

world. This conference report will ensure that our military remains the best-trained, best-equipped, and best prepared force to continue confronting these evolving challenges. To that end, I am pleased that this legislation authorizes an across-the-board 4.1 percent pay increase, along with targeted increases of up to 6.5 percent for N.C.O.s and officers. This represents the fourth largest increase for military personnel since 1982. In addition, this legislation also includes provisions for improvements to health care and education for our service members, provisions I consider crucial to increasing the recruiting and retention rates of highly qualified military personnel.

As a member of the House Budget Committee, I have fought to recognize the immeasurable contributions of America's disabled veterans by being a strong proponent for concurrent receipt. I believe disabled military retirees deserve both disability and retirement benefits, therefore I am pleased that this defense authorization changes current law to allow veterans who earned a Purple Heart or who suffered a severe injury in a combat-related incident to receive both retirement and disability benefits. Although this provision targets only those specific veterans who are 60 percent disabled and I believe this benefit should be extended to additional veterans, I find this legislation a good first step in the right direction and urge my colleagues to continue supporting further efforts expanding concurrent receipt coverage in the future.

This conference report provides \$7.3 billion to support DoD efforts to combat global terrorism, including funds for counterterrorism, force protection, counter-intelligence, and anti-terrorism programs. To guard against the threat weapons of mass destruction pose to the United States, this report authorizes \$993 million for advanced chemical-biological detection, protection, and decontamination programs, \$148.2 million for biowarfare defense technology, and \$416.7 million funding efforts securing weapons of mass destruction and dismantling their facilities in the former Soviet Union. With respect to homeland defense, this legislation will require the DoD to work with the Department of Homeland Security and other federal agencies to share promising new technology, as well as assist local "first responders" improve their ability to respond to domestic terrorist actions.

While I will vote in support of this legislation, I have concerns regarding the process of base closures. With regard to base closures, I am concerned that language contained in this defense authorization would allow base closures to take place without adequate consultation with Members of Congress and affected communities. While I have a consistent record of supporting cost-savings in all areas of the federal budget, I do not believe another round of base closures should be conducted until the DoD makes a thorough evaluation as to whether its current infrastructure is in a position to cope with the changing security environment. The threats facing our nation require that infrastructure on the local, state, and certainly the federal level be prepared and adequate to confront any possible scenarios. Due to language that would require 7 of 9 members of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) approve any base closure, I strongly encourage the DoD to consult closely with Members of Congress. I believe the concerns of potentially affected

areas must be closely considered. The loss of a military base can prove potentially devastating for defense-dependent local economies, such is the case in my home state of Texas. Not only that, but in many cases, the additional level of disaster and emergency assistance provided by nearby military facilities can prove extremely helpful to local communities. As such, I believe the DoD and Congress should be cautious and prudent in planning the closure of bases that will be carrying our military's mission in the coming months and years.

While I have concerns about these provisions, I strongly support this Conference Report because it is important Congress speak with one voice in support of our armed services. On balance, the initiatives included in this bipartisan legislation are appropriate, and will provide our dedicated men and women in uniform with the necessary resources to cope with the demanding security challenges facing our nation. I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this important legislation.

HONORING THE OPENING OF THE EAGLE ROCK ART MUSEUM IN IDAHO FALLS, ID

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the beauty and value of persistence. Ten years ago, a group of artists along with the Mayor and City Council of Idaho Falls had the idea of creating an area art museum. This huge undertaking would take thousands of volunteer hours and many fundraising efforts to become a reality. Today, I'm proud to say through the hard work of those dedicated volunteers and public servants, the Eagle Rock Art Museum opened its doors.

The Eagle Rock Art Museum showcases eastern Idaho artists. As someone who occasionally dabbles in artistic endeavors, I value the cultural significance art plays in our society. Visitors to this wonderful facility can now marvel at stone sculptures, oil and watercolor pictures, tiles painted by children and other compelling works of art. Children can enter the doors of the Eagle Rock Art Museum and be inspired by the work it showcases. There's even a children's art gallery to display the work of our youngest citizens.

In civilization, art transcends age. The works of Michelangelo, Leonardo DaVinci, Claude Monet and modern day artists like Norman Rockwell breathe light into culture. The works of artists live on forever through museums like the Eagle Rock Art Museum. I'm proud of the community of Idaho Falls for working to make the Eagle Rock Art Museum a reality. The selfless efforts of many illustrate the powerful principle of working together for a common cause. I compliment Idaho Falls Mayor Linda Milam, Council members Ida Hardcastle and Mel Erickson, artists Gloria Miller Allen and John Griffith and the hundreds of other artists, individuals, and businesses that helped create the art museum. Thanks to their efforts generations of Idahoans will have a lasting appreciation for the importance of art in our world.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF QUALITY IN FEDERAL PROCUREMENT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, October 27, a milestone in Federal procurement was observed. That day marked the 30th anniversary of President Nixon's signing of the "Brooks Act" qualifications based selection (QBS) process into law as Public Law 92-582.

This law, which prescribes the process by which Federal agencies select contractors for architecture, engineering and related services ("A/E services"), is codified in 40 USC 541 et. sq. for civilian agencies and, by reference, also applies to military agencies (10 USC 2855). Regulations implementing the law are found in part 36 of the Federal Acquisition Regulations.

Named for its sponsor, our respected former colleague, the Honorable Jack Brooks of Texas, the Brooks Act provides for selection of firms for A/E services on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualifications, with negotiation of a fee that is fair and reasonable to the government.

Agencies publicly announce their requirements for A/E services, firms submit their qualifications (including resumes of personnel, past performance, experience and background), agencies review the competing firms' qualifications, a short list of most qualified firms is established and agencies conduct interviews, and the most qualified firm is selected for specific contract negotiations of the precise scope of services to be performed and negotiation of a fee that is "fair and reasonable to the government" based on the government's own estimate of the project cost.

QBS has been a trendsetter. When it was enacted in 1972, the QBS law was a radical exception to the government's overwhelming reliance on awarding contracts based on the lowest bidder. Indeed, QBS was a precursor to the trend that came in the 1990s to migrate from lowest bid to best value procurement. Moreover, contractors' past performance is a major factor in the evaluation and selection process—again something used in A/E contracting since 1972, but which became commonplace in other areas of Federal procurement in the 1990s.

The Federal government annually spends billions of dollars on construction of facilities and has capital assets of hundreds of billions. This investment is highly dependent on A/E services for feasibility studies, design, operation and maintenance. It has been said that A/E services accounts for less than 1/10th of 1 percent of the life-cycle cost of a facility, but the quality of the A/E services performed determine what the life cycle cost will be.

The wisdom of Congress in passing, and President Nixon in signing, the "Brooks Act", and of Congress in preserving this law for the past 30 years, has provide the American public with quality, cost effective and efficient A/E services on projects that stand the test of time.

The wisdom of the law is also demonstrated by the degree to which it has been emulated. The QBS process is included in the Model

Procurement Code for State and Local Government written, published, endorsed and advocated by the American Bar Association, and the process has been enacted in "min-Brooks Act" statutes by more than 30 State Legislatures. As a local government official, I can personally attest to the value of this process in projects ranging from design of schools to hazardous waste site remediation, from water and wastewater facilities to geographic information systems (GIS) for growth management and transportation planning.

Today, Americans have the cleanest water, the safest and most attractive and functional public buildings, the most accurate maps, the safest roads, and many other aspects of the quality of life and our built environment because of the work of professional architects, engineers, surveyors and mappers who have worked on Brooks Act contracts. It is important that Congress pause at this moment to reflect on the success of this law. It has provided enormous benefits and effectiveness, and paid huge dividends to the taxpayers of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the Brooks Act has enjoyed wide bipartisan support over the years. This is a law that works. I congratulate our Nation's architects, engineers, surveyors and mapping professionals who have completed millions of dollars worth of projects as contractors to government agencies, as well as the dedicated public servants in the design professions who have been responsible for awarding these contracts and performing the inherently governmental responsibilities for oversight of that work. The Brooks Act fosters a true public-private partnership that should stand as a model for how government and the private sector can work together to build a better America.

CONGRATULATING DONALD EUGENE ARCHEY AND REVEL (MOORE) ARCHEY ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Donald Eugene Archey and Mrs. Revel (Moore) Archey. Don and Revel met when Don accompanied his father to deliver a wagonload of firewood to the Moores. They were married on November 27, 1952 in Catlettsburg, Kentucky and shortly after moved to Columbus, Ohio. Since 1977, Don and Revel have lived in Delaware County, Ohio.

Don recently retired from his sole-proprietary corporation, Don's Road Oiling. For more than 40 years he was the owner, president, and often the only employee. Revel and Don have seven children: Deborah, Stanley, Libby, Elisa, Gayla, Tawnya, and Jonathan. They are the proud grandparents of Jason, Zachary, Joel, Jairica, and Eli.

Fifty years of marriage is certainly an occasion worthy of celebration and recognition. I congratulate Revel and Don for this wonderful achievement, and wish them many more years of happiness together.

NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS

HON. GIL GUTKNECHT

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, on September 11, 2001, our generation met its challenge. The attacks against innocent Americans were acts of war. We are still fighting that war. Carl von Clausewitz said that the goal of any military encounter is to destroy the enemy's will to fight. We still have work to do.

But at home we have come far. We have buried our dead. We have comforted our wounded. We have rebuilt the Pentagon. New York is being rebuilt. We have gained a resolve and determination to go on. We will continue to be the shining beacon of liberty. We are willing to bear the price of defending the principles of freedom, justice and honor. We are Americans, and proud to be so.

Generations of Americans have followed the wisdom of President Theodore Roosevelt when he said, "In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing. The worst thing you can do is nothing."

From the Barbary Coast to the streets of Kabul, Americans have always sought to do what is right. We have never given way to despots and madmen in the name of artificial peace. More than 48 million men and women have served in our armed forces to do the right thing.

The sacrifice of Americans who left their homes and lives for the cause of justice across the globe is a testament to what is good and right about our great nation. Because of Americans, Europe was liberated from a madman. Because of Americans, Communism is left to the ash heap of history. Because of Americans, little girls are going to school in Afghanistan.

Today I honor those Americans who stepped in to secure our domestic defenses during a time of great uncertainty. The brave men and women of the National Guard. As active duty troops were deployed, the men and women of the National Guard dropped what they were doing and answered their call to duty. Careers were put on hold, families parted with a loved one, sacrifices were made to secure our nation.

Guard members from Minnesota have served in every major conflict since its inception more than 360 years ago. More than 150 Minnesota National Guard soldiers were called to duty following the September 11 attacks.

I am especially grateful to the National Guard soldiers of Company B, Second Battalion of the 135th Infantry. These soldiers performed special duties at the Rochester International Airport. During a time of crisis, they stepped up to join that long grey line. That line that has never failed us.

Thank you First Sergeant Thomas L. Butterfield, Sergeant Samuel M. Adjei, Sergeant First Class Jason R. Schweitzer, Specialist Jason A. Cox, Specialist Benjamin R. Jech, Specialist Jacob R. King, Staff Sergeant Troy D. Landsverk, Sergeant William M. Olson, Sergeant Timothy A. Patterson, Sergeant Daniel J. Prescher, Specialist Brandon L. Riggs, Sergeant Scott J. Saltou, Sergeant Matthew Swiger, and Specialist Benjamin W. Teed.

These soldiers deserve our respect and our gratitude.

As William Jennings Bryan said, "Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved." Americans have a history of choosing their destiny. We will continue to do so, because that is who we are.

We must, and we will, continue to achieve this victory for the people of the United States and for all civilized, peace-loving people around the world. There will be a price. The blood and treasure of our nation will be invested. The leadership, resources and unwavering courage of the United States are critical in this struggle. We shall not falter, we will rise to the challenges. And, in the end, we will leave to future generations a safer planet because we never failed to defend the freedom we cherish. We will continue to practice what we preach.

God Bless America.

UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, government efforts at benevolence always backfire. Inevitably, unintended consequences overwhelm the short-term and narrow benefits of authoritarian programs designed to make the economic system fair, the people morally better, and the world safe for democracy. One hundred years of intense government "benevolence" in the United States has brought us to the brink of economic collapse, a domestic police state, and perpetual war overseas. And now our obsession with conquering and occupying Iraq is about to unleash consequences that no one can accurately foresee. The negative possibilities are unlimited and the benefits negligible.

Some have warned that the planned preemptive invasion of Iraq could prove so destabilizing to the region and the world that it literally could ignite a worldwide conflict big enough to be called World War III. Nuclear exchanges are perhaps even more likely to occur under the conditions of an expanded Middle East war than they were at the height of the Cold War, when the Soviets and U.S. had literally thousands of nuclear weapons pointed at each other. If we carry out our threats to invade and occupy Iraq, especially if we do so unilaterally, the odds are at least 50–50 that this worst case scenario will result.

The best-case scenario would be a short war, limited to weeks and involving few American and Iraqi civilian casualties. This, in combination with a unified Iraqi welcome, the placing into power of a stable popular government that is long lasting, contributing to regional stability and prosperity, and free elections, just is what our planners are hoping for. The odds of achieving this miraculous result are probably one in 10,000.

More likely, the consequences will be severe and surprising and not what anyone planned for or intended. It will likely fall somewhere between the two extremes, but closer to the worst scenario than the best.

There are numerous other possible consequences. Here are a few worth contemplating:

No local Iraqi or regional Arab support materializes. Instead of a spontaneous uprising