EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SUPERVISOR JOHN D. JENKINS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Prince William County Supervisor John D. Jenkins and the years of service that he has selflessly devoted to his neighbors, constituents and friends. Supervisor Jenkins was recently awarded the Occoquan District Good Scout Award by the National Capital Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. I cannot think of a more appropriate recognition of John's accomplishments in public service than an award based on the credo, "You are put here to do something for your fellow man and to take an active part in your community and its issues."

Supervisor Jenkins and his wife Ernestine moved to Prince William County in 1973 and immediately took a role in their neighborhood as the Forestdale representatives to the Dale City Civic Association. Their three sons were educated in the Prince William County Public School system and were Eagle Scouts in local Troop 1378. They have 14 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Supervisor Jenkins began his life in public office in October of 1982 when he was appointed to fill the vacant Neabsco District Supervisor's seat. He has since been reelected to that position 6 times. He has served two terms as Vice Chairman of the Board of County Supervisors, two terms as Chairman of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, two terms as the State President of the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions, two terms as the State President of the Virginia Association of Counties and two terms as the Chairman of the Virginia Railway Express Operations Board. John has served on boards and steering committees of the Virginia Municipal League, the Virginia Association of Counties, the National Association of Counties and represents the Board of County Supervisors on the Quantico Marine Corps and Fort Belvoir Base Realignment and Closing advisory committees.

Supervisor Jenkins has been a tireless advocate for many organizations throughout his 27-year tenure on the Board of County Supervisors. However, his involvement in the Scouts predates even his time in office, spanning 6 decades and involving countless Scouting causes. Camp William B. Snyder in Haymarket, VA opened its doors in 2006 due in part to the Supervisor's efforts to end its stalled development. He is a fixture at local Scouting promotion ceremonies and often uses his considerable fundraising abilities on behalf of the Boy Scouts of America. His dedication to the Scouts is unquestioned and with his receipt of the Good Scout Award, the Boy Scouts of America recognize his devotion to the people of Prince William County. As a two-tour Vietnam Veteran and the longest serving county supervisor in Prince William County history, his career is one of service to country and community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding Supervisor John D. Jenkins' dedication to his community. As a public servant he embodies the values the Boy Scouts hope to instill in their youth. He has taught generations of Scouts the nobility of public service and the great potential that it holds to help one's fellow man.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2892) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Chair, I come to the House of Representatives to encourage my colleagues to support and fund an urgent national security priority—the creation of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, also known as NBAF.

From a rancher feeding his cattle this morning in Washington, Kansas, to a family sitting down for supper tonight here in Washington, D.C., Americans need to know that the United States is prepared to handle an outbreak of dangerous animal disease that could harm our country's economy and our food supply.

Our nation's current animal disease research center, located at Plum Island, New York, is well over 50 years old and can no longer meet our needs. With today's threat of bioterror attack, as well as the threat of natural and accidental outbreaks of foreign animal diseases, it is clear that more research capacity is needed. NBAF is needed to concentrate our efforts to assess disease threats to livestock, wildlife and humans, and to develop the vaccines and countermeasures against these threats. A modern, safe animal disease research laboratory is critical for protecting our country.

After years of study and a rigorous selection process, in January, the Department of Homeland Security unanimously chose to build NBAF at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. DHS found Kansas State University to be the best fit for this critical mission. Kansas was chosen because of the State's existing biosecurity research infrastructure, skilled animal science workforce, strong citizen support, and large cost-share contribution. At the time, NBAF was expected to be completed by 2015.

Despite the fact that there has never been stronger need for accelerated animal disease research, I am incredibly disappointed that NBAF may now be delayed. The President requested $36 million in 2010 for NBAF design and construction. I have concerns that this investment is inadequate for moving forward with this security priority. But as the House today considers H.R. 2892, the FY 2010 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, it appears that even the President's requested funding amount may not be provided. Citing safety concerns with researching foot and mouth disease, FMD, on the mainland, the spending bill provides no funding for NBAF. In addition, the bill requires yet another FMD risk analysis.

As a Member of Congress who represents a large agricultural district, I understand the importance of determining the risks associated with conducting FMD research, whether on an island or in the middle of the country. What we know is that studies by experts at DHS and elsewhere say that FMD can be safely studied on the mainland, as it is done in other countries like Canada, just across our northern border. Modern biocontainment technology has eliminated the need for locating this work on an island, like we did decades ago. The same state-of-the-art research methods and facilities allow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to research dangerous human diseases in the city of Atlanta. While I understand the risk associated with the research of any dangerous disease, it should not blind us to the risk of inaction. The bottom line is that if we do not build NBAF and increase our capacity to combat diseases, our country will be less safe.

The research that will be performed at NBAF is critical to secure America's food supply and protect our agricultural industries from animal disease outbreaks. A modern facility that can respond to outbreaks is urgently needed and must remain a top priority for the U.S. As the appropriations process moves forward, I strongly encourage my colleagues in Congress to fund and support NBAF.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE BUDGET REFORM AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1016, the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act.

The men and women who have served our nation in combat deserve to be provided with the very best that we have to offer. One part of achieving that is getting these men and women the best health care that they can possibly have. In turn, it is critically important that the Veterans' Administration (VA) have assurances regarding their funding in a timely manner so that the VA can deliver health care in an efficient and timely manner.

This important legislation authorizes Congress to approve VA medical care appropriations one year in advance of the start of each fiscal year. While we still have much further to go in terms of making sure that every hero returning home has all the care that they need, this bill will at least ensure that the VA will be able to plan ahead of time and get the most out of each health care dollar that they are allocated. Furthermore, because many VA budget cycles have, in recent years, started on continuing resolutions, some decisions may have been made on the basis rather than on the basis of the most effective treatment. We cannot jeopardize the health of our nation's finest because of what amounts to nothing more than a bureaucratic difficulty.

I was proud to work with a number of colleagues to include a similar VA advanced appropriations provision in this year's congressional budget resolution, S. Con. Res. 13. Nevertheless, there is no reason why our veterans should need to count on Congress taking action every single year to keep this sensible policy in place. For this reason, it is imperative that we pass the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act.

I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this important bill. I thank my good friend, the Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Congressman FILNER for introducing it and I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in support.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, during an absence yesterday, I regrettably missed rollcall vote No. 426. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall No. 426: "no"

IN RECOGNITION OF THE STROKE COMEBACK CENTER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Stroke Comeback Center and the critical health care services that it provides to stroke survivors and their families.

The Stroke Comeback Center (SCC) is a non-profit organization that provides ongoing rehabilitation and therapy to help combat the devastating damage that strokes can cause. The mission of the SCC has been to pick up where traditional health care coverage leaves off by providing affordable speech and language therapy programs to stroke victims in a caring and supportive environment.

The SCC was founded in 2004 by Darlene Williamson and John Phillips based on the premise that stroke victims who suffer with communications problems can continue to improve with treatment and therapy. This theory went against the conventionally held belief that stroke survivors reached their maximum potential within the first few months of recovery. In addition, most insurance companies cover only short term treatment, which can limit access to therapy and thereby inhibit recovery.

The SCC addresses these issues in a proactive and effective manner. Fees charged for services are on a sliding scale and are up to 75% less than at other facilities. No individual is ever turned away due to inability to pay. The programs offered by the SCC include group programs to assist with improvement of communication skills, computer assisted training, individual sessions and caregiver support meetings.

The growth of the SCC is a tribute to the success of its programs. In 2005, the SCC had five groups meeting two days per week. There are now 21 groups meeting four days per week. Since opening, the SCC has provided more than 7,000 hours of therapy to stroke survivors.

The SCC works closely with the American Heart Association, the Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, the National Rehabilitation Hospital and the George Washington University Department of Speech and Hearing Science.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Stroke Comeback Center and its dedicated staff and volunteers. The services and programs offered by the SCC fill a void in the rehabilitation process and significantly improve the quality of lives of stroke survivors and their families.

CAP-AND-TAX DOES NOT WORK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, a national energy tax will do harm to American families by raising electric bills, gas prices, and food prices by thousands of dollars. Moreover, it will not achieve the goals of a cleaner environment.

As our European neighbors have learned from their own cap and trade scheme, costs go up but so do carbon emissions. Indeed, in the so-called market place of carbon trade, the American people will lose just as our European friends have. America will lose jobs and American families will lose money, and there is no excuse for the Democrat leadership in this House to place such a burden upon the American people.

I hope my colleagues will abandon this plan to raise taxes and realize that an all-of-the-above approach to our energy needs—one that has bipartisan support—is a far better course for this country to pursue.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

HONORING THE HEROISM AND BRAVERY OF THE WOMAN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS OF WORLD WAR II

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2014, which awarded the Woman Airforce Service Pilots of World War II with a Congressional Gold Medal. Known as WASP, these courageous women faced incredible bias and hardship while serving our country. Out of the 300 recipients, three WASP are from the 9th district in Memphis, TN.

Women were essential to our effort in World War II. In factories and shipyards throughout this nation, they provided the fundamental infrastructure and labor which allowed our military to prevail. We can't forget that just 23 years before the war, Rosie the Riveter didn't have the right to vote. Suddenly, she was the muscle behind the plane, the tank, the ship—in short the entire arsenal of democracy. The women of these times toiled selflessly. They were passionately patriotic.

The WASP were no exception. They were the backbone of the Army Air Corps and performed vital jobs such as delivering newly assembled planes to key military bases and test piloting new planes. They even flew the first jets. The WASP flew over 60 million miles in every type of aircraft. Without their work, the Army Air Corps would not have been able to function properly and domestic efforts would have been severely crippled, making it more difficult to receive crucial supplies, troops and planes.

I am very proud to have three WASP veterans living in my home district in Memphis, TN. Martha M. Carpenter, Frankie Yearwood and Lillian E. Goodman all graduated from the WASP program with extensive flight experience and training. Their jobs required incredible skill and were highly dangerous. Recently, Ms. Goodman recalled, "in my own class there were two girls and an instructor that went up in a twin engine plane . . . they crashed and were all killed." The women that Ms. Goodman remembers were sent home in unmarked pine boxes. Their service was not acknowledged. They were denied military funerals and their families were not permitted to put up a Gold Star in their memory. It wasn't until 1977 that Congress finally gave the WASP veteran status and benefits.

For all their patriotism and service, the WASP—all of whom were pilots before the war—faced harassment and shocking levels of discrimination during and after their service. Sadly, they were made to pay for their own flight training and for their own trip home after being discharged. When the war ended, some male combat veterans fought vigilantly to deny them equal veteran status.

For thirty years, the federal government classified WASP records. For too long, their heroism was kept out of the history books. Grandmothers could only tell incredible stories of serving as pilots in World War II to disbelieving grandchildren. President Carter helped to change all that by finally opening up the records and allowing Ms. Goodman, Ms. Carpenter, and Ms. Yearwood's service to be public.

The WASP's exemplary record and contributions towards the war effort were referenced in the 1993 congressional hearings which led to legislation allowing women to fly aircraft in combat roles. Currently, women make up more than 14% of the military on active duty and more than 17% of the reserve and National Guard. The Air Force has the highest percentage of women enlisted, as nearly 20% of its members on active duty and 25% of the National Air Force Reserve are