

Committee and once again demonstrated his courage by becoming one of the 13 original Freedom Riders, allowing himself to be beaten and jailed in pursuit of justice while remaining true to nonviolence. He was one of the 'Big Six' who helped organize the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963 and pushed the Kennedy Administration to take up the cause of civil rights.

John Lewis revered the sanctity of the right to vote and he was willing to die for it. He was at the vanguard of the struggle for equal voting rights and made history during the Selma to Montgomery marches when he led activists across the Edmund Pettus Bridge and was savagely beaten during 'Bloody Sunday.' Eight days later, President Lyndon Johnson addressed a Joint Session of Congress to call for the passage of the Voting Rights Act which would be signed into law within five months.

John Lewis continued his fight for justice during his entire service of over 30 years in the House of Representatives where he championed equal education, affordable health care, gun control, economic opportunity and equal rights, I'm enormously proud and deeply grateful to have served with him and I will always treasure our time together as colleagues.

As a Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on the Deadliest Cancers, I will offer an amendment next week to increase funding for Pancreatic Cancer research, the disease that claimed John, in loving memory of him. John Lewis was the living embodiment of courage and conviction, and a hero to tens of millions of Americans. He was a humble and kind man who served the public with honesty and integrity. He was a holy man who worked every day to perfect our union and now he is perfecting heaven where he was welcomed by Dr. King. Future generations will be inspired by his faith, his courage, and his vision of equality for all God's children which has strengthened and bettered the nation he so loved.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB GIBBS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2020

Mr. GIBBS. Madam Speaker, due to a medical appointment, I was unable to vote on July 24, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 162; NAY on Roll Call No. 163; YEA on Roll Call No. 164; YEA on Roll Call No. 165; and NAY on Roll Call No. 166.

FY 2021 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2020

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of the Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

This year's NDAA provides our nation's service members with the resources they need to succeed and upholds the values and pro-

pects the interests of our nation with important investments in people, equipment and infrastructure.

In addition to paying our troops, getting them the gear they need, and "providing for the common defense," this year's NDAA goes above and beyond. It makes sure that we are preparing for future pandemics, it creates a more inclusive military by establishing a new Chief Diversity Officer, and it takes on climate change.

Two other important areas of investment are supporting veterans transitioning to civilian life and fighting domestic terror.

Importantly, I want to highlight two provisions that I appreciate are included in this bill.

The first is formally codifying the proven Boots to Business training program. Now more than ever, Boots to Business is invaluable for servicemembers transitioning into civilian life and a struggling economy. It's already trained more than 100,000 servicemembers on the essentials of entrepreneurship and business management. This Obama-era program would be codified into law through this amendment.

Now turning to my second amendment. For some time now, I have been working to enhance the federal government's efforts to combat domestic terrorism, specifically through my bill, the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act of 2020.

Domestic terrorism, and in particular far-right extremism, is a growing threat to our nation. Concerningly, and our military is not exempt from this problem.

The military has grappled with extremists, including White supremacist and neo-Nazi, infiltration of their ranks for some time.

We saw both active duty and former service members playing a prominent role in the disturbing violence at the White Supremacist Charlottesville rally.

And despite statements from military leaders at the time condemning these actions, recent events highlight the need to address this issue urgently.

Recent arrests of individuals with ties to the Boogaloo Movement—an extremist organization seeking a second Civil War—include Staff Sergeant Steven Carrillo.

Private First Class Shandon Simpson participated in neo-Nazi forums.

And Private Ethan Melzer is charged with sharing classified information to a neo-Nazi group in order to plan an attack on his own unit.

We cannot let this insidious contamination continue. This year's NDAA will include my amendment to strengthen reporting on extremist activity in the military. We need to fully understand the problem to effectively combat it and root out extremism in the military.

While I will continue to seek passage of my Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act of 2020, I am pleased we are taking steps forward with this NDAA with respect to combating extremism in the military and ensuring the safety of all Americans.

I have been working hard on these priorities to take care of our service members returning home and to root out extremism and hate. So I'm pleased that these initiatives have been included in this essential piece of legislation.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
TERRY SLOAN

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2020

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Terry Sloan for thirty-two years of federal service, including five years as the National Records Center Director within the Department of Homeland Security's United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Prior to joining USCIS in 2008, Ms. Sloan held various legal and leadership positions within the Department of Defense and the Department of Commerce. Recognized as an outstanding public servant throughout her illustrious career, Ms. Sloan's long list of accomplishments have been celebrated with several prestigious awards, including the Department of the Army Civilian Service Achievement Medal. Once named the USCIS Manager of the Year, Ms. Sloan was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 2015, making her a civil-service equivalent to a general officer within the United States military. Having served the US, federal government for over three decades, including a half-decade at the helm of the USCIS National Records Center, Ms. Sloan's example of leadership and public service is well-worth reflecting upon.

Lee's Summit, Missouri became home to the USCIS National Records Center in 1999, when the country's most extensive collection of immigrant records was moved to a limestone cave sixty feet below ground. Currently holding nearly sixty-million immigrant files, another one-and-a-half million records are added each year to the countless shelves within this four-hundred-and-fifty-thousand square foot repository. Among these, the National Records Center houses the immigration files belonging to highly acclaimed cultural icons who immigrated to the United States, including John Lennon, Salvador Dali, and Elizabeth Taylor. Receiving over six hundred FOIA requests each day, the USCIS National Records Center documents contain our country's immigration history through the eyes of individual immigrants who journeyed across the globe before stepping foot on American shores. As new files arrive at the National Records Center by the truckload, the eight hundred employees and contractors employed within the vast facility work around the clock to retrieve documents needed to determine immigrant status for granting government benefits.

As the Director of the USCIS National Records Center, Ms. Sloan had the profound responsibility of managing this immense, ever-growing repository to ensure that the history of immigration to the United States is properly archived, made accessible to the public, and preserved for future generations. In 2016, while serving as the National Records Center's Director, Ms. Sloan oversaw efforts to locate photographs of five immigrants who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. For fifteen years, it had proved impossible to find images of these five individuals. However, when Ms. Sloan and the team she oversaw was put to the task, portraits of all five victims were quickly discovered and then shipped to the National September 11 Memorial and Museum for public display—a