

supporters from across the state joined together to reverse this decision and keep the base open, there hung over the base a sense that it was a "relic," that it was somehow an outdated and gloomy place in which to serve. Each and every day since arriving at the base, Captain Ginda worked to reverse that perception by reconnecting the base with the community around it, by looking forward at what the base could be, and by ensuring that the base is able to accomplish its most important goal—the support of the sailors and families who make up our submarine force.

Not too long after Captain Ginda took command of the base, I was honored to be elected as the representative of the second Congressional district of Connecticut. As a new member from the other side of the district, it was important for me to get up to speed fast on the needs of the base and the challenges it faced. From day one, Captain Ginda made sure to reach out to me, and take the time to walk me through his vision for the base and ensuring that no question of mine went unasked. His help, and counsel, was instrumental in making sure I had the knowledge I needed to come to Washington to advocate on behalf of the base and its importance to our nation. I am so grateful for his assistance and the close working relationship he has had with me and my office. I am also especially thankful for the warm friendship that he and his wife, Terry, have shown and their efforts to ensure that I felt at home as a member of the SUBASE New London community.

Madam Speaker, it has truly been an honor to work with Captain Ginda, and I have no doubt that his legacy will be felt at the base and in the region for some time to come. He has been a terrific resource for me and my office, a trusted advocate for his base, and a respected partner in the southeastern Connecticut community. I ask all my colleagues in joining me in thanking Captain Ginda for his service to the Navy, recognizing his tireless efforts at SUBASE New London, and in wishing he and Terry good luck as they prepare to move on to this next step in their lives.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES PRATHER,
FIRE CHIEF ORANGE COUNTY
FIRE AUTHORITY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Orange County, California are exceptional. Orange County has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Fire Chief Charles "Chip" Prather is one of these individuals. Chief Prather is retiring from the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) and today I honor his years of public service.

Chief Prather became Fire Chief for the Orange County Fire Authority on October 1, 1997. In this capacity he is responsible for the daily operation of one of the largest fire organizations in the State of California. Under Chief Prather's direction are a total of 1,500

firefighters, reserves and professional staff. The OCFA serves 22 cities and unincorporated areas of Orange County, with a total population of more than 1,300,000, from 62 fire stations and has an annual operating budget of 260 million dollars.

In addition, Chief Prather currently serves on the Orange County Emergency Council, Chairs the Orange County Emergency Operational Area Council, Fire Scope Board of Directors, Co-chairs an Orange County Joint Law/Fire/Health anti-terrorism advisory committee and is a member of the California Fire Chiefs Association Executive Board of Directors. In 2002, Chip was appointed by Governor Davis to the State Emergency Council which advises the Governor on policy matters during times of disaster and served on the states 2003 Blue Ribbon Fire Commission.

Chief Prather is also is a member of The Raise Foundation's Advisory Board (formerly Prevent Child Abuse Orange County), serves as a member of the Salvation Army Advisory Board and the Trauma Intervention Program Advisory Board and numerous other boards and commissions. Chief Prather was honored as the recipient of the Boy Scouts Spurgeon Award 2000 for his involvement in Explorer Scouting and in 2002 was selected as the Fire Chief of the Year by the California Fire Chiefs Association.

Chief Prather is a member of the following organizations: Orange County Chambers of Commerce, International Association of Fire Chiefs, Metropolitan Fire Chiefs' Association, California Fire Chiefs' Association, California State Firefighters' Association, the Orange County Fire Chiefs' Association and the National Fire Protection Association.

Chip holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Management and has completed the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government Program for Senior Executives in state and local government. He has also attended the United States Fire Administration National Fire Academy, completing the Executive Fire Officer Program.

Chief Prather and his wife Katie live in San Clemente California with their two children.

Chief Prather's tireless passion for community and public service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Orange County, California. I am proud to call Chip a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

MT. CARMEL HOSPITAL OF
COLVILLE, WASHINGTON CELEBRATES 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mt. Carmel Hospital in Colville, Washington. Mt. Carmel Hospital was founded in 1919 as a non-profit, critical access, Catholic hospital and is currently run by the Sisters of Providence. For 90 years, the hospital has carried out its mission of providing medical care to members of the rural community in the Stevens, Ferry, and Pend Oreille counties of Northeast Washington.

Mt. Carmel Hospital is dedicated to assuring medical service is provided in accordance with its core values of respect, compassion, justice, excellence, and stewardship. In addition to its operating emergency services, a surgery center, rehabilitation, and diagnostic imaging, Mt. Carmel serves the community's underprivileged and provides education to professionals and laymen alike. Through their partnership with various other regional nonprofits, such as Christ Clinic and Project Access, Mt. Carmel compassionately reaches out to those who have limited or no health insurance. Additionally, the hospital's Resident Physician program offers training for new medical personnel while its Community Health Education Center provides classes and support groups on awareness and health improvement opportunities. The excellent care and community support contributed by Mt. Carmel Hospital offers the rural counties of Northeast Washington the kind of healthcare options often only available in large urban centers.

In early June, 2009, Mt. Carmel Hospital completed its renewal and expansion project, which doubled the hospital's size and renovated the existing building. Construction of the new hospital building will increase the hospital's area by 70,000 square feet, which will include a new inpatient facility and an expanded outpatient area, emergency room, and laboratory, as well as other additions.

Madam Speaker, I believe the ongoing efforts to provide excellent medical assistance to the counties of Northeast Washington make Mt. Carmel Hospital worthy of recognition before this body. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Mt. Carmel Hospital and the Sisters of Providence by observing and celebrating 90 years of dedication to wellness and health education in the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I wish to take a moment this week to recognize the thirty-seventh anniversary of Title IX. When I think of this historic legislation that champions equal rights for women, I am reminded of something Betty Friedan said in her book, *The Feminine Mystique*. She said, "The problem that has no name—which is simply the fact that American women are kept from growing to their full human capacities—is taking a far greater toll on the physical and mental health of our country than any known disease." Ms. Friedan—a leader of the women's rights movement and a founding member of the National Organization for Women—described an ongoing battle; a battle that has plagued our country for far too long.

Title IX was enacted with the purpose of removing the barriers that could negatively constrict the potential of over 50% of our population. This monumental advance in equal rights for women was passed on June 23, 1972, with the goal of prohibiting gender discrimination in education programs, especially concerning athletic opportunities for young men and women. I have time and time again

commended this milestone in U.S. legislation for empowering women to engage and contribute positively to society as well as for encouraging women to make responsible decisions.

Upon celebrating the thirty-seventh anniversary of Title IX, it is only right to recognize what has thus far been accomplished since the enactment of Title IX in 1972. In the arena of athletics, we have seen tremendous increases in the participation of women in sports. In 1972, there were merely 294,000 female high school athletic participants, in contrast to the 3.6 million male participants; now, looking at 2006, there has been a 904% increase with just under 3 million female high school athletes. In 1972, only about 30,000 women continued on to collegiate athletic participation, compared to 170,000 male participants. But in 2006, that number also increased exponentially, by 456%, to 167,000 female collegiate participants. In the world of business, the percentage of women general counsels in Fortune 500 companies rose from 4% to 15% between 1994 and 2002. Within the legal profession, the percentage of women in tenured positions at law schools increased from 5.9% in 1994 to 25.1% in 2006. In addition, I am certain that Title IX laid the foundation for other advancements in equal rights for women, such as the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 that President Obama signed into law this January and that I proudly co-sponsored.

Even with this progress, the United States still has quite a journey ahead toward the goal of equality for women. There still exists resistance to efforts to treat women and men equally. Even now there is still a remarkably large gap between the number of female and male high school and collegiate sports participants. Beyond athletics, there still exists gender inequality in the work force on multiple fronts, including: the ratio of male to female professionals; the difference in the earnings of male and female employees; and the ratio of male to female leadership positions in the work force. It is true that in 2003 female professional earnings had risen to 76% of what their male counterparts were making; nevertheless, 76% is still far less than 100%.

So, I celebrate the advances made during the thirty-seven years since Title IX was enacted, and I promise to continue to dedicate my time and efforts to champion equal rights for women.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2647) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense; to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2010.

As the representative of Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base, I am pleased that this bill makes important investments to support our national security and recognize the contributions of not only our men and women in uniform but also the families that support them. It provides for a 3.4 percent pay raise for service members and authorizes \$1.95 billion for family housing programs. It expands support for those who are injured in battle, with enhancements for the medical "mission to heal" and funding to help friends and family visit or otherwise support recovering service members. It also expands TRICARE health coverage for reserve component members and their families.

H.R. 2647 improves military readiness and authorizes additional funds for equipment depleted by the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. It authorizes the president's request for 15,000 more Army troops, 8,000 more Marines, 14,650 more Air Force personnel, and 2,477 more Navy sailors, and also includes funding for force protection to keep those troops safe in theater. It recognizes the toll on our Army National guard and reserves by providing new battle gear and construction projects in our communities.

While I am pleased that this resolution provides authorization of \$50 million for Impact Aid funding, with additional \$15 million for BRAC-affected areas, these levels are inadequate for the pressing needs our school districts have as they care for military-connected students. As the former superintendent of North Carolina's schools, I know first-hand that we cannot provide a high-quality education without high-quality facilities. In North Carolina, the BRAC process has swelled enrollment in the counties around Fort Bragg—Cumberland, Harnett, Johnston, and Sampson—without increasing the tax base that supports the local schools. Impact Aid funding has barely increased in the last five years. We must renew our commitment to support these students and give local schools the support they need to provide them a quality education, especially in the current economic downturn that is straining state and local budgets.

Mr. Chair, despite this shortfall, this is a strong bill that supports our men and women in uniform, and their families, and enhances our national security. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE BUDGET REFORM AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1016—To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide advance appropriations authority for certain medical care accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs. This bill would ensure sufficient, timely, and

predictable veterans funding so that the Department of Veterans Affairs would have the federal funding to better serve veterans' medical needs and improve health care services. This is a very timely and important measure as many of our troops today are returning home in need of accessible and adequate health care services. Therefore I strongly commend my colleague BOB FILNER for bringing this measure before the floor.

This bill would authorize Congress to provide investments in the Department of Veterans Affairs medical care one year in advance so the department can have sufficient time to plan how to deliver the best care to an increasing number of veterans with increasingly complex medical conditions.

My military constituents often turn to me for support in confronting the many challenges they face when working with the Department of Veterans Affairs. We have come to understand, that many of the challenges in efficient health care services are attributable to the Department of Veterans Affairs' inadequate funding. For most of the past two decades, the appropriated funds for medical care have not been provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs in a timely manner. This has resulted in the department's problems in planning and managing care for enrolled veterans. Accordingly, this bill addresses this budgetary problem and allows for advance appropriations to ensure the department has the Federal backing to effectively address the medical needs of our nation's veterans.

As a vocal advocate for veterans' rights, I am pleased to add my voice of support for H.R. 1016. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that we continue to provide the necessary resources towards improving our Department of Veterans Affairs' health care programs and administrative services.

IN RECOGNITION OF OFFICER
GARLAND C. THOMPSON

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Garland C. Thompson's retirement from the United States Capitol Police after thirty-five years of service.

Founded in 1828, the Capitol Police have protected countless lives and secured our nation's historic Capitol complex. Officer Thompson first joined the Capitol Police on June 6, 1975. His deep sense of patriotism and dedication to upholding the rule of law is evident to all. Known as a strict enforcer, Officer Thompson has ensured the safety of elected officials, staffers, journalists, and tourists alike and the corner of First and C Streets will not be the same without his friendly face. I have had the pleasure of knowing him and am proud to call him my friend. I know he will be greatly missed.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude for Officer Thompson's thirty-five years of dedicated service to the Capitol Police and this great Nation. I wish him and his family all my very best.