

commended this milestone in U.S. legislation for empowering women to engage and contribute positively to society as well as for encouraging women to make responsible decisions.

Upon celebrating the thirty-seventh anniversary of Title IX, it is only right to recognize what has thus far been accomplished since the enactment of Title IX in 1972. In the arena of athletics, we have seen tremendous increases in the participation of women in sports. In 1972, there were merely 294,000 female high school athletic participants, in contrast to the 3.6 million male participants; now, looking at 2006, there has been a 904% increase with just under 3 million female high school athletes. In 1972, only about 30,000 women continued on to collegiate athletic participation, compared to 170,000 male participants. But in 2006, that number also increased exponentially, by 456%, to 167,000 female collegiate participants. In the world of business, the percentage of women general counsels in Fortune 500 companies rose from 4% to 15% between 1994 and 2002. Within the legal profession, the percentage of women in tenured positions at law schools increased from 5.9% in 1994 to 25.1% in 2006. In addition, I am certain that Title IX laid the foundation for other advancements in equal rights for women, such as the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 that President Obama signed into law this January and that I proudly co-sponsored.

Even with this progress, the United States still has quite a journey ahead toward the goal of equality for women. There still exists resistance to efforts to treat women and men equally. Even now there is still a remarkably large gap between the number of female and male high school and collegiate sports participants. Beyond athletics, there still exists gender inequality in the work force on multiple fronts, including: the ratio of male to female professionals; the difference in the earnings of male and female employees; and the ratio of male to female leadership positions in the workforce. It is true that in 2003 female professional earnings had risen to 76% of what their male counterparts were making; nevertheless, 76% is still far less than 100%.

So, I celebrate the advances made during the thirty-seven years since Title IX was enacted, and I promise to continue to dedicate my time and efforts to champion equal rights for women.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

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 of the bill (H.R. 2647) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense; to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2010.

As the representative of Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base, I am pleased that this bill makes important investments to support our national security and recognize the contributions of not only our men and women in uniform but also the families that support them. It provides for a 3.4 percent pay raise for service members and authorizes \$1.95 billion for family housing programs. It expands support for those who are injured in battle, with enhancements for the medical "mission to heal" and funding to help friends and family visit or otherwise support recovering service members. It also expands TRICARE health coverage for reserve component members and their families.

H.R. 2647 improves military readiness and authorizes additional funds for equipment depleted by the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. It authorizes the president's request for 15,000 more Army troops, 8,000 more Marines, 14,650 more Air Force personnel, and 2,477 more Navy sailors, and also includes funding for force protection to keep those troops safe in theater. It recognizes the toll on our Army National guard and reserves by providing new battle gear and construction projects in our communities.

While I am pleased that this resolution provides authorization of \$50 million for Impact Aid funding, with additional \$15 million for BRAC-affected areas, these levels are inadequate for the pressing needs our school districts have as they care for military-connected students. As the former superintendent of North Carolina's schools, I know first-hand that we cannot provide a high-quality education without high-quality facilities. In North Carolina, the BRAC process has swelled enrollment in the counties around Fort Bragg—Cumberland, Harnett, Johnston, and Sampson—without increasing the tax base that supports the local schools. Impact Aid funding has barely increased in the last five years. We must renew our commitment to support these students and give local schools the support they need to provide them a quality education, especially in the current economic downturn that is straining state and local budgets.

Mr. Chair, despite this shortfall, this is a strong bill that supports our men and women in uniform, and their families, and enhances our national security. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE BUDGET REFORM AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1016—To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide advance appropriations authority for certain medical care accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs. This bill would ensure sufficient, timely, and

predictable veterans funding so that the Department of Veterans Affairs would have the federal funding to better serve veterans' medical needs and improve health care services. This is a very timely and important measure as many of our troops today are returning home in need of accessible and adequate health care services. Therefore I strongly commend my colleague BOB FILNER for bringing this measure before the floor.

This bill would authorize Congress to provide investments in the Department of Veterans Affairs medical care one year in advance so the department can have sufficient time to plan how to deliver the best care to an increasing number of veterans with increasingly complex medical conditions.

My military constituents often turn to me for support in confronting the many challenges they face when working with the Department of Veterans Affairs. We have come to understand, that many of the challenges in efficient health care services are attributable to the Department of Veterans Affairs' inadequate funding. For most of the past two decades, the appropriated funds for medical care have not been provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs in a timely manner. This has resulted in the department's problems in planning and managing care for enrolled veterans. Accordingly, this bill addresses this budgetary problem and allows for advance appropriations to ensure the department has the Federal backing to effectively address the medical needs of our nation's veterans.

As a vocal advocate for veterans' rights, I am pleased to add my voice of support for H.R. 1016. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that we continue to provide the necessary resources towards improving our Department of Veterans Affairs' health care programs and administrative services.

IN RECOGNITION OF OFFICER
GARLAND C. THOMPSON

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Garland C. Thompson's retirement from the United States Capitol Police after thirty-five years of service.

Founded in 1828, the Capitol Police have protected countless lives and secured our nation's historic Capitol complex. Officer Thompson first joined the Capitol Police on June 6, 1975. His deep sense of patriotism and dedication to upholding the rule of law is evident to all. Known as a strict enforcer, Officer Thompson has ensured the safety of elected officials, staffers, journalists, and tourists alike and the corner of First and C Streets will not be the same without his friendly face. I have had the pleasure of knowing him and am proud to call him my friend. I know he will be greatly missed.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude for Officer Thompson's thirty-five years of dedicated service to the Capitol Police and this great Nation. I wish him and his family all my very best.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY INFORMATION

HON. DAVID R. OBEY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today, as a member of the House of Representatives who has been intimately involved with the area of biomedical research and health care, to draw the attention of the Congress and the nation to the 20th anniversary of the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), a national resource for molecular biology information located at the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health (NIH).

I am reminded at this time of our late distinguished colleague Claude Pepper who, in 1987, introduced H.R. 393, a bill to establish a National Center for Biotechnology Information. As he eloquently described it, the Center would deal "with nothing less than the mystery of human life and the unfolding scroll of knowledge, seeking to penetrate that mystery, which is life itself." A quick study, Claude early on concluded there was a growing need to fit together the pieces of the genetic puzzle so as to benefit humankind. Although the term biotechnology was relatively new at that time, there was clear evidence that the whole biotechnology information infrastructure was overloaded and there was an urgent need for developing a central repository for storing and sharing the data resulting from the explosive growth of research in molecular biology. The information-handling organization envisioned in the bill, the National Center for Biotechnology Information, became a reality with the signing by President Reagan of the Health Omnibus Extension Act (P.L. 100-607) on November 4, 1988.

I remember well those early years when a group of Nobel Laureates appeared before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and laid out a vision that revolutionized our understanding of biology and genomics. Chairman Bill Natcher and those of us on the subcommittee enthusiastically supported the Genome Project. Its magnitude was nothing short of President Kennedy's vision of landing a man on the moon for it launched a grand national challenge of utmost importance to human health. NIH Director James Wyngaarden testified that year that we had sequencing data on less than one-tenth of one percent of the human genome. He said then that while the pace of biology research was rapidly accelerating, the ability to analyze and share information was severely constrained and that if we were going to understand the disease process we would need new and better information approaches. Clearly, the organization defined in Claude's bill fit that need and so the Appropriations Committee readily provided the necessary funding for NCBI.

Today molecular biology and genomics are the primary drivers of medical progress. And, under the innovative leadership of Dr. David Lipman, NCBI's first and current director, NCBI's molecular biology information resources are empowering hundreds of thousands of researchers around the world to

identify disease-related genes and develop strategies for treating and preventing disease. It's amazing that each and every week researchers are downloading data from NCBI that is equivalent in size—I am told—to the entire contents of the Library of Congress.

The U.S. Congress has encouraged and generously supported the more than 40 database resources developed by the NCBI. The recent legislative requirement that the results of NIH-funded research be made available through NCBI's PubMed Central database will, we believe, accelerate scientific progress and the discovery of new treatments.

Over the past 20 years, the management of biological information has progressed rapidly and has become an integral part of the scientific process. It is now virtually impossible to think of an experimental strategy in biomedicine that does not rely heavily on the kind of resources and tools developed by the NCBI for analyzing molecular and genomic data.

In summary, Madam Speaker, under Dr. Lipman's careful planning and creative stewardship the NCBI has responded successfully to the challenge of the mandate of the 1988 legislation by effectively developing a major national resource for molecular biology information that is greatly benefiting medical researchers, practitioners, educators, and the general public.

I believe that the era of "personalized medicine"—including highly targeted individualized treatments—will soon be upon us, and NCBI clearly will be a driving force in making that a reality. So I want to offer my congratulations to NCBI's visionary leader, Dr. David Lipman, to NLM's excellent director, Dr. Donald A. B. Lindberg, and to the bright and dedicated staff of the NCBI for 20 years of outstanding public service to the nation and to the world.

HONORING MAYOR WILLIAM HICKS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the remarkable achievements of William "Bill" Hicks, the beloved mayor of Romney, West Virginia.

Bill is a veteran of the Second World War's Pacific Theater where he was involved in navigation and sighting for secret bombing missions. Just fifteen days after returning home from the war, he married Thelma Elizabeth Berg on December 27, 1945.

Together, they made Romney their home on July 1, 1964 and have lived there ever since. Bill worked for Western Union Telegraph Company where he played a key role in setting up the first transcontinental microwave relay communications in the U.S. His work involved implementing communications infrastructure for private and government entities located throughout West Virginia and the surrounding areas. Through his work, Bill also developed a passion for public service.

He was first elected to the Romney City Council in 1968 and later was elected as Mayor of Romney in 1991. After more than 40 years of service, Mayor Hicks recently stepped

down, but still remains committed to serving his community. He has been involved in numerous community organizations. He also serves on the Hampshire County Development Authority, the Potomac Valley Transit Authority, the Romney VFW, and the American Boy Scout Committee, just to name a few.

Bill and his wife Thelma remain committed to their community and their family. They raised five children, boast eight grandchildren and now have five great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Romney's beloved Mayor and long-time distinguished public servant, William "Bill" Hicks for his years of service and contributions to Hampshire County and the State of West Virginia. Mayor Hicks is a friend and a fellow West Virginian. I wish him all the best in the years to come.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PETE'S HAMBURGERS

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Pete's Hamburgers of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin and to recognize their 100th anniversary.

It is reassuring to see that despite these tough economic times many American small businesses are still thriving. It was 100 years ago when Pete Gokey opened Pete's Hamburgers as a small, humble stand selling pan-fried hamburgers. Pete Gokey's life embodies the hard work, dedication, and commitment that have made our country great.

Although we recognize it today for achieving the feat of keeping its doors open for 100 years, the story of Pete's Hamburgers is one founded upon an individual's commitment to public service and hard work. Before opening his stand to sell hamburgers, Pete Gokey was a member of the volunteer fire department in Prairie du Chien. As fate would have it, Pete was selected to be the chef for one of the fire department's community events, at which he was expected to serve fried hamburgers with onions. The hamburgers were a huge success and became the catalyst for Pete Gokey's successful stand.

Gokey was able to turn his stand into a fixture of the Prairie du Chien community. Whether serving hamburgers or volunteering as a fire fighter, Pete Gokey was a man who lived a life based on hard work and service to his community.

Pete's Hamburgers and its quality product have stood the test of time and I proudly stand before this chamber to recognize the success of Pete and his family who have dedicated their lives to something they love: hamburgers.

I applaud the efforts of Pete Gokey and his family members who now run the business and I am proud to see their hard work rewarded by 100 years of business and 100 years of service to the Prairie du Chien community. May their success continue for many more years to come.