

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.

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#### 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.

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#### 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.

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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.