

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE SAINT XAVIER UNIVERSITY COUGARS FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THEIR FIRST NAIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Saint Xavier University Cougars on winning the NAIA Football National Championship on Saturday.

It was another thrilling game, and a fitting way for Saint Xavier to bring home its first National Championship in any sport. From the freshmen to the seniors, from the top-ranked offense to the clutch defense to the special teams—everyone played a part in this victory and the Cougars' amazing season. This was the first time since 1913 that a Chicago college football team has won a national championship. And the Cougars did it with largely homegrown, Illinois talent.

Chicago, Lemont, Joliet, Tinley Park, Oak Lawn, Palos Heights, Park Ridge, Rockford, Frankfort—these and many other towns are well represented on this historic team.

The players, Coach Mike Feminis and his staff, Saint Xavier, Chicago, and Illinois should all be proud. Congratulations to the Cougars.

HELP DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced legislation intended to ensure that the Department of Defense meets its obligation to contract with small businesses owned and controlled by service-connected disabled veterans. (H.R. 3438).

As a nation, we owe an immense debt of gratitude to the men and women who serve in our armed forces. In that spirit, we must do all we can to ensure that disabled veterans' businesses have every opportunity to succeed.

Federal agencies have a government-wide goal that three percent of all federal contracts should be filled by service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSBs). Unfortunately this contracting goal often goes unmet at many agencies.

The current state of affairs is unacceptable! It is unthinkable that an agency like the Department of Defense would not always fill its quota of hiring businesses owned and controlled by disabled veterans.

The solution to this problem is simple: H.R. 3438, will ensure that the Department of Defense meets its obligation to America's veterans by requiring the agency to award three percent of its contracts to SDVOSBs.

I invite my colleagues to join with me and help ensure that disabled veterans' businesses are not an afterthought in the government contracting process.

HONORING HUNTER JEFFREY FARIS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Hunter Jeffrey Faris. Hunter is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 249, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Hunter has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Hunter has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Hunter has earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, led his troop in various leadership positions, and attended the Philmont Scout Reservation High Adventure in 2008. Hunter has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Hunter completed the construction of a 280 feet split rail wooden fence at Platte Ridge Park in Platte County, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Hunter Jeffrey Faris for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2055, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Fiscal Year 2012 Conference report (H.R. 2055).

However, I regret the process that brought this bill to the floor. This bill was posted only hours before it was brought to the floor. No member has read this bill and this is one more time that the Majority has broken its promise to run this House in an open and transparent manner.

I am pleased that this bill included the full \$40 million that I secured earlier this year for suicide prevention and counseling programs for our active duty, Guard & Reserve, and veteran populations. The suicide epidemic among our veterans—at least 18 take their own lives

every day—is a national scandal, and it must stop. This funding will help innovative peer-to-peer counseling programs like the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey's "Vets4Warriors" get the resources they need to reach veterans in need before a personal crisis becomes another family tragedy.

This bill honors our commitment to our ally, Israel, by providing \$3.075 billion in direct aid, including \$235 million for the continued development of the Arrow and David's Sling missile defense systems. Over this past year, we've already seen that America's investment in another innovative and successful Israeli tactical anti-missile system, Iron Dome, has saved Israeli lives. Had some Republican presidential candidates had their way last year and aid to Israel had been zeroed out, Iron Dome would not have been there to save those Israelis who came under missile attack this year.

I am very pleased to see that funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund was increased by \$21 million over Fiscal Year 2011. Although the current level of \$322.8 million is far below the authorized amount of \$900 million this is still an improvement over earlier versions of this legislation.

Historic preservation is an important goal, and I am pleased that the National Park Service's Heritage Area program remains funded at the same level for 2012 as was last year. This funding is important for the upkeep and management of various sites of historical interest around the country, including the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area in my district.

As a research scientist, I have long supported federal investment in basic research. I am pleased to see that this bill provides for Department of Energy Office of Science \$4.9 billion, an increase of \$31 million over Fiscal Year 2011. The Office of Science is the nation's primary sponsor of research in the physical sciences and has been integral to the development of dozens of innovative technologies. I am also pleased that H.R. 2055 provides \$275 million for the ARPA-E research program, 53 percent more than Fiscal Year 2011. ARPA-E supports high-risk, high-reward research on energy technologies. Funding for ARPA-E directly contributes to the creation of new technologies, new industries, and new jobs, exactly what we need to grow our economy. Further, the conference report provides more than \$400 million for Fusion Energy Sciences in the Department of Energy. Although I would have liked to see funding levels of at least \$32 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), I am pleased that this bill provides almost \$31 billion in funding for NIH.

I am pleased that this conference report provides \$150 million for the Department of Education's Mathematics and Science Partnerships. I have been a leader in Congress working on protecting funding for these partnerships, which improve student achievement in mathematics and science by combining colleges with K-12 school districts in order to support math and science teachers with continued training.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

I am deeply disappointed that this bill zeros out funding for the Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP). FLAP is the only federal program that supports K-12 foreign language education which is critical to our nation's economic and national security. Rather than ending this successful program we should be working to strengthen it. I will redouble my efforts to restore this critical funding next year.

This bill rejected attacks on our nation's arts and culture and provides the full \$146 million requested the National Endowment for the Humanities and the full \$146 million requested for the National Endowment for the Arts. The arts and humanities are good for our society at large and significant contributors to our economic development as well.

Another of my many disappointments with this bill is the 17 percent cut to grant programs for firefighters and other first responders. Natural and man-made disasters don't take a holiday, and neither should our support for our firefighters, EMS, and other first responders. This cut is irresponsible, and it will endanger public safety.

Unfortunately, the majority insisted on including some controversial policy riders in this appropriations bill. I am disappointed that the agreement includes a provision that would change responsibility for enforcement of the Clean Air Act on the Outer Continental Shelf from the EPA to the Department of the Interior. The EPA has been successfully enforcing the Clean Air Act for over forty years. EPA scientists understand the law and how to keep the air we breathe clean and safe. We must work to ensure that the Clean Air Act is still fully enforced on the Outer Continental Shelf.

I am also disappointed that the majority insisted on rolling back successful innovation in the lighting industry by mandating in this legislation that agencies cannot enforce energy efficient standards for light bulbs. Congress has a responsibility to maintain regulatory certainty that encourages the private sector to make needed investments in research, development, and innovation. This policy rider turns back the innovation clock in the lighting industry.

Regrettably, the conference report contains \$35 million for the United Nations Population Fund rather than the \$65 million requested. Yet, I am pleased that it rejects the House Majority's attempt to cut all funding for the UNFPA which provides crucial reproductive-health care, not abortion, to the world's poorest women. The conference report extends a policy rider on the District of Columbia, which prevents the District to spend its local money on women's health care services. Further, the conference report included \$5 million for failed "abstinence-only" programs, which have been shown to have no long-term positive effects.

This is not a perfect bill, but it prevents a looming government shutdown. Further, it provides funding increases for a number of critical programs and rejects many of the dangerous cuts contained in the funding bills that the House previously approved. I support passage of this bill despite its pessimistic view of what America could achieve through more ambitious funding of the programs covered under the bill.

DISASTER RELIEF
APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012

SPEECH OF
HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following regarding H.R. 3672, Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2012:

DISASTER RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012, H.R. 3672
(Amounts in thousands)

		This Bill
DISASTER RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS ACT		
TITLE I—DISASTER RELIEF		
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY		
Federal Emergency Management Agency		
Disaster Relief Fund (disaster relief category)	6,400,000	
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL		
Corps of Engineers—Civil		
Mississippi River and Tributaries (disaster relief category) ..	802,000	
Operation and Maintenance (disaster relief category)	534,000	
Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies (disaster relief category)	388,000	
Total, Corps of Engineers—Civil	1,724,000	
Total, title I	8,124,000	
TITLE II—COMBATING WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE		
Social Security Administration		
Limitation on Administrative Expenses	483,484	
GRAND TOTAL	8,607,484	
(Disaster relief category)	(8,124,000)	

RECOGNIZING KEVIN HARRIGER
FOR BEING APPOINTED EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE
PROGRAMS AND TRADE LIAISON AT UNITED
STATES CUSTOMS AND BORDER
PROTECTION

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Kevin Harriger, a native of southwestern Pennsylvania, for being named Executive Director for agriculture inspection programs at U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP), Office of Field Operations.

In his new capacity, he is responsible for overseeing USCBP's efforts to protect America's agricultural resources against the threats posed by domestic and foreign plant pests and diseases. Mr. Harriger is uniquely qualified to take on this role, as ensuring the safety of naturally-cultivated consumer products has been the principal cause of his career.

Prior to assuming his current position, Mr. Harriger was the Deputy Executive Director for CBP's office of Agriculture Operational Oversight. As such, he was responsible for ensuring that USCP's agricultural inspection policies were being implemented smoothly and consistently. The skillfulness with which he executed the duties of this job are in large part a product of the experience he gained while working for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), both as a Regional Director in Raleigh and as a Special Assistant to the

Deputy Administrator for APHIS—PPQ in Conyers, Ga.

While with APHIS, he honed his knowledge of both agricultural policy and plant pathology. His expertise in both of these areas is a testament to his intelligence and dedication to his craft. While I am deeply impressed by his ability to understand and analyze esoteric scientific subjects and public policy, I am even more impressed by the passion he has shown for using this ability to promote the greater good. All of us should use our talents for such selfless purposes.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Kevin Harriger on this appointment and thank him for his many years of public service.

RECOGNIZING MR. MARSHAND
CRISLER FOR HIS DEDICATION
AND SERVICE TO COMMUNITY
AND COUNTRY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Marshand Crisler. A lifetime Jackson resident, Mr. Crisler was born in Greenville, Mississippi in 1968 to Johnny and Rosia Crisler. Mr. Crisler attended elementary and junior high school in Utica, Mississippi, before transferring to the Jackson Public Schools District and graduating from Provine High School. He pursued higher education at Hinds Community College where he received his Associate of Applied Science Degree in Criminal Justice.

Mr. Crisler enlisted in the United States Marine Corps where he served in the Persian Gulf War. In 1992, he was honorably discharged from the U.S. Marines and joined the Hinds County Sheriffs Department as a narcotics investigator and held several assignments as a contract agent with the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, the FBI and DEA. In 1993, he received the distinguished meritorious award of valor for acts of courage and being shot in the line of duty.

Mr. Crisler enlisted in the Mississippi Army National Guard where he served as Headquarters Detachment Commander for the 112th Military Police Battalion and later in Operation Iraqi Freedom and was awarded several war time commendations, including the "Army Commendation Medal." He later transferred to the Mississippi Air National Guard's 172nd Security Forces Squadron where he was promoted to the rank of Major and served as Deputy Director of Security Forces. Mr. Crisler recently retired as a Major after 21 years in the U.S. Armed Forces.

While working for the Sheriffs Department, Mr. Crisler graduated from Jackson State University in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Corrective Services. In January of 1999, he accepted the position of Police Chief of the Utica Police Department, and became the first African American to serve in this capacity. In the summer of 1999 he returned to the Hinds County Sheriffs Department, where he remained for 17 years.

In 2001, Mr. Crisler was elected to the Jackson City Council becoming the first African American to hold the position of Ward 6 Councilman. He served three terms as President of