

deaths in attacks on election day, and a quick certification of results in order to set the stage for a runoff election, but more work remains to be done.

Votes from 331 polling stations were invalidated and removed from the final tabulations. Reports of voter and election monitor intimidation persist. Reports of attempts to bribe election monitors have occurred. Reports of SMS and texting capabilities being suspended on election day exist. Concerns remain about the lack of transparency and activities of the Afghan Independent Election Commission and the Electoral Complaints Commission. Seventeen members of the Afghan National Security Forces were killed in attacks on election day. And female voter participation and protection remains at a level below what Afghan males enjoy.

In light of these issues, House Resolution 600 commends the Government of Afghanistan for holding the first round of elections and scheduling a second; expresses support for a credible, inclusive, and transparent runoff election; supports the mandate of Afghan electoral bodies to prevent voter fraud and misconduct; encourages the Government of Afghanistan to implement measures that will increase voter participation, particularly among Afghan females; and urges the security force to continue to provide protection to vulnerable areas of the country during the election period, as well as recognizing the sacrifices of those forces that have contributed and will continue to contribute to the security and stability of Afghanistan.

This is an exciting time for Afghanistan, Mr. Speaker, and this election is an important one. American forces have been in Afghanistan now for a decade, and most of them are now coming home. This election will be crucial in proving to the world that Afghanistan is ready again to chart its own course and to provide its own security.

I wish the Afghan people well in this endeavor.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND
SPACE ADMINISTRATION AU-
THORIZATION ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 4412, the NASA Authorization Act of 2014, which was approved by the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with unanimous bipartisan support.

The bill reaffirms Congress's commitment to space exploration, both human and robotic, and the bill makes clear that human spaceflight to Mars is NASA's primary goal. Taking into account the unfortunate—but realistic—budget constraints on NASA, the legislation affirms a stepping stone approach to exploration in a go-as-you-can-afford-to-pay manner by requiring an exploration roadmap.

I believe a sustained presence on the Moon would be an indispensable part of such a roadmap to Mars, and I introduced bipartisan

NASA authorization legislation last year to accomplish this. I would expect a realistic roadmap to Mars to include lunar exploration, and should this roadmap approach become law I look forward to future discussions with NASA on meaningful missions that will get us to Mars.

The legislation continues the consistent guidance Congress has given to NASA for the development of the Space Launch System and the Orion Crew Vehicle to move forward with serious human exploration of space. Currently, the bill supports a robust commercial crew effort to restore American access to low earth orbit and the International Space Station. Considering certain geopolitical events in the news, it is paramount to ensure that we can launch American astronauts on American rockets from American soil as soon as possible.

Finally, I would like to thank Chairman SMITH for working with me on bill language to improve security for NASA's information, technology and operations. NASA facilities, personnel, technologies, and information are highly regarded and of great interest to the world. That interest extends to some countries, governments, organizations, and individuals whose intent is to compromise those facilities, co-opt the personnel, and steal those technologies and information. The bill includes language to help mitigate this threat.

HONORING MR. MATTHEW A.
MAYEAUX AS A MEMBER OF THE
UNITED STATES MILITARY
ACADEMY CLASS OF 2014

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Matthew A. Mayeaux as a member of the United States Military Academy Class of 2014.

Matthew graduated from the U.S. Military Academy with a degree in Human Geography and he received a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army on May 28, 2014.

His career in the service has just begun, but it is a testament to Matthew's unselfish devotion to the people of this great nation. The challenges will be many and the time, although it may seem like an eternity, will fly by almost unnoticed.

The challenge for this young man will be to retain as much as possible, pass what he learns to others, and live life for every moment.

South Mississippi is proud of Matthew and his accomplishments, and we look forward to his continuing to represent not only Mississippi, but the entire nation, as a United States Army officer.

As Matthew embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he may always recall with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment graduating from a program as prestigious as the Military Academy.

I would like to send Matthew my best wishes for continued success in his future endeavor.

ors, thank him for his service, and congratulate him on this momentous occasion.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOP-
MENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMIN-
ISTRATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4800) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition of the proposed language that provides schools with waivers for meeting school meal standards. As the House considers the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015, I press my colleagues to support an amendment striking this waiver from the bill.

Congress has made great progress in improving the health of our nation's students. Since the passage of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 school lunches and breakfasts have become healthier.

In my District's Gahr High School, Food Service Cafeteria Manager, Linda Harbin, notes that the menu at Gahr High School and other schools in the ABC Unified School District changed drastically since the new school food guidelines began implementation. On average, Gahr High School serves 450 meals for lunch and before the new meal requirements they were only serving about 250 meals. Harbin meets monthly with about 100 other school food service workers in my District, and is hearing they are having similar experiences with increases in meals being purchased and decreases in "plate waste". Requiring school meal standards is working.

Students are currently served lower calorie meals with more fruits, vegetables and whole grains, helping reduce their risk for obesity, type 2 diabetes and other chronic diseases. For many children, the meals they eat in school are the most nutritious meals they eat all week. With increasing rates of childhood poverty and obesity, coupled with a difficult economy and rising food costs, many families cannot afford more nutritious foods and rely on school meals as a quality source of nutrition for their children.

We cannot waiver our support for improving the health of our students.

As the House considers the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015, I ask that my colleagues join me in opposing language that provides schools with waivers for meeting school meal standards. Let's work together to keep our kids healthy.