

what it means to uncover the truth of God's Word and apply it to life.

Although Mr. Dillon has already dedicated four decades to ministry, from those early days on the sidewalks of Humboldt Park, to his current mission in Cicero, I am confident that the first 40 years are only the beginning, and that his work is not done yet!

GOVERNMENT SPENDING
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I think we can all agree that federal agencies need to be wise and judicious in their use of travel funds, and that past abuses, while very much the exception, were a wake-up call for us to exercise stricter oversight of taxpayer dollars. The Administration itself, through the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, has also sought to curb these abuses by instituting new travel caps and new reporting requirements on all agency travel and I applaud them for taking this seriously.

On the face of it, OMB's directives seem reasonable to most of us, although there is room for debate even here. The scientific community, which includes tens of thousands of federal scientists at agencies such as the Department of Energy and NASA, depend on face-to-face interaction through conferences and workshops to foster innovation and launch new scientific directions. The community, therefore, is rightfully concerned about the unintended consequences of these restrictions stifling innovation and stunting economic growth by preventing federal scientists from participating fully in scientific exchanges with their fellow scientists and engineers from across the country and the world. So I hope OMB follows closely the impact of their own rules as they are implemented.

Today, however, I speak to the shockingly onerous requirements in H.R. 4631. While OMB's new directives have a \$100,000 trigger for reporting on any given conference, in this bill, there is no trigger for the excessive laundry list of reporting requirements. And to be sure we understand each other, a conference is defined in this bill as "a meeting, retreat, seminar, symposium, or event to which an employee travels 25 miles or more to attend, that is held for consultation, education, discussion, or training; and is not held entirely at a Government facility." Imagine, then, the very real and very common situation in which a USGS scientist in Reston travels by personal vehicle to a meeting about earthquakes with other agency and non-federal scientists at a non-governmental site such as the American Geophysical Union headquarters in DC. That USGS scientist is entitled to reimbursement for fuel mileage for that trip. Are we really going to pay that scientist and other agency staff to do a complete cost-benefit analysis and meet all of the other reporting requirements in this bill over a \$30 expense? It seems to me that the additional bureaucratic resources necessary to meet this requirement will require far more than a \$30 reimbursement for gas.

Colleagues, I cannot imagine a more inefficient, bureaucratic, wasteful system than the one set up in this bill. If the goal is to make it so hard for any agency scientist to travel anywhere, anytime, for any purpose, then mission accomplished. But let us not underestimate the consequences this will have on the free and open exchange of scientific and technical knowledge and understanding between federal and non-federal scientists and for the innovation and economic benefits that follow. Nor let us underestimate the consequences this has for the ability of science agencies such as the National Science Foundation to conduct proper oversight of the several billion dollars in grants it awards to university scientists and engineers, because this bill also applies to program managers.

I urge my colleagues on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to address these concerns as the bill moves forward.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FRIENDS
OF THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF).

Established in 1981 by a group of Holocaust survivors, FIDF is committed to providing for the wellbeing of those who serve in the Israel Defense Forces. It initiates and helps support educational, social, cultural and recreational programs and facilities for the young men and women soldiers of Israel, as well as the families of fallen soldiers. FIDF's headquarters is located in New York City, but also has 14 regional offices in the United States and one office in Panama.

The Ohio Chapter of FIDF was established in 1995 and is led by co-chairs, Richard Sodof and Elie Weiss. On September 11, 2012, the Ohio Chapter of FIDF honored Mr. Robert Goldberg at its Gala Dinner.

Mr. Goldberg is currently the Chairman of the Cleveland American Israel Public Affairs Committee. He is an active member of his Israeli and Cleveland communities. Due to his dedication to the Jewish community, Mr. Goldberg has been the recipient of several awards including the Tree of Life Award, Jewish Community Federation Leadership Award, Eisenmann Award and Young Leadership Award.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Mr. Robert Goldberg and the Ohio Chapter of the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces.

HONORING COLONEL JOHN R.
BOULÉ II

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is with great appreciation for his service to the people of my district that I thank and recognize Colonel John R. Boulé II, commander of

the New York district of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I have known Colonel Boulé since he assumed command of the New York District in 2009 and have been proud to work with him on Long Island to improve navigation and protect our shores, which have a direct effect on the local economy.

Covering not only Long Island, the New York district is responsible for the Corps' water resource development, navigation and regulatory activities in northeastern New Jersey, eastern and south-central New York State, and parts of Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut. The district is also responsible for design and construction at Army and Air Force installations in New Jersey, New York and overseas in Greenland. Colonel Boulé also holds the title of Supervisor of New York Harbor.

Under Colonel Boulé's leadership, my district has directly benefited from maintenance dredging of Shinnecock Inlet, Lake Montauk Harbor and the Long Island Intracoastal Waterway. We have also benefited from the completion of the Orient Harbor (Route 25) emergency shoreline stabilization and the execution of the feasibility cost share agreement with the Town of Brookhaven for the Forge River ecosystem restoration study. Furthermore, we successfully completed an agreement with the U.S. Department of Interior on a tentative federally supported plan for the Fire Island to Montauk Point reformulation study.

Colonel Boulé is originally from Plattsburgh, New York and graduated in 1986 from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point with a Bachelors of Science in Civil Engineering. After earning two masters of science degrees from Stanford University and his professional engineer certification, he taught hydrology in the Department of Civil and Mechanical Engineering at the United States Military Academy.

Colonel Boulé served in a variety of operational, command and staff assignments in the U.S. and overseas. His most recent assignment was Assistant Director of Civil Works at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' headquarters in Washington, D.C. where he performed numerous duties until attending senior service college at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF) where he earned a masters of science in national resource strategy as a distinguished graduate in June, 2009.

Colonel Boulé's previous assignments include serving with the 16th Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Division in Furth, Germany. As a captain, he volunteered for service in Operation Desert Storm with the 27th Engineer Battalion. He then served as a staff officer and company commander with the 41st Engineer Battalion, 10th Mountain Division, deploying his unit to south Florida and Somalia in support of Operation Hurricane Andrew Relief and Operation Restore Hope. After company command, Colonel Boulé performed duties as a division plans officer. As a major, he served as the battalion executive officer of the 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment.

Upon graduating with distinction from the Naval Command and Staff College, Colonel Boulé relocated to Korea, serving as a battalion executive officer for the 2nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division. Following this tour, he was assigned to the Pentagon on Army staff, serving in the G-8, with specific duties managing current force modernization and setting the force operations. In June, 2004, Colonel Boulé assumed command of