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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 22, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2020, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m.

THE CULTURE WE CREATE IN OUR ARMED SERVICES MATTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BROWN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SMITH and my colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee for their bipartisan work on this year's National Defense Authorization Act.

We advanced progressive ideals to support our military families; improve readiness; sharpen our technological edge; and foster American leadership,

our alliances, and a culture that is in line with the values of our Nation.

This bill is truly transformational when it comes to advancing diversity and inclusion, as well as fairness and justice, in our military.

We are at an inflection point when it comes to race in this country, demonstrated by peaceful protests across the country and at a time when a pandemic has widened disparities in healthcare, education, economic opportunity, and housing along racial lines.

Our armed services are not immune to these currents.

The military has historically prided itself as leading in opportunity and advancement for men and women of color, but we have fallen far short of our expectations. Today we are still grappling with a military that doesn't fully reflect our country's diversity. Forty-three percent of the Active-Duty servicemembers are people of color, yet only two of the 41 most senior generals and admirals in the military are Black, and only one woman.

As recent events have brought a reckoning in our society, we are still debating symbols of oppression. White supremacy, racism, and other toxic beliefs exist within our ranks, impacting how Black soldiers advance, their assignments in career fields, and how they are treated and assessed.

African Americans comprise just a single-digit percentage of fighter pilots and navigators, only 5 percent of Army Green Berets, 2 percent of Navy SEALs; and only 0.6 percent of the Air Force's power rescue jumpers are Black.

Structural racism still exists in our military formations. Fifty-three percent of minority servicemembers report they have seen examples of white nationalism or racism within the ranks. These issues didn't happen suddenly, but festered unchecked by a culture of indifference or intolerance.

This culture extends to gender disparities we still see in our Armed

Forces. We have made progress and, this year, witnessed historic barrier-breaking firsts:

Chief Master Sergeant JoAnne Bass was selected as the first woman to serve as the highest ranking non-commissioned officer in a service component;

Lieutenant Junior Grade Madeline Swegle became the Navy's first Black female tactical jet pilot;

The U.S. Army just welcomed its first female Green Beret.

However, there is more work to be done:

Women have never exceeded 27 percent of nominations made by Members of Congress to the prestigious service academies;

In 2009, more than 6,000 cases of sexual assault in the military were reported. The Pentagon estimates these reports amount to just 30 percent of assaults, primarily against women.

Women and men, whose trust in their fellow soldiers has been shaken, need our support and for this Congress to step up.

This year's NDAA takes important steps to create a more diverse and inclusive military. It builds on the work in 2008 of Majority Whip JIM CLYBURN, Representative HANK JOHNSON, and former Members of this Chamber Elijah Cummings and Kendrick Meek. As members of the Congressional Black Caucus, they recognized years ago that the military was not living up to the potential unlocked in 1948 when President Truman signed the executive order removing racial segregation in the Armed Forces.

Together, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. Cummings, and Mr. Meek led the effort to create the Military Leadership Diversity Commission, whose recommendations in 2011 are the basis for many of the diversity and inclusion provisions found in this year's NDAA, which are some of the most significant steps towards diversity and inclusion

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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



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that Congress itself has taken since the desegregation of the Armed Forces in 1948.

It seeks to foster opportunities for women and minorities.

We bring new visibility to congressional nominations to our service academies to train a more diverse next generation of leaders.

We create a special investigator to review and investigate racial disparities in the military justice system and personnel practices.

We create a special prosecutor for sexual assault committed at our military academies.

We foster and train a greater number of minorities within the special forces and aviation communities.

We tap into the talent at our historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions.

We hold the Secretary of Defense and service component leadership accountable for progress and give them the tools to make it happen.

This package updates workplace and climate surveys to include experiences with supremacist and extremist activity, anti-Semitism, and racism, allowing leadership to understand the full extent of these beliefs and better tailor responses and disciplinary action.

Finally, after decades of inaction, we reckon with one of the darkest periods of our history, the institution of slavery. This NDAA bans the display of the Confederate flag on Department of Defense property and directs the removal of the names from military installations of those men who betrayed their country—our country—and who fought a war to defend the institution of slavery.

The culture we create in our armed services matters. Diversity and inclusion in our armed services matters. It enhances unit cohesion and it improves military effectiveness. We have known this since 1950.

Our work is far from finished, but this year's NDAA represents an important step toward this pivotal moment.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL BILL BLAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of Major General Bill Bland of Georgia's First Congressional District, who passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by family at 84 years old.

General Bland is the former Adjutant General for the State of Georgia and a beloved husband, father, and a good friend.

He enlisted in the Georgia Air National Guard in 1958 and received his pilot's wings in 1962 at Moody Air Force Base.

General Bland served faithfully in a variety of assignments which took him

all over the world. He was a command pilot with more than 8,000 hours, flying in nine different types of aircraft. He also served in the position of Adjutant General until his retirement in 1999, after more than 40 years of service in the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard.

I had the honor and privilege of attending church with General Bland and his lovely wife, Harriet, at Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church. It was evident Jesus Christ was the Lord and savior of Bill's life, and he used all the gifts God gave him to serve others and bring glory to God. He was an active and faithful member of the church, where he served on the board of trustees for 17 years.

General Bland will surely be missed by his friends, family, our church community, and all who knew and loved him. His legacy of selfless devotion to our country and those in need will remain for countless years to come.

CELEBRATING THE FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's, or FLETC's, 50th anniversary.

Since the Consolidated Law Enforcement Training Center was created in 1970 before becoming the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, they have continued the mission of safeguarding our homeland and serving as America's enterprise resource for Federal law enforcement training.

In its first year, FLETC graduated 2,200 students. Last year, FLETC welcomed more than 67,000 students. They have grown to manage more than 850 training programs across the training sites, including one in Brunswick, Georgia.

For the past 50 years, FLETC has been a critical program to ensure our officers of tomorrow receive the proper training to protect the communities in which they serve.

FLETC has done a great job at adapting throughout their existence from hurricanes, government shutdowns, to a worldwide pandemic. Whatever they have faced, FLETC has done a remarkable job at getting invaluable Federal law enforcement personnel to the front lines.

Now, more than ever, is an important time to honor their five decades as the Nation's producer, resource, and steward of Federal law enforcement training.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all who work tirelessly at FLETC, especially those at Glynco in Georgia's First Congressional District.

REMEMBERING KYLE STEVEN HUGUNIN

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of Mr. Kyle Steven Hugunin.

Friends, family, and members of Kyle's community recently recognized the 1-year anniversary of his passing at the youthful age of 30. He was from Savannah, in Georgia's First Congressional District, and was an out-

standing, kind, and loving individual, who was a friend to all.

Kyle was employed by Industrial Conveyor Belt Services for 10 years and worked hard in all he did.

While reminiscing on Kyle's abundance of joy that he brought to all family, friends, and others, they recalled that "he had one of the best smiles ever." He represented what it looks like to truly live life to the fullest and not take any day for granted.

Kyle was a 2007 graduate of Benedictine Military School and loved the outdoors, hunting, fishing, golf, and baseball.

My thoughts and prayers go out to all who knew and loved him during this difficult time.

CONGRATULATING BRUNSWICK-GOLDEN ISLES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce for the U.S. certification at the highest five-star level.

Accreditation with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the only program of its kind. It defines excellence in chamber planning and recognizes chambers for outstanding contributions toward positive change in their communities. There are currently only 204 chambers across the country that have earned the accreditation designation, and only 128 are five-star.

The Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce has been the voice of the business community and a leader among community programs.

I applaud all members of the chamber for their hard work throughout the years to excel above other chambers throughout the Nation and their efforts to lead by example.

In part due to the chamber's hard work and dedication, our community is an exceptional place to live, work, and visit. I look forward to seeing the positive future of the chamber and the communities they help serve and grow.

CRITICAL INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN FISCAL YEAR 2021 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed H.R. 6395, the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act.

The passage of this year's NDAA in the House was a bipartisan achievement done under extremely difficult circumstances, and I would like to congratulate Chairman ADAM SMITH, and particularly Ranking Member MAC THORNBERRY, as this will be his final NDAA before his retirement at the end of this year.

I wanted to take a few moments to highlight some of the provisions in this legislation which I am grateful were included.

These include provisions which will strengthen manufacturing in my home