

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF HARVEY WILLIAM SEXTON

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 21, 2020*

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the life of Harvey William Sexton, who passed away at the age of 87 after a lifetime of service to his fellow Americans. Through his extreme courage and selflessness, Harvey became an indispensable part of the state of Michigan.

Harvey was born on August 12, 1932. After completing 11th grade at Brethren High School, Harvey enlisted in the United States Army to fight in the Korean War. There he served with distinction in the Armored Tank Division, earning the Army Occupation Medal for Japan, Korean Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal for Korea, and four Bronze Stars—including one for Valorous Service. At 18 he was promoted to corporal, and at 20 he was honorably discharged at the rank of Sergeant. Following his military service, Harvey married his wife Marla in July of 1953. The two of them would go on to raise a family of eight children.

Harvey passed away on April 17, 2020. He is missed dearly by his family and friends, and his legacy will undoubtedly live on for generations to come. Harvey's tireless devotion to the public good touched the lives of countless Michiganders, and the impact of his work cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Michigan's First Congressional District, I ask you to join me in honoring the life of Harvey William Sexton. His legacy will forever live on in his family and through the countless lives he bettered through his service.

HONORING JOE GUNTER

**HON. JIMMY PANETTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 21, 2020*

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in mourning to celebrate the life of the late Mayor of Salinas, California, Joseph David Gunter, for a lifetime of public service to both his community and our country. Mayor Gunter, a longtime resident and public servant of Salinas, passed away on June 29, 2020. It is with deep sadness that I stand here on the House floor today to honor Mayor Gunter's life and contributions.

Born into a military family in Maryland, Joe and his family eventually moved to Fort Ord, a former Army base on the central coast of California. After graduating from a local High School, Joe joined the U.S. Marine Corps and served honorably for four years during the Vietnam War. Joe's military service shaped his life and led to a lifelong career guided by a sense of duty and service to his community. Soon after returning home, Joe joined the Salinas Police Department, serving six years as a patrol officer and another twenty-six as a detective. Joe's strong leadership skills and commitment to public service led him to become Mayor of Salinas, a position in which he served for eight years.

During his time as Mayor, Joe spearheaded many projects in Salinas and throughout Monterey County. Some of these projects include development of the new Salinas Police Department and Youth Alisal Sports Fields, construction of housing for homeless and low-income residents, leading the Veteran's Day Parade, and playing a critical role in advancement of the California Central Coast Veteran's Cemetery at Fort Ord. The initiatives that Joe led will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on individual residents and the broader community for generations to come.

Joe's community service expanded far beyond his mayoral duties. He also found time to serve as the Director of Security for the Salinas Rodeo and California International Airshow, served as President and volunteer at the Salinas Women's Crisis Center, and was President and a coach of the Bobby Sox Softball League. Joe's extensive service to the community and country for more than fifty years is an inspiration to us all, and I am both proud and honored to have had the opportunity to serve alongside him.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in celebrating the life of the late Mayor Joe Gunter and offering our sincere condolences to his wife, children, and grandchildren as they, alongside the community, mourn the loss of a truly special man.

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

SPEECH OF

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 20, 2020*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, today, I voted against the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021. While this legislation includes several provisions that I strongly support—including prohibiting the use of funds to support the Saudi-led coalition for strikes in Yemen and limiting the President's ability to divert funds to build his wasteful border wall—it ultimately fails to rein in our nation's out of control defense spending.

Amid a global pandemic, and at a time when our nation's poverty rate is at least 25 percent, it is unconscionable that Congress is authorizing a record-breaking Pentagon budget of \$740.5 billion—over half of our discretionary budget. Multiple independent analyses have concluded that our nation's collective security would not suffer by cutting obsolete cold war weapon systems, rejecting new nuclear weapons, and ending our military's reliance on expensive private contractors. Congress must confront this reality and take meaningful action to ensure that the basic needs of American families are prioritized over wasteful military spending. That's why I'm deeply disappointed that an amendment I supported to reduce the Pentagon's budget by ten percent—while exempting military personnel and the Defense Health Program from any reduction—was defeated on the House floor.

While I oppose the wasteful spending included in this legislation, I am pleased that it authorizes a three percent military pay raise and contains provisions to protect the health of military families by cleaning so-called PFAS

forever chemicals and investing in military housing infrastructure improvements. The bill also takes important steps to improve the tracking of military child abuse cases, improve sexual assault prevention and response, and require that the DoD procure body armor that properly fits female service members. I am also pleased that the bill takes meaningful action to close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay—an issue I have long championed—by eliminating arbitrary restrictions on the transfer of detainees from Guantanamo Bay that hindered the Obama Administration's ability to close the facility.

Although I am glad these important provisions were included, I could not and cannot support a bill that ensures our nation will provide \$550 billion more in discretionary funding for military spending than for healthcare, education, workforce development, and anti-poverty programs combined.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
LAURA WANG, UNITED  
STATES ARMY

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 21, 2020*

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Laura Wang for her exemplary dedication to duty and service as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller). Lieutenant Colonel Wang is transitioning from her present assignment for her continued service in the U.S. Army.

A native of Grosselle, Michigan, Lieutenant Colonel Wang was commissioned as a Medical Service Corps officer after her graduation from the University of Toledo, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy Management. She has also earned a Master's degree in Legislative Affairs from the George Washington University.

Lieutenant Colonel Wang has served in a broad range of assignments during her Army career. She served in Germany from 2003 to 2007 with the 501st Combat Support Battalion as the Ambulance Platoon Leader, Medical Operations Officer, and Battalion Adjutant. She then transitioned to an assignment at Walter Reed from 2007 to 2011. During this assignment she was selected as the Alpha Company Commander for the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Subsequently she transitioned to a comptroller, and the garrison resource manager at Walter Reed. Following this assignment, Lieutenant Colonel Wang was assigned to the Office of the Surgeon General for the United States Army, from 2011 to 2014. Here she was first assigned as a Resource Program Officer, and then worked in Congressional Relations. Upon completion of her duties, she transitioned to the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Disease located at Fort Dietrich from 2016 to 2018 where she performed duties as a comptroller. Lieutenant Colonel Wang has deployed twice to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In 2018, Lieutenant Colonel Wang was assigned as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the U.S. Army's Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller, managing the Army's medical portfolio.