

Defense Authorization Act to the REPI program. Specifically, the provision would authorize DoD, pursuant to a cooperative agreement under the Sikes Act, to provide funds for the long term maintenance and improvement of natural resources on non-DoD lands without first having to protect such lands through acquisition of easements. This will greatly enhance the ability of DoD to take action to relieve or eliminate current or anticipated challenges that could restrict, impede, or otherwise interfere with, whether directly or indirectly, current or anticipated military activities. For example, this provision would help DoD meet its obligations under the Endangered Species Act and other applicable statutory and regulatory requirements through actions on non-DoD lands pursuant to a cooperative agreement with a state or local agency or a private landowner. This authority would help avoid or reduce the need to restrict training and testing activities on DoD lands.

A similar version of this bill was included as section 314 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 as passed in the House of Representatives. My bill makes some improvements to section 314 and addresses concerns raised by the Department of Defense regarding percentage of funds allowed for administration of the program as well as auditing requirements. I look forward to working with the relevant Committee to incorporate this bill as a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

Again, the bill is a common sense approach to better enabling DoD to meet its conservation goals and requirements while protecting its ability to meet readiness requirements. In a time of fiscal austerity, it is important for Congress to provide the Administration with the tools and authorities to be flexible and adaptable to challenges with innovative thinking and minimal investment. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

HONORING CADET TREVOR-LEE  
TRAVIS

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 26, 2014*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cadet Trevor-Lee Travis of Missouri for his achievement and commitment to serving our country. In addition to completing the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program, Cadet Travis is being awarded the General Billy Mitchell Award and is now eligible to be promoted to the rank of Cadet 2nd Lieutenant. To complete the program and achieve this milestone, Cadet Travis had to excel in different trainings and leadership classes. He then went before a Promotion Review Board of his peers who acknowledged his achievements and awarded him this recognition. This is quite an honor as only a few distinguished cadets nationwide achieve this status.

At a young age Cadet Travis has shown an admirable commitment to serve our country and I am very thankful for patriots like him who will lead the future generation of airmen. It is my pleasure to recognize his efforts and achievements before the House of Representatives.

RECOGNITION OF THE I.C. NORCOM  
BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 26, 2014*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pride to call attention to a group of young students who have distinguished themselves, their school, their community, and the city of Portsmouth, Virginia. The I.C. Norcom Greyhounds boys' basketball team had a remarkable season and I believe the Greyhounds deserve formal recognition for their accomplishments.

On March 13, 2014, the I.C. Norcom Greyhounds beat the John Handley Judges of Winchester, Virginia, to win the Group 4A boys' state basketball championship. The Greyhounds completed their 2014 season with an impressive 23–5 record. I.C. Norcom won the championship with a nearly unbelievable comeback. Down sixteen points with seven minutes left in the game, the team went on a 21–0 run, outscoring the Judges 33–12 in the fourth quarter. At the end of the game, the Greyhounds had prevailed with a final score of 59 to 52.

I.C. Norcom's boys' basketball team has had a consistent run of excellence in recent years. With this year's championship, I.C. Norcom has won three state championships in the past five years, becoming a dominant force in Virginia high school sports.

I.C. Norcom was founded in 1913 as the High Street School, the first public high school for black students in Portsmouth. It was renamed in 1953 in honor of its first supervising principal, Israel Charles Norcom, a pioneering educator, civic leader and businessman. Now, more than 100 years and three locations later, I.C. Norcom High School is still an innovating and inspiring place for Portsmouth students.

In addition to excelling on the basketball court, the Greyhounds are also doing great things in the classroom. I.C. Norcom houses a Center of Excellence in Math and Science, which provides students with additional classes in science, math, and technology. Seniors completing the Center's curriculum this year will receive Center of Excellence Diplomas which require five science course credits, one more than necessary under the advanced diploma. In addition, I.C. Norcom students have been participating in the First College program—attending Tidewater Community College this semester and taking up to 14 college credits before they graduate. I.C. Norcom is doing a great job cultivating excellence both on and off the athletic field.

I would like to extend my enthusiastic congratulations to the I.C. Norcom players, their families, Principal Dr. Rosalynn Sanderlin, Coach Leon Goolsby and the rest of his coaching staff, on the occasion of this historic Boy's basketball Championship. On behalf of the citizens of the Third Congressional District of Virginia, I.C. Norcom alumni, and the entire city of Portsmouth, I commend them for this historic win and wish the program years of continued success in the future.

HONORING TRI-COUNTY  
WORKFORCE ALLIANCE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 26, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Community Organization, Tri-County Workforce Alliance in Clarksdale, Mississippi.

Tri-County Workforce Alliance, serving the counties of Bolivar, Coahoma, and Quitman originally with the addition of Sunflower and Tallahatchie counties in 2011, in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, is a non-profit organization funded originally by the Foundation for the Mid South through Pew Charitable Trust and the Walton Foundation.

The Alliance chose its first and only executive director, Mrs. Josephine P. Rhymes, in 1997. The Alliance did not have a 501(c)3 status; however it had as the lead organization, the Coahoma County Industrial Foundation, that did have the exempt status. In 2002, the Alliance received their 501(c)3 status and its fiscal agent at present is Coahoma Community College.

The Tri-County Workforce Alliance's mission is to improve the quality of life for people living in the three counties by promoting long-term economic and community development and by building a competitive healthy workforce through education and job training.

Through collaborative efforts with other agencies with a similar mission, Tri-County Alliance worked to support and enhance their efforts through technical support and programs and assistance with alternative funding efforts through a strong mini-grant program. They made available the resources of the Enterprise Corporation of the Delta, which offered hands-on assistance to new and existing businesses in this region in three program areas: technical assistance, development finance, and private sector purchasing.

Tri-County Workforce Alliance is an organization that is made up of people from many racial, social, and economic groups of the tri-county area, working together to find positive solutions to the individual needs of two special groups of citizens: Future Workforce members are youth in high school, junior high or middle school who need a solid academic foundation or may wish to transition from high school to the workforce; and Out-of-Workforce members are adults and youth who have been unemployed for a long time, receive public assistance, or who do not work on a regular basis.

The Alliance has been successful in that it has bridged the gap between communities, between businesses and educational institutions and has enhanced educational and training strategies for the workforce, thus enabling the Alliance to leverage additional funds from other foundations, local, state and federal government and the private sector.

Through partnerships with other organizations and agencies, Tri-County Workforce Alliance has had success with: the Summer Enrichment Program in Reading and Math, which assisted 165 at-risk 4th, 5th and 6th graders in the Clarksdale Municipal School District; the Intensive Youth Supervision Program, which assisted 60 youth offenders; and the Parent Rallies, which was designed to help parents understand their roles and responsibilities in the education of their children.