

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

women. Ms. Carpenter, Mrs. Goodman, Ms. Yearwood and the other brave women of the WASP were pioneers for the dedicated women who serve in our military today and for all who face prejudice in pursuit of equality.

REPEAL TONNAGE TAX'S 30-DAY LIMIT ON DOMESTIC OPERATIONS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, U.S.-flag ships that compete in international trade face many disadvantages. The U.S. tax code should not be one of them. Today I am introducing legislation that will help smooth the seas for U.S.-flag shippers and increase their international competitiveness.

The version of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 that passed both the House and Senate provided for the application of a "tonnage tax" based on the tonnage of a vessel, rather than taxing the U.S. vessel's international income at corporate tax rates. In the conference process on that legislation, however, new language was inserted which states that a U.S. vessel cannot use the tonnage tax on its income from international operations if that vessel also operates in U.S. domestic commerce for more than 30 days per year.

This 30-day limitation dramatically limits the availability of the tonnage tax for those U.S. ships that operate in both domestic and international trade and hinders their competitiveness in foreign commerce. It is important to recognize that ships operating in U.S. domestic trade already have significant cost disadvantages. The inability of domestic operators to use the tonnage tax for their international service is a further burden on their competitive position in foreign commerce. Foreign registered ships now carry 97 percent of the imports and exports moving in United States international trade. These foreign vessels are not held to the higher Coast Guard operating standards that apply to American-registered ships and foreign vessels are virtually untaxed.

Adding to the perversity of the provision, in December 2006, Congress repealed the 30-day limit on domestic trading for approximately 50 ships operating in the Great Lakes. There are 13 U.S.-flag vessels outside of these Great Lakes ships that remain caught in these tax provisions. In the interest of providing equity to these 13 vessels, this legislation would repeal the 30-day limit on domestic operations, enabling these vessels to also utilize the tonnage tax on their international income. Under this legislation, these ships will continue to pay the normal 35 percent U.S. corporate tax rate on their income for operations in domestic commerce.

Repeal of the tonnage tax's 30-day limit on domestic operations is a necessary step toward providing tax equity between U.S.-flag and foreign flag vessels. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this important legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2009 VIRGINIA HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS

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 recipients of the 2009 Virginia Human Rights Awards. These awards were presented during a recent ceremony hosted jointly with the Prince William County Human Rights Commission.

Prince William County has long been an area of growth in our Northern Virginia region. As the county population grew in the early 1990s and the demographics shifted, the Board of County Supervisors recognized the need for a study to examine the county's ability to respond to increasing population diversity. The result of the study was the creation of a Human Rights Ordinance prohibiting discriminatory practices based on race, color, sex, national origin, religion, marital status or disability in employment, housing, public accommodations, education and credit in Prince William County. When the Board of County Supervisors established the Human Rights Ordinance in September of 1992, it created the Human Rights Commission to ensure that "each citizen is treated fairly, provided equal protection of the law and equal opportunity to participate in the benefits, rights, and privileges of community life."

The recipients of this year's awards have exhibited a devotion to "[eliminating] discrimination through civil and human rights law enforcement and [establishing] equal opportunity for all persons within the county through advocacy and education."

The recipients of the Prince William Human Rights Awards are Betty Covington from Prince William Public Schools and Dexter Fox with Unity in the Community.

The Virginia Human Rights Commissioner of the Year is Victor Dunbar, Chairman of the Fairfax County Human Rights Commission.

The Staff Member of the Year is Annie Carroll, Deputy Director of the Fairfax County Human Rights Commission.

The Virginia Human Rights Commemorative Award for contributions to human rights through the signing of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts will be made posthumously to President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding the efforts of these individuals on behalf of harmony and equality in our communities. We are a happier, safer society when we promote fairness and justice. I would like to extend my unconditional support for the Human Rights Commission's mission and my deepest appreciation to those who take up the cause of human and civil rights.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican standards on member requests, I am submitting the following information regarding congressionally directed ap-

propriation projects I sponsored as part of H.R. 2847, FY 2010 Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

Agency/Account: U.S. EPA—State and Tribal Assistance Grant

Amount: \$439,065

Requesting Entity: City of Petersburg, P.O. Box 326 Petersburg, Texas 79250

Funding will enable the city of Petersburg to continue supplying quality drinking water to its residents. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has ordered the city to replace one of its elevated water tanks or place it off-line or the city will be forced to pay penalties and fines. Loss of a water tank will reduce the water supply, as well as drop the water pressure which is important for fire fighting. Without a stable water supply, the city of Petersburg will not be able to maintain economic growth. The total cost of this project is \$798,300.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010:

Requesting Member: Congressman TIM MURPHY

Bill Number: H.R. 2996, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: State and Tribal Assistance Grant Program

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Findlay Township Municipal Authority

Address of Requesting Entity: 1271 Route 30, Clinton, PA 15026-1537

Amount: \$500,000

Description of Request: to replace old and undersized water transmission lines, and to expand and upgrade the water and sewer infrastructure, to benefit the entire Township of Findlay in economic development and job creation, fire safety and environmental protection.

The water and sewer upgrades and expansion will serve businesses—and the 21,310 jobs being created—at three business parks in the Pittsburgh International Airport Corridor: the Chapman Commerce Center; the Clinton Commerce Park and the Route 30 Industrial Site. Furthermore, annual tax revenue generated at the three business parks is projected to be \$48.7 million. In terms of fire safety, the project will replace old and undersized water transmission lines to provide adequate fire flow for the entire township, including residents and businesses. In terms of environmental protection, the project will rectify a concern of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection that the sanitary sewer system capacity from Enlow Road to the Moon Township Interceptor must be expanded to adequately convey additional flow.

I certify that this project does not have a direct and foreseeable effect on the pecuniary interests of me or my spouse.