EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Chair, I strongly support the passage of the Graves amendment, of which I am a cosponsor, to establish a National Commission on the Future of the Army.

Last December, I joined with 142 of my colleagues in expressing to Defense Secretary Hagel my deep concerns about Army cost-saving proposals that would impose draconian cuts on the Army National Guard. Congress rightly rejected similar proposals that would have reduced end strength and force structure for the Air National Guard, and I am pleased that the Armed Services Committee chose to reject such proposals for the Army National Guard too.

I question the wisdom of making such cuts, considering the cost-effectiveness of the Army National Guard as a dual use force, and cost-savings that could be achieved in the Total Army by better leveraging the Operational Reserve. Blending Active and Reserve Component Army units, as the Air Force is doing, could ensure long-term budgetary savings to maintain a robust Total Army. As the Reserve Forces Policy Board (RFPB) has noted, a blended Total Army composition means more combat capability at about one-third the cost.

I believe we need to take a harder look at the future force structure of the Army, which is why a Commission is absolutely necessary. The House should fully consider and be fully informed about how the Army's proposed cuts fit into a long-term national security strategy.

With the operational reserve being rebuilt since September 11, 2001, this generation of Army National Guardsmen and Reservists has proven every bit as effective, committed, and capable as their active counterparts. These men and women have served with distinction and honor overseas, and our Nation cannot afford to lose their service. We must not go blindly down a path that would inhibit our Army's ability to respond to world events and domestic emergencies.

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Chair, I rise today to discuss an important issue facing our troops—primary blast injury and its connection to traumatic brain injury.

TBI has become the ''signature wound'' of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, with 20% soldiers deployed are estimated to have experienced a brain injury. I would like to thank Chairman McKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for their commitment to this issue in recent authorizations.

As Co-Chair and Co-Founder of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, I have spent the last thirteen years fighting for patients with brain injuries, both on and off the battlefield. We all know that traumatic brain injury (TBI) is the signature wound of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and while we made great progress on ensuring our soldiers have the best care, there is still more work to be done.

The high rate of TBI and blast-related concussion events resulting from current combat operations directly impacts the health and safety of individual service members, and subsequently the level of unit readiness and troop retention. The Department of Defense (DoD) is actively seeking strategies to prevent, mitigate, and treat blast-related injuries, including TBI.

Since I began working on this issue, our knowledge of the brain has expanded at an incredible pace. In recent years, we have made strong investments in TBI research. The DoD's Peer-Reviewed Psychological Health and TBI Research Program conducts extensive research on TBI; however, little is known about primary blast injury and its connection to TBI. Primary blast injury occurs when an explosion generates a blast wave traveling faster than sound and creating a surge of high pressure immediately followed by a vacuum. Studies show that the blast wave shoots through armor and soldiers' skulls and brains, even if it doesn't draw blood. Researchers still do not know the exact mechanisms by which primary blast injuries damages the brain's cells and circuits. However, the blast wave's pressure has been show to compress the torso, impacting blood vessels, which then send damaging energy pulses into the brain. The pressure can also be transferred partially through the skull, interacting with the brain.

My amendment would direct the Department of Defense to conduct a study on blast injury mechanics covering a wide range of primary blast injury conditions, including TBI. Understanding how a primary blast injury affects the brain is imperative to developing appropriate prevention measures, including ensuring proper equipment. I was glad to see this amendment pass the House last night, and I hope that it will be adopted in the final bill after negotiations with the Senate.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA STUDENTS

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate the University of Central Florida for winning the 2014 Raytheon National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (NCCDC). The competition, held April 25–27 in San Antonio, Texas, brought together the top ten college and university teams from across the country.

More than 180 colleges and universities and 2,000 undergraduate and graduate students participated in competitions leading up to the national championship. The Raytheon competition models real-world scenarios in which teams are required to maintain operational needs of their businesses and user demands amidst cyber attacks. Preparing the next generation of cyber security leaders is critical to defending our nation against ever-increasing threats.

Again, congratulations to the University of Central Florida team for bringing home the Raytheon NCCDC Alamo Cup and establishing the University as a national leader in cyber security.

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Chair, I ask that the following exchange of letters be included as part of the RECORD during consideration of H.R. 4435:

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In recognition of the importance of expediting the passage of H.R. 4435, the ''Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Bill,'' the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence hereby waives further consideration of the bill. The Committee has jurisdictional interests in H.R. 4435, including intelligence and intelligence-related authorizations and provisions contained in the bill.

The Committee takes this action only with the understanding that this procedural route should not be construed to prejudice the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence's jurisdictional interest over this bill or any similar bill and will not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to the Committee in the future, including in connection with any subsequent consideration of the bill by the House. In addition, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence will seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation.

Finally, I would ask that you include a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter in the Congressional Record during the House debate on H.R. 4435. I appreciate the constructive work between our committees on this matter and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

MIKE ROGERS,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2014.

Hon. MIKE ROGERS,
Chairman, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I agree that the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman, House Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCKEON: I write to you regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. There are certain provisions of this legislation that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security.

In the interest of permitting the Committee on Armed Services to proceed expeditiously to the House floor, I will not seek a sequential referral of H.R. 4435. However, I do so only with the mutual understanding that the jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security over matters contained in this or similar legislation is in no way diminished or altered. I further request that you urge the Speaker to name Members of this Committee to any conference committee that is named to consider such provisions.

Finally, I request you include this letter and your response into the committee report on H.R. 4435 and into the Congressional Record. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2014.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I am most appreciative of your support and interest in this important legislation. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCKEON: I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. This legislation contains subject matter within the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, however in order to expedite floor consideration of this important legislation, the Committee waives consideration of the bill.

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs takes this action only with the understanding that the committee's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered.

The committee also reserves the right to seek appointment to any House-Senate conference on this legislation and requests your support if such a request is made. Finally, I would appreciate your including this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 4435 on the House Floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF MILLER,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2014.

Hon. JEFF MILLER,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I agree that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCKEON: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on the Judiciary in matters being considered in H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

Our committee recognizes the importance of H.R. 4435 and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Therefore, while we have a valid claim to jurisdiction over the bill, I do not intend to request a sequential referral. This, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that nothing in this legislation or my decision to forego a sequential referral waives, reduces, or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee, and that a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest will be included in the Committee Report and as part of the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill by the House.

The Judiciary Committee also asks that you support our request to be conferees on the provisions over which we have jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2014.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I agree that the Committee on the Judiciary has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on the Judiciary is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. This legislation contains subject matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources, including:

Sec. 602. No fiscal year 2015 increase in basic pay for general and flag officers

Sec. 611. One-year extension of certain expiring bonus and special pay authorities

Sec. 2841. Land conveyance, Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial, La Jolla, California

Sec. 2861, Memorial to the victims of the shooting attack at the Washington Navy Yard

Sec. 2864, Designation of Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial in Riverside, California

Sec. 2865, Renaming site of Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, Ohio

Sec. 2866, Manhattan Project National Historical Park

Title 29, Subtitle A—Naval Air Station Fallon, Nevada

Sec. 2911, Redesignation of Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area, California

Sec. 2921, Elimination of termination date for public land withdrawals and reservations under Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1999

Title 29, Subtitle D—Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, California

Title 29, Subtitle D—White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico

Sec. xxx, National security considerations for inclusion of federal property on National Register of Historic Places or designation as National Historic Landmark under the National Historic Preservation Act

To expedite floor consideration of this important legislation, and because of the extensive cooperation shown by you and your staff, the Committee will forego seeking a sequential referral of the bill. The Natural Resources Committee takes this action only with the understanding that the Committee's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered.

The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment to any House-Senate conference on this legislation and requests your support if such a request is made. Finally, I would appreciate your including this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 4435 on the House Floor.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2014.

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I agree that the Committee on Natural Resources has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Natural Resources is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman.

HONORING LTC (RETIRED) NICOLETTE WHEELER

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a constituent of the Sixth District of Georgia, Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Nicolette Wheeler of the U.S. Army. Following a successful career, LTC Wheeler retired from the Army and moved with her husband to Alpharetta, Georgia. In 1995, LTC Wheeler was hired by the Fulton County School System to be the Senior Army Instructor at Roswell High School. In 2001, she was appointed to move to Central Administration to lead all 8 programs as the Director of Army Instruction.

Since being hired, LTC Wheeler has been recognized multiple times for her contributions to students and others: State Rifle Coach of the Year (2000), ''Service Above Self'' Award—Roswell Rotary (2001), JROTC Director of the Year—United States Army Cadet Command (2005), and State Outstanding Career and Technical Educator, JROTC Division (2009 and 2011). However, LTC Wheeler has been so much more than just a distinguished instructor and coordinator for the JROTC during her time in the Fulton County School System. Her students have always been her number one priority. She has been there to provide support and encouragement no matter if a student's ambition is an appointment to a service academy or passing an entrance exam to become a member of the United States Armed Forces.

At the end of this current school year, LTC Wheeler will retire. This is a bittersweet moment for all those students, past and present, whose lives she has dedicated herself to bettering. She has inspired all who have had the opportunity to work with her. Her tireless work on behalf of our community and country, her quiet leadership, and her collaborative spirit has not gone unnoticed and are deeply appreciated. Therefore, it is on behalf of the people of the Sixth District that I want to thank LTC Nicolette Wheeler for her years of outstanding and exemplary service.

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of language Representative DOUG LAMBORN offered when the Committee on Armed Services marked-up the National Defense Authorization Act.

Like most Americans, I remain concerned about Iran's state sponsorship of terrorism, its horrendous human rights record, its efforts to destabilize its neighbors, its pursuit of intercontinental ballistic missiles, and its threats against our ally, Israel, as well as the fates of American citizens detained by Iran. I remain extremely alarmed by Iran's pursuit of uranium enrichment and plutonium separation efforts. In spite of Iran's statements to the contrary, I am concerned that these materials are in fact part of a nuclear weapons program. The pursuit of nuclear materials under the proclamation of peaceful energy initiatives raises some serious concerns when coming from a country with a terrible human rights record and ties to terrorist groups. It is both a necessity and a priority that the United States ensure that Iran does not have a nuclear weapon.

On November 24, 2013, Iran accepted the terms of an international proposal to temporarily halt further expansion of its nuclear program, in return for relief from economic sanctions. While this proposal would in theory limit Iran's nuclear enrichment program, it does nothing to prevent Iran from pursuing a warhead or nuclear delivery system for a nuclear weapon or curtailing other issues that are threats to U.S. security and the security of our allies. That is why I am supportive of Representative LAMBORN's amendment. This amendment makes it crystal clear, that it is the intent of the United States Congress that the U.S. should only agree to a comprehensive agreement on Iran's nuclear program if Iran ceases uranium enrichment, ceases all of their nuclear, chemical, biological, chemical weapon programs, ballistic missile program, and ballistic launch site technology and Iran has ceased providing support for international terrorist.

The United States government must use every tool possible to deter threats from Iran. Economic sanctions remain an important and necessary tool to deterring aggressive actions. Should the United States provide any relief from these Congressional mandated sanctions, it is imperative that Iran halt all activities that are threatening to our national interests. Mr. LAMBORN's amendment is an important and appropriate addition to the National Defense Authorization Act, and I look forward to seeing it included in law.

CONGRATULATING R.L. TURNER HIGH SCHOOL'S NAVY ROTC FOR THE DISTINGUISHED UNIT AWARD

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate R.L. Turner High School's Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) program, in Carrollton, Texas, for being recognized with the Distinguished Unit Award based on performance and service during the 2013–2014 school year.

The NJROTC Distinguished Unit designation is awarded annually to schools whose program ranks in the top 30 percent of units throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Competing units are ranked according to the degree of excellence attained in administration, military proficiency, and host school support. Accordingly, R.L. Turner High School and the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District have contributed to the strong support and development of the NJROTC program

R.L. Turner High School's NJROTC is a citizen leadership program designed to develop informed and responsible young men and women who embody honor, integrity, loyalty, courage, and respect for authority in a democratic society.

In addition to achieving numerous accolades, the R.L. Turner's NJROTC program, under the leadership of Lieutenant Martin Caro, U.S. Navy (Ret.) and Master Chief Martin Wesley, U. S. Navy (Ret.), is actively involved in service programs throughout the local community. The cadets volunteer for various color guard events, Veterans Day events, and parades. In addition, the NJROTC participates in the March of Dimes, Toys for Tots, and the Dallas Day of Service.