

HONORING KATHERINE TANKSON

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Katherine Tankson. Katherine has shown what can be done through tenacity, dedication and a desire to serve others.

Katherine Tankson is a native of Sharkey County and resides in Rolling Fork, Mississippi. She has served in the educational arena for a total of 42 years. This included 12 years in the South Delta School District as a classroom teacher and 19 years as an administrator, before her first retirement in December of 2000. The South Delta School District is located in the Mississippi Delta and serves the students of Sharkey and Issaquena Counties with a present enrollment of 988 students.

Upon receiving her Bachelor's of Science Degree in Business Education from Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, MS in 1969, her only desire was to return to her hometown to teach with the goal of helping to make a difference in the lives of children. Mrs. Tankson has received two master's degrees. She has a Master's Degree in English from Jackson State University, in Jackson, MS, and her second Master's Degree is in Education Administration and Supervision from Delta State University in Cleveland, MS.

During her tenure with South Delta School District, she served as the auditor in the district for the International Curriculum Management Audit Center, Inc., located in Huxley, Iowa. In that position she conducted curriculum management audits in school districts in the Bermuda territory of the United Kingdom, also on the United States in the States of Georgia and California. She was appointed by the Mississippi Department of Education to serve as auditor throughout the State in various schools selected by the State.

In January 2001, she was employed with the Mississippi Department of Education as Project Director for the Technology Academy for School Leaders (TASL) until June 2004. As the director she worked with superintendents, principals, and other administrators across the State in the areas of technology and curriculum development.

In July 2006, she returned to the South Delta School District where she currently serves as Superintendent. Under her leadership, significant progress has been made in changing the culture of the district and the schools. An increase in necessary resources critical to the success of being effective teachers, administrators, and instructional leaders has flourished in the district. As a result the district and schools have seen significant increases in student achievement, and improvements in classroom delivery and instruction through the use of 21st century technology. The district has also undergone \$4 million dollars in renovation at the South Delta High School which has produced a by-product of improved parent and community involvement to say the least.

Mrs. Tankson's career in education is long standing—after 31 years, retiring in 2000, she came out of retirement and gave 11 more years to educating and leading before retiring

again June 30, 2012. Those 11 more years give her that grand total of 42 years in education, which is worthy of recognition. She is still an active member of numerous educational organizations.

Although she has left her footprints through schools in various States in the U.S. including the Bermuda territory, her love for Mississippi is where she started and ended her career. Providing the students of the South Delta School District in Rolling Fork, MS with a quality education is her passion. Her contribution to education will be forever appreciated for the countless number of students she has touched guiding them to the path of success. She has not only had a positive impact on students but also parents, teachers, and even community members, and for that too she will be appreciated.

She married her high school sweetheart, James Tankson, a retired educator of 40 years, and they have three beautiful daughters, Dr. Jeanetta Denise Tankson, Dr. Janice Valencia Tankson, and Ms. Jamie Alicia Tankson-Cunningham who is also aspiring to acquire her doctoral degree in education. Her son-in-law, Rev. Therman Cunningham, Jr. is currently working toward a doctoral degree in theology. Mrs. Tankson also has two precious, loving granddaughters—Trinity Alicia Cunningham and Taylor LeAnn Cunningham.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Katherine Tankson for her passion and dedication to the South Delta School District in Rolling Fork, MS.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 18, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5856) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chair, I support passage of H.R. 5856, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2013, which supports our servicemembers and makes important investments in our national security and in the health, well-being, and readiness of our Armed Forces.

Our country owes a debt of gratitude to our military and their families for their service and selfless sacrifices. We in Hawaii are proud of the men and women in our military that have served and are currently serving in Afghanistan. Above all, we must also never forget those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Supporting our servicemembers and their families, whether it's during deployment or as they transition back into civilian life, is a solemn commitment we must keep.

Many of our men and women in uniform are suffering from serious wounds from their service, both visible and invisible. That's why I'm pleased to see increases in traumatic brain injury and psychological health funding as well as suicide prevention and outreach. The bill also boosts resources for peer-reviewed research on Gulf War Illness, Lou Gehrig's dis-

ease, breast cancer, prostate cancer, vision and spinal cord conditions, and many other medical research initiatives.

This legislation will further protect access to health coverage for Hawaii's military retirees, who have dedicated their careers in service to our country. Through the adoption of an amendment offered by Representative STEARNS, no funds could be used to implement a fee to enroll in TRICARE for Life.

Hawaii has a strong military presence and is home to thousands of military families. As a strong advocate for Impact Aid, I welcome the increased amount of this funding, which helps ensure the federal government does its part to support our nation's local school districts and military families and educate military-connected children.

By providing support for the operation, maintenance and procurement for our military's installations in Hawaii, including Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Schofield Barracks, and Kaneohe Marine Corps Base, H.R. 5856 protects jobs and advances President Obama's strategic refocusing on the Asia-Pacific region. The measure also affirms the critical role of our citizen soldiers and airmen in the defense of our nation in providing for critical Army equipment needs and rejecting force structure reductions and aircraft retirements proposals that would have negatively affected Air Guard and Reserve units across the country.

With turmoil continuing in the Middle East, now more than ever we must stand strong with our friend and ally Israel. This measure includes additional funding for joint U.S.-Israeli defense cooperation, and continued support for Iron Dome system, which has protected and saved lives from the daily threat of rockets aimed at towns and cities in a country surrounded by hostility and instability.

While H.R. 5856 supports our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines in Hawaii and around the world, this defense appropriations bill contains provisions that raise serious concerns. For example, this bill slows down the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan; it is over the President's budget request and over the Budget Control Act passed last year. H.R. 5856 excludes funds requested by the President for the production of domestic biofuel for our military, an important initiative our military leadership supports. Furthermore, the bill places a significant amount of our nation's resources in certain weapons systems the Defense Department neither requested nor needed.

It is my hope that Senate will address these serious issues and that we can pass a final bill that is fiscally responsible, reaffirms the American people's commitment to our servicemembers and protects our national security.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 18, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5856) making appropriations for the Department of Defense