

"All the power resides in the children. I don't think it's my drawing at all," she said.

FULBRIGHT PROGRAM GRANTEES

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2017

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize several outstanding individuals from my district who have received prestigious Fulbright awards during this past academic year. They are Cristaly Carrion, Debra Darnell, Emilio Feijoo, Joy Hazell and Mark Simpson.

Established by Congress in 1946, the Fulbright Program attempts to forge relations between Americans and emerging leaders around the globe through international education exchange. Each year, over 3,000 U.S. students and professionals in a myriad of disciplines are offered merit-based Fulbright grants to lecture, study, and conduct research all over the world. Alumni of the Fulbright Program have gone on to achieve distinction in science, the arts, business, and several other fields.

The five grantees from my constituency traveled to a diverse array of host countries—Cristaly to Spain, Debra to Peru, Emilio to the United Kingdom, Joy to Dominica, and Mark to Rwanda. Under the Fulbright Program, they worked with a wide range of partners and gained valuable skills and expertise that will serve them well in any endeavors they may wish to pursue. The relationships they formed will help build a foundation of trust on which the U.S. may advance global peace and security.

I congratulate Cristaly, Debra, Emilio, Joy and Mark on their outstanding honors, and wish them the best of luck as they continue toward their academic and professional aspirations.

HONORING MR. DAVID SMITH

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2017

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. David Smith for his nearly 50 years of service as a Professor of Music at Western Connecticut State University and for his community leadership in Danbury, Connecticut. Mr. Smith retired this year from his role at WCSU, and I thank him for his long commitment to encouraging students and their passion for music.

Percussion has been David's life work. As a student of music, David excelled in both his undergraduate and master's degree studies. He then began working as a Professor of Music at WCSU in 1970, and David demonstrated a remarkable ability to connect with and inspire thousands of students. His excellence in teaching and dedication to helping students was widely recognized, and he received Connecticut's Higher Education Music Educator of the Year Award in 1995 and WCSU's Teacher Excellence Awards in 2010. David touched the lives of countless students,

and his legacy in musical education at WCSU and in our state will be remembered for generations.

In addition to his career as a professor, David also worked as a percussionist in several orchestras, including the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, the Ives Symphony Orchestra, the Bridgeport Symphony, and the Ridgefield Orchestra.

Mr. Speaker, David Smith committed his career to teaching and public service, and his devotion to his students, his work, and his community will have lasting impacts. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor Mr. David Smith here today. I offer my best wishes for a well-deserved and restful retirement.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2810) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 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:

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of Amendment No. 18, and I'm proud to be a cosponsor of it.

The amendment authorizes \$15 million for an innovative program known as Hacking for Defense. I'm proud this was originally piloted at Stanford University in my Congressional District and has since expanded to six other colleges and universities around the country.

Hacking for Defense offers our country's best and brightest students the opportunity to work directly with our nation's military to identify our most urgent national security threats.

Students design innovative solutions using a lean-startup model that can quickly lead to the procurement of new technologies that solve real-world problems facing our military and the warfighter.

Hacking for Defense integrates entrepreneurship with public service and helps the federal government become more flexible and less bureaucratic in its approach to problem solving, something Congress has long sought to foster.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan amendment.

GEORGE TAKACS

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2017

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of George Takacs, a student at Gulf Coast High School in Naples, who recently committed to play football at the University of Notre Dame. By signing his commitment, George fulfilled a life-long dream to attend the University he has admired throughout his life.

Selected as an Army All-American, George has proven his dedication to the sport and achieving his goals. He will be on the field with some of the finest athletes in the country, while pursuing his academic goals with some of the finest scholars in the world.

I congratulate George on his perseverance and look forward to seeing what he will accomplish in South Bend over the course of his collegiate career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2017

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes yesterday due to my participation in a health care listening session in Lexington, Kentucky, with Vice President Mike Pence. As vice chair of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee, this was another great opportunity for me to hear firsthand from Kentucky's small business owners about their experiences providing health insurance for their employees. Had I been present, I would have voted on Roll Call No. 345, Yea; Roll Call No. 346, Yea; Roll Call No. 347, Yea; Roll Call No. 348, Aye; Roll Call No. 349, Yea; Roll Call No. 350, No; Roll Call No. 351, No; Roll Call No. 352, Aye.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2810) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 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:

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Sinema-Fitzpatrick-Budd amendment to H.R. 2810, the Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act.

I thank Chairman Thornberry and Ranking Member Smith for their support of our amendment and for including it in the en bloc package.

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) continues to represent a clear threat to the security of the United States and our allies, and to stability in the Middle East.

While ISIL has lost significant territory over the last six months, the terrorist organization continues to oppress and murder civilians in Syria and Iraq and spread its message of violence and hate across the globe.

ISIL's perverted orthodoxy and efforts to support and inspire attacks in the United States and elsewhere are direct threats to our security and safety.

We must do all we can to accelerate ISIL's destruction.

Our bipartisan amendment ensures that the Report on the United States Strategy in Syria