

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