

his last mission that maybe the most impactful.

For the last few months, General Semonite has led the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' work to combat the COVID-19 global pandemic. The Corps has helped design or construct alternate care facilities in all 50 states and five territories, adding over 15,000 hospital beds across the country. General Semonite has said: "... of all the things I've done in my career, this is a noble calling to be able to step up and save American lives."

This extraordinary act of service is but ordinary to General Semonite. His passion and vigor for the COVID-19 Mission is the same passion and vigor he has brought to every aspect of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He is the embodiment of "building strong." We would like to express our own thanks and appreciation and that of a grateful nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join Rep. BRUCE WESTERMAN and me in giving our very best wishes to General Semonite and his wife Connie on the next chapter of an already storied life. Essayons.

HONORING THE LIFE AND UNSELFISH WORK OF A "HAPPY WARRIOR" ROY WEATHERFORD

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in admiration to honor the life and unselfish work of a "Happy Warrior" Roy Weatherford. Roy's dedication to justice, equality, peace and worker rights is worthy of recognition.

Roy's significant contributions to society are rooted in his humble background. Raised in rural Arkansas with no electricity, education was always a top value for his family. While studying at Arkansas Technical University, he not only met his partner for life, Doris, but he found his causes for life—standing up for working people and against injustice. Roy saw firsthand the injustices of the Jim Crow era and was inspired by his professors to forgo his studies in math and physics in favor of philosophy. And, when the administration fired those professors, in a scene that would be repeated often in Roy's career, Roy and his friends rallied and circulated petitions to show support for their beloved professors. Roy was not as successful as he would be later in life in this first foray challenging the powers that be, but he never quit fighting from those days forward. Roy graduated at the top of his class in 1964 and he took a fellowship at Harvard University. A year later, he joined the army as a cryptanalyst just as the war in Vietnam was escalating. While still in the Army, on assignment near the Pentagon, he and Doris were married.

Roy returned to Harvard. Always a brilliant student, his master's thesis won the Bechtel Prize in philosophy and he graduated with his doctorate in 1972. Roy decided to move to Tampa and join the faculty of the emerging University of South Florida (USF). Though he of course had other options, Roy felt that he could make a bigger impact on people's lives at a small upstart school like USF than at a more established school in the Northeast. Roy

observed that in Massachusetts and even Arkansas, community leaders typically come from families that have long been dominant. Roy said, "in Florida, anybody who's willing to work can make a difference." New England's loss was certainly Florida and Tampa's gain, and through his hard work and the differences that he made, he proved his adage.

Just two years after landing in Tampa, Roy was named the chair for the USF chapter of United Faculty Florida (UFF). A perfect fit for his energy, ability and conscience. He fought tirelessly to get more local control for unions and more resources for faculty and students. It has been said that he put a face on the faculty and made their needs real. After being elected union president in 2001, Roy worked until the union was saved. Typically, he went against the grain of the political landscape of the day, which was seeking to decertify unions. His efforts pressed those at the top to continue to recognize the faculty's right to come together. And, when bargaining began locally for the first time, Roy's astuteness, passion and commitment resulted in not only a contract but one including raises for faculty. He lobbied the state government to pass sweeping transformational laws, including Florida's exceptional Government-in-the-Sunshine law and often worked on local and state committees focused on education and workers' rights. Roy set the precedent for how USF and other university administrators work with educators, professors and organized labor. By the time of his retirement, union membership had doubled. Indeed, it has been said that many of UFF's, USF's and organized labor's successes in Florida exist because of Roy's advocacy.

As a scholar, he wrote enthusiastically and intelligibility on world peace. As a person, Roy was a loving and tireless advocate for the same. Roy and Doris protested the Vietnam War and were active in many campaigns and causes—spending countless hours marching in support of civil and women's rights. In Doris' words, he was "concerned and passionate and principled."

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay, Florida and citizens across the United States, I am proud to honor Roy Weatherford for his lifelong dedication to justice, working people and giving a voice to those who often were not allowed to have one. Roy showed us what service above self, passion, empathy, and action look like.

WILLIAM M. (MAC) THORNBERRY NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. JENNIFER WEXTON

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2020

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of en bloc No. 2 and my amendment in support of the Uyghur people.

Millions of Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities have been arbitrarily detained and forced by the Chinese government into "re-education" and forced labor camps in Xinjiang.

Under the label of "poverty alleviation," Uyghurs are being assigned to factories in and outside of Xinjiang. These factories feed global supply chains that produce electronics, textiles, shoes, food products, and even PPE.

According to a report from the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, some of the best-known brands in the world, including a number of U.S. companies, are unwittingly profiting from this scheme.

U.S. law prohibits goods made using forced labor from entering our markets. However, Xinjiang accounts for 84 percent of the cotton produced in China, and is responsible for 1 in every 5 bales of cotton produced globally. Unless proactive measures are taken to prohibit sourcing from Xinjiang, U.S. companies risk being complicit in human rights abuses.

My amendment would require DoD to create a process by which companies that sell goods in the commissary and exchange systems, that are partially or wholly manufactured from Xinjiang or with Xinjiang labor, to certify those goods were not manufactured using forced labor.

Given the overwhelming evidence of widespread and systemic forced labor in China, as confirmed by testimony from camp survivors, satellite imagery, and leaked official documents, U.S. companies that import from the region should have already taken proactive measures to audit suppliers.

For companies that haven't, under my amendment, they will be required to do so if they want to continue selling their products on our military bases. I urge my colleagues to support this important amendment.

WILLIAM M. (MAC) THORNBERRY NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to Division F, the Corporate Transparency Act provision, within Amendment 499 to H.R. 6395, the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2021.

This amendment is part of a larger of package of amendments that the House is voting for en bloc. Many of those provisions I support. I would like to emphasize that my remarks only apply to certain provisions within Amendment 499.

Specifically, I do not support Division F of the amendment which is the text that relates to H.R. 2513 which passed the House floor on October 22, 2019. The legislation addresses how we might combat illicit finance activities through the collection of beneficial ownership information.

I did not support the legislation when it passed the House floor, and I do not support it as a provision in amendment 499. In fact, I have long advocated against this policy since I was elected to Congress over five years ago.

The collection of beneficial ownership has been debated in Congress for a long time as the ability to set up legal entities without accurate beneficial ownership information, has long represented a key vulnerability in the U.S. financial system.

Congresswoman MALONEY, the leader of the legislation, has been trying to pass a bill that would collect beneficial ownership for over a decade.