

from economic activity these contributions bring to our state. This funding will help spur Connecticut's economy during these difficult times and secure thousands of jobs at larger employers like Pratt & Whitney and hundreds of smaller suppliers across the First District and the state.

Throughout the years, the Connecticut delegation has worked hand in glove with suppliers, companies, and educators to bring Connecticut to the forefront of advanced manufacturing. The Delegation, led by JOE COURTNEY and ROSA DELAURO, have worked hard to ensure not only the manufacturing base, but the supply chain remain on top. This was recently demonstrated in the Hartford Courant, which cited a Pew Charitable Trusts Study that said: 'Pentagon contract spending powers Connecticut to No. 1 in US.' This builds on the work of the F-35 Joint Strike fighter caucus which I'm proud to co-chair. This is good news for our supply chain and economy during a time when commercial spending is down. These military contracts will keep these jobs going.

In addition to the vital funding that directly contributes to our state, this package fights back against the President's ill-conceived border wall, by preventing the use of Defense funds being used for the wall. It also ensures that the President cannot go to war without Congress's authorization by prohibiting funds from being used in contravention of the War Powers Resolution. It specifically prohibits funds for any use of military force in or against Iran and repeals both the 2001 and the 2002 war authorizations. The power to go to war lies with Congress, not the President. These are important provisions to ensure the Executive Branch does not overstep its authority.

The passage of the FY 2021 Labor-HHS Appropriations package is a win for millions of Social Security beneficiaries. It blocks a proposed rule that would dramatically increase the frequency of continuing disability reviews. These reviews can be extremely difficult for individuals with severe disabilities to navigate and can lead to wrongful loss of Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits when they are unable to complete the complex process. This rule was an attempt to throw beneficiaries off the rolls. The bill also blocks a Trump Administration proposed rule to deny individuals their right to appeal a denial of Social Security or SSI benefits before an Administrative Law Judge.

I am thankful for the leadership of Chairwomen NITA LOWEY and ROSA DELAURO for making this happen. Chairwoman DELAURO always fights for the least among us and she continued that with this bill.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of three amendments to H.R. 7617.

My amendment, offered with Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. LURIA, and Mr. BEYER, reflects the need to adequately fund the important work done at

Jefferson Lab. JLab, in my district in Newport News, is home to the Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility, also known as CEBAF, the primary research tool in the U.S. for enabling basic research on the quark and gluon structure of protons and neutrons. Worldwide, a community of more than 1,700 scientists from over 275 institutions depend on this facility for their research.

The City of Newport News has agreed to transfer ownership of a building to the Lab to support its work, but the \$2 million included in this year's appropriations bills fall short of the \$9 million needed to transfer that building and move forward with the renovation and expansion of CEBAF, for which the Department of Energy has already approved Critical Decision 0.

I also rise today in support of the amendment offered with my colleagues, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. MCEACHIN, Ms. LURIA, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Ms. WEXTON, in regard to the urgent need for robust funding to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for coastal construction projects. The Army Corps has worked to keep America's waterways and ports open to trade, while working with our communities to ensure that they can continue to live with the water that surrounds Hampton Roads.

My district is home to the Port of Virginia which is one of the largest and busiest ports on the eastern seaboard. With 95 percent of our nation's trade moving by water, it is essential that the port is able to maintain operations. The Port of Virginia is responsible for nearly \$40 billion in economic activity in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is critical to our financial well-being that we ensure that the Port is able to handle the increased number and size of containers. The Port and the Army Corps of Engineers have undertaken the dredging and widening and deepening of the Norfolk Harbor to enable safe and efficient two-way passage of the new larger container ships. The project will require a New Start designation to keep the projected time line intact.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting additional funding to support our National Labs and the construction at the Norfolk Harbor to keep both of these essential projects moving forward.

I also rise in support of Rep. MURPHY's amendment which I was proud to cosponsor, as co-chair of the Modeling and Simulation Caucus, along with Rep. BERGMAN, an active caucus member. This amendment emphasizes the importance of funding for the Synthetic Training Environment (STE) account. Funding for the Synthetic Training Environment program is an investment in simulation technology to help service members train virtually for their missions. Advancing modeling and simulation technology is a long-term investment that enables us to remain competitive in with innovations in medicine, training, and transportation and I urge my colleagues to support these investments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2020

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, during Wednesday's roll call vote on the motion to re-

commit H.R. 7027, I was participating in the Judiciary Committee's Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law Subcommittee hearing on online platforms. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of the motion.

HONORING MRS. EVELYN
WILLIAMS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2020

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great joy that I rise to recognize a very special birthday for a beloved constituent of Florida's 23rd Congressional District.

Mrs. Evelyn Williams celebrates her 105th birthday on August 2, 2020.

Mrs. Williams is a resident of Dania Beach and has spent a long life as a pioneer and community leader. Born in 1915, she has witnessed over a century of development and societal evolution. Mrs. Williams was born in Mosely Town, Georgia and raised in neighboring Vidalia. She and her husband Alonzo Williams moved to Coconut Grove, Florida in 1935.

Mrs. Williams served as a Sunday School teacher, Deaconess, and as a Mission Society representative, regularly visiting ailing and elderly people in the neighborhood and local nursing home.

Her contributions to her church are matched by her quiet but encouraging influence in the community. She financially supported many young people in the area in pursuing their college education and professional goals. She served in the Broward Civic Improvement Association—a community service organization active in Dania Beach—during the 1950s and 1960s.

Mrs. Williams has also been commended for serving Broward County as a dedicated poll worker for more than 50 years, registering voters and carrying the message that voting is a responsibility and privilege.

She has been recognized by both the Dania Beach Historical Society and Broward County Historical Commission as a Broward County Pioneer. She remains an active member of the New Jerusalem Baptist Church and I am grateful to the New Jerusalem family for coming together so we may all celebrate this special occasion.

It is with great pride that I represent Mrs. Evelyn Williams and the residents of Dania Beach in our nation's capital. I thank Mayor Lori Lewellen, the Members of the City Commission, and the city staff for protecting the wellbeing of our residents and for working tirelessly to make the City of Dania Beach a wonderful place to live, work, visit, and raise a family.

CAPTAIN E. THOMAS "TOM"
PINNELL III

HON. JOE CUNNINGHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2020

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marine Corps Captain E.

Thomas “Tom” Pinnell III, who will be promoted to the rank of Major this weekend. Capt. Pinnell was commissioned into the Marine Corps in 2010. A college baseball athlete, Capt. Pinnell has earned the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar’s “Athlete of the Year” award not once, but twice. He may not reach the status of a future Hall of Famer like Yadier Molina of his cherished St. Louis Cardinals, but Capt. Pinnell’s athleticism set him up to represent Team USA in the CISM Military World Cup.

Capt. Pinnell has also given back to the Marine Corps as a top recruiter, selecting the best and brightest to lead the next generation of Marines. His expertise won him the title of “Recruiter of the Year” of the Midwestern Region.

In the coming months, Capt. Pinnell will transition from active duty to the reserves in order to begin a promising career in the practice of law. Capt. Pinnell and his wonderful wife, Lisa, just welcomed into the world their third child, Weston, little brother to Theo and Davis.

Capt. Pinnell is a loving father who has given many years of service to this great nation. Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Capt. Pinnell for his promotion and in wishing him all the best on his endeavors.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. DAREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Soto Amendment, Soto number 77 to Division B, the Department of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2021, specified that at least \$40,000,000 from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s Planetary Science budget to be applied to the general budget and applied to the Near Earth Object Surveillance Mission (NEOSM).

Space may be vast, but it’s not empty. Earth is bombarded by tiny space rocks called meteoroids every day, most of which burn up in our atmosphere. Larger meteors, like the one that exploded over Chelyabinsk, Russia in 2013, can damage buildings and cause minor injuries. And on rare occasions, asteroids and comets strike Earth and cause global devastation—the dinosaurs perished when this happened 66 million years ago.

NEOSM is a 50-centimeter-wide telescope. Its camera sees things in infrared wavelengths—a type of light not visible to human eyes. Infrared light reveals heat signatures, which is perfect for asteroids because they are very dark and hard to see against the blackness of space. In infrared light, they glow because they heat up in the Sun and re-radiate that heat back into space.

This is the impetus behind NEOSM, NASA’s Near-Earth Object Surveillance Mission. NEOSM would launch as soon as 2025 and within 10 years meet Congress’s goal of finding 90 percent of near-Earth objects 140 meters and wider. Finding and studying these objects will not only help us figure out if any are on course to hit Earth, but will also help lay the groundwork for survey and deflection missions if one is found.

I support ensuring funding for the Near Earth Surveillance Mission efforts to identify potentially hazardous near Earth objects and thank my colleagues for their support of my amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2020

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on July 27, 2020 due to not being in DC. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: YES on Roll Call No. 167.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7617, the Defense, Commerce, Justice, Science, Energy and Water Development, Financial Services and General Government, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations Act, for fiscal year 2021, which has included multiple of my priorities critical to the communities I represent. These provisions fund our nation’s most critical programs that support individuals, families, and communities throughout their lifespan, from Early Head Start to Social Security. We are dedicated to investing in programs that provide opportunities so that every person has a better chance at a better life—with a good education, a good job, and access to affordable healthcare.

This bill provides modest increases for the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The National Science Foundation is the only agency to fund research across all fields of science and engineering, and the most important agency in terms of ensuring a diverse pipeline of STEM talent across our nation. The National Institute of Standards and Technology is the global leader in measurement science and standards, and as such plays a central role in U.S. competitiveness across all sectors of our economy. However, it is one of most underfunded agencies in our government for what it is asked to do and what it is capable of doing for our nation. In addition, our nation’s progress in industries of the future such as artificial intelligence, quantum science, and 5G will simply not be possible without increased investments in these two agencies. I truly understand the difficult and sometimes delicate trade-offs that my Appropriations colleagues had to make in crafting this legislation. However, I urge my colleagues across Congress to find a way to invest in our nation’s future by investing more in our nation’s STEM talent.

Regarding funding for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), I am pleased that the bill rejects the proposed cuts to high-priority science projects, including those that will provide important climate

change measurements, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs. We simply cannot afford to cut-off our future—the building of our next generation’s skills and the development of a 21st century workforce. Overall, the bill sustains NASA’s multi-mission portfolio at the Fiscal Year 2020 enacted level of \$22.629 billion, providing level or near-level funding for NASA’s science, exploration, and space technology accounts, and provides \$35 million increase for aeronautics, which contributes important research and development for our nation’s civil aviation and air transportation system. The bill also sustains funding for critical exploration capabilities, including the Space Launch System and Orion crew vehicle. Toward that end, I’m pleased that the bill continues to fund the development of an exploration upper stage-enabled Space Launch System, which will provide greater lift capacity to support our deep space exploration activities. In addition, the bill provides important flexibility to the agency in selecting a launch vehicle for the high-priority Europa Clipper science mission; that flexibility could help reduce overall mission cost while also seeking to expedite science results. It is also worth noting that the bill allows for up to \$1 million from the Safety, Security, and Mission Services account to be available to meet mandated payments to the Challenger Center as NASA explores alternative means to ensure the ongoing payments.

With respect to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the bill supports the Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST)’s important functions of licensing and monitoring the safety of commercial space launches and reentries, as well as spaceports, at \$27.555 million, an increase of \$1.515 million (6 percent) from the FY 2020 enacted appropriation. I am also pleased that the bill sustains \$192.665 million for the FAA’s research, engineering, and development programs, which contribute R&D to improve the safety and efficiency of the national airspace system and reduce the environmental impact.

I am supportive of the \$5.45 billion provided for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in this bill, which is \$828 million above the Administration’s short-sighted budget request. This includes robust investments in intramural and extramural research at NOAA and restoration of funding to proposed cuts to, or eliminations of, coastal resilience grants, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, the National Sea Grant Program, Tsunami Warning System, the Air Resources Laboratory, and the NOAA Office of Education. At a time when Americans face compound threats of the COVID-19 pandemic on top of climate change-fueled intense heat, hurricanes, and other extreme weather events, it is imperative that we have accurate and timely climate and weather predictions, preparedness, and response. I am pleased to see enhanced support for weather research, modeling, and forecasting, as well as National Weather Service forecaster staffing levels. As our planet continues to warm, sea levels rise, ice sheets melt, and other changes occur due to anthropogenic climate change, authoritative climate research and information remains more important than ever to help our communities address these resulting impacts. I am