

family—especially her husband, Larry—will be happy to have her around more often.

And although I will miss her, I know this is in no way a goodbye. I am positive she will continue to be active and touch the lives of those of us who have had the privilege of call her a friend.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Phyllis Causey, who exemplifies what it means to be an American, a Kentuckian, a Christian, and a public servant.

THE PENTAGON MUST BE AUDITED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, we've all heard of too big to fail when the Secretary of the Treasury Hank Paulson and President Bush bailed out a bunch of miscreants on Wall Street for their gambling and mistakes and putting taxpayers at risk, some principle that does not belong in the policy of this country. But now we have another one: Too big to be counted. Too big to be counted.

This year, the Pentagon will spend \$670 billion, about \$2 million a day, and it doesn't know where its money is. In fact, it often doesn't even know if it has spent money. Here are a few examples:

In March 2000, the Pentagon inspector general found that of the \$7.6 trillion—"t," trillion dollars—in accounting entries, about one-third of them—\$2.3 trillion, or \$8,000 for every man, woman, and child in America, was completely untraceable, completely untraceable. \$2.3 trillion, don't know where it went. Don't know if they bought something, if it was delivered. Who knows.

Then, in 2003, they found—and this is something I've talked about all through my years in Congress, the so-called inventory system at the Pentagon, which is absolutely absurd. The Army lost track of 56 airplanes, 32 tanks, and 36 missile command launch units. And while military leaders back in 2003 were scrambling around trying to find chemical and biological suits for our troops because of the risks in the Middle East, in Afghanistan, the Pentagon was selling suits at surplus on the Internet for 2 cents on the dollar. No suits for the troops. They're very expensive. Over here, we're selling them for 2 cents on the dollar to the general public. What is this all about?

Another year, they spent \$100 million for refundable airline tickets that they didn't use. Hey, what's \$100 million at the Pentagon? Chump change. They didn't ask for the refunds. They just stuck them in a drawer. That is \$100 million that didn't go to serve our national defense, supply our troops, or be saved and defray our deficit.

In fiscal year '10, half of the Pentagon's \$366 billion in contract awards were not competed. Half.

Now, these are pretty shocking numbers. And actually, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) and I on the floor here last spring got a little amendment in the Department of Defense bill to require that they conform to a 1994 law. In 1994, Congress said the Pentagon should be audited by 1997. Unfortunately, every year, the appropriators have said, Oh, no, no, no. That's too much to ask of the Pentagon.

Well, we got a little amendment in the bill here. We kind of snuck it by the DOD hawks over there who are protecting the incompetence over there, and they would have been audited. The Senate did the same thing. But to the rescue, the conference committee, behind closed doors. I was one of very few on the floor here who voted against closing the doors of the conference because they don't close the doors of the conference committee over there to talk about classified things that could risk our national security. They do it to cut deals like this.

So yesterday, they decided the Pentagon will not be audited. It can't be audited. In fact, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY), one of our colleagues, said it would be insulting to require that we audit the Pentagon in a mandatory way by 2014. I mean, that's only 2 years from now. That's only a couple more trillion dollars from now. Boy, we wouldn't want to know where that money is going. We wouldn't want to know whether they are surplusing out stuff our troops need while they're paying for a contractor who didn't have to compete to buy the same stuff, and they say there is a shortage and we don't have enough. We wouldn't want to know these things. So we closed the conference and cut these stinking deals.

So here it is, once again, too big to be counted. This does not serve our men and women in uniform well. It does not serve the national defense needs of the United States of America, and it sure as heck doesn't serve the interests of the American taxpayers. The Pentagon must be audited like every other agency of Federal Government, and we should also throw in the Federal Reserve.

TRICIA MILLER, 2012 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, first today, I rise today to congratulate Tricia Miller of Centre County on receiving the 2012 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year award. An English teacher from the Penns Valley Area School District since 1994, Tricia is the first Centre County educator to receive the award in its 54-year history. In addition to teaching English, in 2009 Trish became the Penns Valley literacy coach for grades 7 through 12,

where she has introduced new instructional strategies in the classroom.

Many variables go into a great education, but it's having great teachers that matter most. Tricia Miller is the type of teacher that goes above and beyond. She is tirelessly committed to high achievement and the success of her students, which she has demonstrated year after year.

Tricia Miller is deserving of this award and recognition. We thank her for her commitment to the teaching profession and are proud that she will go to represent the State in the National Teacher of the Year competition. Congratulations, Teacher Tricia Miller.

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HOUSE PASSES EXTENSION LEGISLATION

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to take time this morning to address and celebrate a piece of legislation that we passed out of the House of Representatives last evening, largely, almost solely with just Republican support, but a bill that deserved bipartisan support because it's great for the entire Nation.

This is a bill that addresses many of the extension bills that were lingering and will soon expire at the end of the year. In particular, there are three parts I just want to touch on briefly this morning that are incredibly important for the citizens of this Nation, and I think also parts that are transformational. And it's rare that we see a transformational piece of legislation out of this body.

First of all, the tax cuts. Tax cuts for all Americans. This is a tax cut that was actually paid for, not one that added to the national debt or certainly one that threatened in any way the integrity of the Social Security fund. I am very proud to be able to support this bill and to do it in a proper way, to pay for and allow the citizens of this country to keep money in their own pockets. Certainly they are better prepared to make decisions on how money is spent.

Secondly, the changes in the extension of the unemployment compensation. We have taken steps to move unemployment towards a workforce development program as opposed to just an entitlement program. Unemployment is important and should be used to return people to work, and the provisions of the bill that were approved yesterday do just that. It allows States to do drug screening. We've put a lot of money into retraining people for jobs when they are on unemployment or through the Workforce Investment Act only to find that there is a percentage that aren't eligible to work because they can't pass a drug test. This provision gives people a reason to clean their lives up. It takes it from 99 to 59 weeks, which is an appropriate move.

One of the last provisions, which I think is maybe one of the most important: If you are an individual and need unemployment compensation, and you don't have a high school degree or a