

into three pieces and the order to abandon ship was given. Despite three broken vertebrae, a broken ankle, and a large gash in his head, Mr. Underwood treaded water through the night and into the next day before being rescued by a Navy destroyer.

Madam Speaker, it is because of heroes like Ernal Underwood that we enjoy the freedom we have today. Men who asked nothing from their country, but gave everything. We owe them more than words, medals, or honors. What we as a Nation can do to say thank you to these heroes is leave our country and our world better than we found it. I ask that my colleagues join with me in honoring Ernal Underwood and thousands of veterans like him whose sacrifice left a world freer, stronger, and more prosperous.

TRIBUTE TO BRANDI HINDS

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a young combat veteran whose efforts in an Afghan hospital embody the characteristics of a true humanitarian.

From May 5, 2007 to September 11, 2007, Brandi Hinds served as an Emergency Medical Technician with the 455th M.D.O.S. at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. While providing medical care in the local Afghan hospitals, Brandi noticed the day to day struggles that the Afghan people face, particularly the children. Brandi made it her mission to restore some normalcy to their lives in the midst of the chaos. Instead of writing home and asking for items that she needed, Brandi selflessly requested that friends and family members send items for the young children at the hospital. Shortly thereafter, packages began to arrive from home filled with toys and other small novelty and recreation items. Brandi's efforts brought joy to the many children she encountered. After her departure, Air Force Chaplain CPT Terri Gast continues to distribute the gifts to the Afghan children. What began as the desire of one individual to make a small difference has grown into a program fittingly named "Brandi's Kids."

Brandi's service and sacrifice has inspired the many whose lives she has touched. Today, Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to recognize Brandi's tireless dedication to the children of Afghanistan and thank her for her service to our great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO CLAYTON ANDERSON

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today, Wednesday, November 7, 2007, astronaut Clayton Anderson will touch down at Kennedy Space Center aboard the Space Shuttle *Discovery*. Clayton, a native of Ashland, NE, returns home after spending 5 months in space aboard the International Space Station.

I had the distinct honor of having a brief telephone conversation with Clay during his

time aboard the International Space Station. It was truly an experience I will remember for the rest of my life.

Born in Omaha, Clayton received his bachelor of science degree in physics from Hastings College, Nebraska in 1981 and a master of science degree in aerospace engineering from Iowa State University in 1983. He joined the Johnson Space Center in 1983 and was selected as a mission specialist by NASA in June 1998. He launched to the Space Station on June 8, 2007 aboard Space Shuttle *Atlantis* with the crew of STS-117 and was assigned as Expedition 15 flight engineer.

Nebraskans from Omaha to Scottsbluff are proud of Clayton and all he has accomplished. He is an inspiration to all who wish to pursue their own goals—whether of one day traveling to and exploring space, teaching the next generation of students, or simply being the best person they can be.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3043, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, today the House will vote on a conference report which includes the 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill and the 2008 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill. I rise in support of this legislation because I believe that this legislation will fund programs families in the 15th District need and rely on—quality education, strong health care, jobs that are safe for its workers and secure retirement plans.

I am disappointed that the President has threatened to veto this legislation. I find it extremely irresponsible that he finds it acceptable to fund another \$200 billion for the war in Iraq, but has issue with an increase of \$9.8 billion for education, health and workforce programs and an increase of \$4 billion for veterans' health care.

Specifically this legislation will:

Provide \$37.2 billion to VA hospitals and clinics, and traumatic brain injury and post traumatic stress disorder research, over \$2.6 billion more than the President requested.

Invest \$124.2 million into VA claims processors to address the backlog of 400,000 benefit claims.

Increase education funding to \$60.7 billion, funding that will be dedicated to Title I grants to help low-income children, teacher quality and after school programs, IDEA grants and Pell grants.

Dedicate \$12 billion to dislocated worker training, Job Corps, and worker protection efforts at the Mine Safety and Health Administration and the National Institutes for Occupational Safety and Health.

Through this legislation we will fund all these programs, while only spending enough money equal to the cost of 2 months in Iraq. Let me be clear that it is not the goal of this

Congress to withhold funding for our troops; however, it is important that Congress give this administration the message that our domestic programs should not be forgotten at the expense of a poorly handled and mismanaged war in Iraq.

Madam Speaker, the annual appropriations process is never easy, but this Congress we have an opportunity to pass a good piece of legislation that is also fiscally responsible. As Members of Congress, it is our duty to our constituents to fund programs that will improve their quality of life, which is why I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the House chamber for rollcall vote 1044. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING GEVORK ARZOUMANIAN A SURVIVOR OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gevork Arzoumanian, a resident of Glendale, California and a survivor of the Armenian Genocide. Mr. Arzoumanian was born in 1907 in the village of Sulduz, modern day Naghadeh, northwest Iran, bordering the Republic of Turkey.

The children's cries and the groans of the elderly still haunt Gevork today, 92 years after the atrocities. His lips quiver and his hands shake when he retells those bitter memories to his grandchildren.

Once the Ottoman forces had begun their massacres and deportation of the area's Christian Armenians and Assyrians, Gevork's family marched toward the village of Rezaie (Orumieh province) leaving behind their home and cotton farm. Along the way, Gevork witnessed the murders of his father (Arzouman), mother (Arpik), sisters (Asdghik and Satenik) and brother (Ashod). As a young boy, Gevork also witnessed the pillage of people's houses, the stealing of young girls and the horrible game of Ottoman Turkish soldiers throwing infants in the air and catching them with their swords. Those who survived the brutality ended up in the city of Hamadan, Iran and were divided into two groups; one would be headed to Beirut and the other to Tehran. Gevork was in the latter. He was taken to the St. George Church, temporarily cared for by an Armenian couple, who later sent him to the city of Babol by the Caspian Sea, where he was cared for by Mr. Garegin and Verjin Harotoonian. He later became a truck driver.

Mr. Arzoumanian has lived through an incredibly difficult period in history. Nevertheless, he worked hard and persevered. In 1940, Gevork married Laura and had two children, a

daughter, Marda and a son, Norik. Gevork is thankful that after all that happened to the Armenians at the turn of the 20th century, Armenia is now an independent country.

I am proud to honor Gevork Arzoumanian of California's 29th Congressional District and I ask all Members of Congress to join me in paying tribute to this inspiring individual and honor all victims of the Armenian Genocide.

TRIBUTE TO PEPE DELAPPE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of one of our notable activists and a conscience for social justice, the artist Pepe deLappe. Pepe died of a stroke last month, at the age of 91, leaving an enduring legacy to the people of the San Francisco Bay Area, across North America, and throughout the world.

Admired by artists, art students, collectors and museums; loved by her family and colleagues; and appreciated by the disenfranchised, the underdog, and political progressives, Pepe devoted her life to social justice. She used her considerable talents to champion the causes of the working class and the needs of society's cast-offs.

"She was always on the side of the down-trodden," said her daughter, Nina Sheldon. "She spent her whole life dedicated to civil rights and to social movements."

That her social activism melded with her artistic conscience into an exotic bohemian life had its genesis around 1931, when she was 14. She became friends with the artist Frida Kahlo and her husband, Diego Rivera, when he was commissioned to paint murals in San Francisco. Pepe became part of Kahlo's drawing circle, where, she once said, she was treated as a total equal, despite her young age.

This experience, along with her father's permission to discontinue regular school, encouraged Pepe to travel to New York a year or so later to attend art school. She returned to San Francisco at age 18, a legal adult, and joined in the city's maritime strike, an event which had life-changing consequences to her, as well as to those involved.

If the history of a war is written by the victor, then the history of a people is written—and portrayed—by its artists. Pepe did a series of paintings of the longshoremen who participated in the strike—paintings which still hang in the San Francisco headquarters of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union. From that time until only weeks before her death, she captured poignant, comic and disparate emotions and the conditions that gave rise to them. Depicting the lives of the ordinary and extraordinary people of the working class or on the fringes of society, Pepe expressed not only the history of the time, but the social mores of a culture.

But paintings, cartoons and lithographs were not Pepe's only media of expression. She also worked with words and spent many years of her life as an editor and writer for local "alternative" newspapers, including *People's World*, published by the Communist party.

Although she eventually parted ways with that dogmatic organization—by mutual agreement, she once quipped—she never lost interest in current affairs and politics, mostly recently holding up a sign as she sat in a wheelchair at a rally to protest the U.S. occupation of Iraq.

At age 74, Pepe fell in love with long-time friend and fellow painter Byron Randall. The two spent the rest of their lives in Petaluma, where Pepe remained involved in politics and the artistic life. In fact, when she died last month, some of Pepe's works—many of which are owned by major museums and institutions, including the Library of Congress and San Francisco's Palace of the Legion of Honor—were being showcased in an exhibition at the Huntington Museum in San Marino. Titled *Pressed in Time*, the exhibit features a taped interview with Pepe.

Madam Speaker, it is impossible to contain the life of such a woman in two short pages.

But for those of us who knew Pepe deLappe, these words are only shorthand to the memories of her long, successful and influential life as an artist, activist, and idealist who, in her own words, "refused to take life lying down." The world needs more people like Pepe deLappe. She will be greatly missed.

CELEBRATING GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL'S VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT PARTICIPATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate George Washington High School in the city of Philadelphia, PA, on their outstanding participation in the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress. Students and teachers have contributed their time and skills to preserving the remarkable experiences of our war veterans from all service branches, from World War I to the present day Iraq War, as well as the civilians who supported them. I am privileged to represent these students and teachers in Congress.

The Veterans History Project preserves the legacy of those who have served through the establishment of a permanent national collection, housed in the Library of Congress, of videotaped and recorded interviews, written memoirs, and wartime letters, diaries, and photographs. Stories and materials are available to anyone visiting the library. In addition, a web page is created for each veteran who contributes an interview.

As our Nation's World War II and Korean veterans grow older, it is critical that we record their stories. Their experiences offer a priceless window into their dedication and love of country. As the daughter of a Korean War veteran, this effort has special personal meaning for me. We have much to learn from those who have served our Nation, and I wholeheartedly support this important project.

On this Veterans Day, November 12, 2007, I am proud to recognize George Washington High School's Veterans History Project participation at a special event, Preserving Their

Stories: A Salute to Veterans History Project Volunteers, at the Hiway Theatre in Jenkintown. This special celebration will bring together Americans, both young and older, with veterans of all ages, to honor their common service to their fellow citizens and country.

Madam Speaker, once again I congratulate all of the Veterans History Project participants for their contributions to capturing the experiences of war veterans, thus honoring the lives and contributions of these extraordinary Americans.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3043, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the FY 2008 Labor-HHS Conference Report which—together with this year's Military Construction-Veterans Affairs spending bill—announces an important new direction regarding the Nation's priorities.

We start with our most basic investment: education. Today's conference report increases education funding by \$4.5 billion over the President's request—including an additional \$254 million for Head Start so more children can access a high quality early childhood education; \$600 million more for No Child Left Behind to improve teacher quality, enhance after school programming and deploy 21st century classroom technology; an \$800 million boost for special education; and a new \$2 billion investment for higher education which will enable us to significantly increase the current value of the maximum Pell Grant from \$4,310 to \$4,925. Additionally, I am very pleased that the final conference report contains \$12 million for Teach for America, one of our Nation's premiere teacher training programs.

Because we are competing in a rapidly changing global economy, and because education is in truth a lifelong process, this conference report also makes responsible investments in job training and vocational education—\$609 million over the President's request for workforce development; another \$606 million for vocational education; and \$98 million on top of the President's request for Job Corps and the vital training, placement and support services it provides.

On health, today's legislation wisely rejects the President's proposed \$480 million cut at the National Institutes of Health, NIH, in favor of a \$1.4 billion increase over the President's budget so that the NIH can continue its cutting edge research into deadly scourges like cancer, Alzheimer's and heart disease. This additional funding—representing the cost of just 3 days in Iraq—will fund over 1,400 more research grants into these and other life-threatening illnesses. Furthermore, in an effort to address the plight of the Nation's 47 million uninsured, this legislation enhances health care access by investing \$1.5 billion into community health centers, state health care access initiatives and high risk insurance pools.