

COMMEMORATING THE HEROISM OF THE U.S. ARMY'S 65TH INFANTRY REGIMENT BETTER KNOWN AS "THE BORINQUENEERS"

### HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 8, 2011*

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to my colleagues' attention the celebration taking place in Osceola County, Florida, later this month. More specifically, on July 24, 2011, the Committee Desfile Puertorriqueno de Osceola, Inc., has chosen to dedicate the First Annual Puerto Rican Day Parade to commemorate the heroism of the U.S. Army's 65th Infantry Regiment, better known as "The Borinqueneers."

I rise today to join them in this recognition as we come together to celebrate the Borinqueneers, their commitment to the liberties of the United States, and their specific military achievements on the front line of the battlefield in advancing the values upon which this nation was founded.

On March 2, 1899, Congress authorized the establishment of the Army unit that became known as the "The Borinqueneers," an all-volunteer Puerto Rican unit. This brave unit was called upon to serve in World War I, World War II, and the Korean War and fought valiantly under the motto "Honor et Fidelitas," meaning Honor and Fidelity.

When "The Borinqueneers" were called to the front lines during the Korean War, General MacArthur said of the unit, "The Puerto Ricans forming the ranks of the gallant 65th Infantry on the battlefields of Korea . . . are writing a brilliant record of achievement in battle and I am proud indeed to have them in this command. I wish that we might have more like them."

The Borinqueneers consistently demonstrated exceptional and unyielding valor on the battlefield despite the hardships they endured. As a unit, they earned a Presidential Unit Citation, a Meritorious Unit Commendation and two Republic of Korea Unit Citations. Individuals within the regiment were also awarded Distinguished Service Crosses, Silver Stars and Bronze Stars.

I am honored to pay tribute to the service that "The Borinqueneers" have provided our nation.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to pay tribute to these fine soldiers.

### TRIBUTE TO OPERATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES

### HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 8, 2011*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Operational Technologies (OpTech) on its 25th anniversary of providing business expansion opportunities and incredible employment sources for many San Antonians.

Founded by Max Navarro a quarter-century ago, OpTech has been committed to excellence and strives to provide scientific and technical solutions for global clients across a

range of service sectors. OpTech focuses on areas ranging from Supply Chain Management, Biotechnology, and Automotive Industry. OpTech has succeeded in exceeding client expectations and the achievement of outstanding corporate citizenship through its adherence to the highest levels of professional integrity.

From securing the defense contract to develop a nerve gas antidote or constructing an \$850 million state-of-the-art manufacturing plant to assemble the Toyota Tundra pick-up truck, OpTech has made great strides towards providing San Antonio a promising economic future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Operational Technologies on their continued success and contribution to San Antonio as a leading minority owned business.

### SUPPORT FOR A TWO-STATE SOLUTION

### HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 8, 2011*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for a two-state solution to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. I believe peace can be achieved only through negotiations between the parties. I believe, further, that these negotiations must be based upon mutual respect and upon the unequivocal commitment of each to the rights of the other, including the right to live in peace and security in a sovereign state. Because I believe this, I supported H. Res. 268. I did not, however, vote "yes" because I felt the resolution was likely to promote those ends. I voted in the affirmative because I could not take exception to its substance.

I oppose and I believe the United States should continue to oppose a unilateral declaration of statehood by the Palestinians, with a veto in the Security Council, if necessary. I believe that Hamas should accept the conditions set forth by the Quartet—the UN, the EU, the Russian Federation, as well as the United States—to renounce violence and acknowledge the right of Israel to exist. That said, I am not sure that it is helpful to the Palestinians, or to Arab governments in transition to democracy, to threaten suspending assistance to the Palestinian Authority as they seek to bring the West Bank and Gaza closer to a position from which negotiations with Israel could take place. If the resolution had called for the outright suspension of aid, rather than the consideration of its suspension, I would have had more difficulty supporting it. I would prefer, too, that the resolution had encouraged Israel to take positive steps, such as limiting settlement expansion, towards reconciliation with its neighbors.

I look forward to constructive U.S. engagement in real bargaining, not just in an interminable "peace process." I hope leaders in Israel and in Palestine will have the courage to present realistic options to their people, and I would like to see the United States foster serious diplomacy.

A TRIBUTE TO AARON D. SPRENGELER

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 8, 2011*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Aaron Daniel Sprengeler for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance based achievement whose standards have been rigorously maintained over the years.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Aaron's project was to oversee and construct stairs and a bridge at the McHose Park Disc Golf Course in Boone, Iowa. This project allowed Aaron to demonstrate both his organizational and leadership skills as he directed the trail's construction and design. Aaron's efforts not only improved the overall accessibility of the course, but also provided much needed safety improvements that disc golfers can now enjoy for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. Aaron's efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent him and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating him on achieving an Eagle Scout ranking and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 8, 2011*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, during roll-call vote No. 518, the Sherman Amendment on H.R. 2219, I mistakenly recorded my vote as "yes" when I should have voted "no".

### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 23, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the FY2012 Defense Appropriations bill. I want to also thank Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member DICKS for working together to craft this important bipartisan legislation.

As our men and women in uniform and their families sacrifice to keep our country safe, Congress must provide them with the support and equipment necessary to accomplish their mission. In this bill we have appropriated funding for equipment procurement, base operations, military healthcare and pay in order to address current defense needs and future challenges; to continue funding research and development; and to improve the essential health and quality of life programs for the men and women of the Armed Services and their families.

In total, the bill allocates \$530 billion for Defense Department operations and support. This funding cuts \$9 billion from the President's request while increasing overall base funding for the Department of Defense by \$17 billion. While I support this legislation, I believe we can meet all our national security needs with fewer resources. The testimony before the Budget Committee on July 8, 2011 made clear that we can reduce defense spending without compromising our national security. That is why I voted for the Frank Amendment that would have reduced the amount of this increase by half. I also supported an amendment offered by Representative MULVANEY that would have held funding in the bill to FY2011 levels. Unfortunately, both amendments failed.

The bill provides \$32.3 billion for defense health programs, which is \$119 million above the President's request and \$935 million above what was enacted in the FY2011 bill. This figure includes a \$125 million increase over the president's request for improved treatment and research of traumatic brain injury and psychological health conditions, \$30 million for orthopedic research and \$15 million for restorative transplant research, and \$2.3 billion for family support and advocacy programs.

To help financially struggling military families cope in this challenging economy, the bill also includes military pay funding of \$5.4 billion above last year's level and includes a pay raise of 1.6% and a comparable increase for housing and subsistence funding.

To ensure that all the funds allocated are used properly and for their intended purpose, the bill also contains enhanced oversight and accountability measures.

Mr. Chair, our troops deserve our support for the daily sacrifices they make for the security of the Nation. They depend on us to ensure that they have the resources they need to do their jobs.

They also count on us to see to it that the health and welfare of their families are assured so they can focus on the mission at hand. That is what this bill is about and I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

H.R. 1249, THE "AMERICA INVENTS ACT"

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**  
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 8, 2011*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the "America Invents Act." I strongly support this bill, which will foster innovation, economic growth, and help America maintain its global competitive edge.

If we are going to have a healthy economy and be a global leader, we must have a healthy intellectual property system. In order to have a healthy intellectual property system, we must modernize our laws. Patent reform is integral to our economy.

Currently, the United States is the world leader in issuing patents. In order to maintain our position and solidify our position as a global leader, we must enact patent reform as soon as possible.

America is now on its way to the most significant patent reform in more than half a century. Our current patent system is outdated and in need in major reform. Pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 8, "Congress shall have Power . . . [t]o promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries." This bill will strengthen our patent system and encourage innovation and drive economic growth.

The "America Invents Act" includes much needed improvements to the patent system that will help to maintain America's place at the forefront of innovation. America's ability to drive economic growth and job creation through innovation is currently hampered by a massive backlog at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, USPTO. There is currently a backlog of approximately 700,000 patent applications.

While I preferred Section 22 of H.R. 1249, as reported by the Judiciary Committee, that would allow the USPTO to retain all of its user fees, I am supportive of the USPTO funding agreement that was reached in the House. It is intended to end fee diversion and provide the USPTO access to its user fees. Moreover, I believe in the overall goal of the bill to efficiently issue patents to businesses—especially small businesses and startups—to develop new products and create jobs. This compromise will allow the USPTO to process applications more efficiently and produce higher-quality patents which makes them less likely to be subject to a court challenge.

It is imperative that the USPTO have the resources it needs to hire more patent examiners and pay overtime to decrease this backlog. Every state in the United States of America has patent applications pending. In 2010, 2,194 patents were granted to residents in my home state of Georgia. The "America Invents Act" will ensure that residents in Georgia, and each and every State across the Nation, are granted patents in a speedy fashion.

This bill will help inventors like Lonnie Johnson in Atlanta, Georgia. He invented the Super Soaker that generated hundreds of millions of dollars in profits, created jobs and became the number one selling toy in America. Lonnie Johnson currently holds over 80 patents and has over 20 more pending. The sooner this 700,000 patent application backlog is cut down, the sooner Lonnie Johnson, and other inventors, can get their inventions to market, grow the economy, and create jobs.

Further, the "America Invents Act" will transition the United States from a first-to-invent system to a first-inventor-to-file system. This will bring the United States up to par with every other industrialized nation in the world. As business and competition becomes more global, patent applicants are increasingly filing patent applications in other countries for protection of their inventions. The first-to-invent

filing system in the United States differs from that in other patent-issuing jurisdictions. This can cause confusion and inefficiencies for American companies and innovators.

In a first-inventor-to-file system, the filing date of the application is most relevant: it is an objective date and is simple to determine because it is listed on the face of the patent. In contrast, in a first-to-invent system, the date the invention claimed in the application was actually invented is the determinative date. Unlike the objective date of filing, the date someone invents something is often uncertain, and, when disputed, typically requires corroborating evidence.

The first-inventor-to-file system will simplify the patent application system and harmonize it with the rest of the industrialized world, reduce costs, and improve the competitiveness of American inventors seeking protection globally. These changes are necessary for true, comprehensive patent reform.

I am extremely proud that our nation's universities will benefit from this bill. The patent system plays a critical role in enabling institutions like Georgia Institute of Technology and colleges belonging to the Atlanta University Center to transfer the discoveries arising from basic research into the commercial sector for development into products and processes that benefit society.

Patent reform is not a partisan issue, but an issue of the fairest way to encourage inventors and investors to create and develop new products that will benefit universities, create jobs, and spur economic growth.

Today marks a major milestone in moving this country forward. I was a freshman when patent reform last moved through the House in the 110th Congress. I am proud to be a part of this moment in history. The American people have waited long enough; Congress should act now to pass this important piece of legislation.

I strongly support the "America Invents Act" and urge my colleagues to do the same. We are close to the finish line and need to push on and finish the race.

THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN'S  
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

**HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 8, 2011*

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in recognition and support of Republic of South Sudan which will tomorrow become Africa's 54th country. As a co-chair of the House Sudan Caucus, I am grateful for the accomplishment of this successful milestone in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement process that has ended Sudan's 22-year civil war. In the past two decades, this civil war and famine took the lives of approximately two million people in Sudan.

The ability for South Sudan to declare for itself its own country is a testament to what can be achieved when a unified international community made of nation states, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations all come together to foster peace and assist in the resolution of difference between peoples.

Yet, the people of South Sudan still face many challenges. There is more infrastructure