

resident most of her life, Mrs. Brown used her skills and personality to work with Federal agencies, Congress and the fire service community to achieve the goal of a safer America.

As a congressional staffer in 1982, Mrs. Brown successfully coordinated the effort to continue the U.S. Fire Administration after its recommended elimination. Also, Mrs. Brown was instrumental in the passage of many important pieces of legislation, including the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act, the Hotel and Motel Fire Safety Act of 1990, and the Fire Administration Authorization Act of 1992, which led to the establishment of the "National Fallen Firefighters Foundation".

President William J. Clinton and a parade of witnesses testified on her behalf 20 years ago at her nomination hearing. I was proud to testify at her hearing myself to assist her in making history as the first female African American U.S. fire administrator. As U.S. Fire Administrator, her management innovations included the development of the first complete and transparent budget accountability system, and the establishment of a fair and equitable pay and promotion policy. With her extensive background as a congressional staffer, she developed strong justifications for the largest budget increase in the 25-year history of the agency. Under her strong leadership, the agency implemented the first fire safety program targeting groups at the highest risk of fire.

Mrs. Brown has traveled widely to speak on women becoming successful in government, women as leaders and managers in non-traditional positions, and the joys and perils of a political appointee. After retiring from the Federal government, she worked for over a decade as a teacher and tutor for students with learning differences in Washington, D.C. Her husband Larry and herself, have three children and one grandson. Our nation is better because of Mrs. Brown.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Mrs. Carrye B. Brown for her dedicated public service and her many accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, due to a family obligation, I was unable to vote in the House on Wednesday, May 21st, therefore I am not recorded as voting. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: rollcall No. 223, I would have voted "nay"; rollcall No. 224, I would have voted "nay", rollcall No. 225, I would have voted "no"; rollcall No. 226, I would have voted "no"; rollcall No. 227, I would have voted "aye"; rollcall No. 228, I would have voted "yea"; rollcall No. 229, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 4031, the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014, of which I was an original co-sponsor.

TRIBUTE TO HARVEY DOUMA

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Harvey Douma, who has devoted his life to Ripon, California and is being honored with the Harvey Douma Lifetime Achievement Award from the Ripon Rotary Club. The club created this award to recognize and honor a Rotary member who has made immeasurable contributions to the club and named it after a charter member. Harvey will be the first recipient.

In 1918, Harvey Douma arrived in Ripon when he was only a year and a half of age. The family made the trip from Northern Michigan in their seven passenger car. The clutch went out on the trip and they took the train for the remainder of their journey. They arrived in Lathrop on November 17, where they waited, for eight hours, to transfer to another train that would take them to the Ripon, California.

When he came of age, Harvey enlisted in the Merchant Marines. He attended basic training on Catalina Island during World War II. His first duty station assignment was to a troop transport on a ship that was in dry dock at San Pedro, California.

After completing his service to his country, he returned to Ripon. He joined the Ripon Police Department, where he was a member for 31 years. Harvey served as Chief of Police from October 1, 1963 to May 26, 1982, which is the longest tenure of any police chief in Ripon history.

In 1968, at the 6th Annual Ripon Almond Blossom Festival, the Ripon Chamber of Commerce dedicated the festival to salute local law enforcement with emphasis to be placed on "Operation Crime Stop". They named Harvey as the Grand Marshal of the parade. He also had the honor of serving as Grand Marshal of Ripon High School's Centennial Parade & Celebration. As a 1935 Ripon High School graduate, he is the oldest living alumnus.

As one that gives back to his community, he is a member of several community organizations. As a charter member of the Ripon Rotary Club, he has earned 2 Paul Harris Awards. In addition, he is a charter member of Ripon's Historical Society, life member of the Chamber of Commerce and served as President in 1970; he has been a member of the Safety Council for over 55 years. When he is not volunteering his time, he enjoys fishing, hunting and travel.

In 1939, Harvey married Etta Mae Ramsey. They were married for 58 years until her death in 1997. Their union produced three children; Linda Perrando, Donna Vincelet Brundy, and Donald Douma. They have 6 grandchildren: Diane Wong, Greg & Roger Vincelet; Mike & Mark Perrando; Stacey Cordoba & Dorine Hatcher and 7 great-grandchildren: Lyndsey & Kyle Wong; Megan Vincelet Van Ruiten & Cody Vincelet; Jordyn & Jayse Vincelet; Julia Hatcher, Deceased.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating with the Ripon Rotary Club in honoring Harvey Douma with the Harvey Douma Lifetime Achievement Award. He is a man who dedicated numerous years of selfless service to the betterment of our community.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

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. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, today I was proud to vote to approve H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2015. The NDAA is the key mechanism to provide necessary authorities and funding for America's military.

Even in an era of constrained taxpayer resources, it is essential that we find ways to ensure our military has the funding necessary to carry out its mission. The FY15 NDAA provides a responsible fiscal balance and prioritizes the critical tools our troops need to maintain and perform as the finest fighting force in the world. The bill also provides our warfighters, and their families, with the support and care that we have promised them.

One area that was minimally addressed was the size and growth of the civilian workforce at the Department of Defense (DoD). The NDAA tasks GAO to assess DoD's headquarter reduction efforts, building off its previous work conducted for the committee on examining growth in DOD headquarters. However, I believe Congress must go a step further in addressing the growth of the civilian workforce, especially as we draw down our uniformed personnel. It is important to note that:

From FY01 to FY14, the civilian staff has grown by 15 percent while total active military has declined by 4 percent;

The ratio of civilian workers to uniformed personnel is the highest in recent history despite the draw down in Iraq and Afghanistan;

There are currently 718,000 civilian personnel versus 1.3 million active duty, a ratio that is out of balance.

This imbalance is why I introduced the Rebalance for an Effective Defense Uniform and Civilian Employees Act (REDUCE Act, H.R. 4257). The REDUCE Act would require the Department of Defense to make necessary reductions in a systematic manner without compromising our ability to maintain a strong national defense over the long term.

The REDUCE Act would:

Reduce our defense civilian workforce by 15 percent by FY 2020. This percentage was recommended by the Defense Business Board, a trusted, authoritative, and independent source of expertise.

The Department of Defense civilian workforce would remain at or below this established cap of a 15 percent reduction for Fiscal Years 2021 through 2025.

The Department of Defense civilian Senior Executive Service career appointee workforce will be reduced to 1,000 by 2020 and remain at or below 1,000 employees for Fiscal Years 2021 through 2025.

Provide the Secretary of Defense the authority to use voluntary separation incentive

payments and voluntary early retirement payments in order to achieve the required reductions in personnel.

Provide the Secretary of Defense the authority to assign greater weight to the performance factor, rather than other factors such as tenure, in a Reduction in Force.

There is no doubt that our DoD civilian workers play a vital role in numerous positions including logistics, acquisition, personnel management, and more. The mission of the civilian workforce at DoD is to support our uniformed personnel and their missions around the world. However, as we draw down our uniformed personnel, it makes no sense to not make commensurate reductions to the civilian workforce—a practice that has occurred in previous drawdowns.

As Members of Congress, we should not let parochial interests prevent us from doing what is right for the country. Simply stated, it is inconceivable, defies logic and tramples the lessons of experience that a federal civilian job, once created, must live on forever. If our uniformed services are being reduced because the wars are ending, then a significant portion of the civilian jobs created to support those warfighters should be eliminated—not become contractor positions. Those jobs must be eliminated and done so at the legislative mandate of the Congress and at the executive discretion of the Secretary of Defense.

In closing, I would like to mention that this was the last NDAA brought to the House floor by my good friend and the Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Rep. BUCK MCKEON (CA–25). I want to thank Chairman MCKEON for all of the hard work and dedication he has demonstrated on behalf of our troops and their families throughout his service here in the House.

HONORING SERGEANT KYLE
WHITE

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Sergeant Kyle White. Sgt. White was awarded the highest honor in the military, the Medal of Honor for meritorious conduct, by President Barack Obama on May 13, 2014.

Like his fellow soldiers, he is accustomed to running toward danger instead of away, but Sgt. White's courage is above and beyond the ordinary. He repeatedly ran the gauntlet of enemy fire to get to wounded and fallen soldiers, regardless of his personal safety. In an ambush in November of 2007 Sgt. White, who was barely 20 years old, stayed with a wounded and fallen soldier for the duration, calling in reports and directing others so that the wounded and dead could be safely evacuated. It is my privilege and greatest honor to represent our Veterans in Congress and I applaud the decision to award him with this medal. It is well deserved.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Sgt. Kyle White, and I thank him for the many sacrifices he has made in service to our nation.

RECOGNIZING MR. ROBERT ISHAM

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent from Nevada's First Congressional District, Robert Isham. A young Mr. Isham enlisted in the United States Navy on November 4, 1942, in Seattle, Washington. He then attended Basic Training in San Diego, California. Following his graduation from the Naval Air Technical Training Center in Norman, Oklahoma, where he was trained to be an Aviation Machinist Mate, he was transferred to the Virginia Naval Air Station in Norfolk, Virginia.

On September 17, 1943, Mr. Isham was seriously injured in an explosion and fire at the Virginia Naval Air Station when a 300 pound depth charge exploded, setting off a chain reaction of 23 more charges. Thirty-three aircraft and at least 15 buildings across the base were destroyed. Many were killed and a number of individuals, including Mr. Isham, were badly hurt.

Following a three month stay at Norfolk Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia, Mr. Isham bravely returned to duty and was transferred to Quonset Point Naval Air Station in Rhode Island, where he taught courses on aircraft structures. Following a year in Rhode Island, Mr. Isham was transferred to Corvallis, Oregon, and became a Plane Captain on a F4U Corsair fighter aircraft.

Mr. Isham was discharged from the United States Navy on December 10, 1945. He was only rated as 10% disabled as a result of shrapnel wounds sustained during the tragic explosion in Norfolk, Virginia. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the American Area Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Recently, my office in Las Vegas worked with Robert and the Department of Veterans Affairs to increase his disability rating to 100%, ensuring he receives the benefits he deserved.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day, we will take time to remember many members of the Greatest Generation who have passed away. Today, I ask the House to pause for a moment of gratitude in honor of my constituent, Mr. Robert "Bob" Isham, a member of the Greatest Generation and a decorated American hero.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF U.S. FOREIGN AND AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE ASSOCIATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th Anniversary of the U.S. Foreign Service and the American Foreign Service Association. Created by the Foreign Services Act of 1924, the Foreign Service brought together the U.S. State Department's Diplomatic Service and Consular Service to be the face, heart and soul of America abroad. Through a World War and various hot and

cold wars across the globe since, the men and women of the Foreign Service have played vital roles in representing the United States of America, serving U.S. citizens, and securing U.S. interest near and far.

Much has changed since the initial formation of the Foreign Service following World War I. But a few things have remained the same over these ninety years. Among them are the professionalism and dedication of those who often leave the creature comforts we have come to enjoy on our hallowed shores to serve in remote and distant places often with little recognition or notoriety for a cause far greater than themselves. I rise today to recognize them not only for the crises they led U.S. through, but also for the many crises they allowed our country to avert through their diligence, intellect, intuition, compassion and steely resolve to be champions for peace, democracy and basic humanity. I rise to recognize them for the service, care and comfort they provide to our citizens while abroad reminding them that the supporting hand of American is never far away.

Our world has become more globally networked and intertwined since the early days of "hand shake, face-to-face" diplomacy. Revolution can start in days now not months. Economic interests often go crosswise with security, social, or political interests. Adversaries on some issues are often allies on others and we look to the members of the Foreign Service to navigate and represent the nuances of American foreign policy. Yet time after time, year after year, crisis after crisis, issue after issue they have always owned up to the challenge and America and the world are the better for it.

Not only do we celebrate today the 90th Anniversary of the Foreign Service but also the 90th Anniversary of the American Foreign Services Association (AFSA) which was formed as the professional association of the modern Foreign Service and later became the official representative and advocate for our Foreign Service professionals. Initially formed with the Foreign Service in mind, the Association has expanded to represent not only Foreign Service retired and active employees of the Department of State and USAID but also the distinguished Foreign Agricultural Service and Foreign Commercial Service employees, Broadcasting Board of Governors and Foreign Service employees at the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. We stand today to celebrate this wonderful organization that has for ninety years served those who serve us.

Through the years AFSA has been stellar in fulfilling its mission of promoting a strong, effective professional career Foreign Service as the institutional backbone of American diplomacy, enhancing the effectiveness of the Foreign Service, protecting the professional interests and rights of its members, ensuring the maintenance of high professional standards for all American diplomats, career or political appointees, and promoting understanding of the critical role of diplomacy and development in promoting America's national security and economic prosperity. AFSA has been and continues to be an effective voice and strong advocate for the Foreign Service with its members' management, the Congress and the American public.

Finally, Mr. Speaker we can take comfort in this year of celebrating the Foreign Service's 90th Anniversary that whether it is a crisis in