

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF CHIEF  
SHAWN BABENDURE

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 22, 2020*

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and service of Shawn Babendure, a husband, father, coach, U.S. Army veteran and District Chief of the Spring, Texas Fire Department who tragically passed away this week much too young and far too early.

A native Texan, born and raised in Houston, Shawn leaves a legacy of a lifetime of service to his community and his country which began when Shawn joined the Champions Fire Department in 1990 while attending Cypress Creek High School.

His service continued when he enlisted in the United States Army in 1993. He served honorably and well for nearly four years as a Communications Repair Specialist with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Irwin, California, the Army's National Training Center. He distinguished himself as an expert marksman and earned his paratrooper wings. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal for his service.

Shortly after his military service, Shawn earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Houston. Shawn worked in the financial services industry where he served as Vice President of Wealth Management for a global wealth management firm, a position he still held at the time of his death.

In 2007, Shawn chose to serve his community once again and returned to public service as a fireman at the Spring Fire Department. Shawn's work ethic and professionalism were evidenced by his promotion to positions of increasing responsibility at the Spring Fire Department where he impressively earned more than ten professional certificates for every facet of fire, rescue and emergency service and rose in rank from fireman to District Chief.

Shawn's love for his community and his contagious laughter were hallmarks of his personality and his service and he passed on his care and compassion for others by training and mentoring the next generation of firefighters.

I join the entire Spring community in honoring Chief Babendure's lifetime of service and join his wife, Jessica, and their children, Sophia and Harrison, in mourning their loss. Chief Babendure will be deeply mourned and greatly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 22, 2020*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I was unknowingly exposed to someone who later tested positive for Coronavirus. Out of an abundance of caution and for the health and well-being of my colleagues, I am in self-quarantine until Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. As such, I had to miss this vote series.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 139; NAY on Roll Call No. 140; NAY on Roll Call No. 141; NAY on Roll Call No. 142; YEA on Roll Call No. 143; NAY on Roll Call No. 144; NAY on Roll Call No. 145; NAY on Roll Call No. 146; NAY on Roll Call No. 147; NAY on Roll Call No. 148; NAY on Roll Call No. 149; NAY on Roll Call No. 150; YEA on Roll Call No. 151; and YEA on Roll Call No. 152.

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

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 20, 2020*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). I would like to start by thanking Chairman SMITH, Ranking Member THORNBERRY, and the House Armed Services Committee staff who have worked many long nights putting together this year's NDAA. The bill that is before the House is a good bill and I encourage my colleagues to support its passage.

As the Chairman of the Readiness Subcommittee, I believe the bill upholds our responsibility to provide congressional oversight of and support to the sustainment, logistics, infrastructure, and readiness of our military. I'd like to take a moment and thank my staff for their tireless work—the Readiness Subcommittee staff, Brian Garrett, Jeanine Womble, Melanie Harris, Jay Vallario, John Muller, Dave Sienicki, and Sean Falvey, and my personal staff, Bradley Bottoms, Betsy Thompson, Marcus Jones, and Danusia Hubah. I am proud of the Readiness Subcommittee's contribution to this year's bill and I'd like to highlight the following provisions.

The Readiness portion of the bill continues to emphasize the need to address vulnerabilities in installation and energy resiliency, both in response to climate change and to ensure the Department can continue to operate when fuel supplies and utilities are disrupted. The bill:

requires the Department to report on efforts to consider fuel consumption, distribution, and

logistics and the steps being taken to decrease consumption of fossil fuels by 30 percent to reduce the number of resupply convoys and oilers required in a contested environment;

requires the Department to institute energy metering on critical military facilities to assess their energy requirements and to ensure resilient power sources for these facilities.

strengthens an existing preference for the purchase of electric or hybrid vehicles for official business on military installations; and

requires a report on the implementation of provisions from last year's NDAA to include installation master planning, updates to building codes, sea-level rise modeling, and climate assessment tools.

Last year's NDAA made sweeping reforms in response to concerns that courageous military families raised regarding the management, oversight, and condition of military family housing. This year, we pick up where we left off. The bill:

requires a report on known environmental hazards in government-owned housing and requires the Department to report on the feasibility of standardizing privatized housing performance metrics; and

requires partners to put funding of maintenance and recapitalization of housing units ahead of fees that enrich corporate management in all future and renegotiated privatized housing agreements.

Similarly, we build on previous efforts to address PFAS contamination around military installations. The bill:

requires the Department of Defense to notify the congressional defense committees when there has been an uncontrolled release of a PFAS-containing firefighting agent that may impact human health or the environment;

requires the Department of Defense to publish on a public website the results of drinking and ground water PFAS testing conducted on military installations or former defense sites;

makes technical corrections to ensure all National Guard installations are eligible for funding for PFAS remediation in our National Guard communities; and

requires the Department to survey and report on technologies that will help facilitate the on-time phase-out of PFAS containing firefighting agents.

While the Department of Defense talks a lot about modernization and development of new capabilities, we must ensure that the appropriate focus remains on the sustainment of these weapon systems and the logistics required to move and supply them in a conflict. To that end, the bill:

requires the Department to examine and periodically report on the sustainment and logistics requirements, gaps, and mitigations necessary to support force structure, power projection, and other elements of the national defense strategy;

helps ensure Congress continues to receive timely and relevant information regarding both

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

domestic and overseas infrastructure requirements and posture of U.S. forces; and requires a report on bulk fuel management strategies in the Indo-Pacific to meet current and future requirements.

In partnership with the Government Accountability Office, the bill leverages their expertise to assist the subcommittee with continued oversight on topics that include F-35 operations and sustainment, Air Force use of contract air support services, and aviation and ship maintenance. The previous reports and analytical work produced by GAO helped inform the Readiness mark and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the GAO's Defense Capabilities and Management team for their support of this subcommittee's oversight work.

Next, the health and safety of our military and civilian personnel remain a priority for this subcommittee. Following a review of a number of fatal ground vehicle training mishaps, the subcommittee is concerned that the Department's approach to collecting, reporting, and analyzing vehicle mishap data may be insufficient and hampers the ability to share lessons learned or put in place mitigations to prevent future mishaps. To that end, the bill includes a reporting requirement that will help clarify responsibilities for collecting and analyzing mishap data, how data is being used to identify mishap trends, and actions the Department is taking to standardize data collection.

In addition to concerns with ground vehicle mishaps, the committee has identified critical failures and safety issues in the munitions enterprise. To start addressing these concerns, the bill requires a report on munitions safety waivers and mishaps, an assessment of the resilience of the munitions enterprise, and clarifies the role and authority of the Chairman of the Defense Explosives Safety Board.

The bill also supports the civilian workforce of the Department of Defense by addressing a pay disparity affecting the Department's wage-grade civilian workforce and including non-title 5 employees who were left out of last year's Paid Parental Leave provision.

This year's NDAA also begins a unified, whole-of-government approach that leverages the best attributes of the government and commercial fleets to increase resiliency in our maritime logistics. The bill includes several provisions, that together, establish a National Maritime Logistics Fleet approach by strengthening U.S.-flagged vessel requirements for the transportation of military cargo and fuels, creating a Tanker Security Program to address the shortfall in U.S.-flagged, U.S.-crewed tankers, and requiring the Navy to initiate an affordable, domestic built sealift ship. Strengthening our maritime logistics will also enhance our military's capabilities by improving the over-arching defense industrial base that supports each branch of our armed services.

Additionally, this year's NDAA supports the missions at Travis and Beale Air Force Bases in my district. The funds authorized in this bill will support the new KC-46 mission at Travis Air Force Base and enable Beale Air Force Base to continue to support intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) and multi-domain operations.

I'm also pleased this NDAA includes a 3 percent pay raise for our troops and includes language from two of my bills, H.R. 2617, the Occupational and Environmental Transparency Health Act, to require the DOD and VA to

retroactively update records based on information contained in the Burn Pit Registry, since many veterans' health records do not account for their exposures, and H.R. 4710, the Pharmaceutical Independence Long-Term Readiness Reform Act, to require the DOD to identify the vulnerabilities faced by our country's dependence on Chinese pharmaceuticals and the steps needed to secure the supply chain.

This bill helps advance our military's near-term readiness goals and drives the Department to plan for and take action against long-term threats, and with that, I urge my colleagues to support the FY21 NDAA.

CELEBRATING MARGARET AND SYLVESTER WALORSKI ON THEIR 65TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JACKIE WALORSKI**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 22, 2020*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Margaret and Sylvester "Syl" Walorski of Englewood, Colorado, on their 65th wedding anniversary.

Margaret and Syl met at a U.S.O. dance in the summer of 1951 just before Syl left for the Korean War. Placing their love in God's hands, Margaret and Syl sent each other countless letters during Syl's deployment and could not wait to be reunited. Syl returned to the U.S. and presented Margaret with a ring and a marriage proposal as soon as he could. They were married on August 22, 1955.

To finish school and secure a bright future for his family, Syl moved with Margaret to South Bend, Indiana, where they had two children. However, having briefly stayed at a military base in Colorado after being discharged, Syl felt drawn to the state's breathtaking sites, fresh air, and freedom. So in 1958 the couple moved to Englewood, Colorado, where they continued to grow their family and build a beautiful life together. A true embodiment of the American Dream, Margaret and Syl bought their first home in 1959 and have lived there ever since.

Sixty-five years of marriage is a marvelous accomplishment that speaks volumes about their compassion and the tremendous foundation of respect, gratitude, and faith they share with one another. Stronger together, Margaret and Syl have found the more love they have for each other, the more they have to offer others. They have always been active in their church and community, and their children watched as they led their lives in service to the Lord and as shining examples of the American spirit.

Their lasting commitment not only to each other but also to their five children, 15 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren is rooted in their devotion and faithfulness. Having dedicated themselves to teaching their children strong American values, like working hard and giving back to those in need, they have touched the lives of countless people in their community and across the country. I feel blessed to know such compassionate, tenacious, and whole-hearted people who make this nation and the world a better place with everything they do.

Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to Aunt Margaret,

Uncle Syl, and their entire family. It is my hope that their love continues to grow stronger with each passing year.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT RONGALETT D. GREEN, UNITED STATES MARINE

**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 22, 2020*

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rongalett D. Green, Master Gunnery Sergeant, United States Marine Corps, who will retire from that organization after over 30 years of distinguished service to our country; August 6, 1990 through September 30, 2020. The mission of the United States Marine Corps is as America's expeditionary force in readiness since 1775, the U.S. Marines are forward deployed to win our Nation's battles swiftly and aggressively in times of crisis. We fight on land, sea and air, as well as provide forces and detachments to naval ships and ground operations.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Green currently serves with Manpower and Reserve Affairs, at the Promotions Branch. She is the Senior Enlisted Staff Non-commissioned Officer, responsible for the Special Selection Board for Officer Promotion Packages.

Master Gunnery Sergeant (MGySgt) Rongalett "Ronnie" Green, of Little Rock, Arkansas, enlisted in the Marine Corps, in 1990 as a 0151 (0111, Administrative Chief). Following basic training and military occupational school, she has served at each level of administration, such as: Squadron, Battalion, Consolidated Administrative Center, Staff Secretary, and Group. During her career, she participated in military training exercises, in Japan and South Korea, has two successful tours as a Marine Corps Drill instructor, at both recruit training depots, Parris Island, South Carolina and San Diego, California, training male and female recruits.

MGySgt Green spent two years, at Marine Corps Forces Europe, where she attended the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) School. She has participated in two deployments, Marine Central Command, Forward located in Djibouti, Africa (OIF) and Afghanistan (OEF). MGySgt Green served as the Senior Enlisted Advisor and Security Manager at Marine Corps University, Quantico, VA. MGySgt Green served on Capitol Hill as a 2015 Marine Corps Congressional Fellow in the U.S. Senate, and later became the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Legislative Director to the Commandant, Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs. She was the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the White House Military Office (WHMO).

She has a Bachelor's Degree, in Human Resources with the University of Maryland University College, a Master's of Science Degree, in Organizational Leadership, an Executive certificate in Strategic Human Resources Leadership with Cornell University, and currently studying for a certificate in Project Management at Syracuse University.

MGySgt Green's awards and decorations include: The Presidential Service Badge, Meritorious Service Medal (x2); Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal; Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (x3); Navy Unit