

concerning as it relates to the public safety network. In the immediate aftermath of September 11th the importance of a strong and consistent public safety network was clear—first responders and emergency workers must be able to communicate in emergency and disaster situations. There is an insufficient amount of funds to research, build, and develop the public safety communications network as well as no requirement that the network providing for effective governance and national operability.

Finally, while I wholeheartedly believe that we must fix the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate Physician payment formula (or “doc fix”), we cannot do it on the backs of the hospitals. This bill would cut Medicare hospital outpatient reimbursement rates to equalize them with rates for services provided in physician offices. The proposal is misguided because it ignores the significant differences in cost structures between hospitals and physician offices, including the added costs hospitals incur for caring for the uninsured. All of these cuts are on top of \$155 billion in hospitals cuts from the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and more than \$40 billion in cuts just created by sequestration. Hospitals simply cannot sustain these cuts and patient care will suffer if they are forced to do so.

RECOGNIZING JEFFERY POTTER
AS THE 2012 PRESIDENT OF THE
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, on December 9, 2011 Jeffery Potter was duly elected to serve as President of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Jeff is the Vice-President of POTTER, a design firm in Dallas, Texas established in 1983. The firm has a broad portfolio but specifically seeks to advance school-house design in the region.

Jeff has been recognized by his peers through numerous regional AIA and trade awards for his design efforts and has juried design awards programs throughout the United States. Over the past 30 years Jeff has worked to elevate professional communications between his peers and to educate the public on the importance of design. Additionally, Jeff has worked with his colleagues to help combine traditional architectural journalism with social media and knowledge sharing to promote architecture in the 21st century.

As AIA President, Jeff has stated that he will focus on what he calls the “two spheres of influence”: nurturing a grassroots organization of architects and building on the strengths of the organization to promote a professional institute of design leaders.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Potter’s accomplishments and ask that we acknowledge the important role that architects serve in our economy.

NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern about the United States Navy’s future plan to home port a nuclear powered aircraft carrier aboard Naval Station Mayport. I, along with other members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation, have continued to question the duplication of resources to move the home port of a nuclear aircraft carrier, when current resources in Norfolk, Virginia, meet these needs.

This nation is in very challenging and uncharted waters with respect to the Department of Defense budget. Every effort must be made to ensure efficient and thoughtful planning, procurement, and budgeting is conducted to support our national security strategy for the 21st century. While the budget may be getting smaller, the request for power projection and forward presence around the globe to protect our interests and ensure a peaceful future is only growing. Sequestration and the very real possibility of cutting \$1 billion out of the Department of Defense budget over the next ten years puts our carrier force in jeopardy.

With these major defense cuts coming we are forced to address the proposal by the United States Navy to move a nuclear powered aircraft carrier to Naval Station Mayport. While strategic dispersal of forces is important, what is more important is that we maintain a capable level of forces to disperse.

An iconic symbol of American freedom domestically and abroad and a potential item for the sequestration chopping block, the aircraft carrier could face detrimental cuts to her fleet and capability because of a flawed defense strategy driven by looming budget cuts. The Navy has 11 nuclear-powered aircraft carriers in her fleet. While six remain deployed across the world, supporting operations, others are in rotation, utilized for training or remain in the shipyard for necessary maintenance.

On September 23, 2011, I wrote the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Jonathan Greenert arguing that at a time when the nation’s historic fiscal challenges will require drastic cuts in federal spending, it is fiscally irresponsible and strategically unnecessary to build expensive and redundant nuclear-support infrastructure for CVN homeporting when there are more cost-effective alternatives to sustain Mayport’s future as an operational base.

Admiral Greenert’s response to the letter indicated concerns raised about the movement of an aircraft carrier to Mayport would be included in the Navy’s strategic calculus. He stated that “the size of fiscal adjustments compels us to take a comprehensive strategic review, examining every program element, including the funding required to homeport a CVN in Mayport”.

The conference report for the National Defense Authorization Act, H.R. 1540, addressed the issue of military construction funding for a road improvement project at Mayport. It states, “The conferees determined that the Massey Avenue Corridor Improvements Project had merit to support requirements at the Naval Station Mayport, Florida, whether or not a nu-

clear powered aircraft carrier was home ported there.”

The proposed home port shift of an aircraft carrier, especially in this challenging budget environment, is unaffordable and unnecessary and I encourage this Congress and the United States Navy to carefully consider a better utilization of taxpayer resources to fund our men and women in uniform.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,051,286,197,149.79. We’ve added \$10,249,881,021,855.51 to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RETIREMENT OF MR. T.J.
PREJEAN, JR.

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate T.J. Prejean, Jr. on his retirement from the Vermilion Parish Policy Jury.

For 31 years, T.J. proudly served District 13 as police juror, twice being the Vice President of the jury. Having attended 3,000 meetings during his career, T.J.’s commitment to ensuring the well-being of Vermilion Parish is clear.

Formerly an oil rig worker and farmer, T.J. began his service in office in 1980 and served eight consecutive terms. Opposition often stood in his way, but T.J.’s door-to-door campaign style reinforced his personal connection to the community.

During his time as police juror, T.J. made every effort to be accessible to the residents of District 13. He provided assistance during the several major hurricanes our region experienced in the past decade. In doing so, he demonstrated himself a concerned and dependable leader. His final police jury meeting will be Monday, December 19, 2011.

I offer my sincerest appreciation to T.J. Hebert for his dedication to the people of Vermilion Parish and congratulate him on his retirement. I am honored to be his representative in Congress.

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HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, every town has a few heroes, and lucky is the man whose