay raise for both our men and women in uniform and federal civilian employees, as well as robust funding for the STOP School Violence Act, legislation that would give students and teachers the tools they need to help prevent school shootings. It includes increased investment in election security, the National Guard Youth Challenge, the National Science Foundation, and the Census Bureau, so that it can effectively and accurately carry out the 2020 Decennial Census.

I also led the fight to include funding for esophageal cancer research, which I am pleased to report was incorporated into the bill as part of \$110 million for the Department of Defense's Peer-Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP). I strongly support the robust funding included for numerous other defense health and cancer research programs as well.

Unfortunately, despite including provisions I strongly support, I voted against this second bill because it also contains several objectionable provisions.

For example, this bill once again increases funding for an already-bloated Pentagon budget, including a massive increase to the Pentagon's Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) account—a fiscally irresponsible slush fund that is not counted in the budget, has no congressional oversight, and gives a blank check to fund endless wars that Congress hasn't authorized. For years, Congress has continued to increase the Pentagon's budget despite overwhelming evidence of its waste and abuse of taxpayer money. I believe this legislation could have made responsible cuts to our defense budget without jeopardizing the safety of our troops, preventing a pay increase, or undermining our national security.

I am also extremely disappointed that this final bill stripped out a repeal of the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force and a provision to block funding for the U.S.'s involvement in the Saudi-led coalition's involvement in Yemen's civil war—both of which were included in the House-passed defense appropriations bill earlier this year. This is yet another example of Congress abdicating its constitutional authority to finally put a stop to the endless wars that have cost countless lives and taxpayer money.

This legislation fails to effectively check the Department of Homeland Security's border policies and spending. The bill includes funding for President Trump's wasteful and ineffec-

tive border wall, lacks appropriate restrictions to prevent the Trump administration from raiding funds from other agencies to spend on immigration detention and the wall, and does virtually nothing to provide necessary oversight against enforcement-only immigration policies.

The Trump administration's policies have resulted in cruel family separations, record levels of detained immigrants, especially children, in cruel conditions, and the death of at least two dozen immigrants while in federal custody. Instead of enacting strong, enforceable oversight mechanisms, this bill largely maintains the status quo. That is unacceptable. Congress needs to be a check against the executive branch's authority.

For these reasons, I opposed this second appropriations package. I will continue to fight against Republican efforts to hand billions of dollars in taxpayer money to a bloated and wasteful Pentagon and work to rein in the Trump administration's cruel enforcement-only immigration agenda.

RECOGNIZING THE WINNERS OF
THE PI LAMBDA LAMBDA CHAPTER
OF THE OMEGA PSI PHI
FRATERNITY, INC.'S 2019
ACHIEVEMENT WEEK AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 15th Anniversary of the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and to congratulate winners of this year's Pi Lambda Lambda Achievement Week Awards. The winners of this award exemplify the four founding principles of Omega Psi Phi. The contributions of these men and women have been influential to the communities of Prince William County.

The Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was chartered in 2004 and supports their mission to help others in need. The chapter includes the communities of Prince William County, the City of Manassas, the City of Manassas Park, and Stafford County. Through their community activism, they sponsor a variety of initiatives to enrich their neighborhoods through educational and humanitarian activities. Each year, individuals who have made a significant impact are honored for their efforts. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2019 Achievement Week Award recipients:

The Citizen of the Year Award: Francia Salguero

The Colonel Charles Young Military Leadership Award: Major Ahmad G. Andrews

The Founders Lifetime Achievement Award: Rev. (Dr.) Luke E. Torian

Superior Service Award: Albert Woods

Omega Man of the Year: Jeffrey W. Allen

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2019 Pi Lambda Lambda Achievement Week Award winners. These individuals all played a significant role in enriching our neighborhoods, serving as testament of the generosity of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. I thank them and all the members of the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter for their immense contributions to our community and wish them continued success.