

clean energy economy. We should be able to do better than this.

The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill is usually something that we can all find common ground on—the importance of standing up for our nation’s veterans transcends partisan battles. This year, however, the bill Republican leadership put on the floor not only shortchanged our veterans and servicemen and women, but the modest increase in spending over last year’s bill will require cuts to critical public spending on education, health care, and infrastructure in later appropriations bills. Even veterans service organizations like Veterans of Foreign Wars urged opposition. The bill also included a policy rider preventing the transfer of detainees from the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, a prison whose very existence undermines America’s security and international standing. Further, part of the spending of this bill is through the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) fund, an unrelated war slush-fund that is exempt from all budget caps.

During consideration of this bill, I offered an amendment that would have allowed VA doctors to recommend medical marijuana to their patients in the states where it was legal if they so choose. Our veterans should have the same medicines available to them as everyone else, and we should not prohibit VA doctors from consulting with their patients in accordance with their medical training and state law. I am disappointed that my amendment very narrowly failed, but I remain encouraged that we continue to build momentum in this issue, and gained significantly more bipartisan support than last year.

The Energy and Water appropriations bill, while it contains some infrastructure funds that are critical to ports, waterways and freight movement integral to Oregon’s economy, ultimately contained too many provisions bad for the environment for me to support. It prohibits the Army Corps of Engineers from finalizing and implementing rules to ensure clean water in streams and wetlands that provide drinking water for one in three Americans. It dramatically underfunds renewable energy support programs, while propping up fossil fuels and nuclear weapons spending, and delivers deep cuts to programs that assist low income families with energy bills. It also contains nonsense amendments, such as a measure to prevent the Department of Energy from implementing a law requiring incandescent light bulbs to be more energy efficient, even though American manufacturers have already adopted the new standard.

In addition, both of these bills adhere to the Republican budget’s overall spending caps that account for sequestration. These caps reflect the lowest discretionary spending we’ve seen in ten years, and we simply cannot continue to cut government programs that are so critical to environmental protection, health, education, economic stability and defense.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 RESTON ASSOCIATION SERVICE AWARDS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**  
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Friday, May 1, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 2014 Reston

Association Service Awards. The Reston Association (RA) is the largest homeowners’ association in Virginia and one of the largest in the country with more than 21,000 homes under its jurisdiction. Among other roles, RA serves as the steward of Reston’s architectural aesthetics, recreational amenities, and environmental resources.

RA relies on hundreds of volunteers and dedicated staff who serve on boards, committees, and projects to carry out its mission to keep Reston a model community where all can “Live, Work, Play, and Get Involved.” I am pleased to submit the names of the outstanding 2014 honorees.

2014 Reston Association Volunteer of the Year—Mark Elder

Mark Elder has volunteered his time as a tennis instructor for the last two years. He fills the gaps and works interchangeably with RA staff instructors. Mark gives his time willingly, energetically and consistently to the youth tennis community to ensure programs like this and many others are successful.

2014 Reston Association Volunteer Group of the Year—Senior Movie Day Volunteers (Laura & John Cole, Pat Coshland, Michelina Johnson, Kurt McJilton, Otto & Rosemarie Tubito)

This dynamic group of volunteers is the backbone of Senior Movie Day in Reston Town Center, which benefits up to 400 seniors each month. The group has been volunteering since 2007 and contributes 150 hours annually, thereby reducing staff time needed to put on this great community event for the seniors in our community.

2014 Reston Association Community Partner of the Year—Clarke

For three consecutive years, Clarke has selected Reston for the Annual Clarke Day of Caring. Clarke employees monitor for mosquito larvae in Reston’s restored streams and help educate RA’s watershed staff on mosquito collection and identification. More than a dozen Clarke employees spend a full day removing invasive plants and removing trash from streams and other natural areas. This commitment to Reston and corporate volunteerism makes Clarke a standout partner.

2014 Employee of the Year—Rob Tucker

For 15 years Reston community members have been fortunate to see the smiling face of Rob Tucker on RA tennis courts. His passion for tennis is equal to his commitment to the community and the RA staff. He provides top-notch customer service, personalized instruction, and overall cheerleading for the RA tennis programs. RA and the entire community couldn’t find a better advocate for the tennis and recreation programs available to Reston members.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2014 Reston Association Service Awards and in thanking them for dedicating their time, energy, and resources to the improvement of the quality of life and health of the Reston community.

RECOGNIZING THE LAKE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. ROBERT J. DOLD**  
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Friday, May 1, 2015*

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lake County Chamber of Com-

merce which is celebrating its one hundredth anniversary this year. Established in 1915 as the Waukegan Chamber of Commerce, the Lake County Chamber of Commerce has undergone significant change and has prospered despite difficulties over the past one hundred years.

Today the Chamber assists businesses and citizens through weekly events catered to improving opportunities for networking and marketing. In short, Mr. Speaker, the Chamber successfully works to advance the overall welfare and prosperity of Lake County citizens and small businesses.

I offer my most sincere congratulations to The Lake County Chamber of Commerce for its success in helping to strengthen our community and wish them continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANN WAGNER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 1, 2015*

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, April 30 and Friday, May 1, 2015, I was proud to join my son, Raymond Wagner, III in Fort Campbell, Kentucky and participate in the ceremony marking his promotion to Captain in the United States Army.

Due to the extraordinary nature of this event, I was unable to be in Washington, D.C. and vote on legislative business during this time.

On Adoption of the Conference Report to accompany S. Con. Res. 11—FY2016 Budget Resolution (Roll Call Vote #183), had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Passage of H.R. 2029—Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (Roll Call Vote #193), had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Passage of H.J. Res. 43—Disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act of 2014 (Roll Call Vote #194), had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Passage of H.R. 2028—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (Roll Call Vote #215), had I been present I would have voted yes.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under