

Waxman Act that has blocked price competition, and increase access to affordable life-saving medications. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill that takes a fair market and cost-saving approach to improving our health care system.

HONORING COMMANDER ROBERT
"CLEM" CLEMENTS

HON. ERIC J.J. MASSA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. MASSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and fellow Naval Officer, CDR Robert S. Clements. Tomorrow, after his 25-year tenure with the United States Navy, Commander Clements will commemorate his retirement with a ceremony aboard the Display Ship *Barry* in the Washington Navy Yard.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy Reserve in May 1984 and graduated from Recruit Basic Training in October 1984. After receiving his commission in the Navy and graduating with a B.S. degree in Business Management in May 1988, Commander Clements subsequently graduated from Navy Supply Corps School, Athens, GA, in December 1988.

In January 1989, Commander Clements reported to USS *Savannah* (AOR-4) in Norfolk, VA, and served as the Disbursing Officer, Sales Officer, and Food Service Officer. In April 1992, he reported to Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans, LA, where he served as Combined Bachelor Quarters Officer, and Aviation Support Division Officer. After receiving his M.S. degree in business management from Troy State University in August 1994, he served as Supply Officer in USS *Elliot* (DD-967) in San Diego, CA from 1995 to May 1997.

Commander Clements was selected to serve as the Officer in Charge, Chairman's Dining Room, Office of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Pentagon, Washington, DC, where he served on the Joint Staff from June 1997 to July 1999. A millennium graduate of the Marine Corps University, Command and Staff College, he completed the 10-month Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) Phase I curriculum and Military Operations other than War (MOOTW).

Commander Clements served as the Director of Operations, Fleet Hospital Support Office, Williamsburg, VA from August 2000 to September 2003 and as Deputy Director of Operations and Mobilization Officer, Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Force (NAVELSF), Williamsburg, VA from October 2002 to July 2004 where he mobilized the initial NAVELSF capabilities in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom I. He then served as the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Logistics/N4A, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, Commander, U.S. Fifth Fleet, Manama, Bahrain in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II and additionally, he led the logistics crisis action planning in support of the October 2005 Pakistan earthquake relief effort.

From May 2006 to August 2007, Commander Clements served as the Director of Logistics, Reserve Component Command, Region Mid-Atlantic and was responsible for the integration of Navy Reserve Readiness Command Mid-Atlantic, Wash., D.C. and Navy Re-

serve Readiness Command, Northeast, Newport, RI. He also served as the Director of Logistics, Naval Air Facility, Washington, D.C. from September 2007 to December 2007. Commander Clements is currently the Deputy Director of Training and Readiness (J-97), Joint Reserves Forces, Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), Fort Belvoir, VA, responsible for the training and readiness of over 750 military reservists assigned throughout the DLA organization supporting worldwide military operations.

His personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Commendation medal (three awards), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (five awards). Commander Clements was the recipient of the Naval Reserve Association's 1994 Junior Officer of the Year Award. He is a life member of the Naval Reserve Association, NRA, and also a member of the National Naval Officers Association. On behalf of the United States Congress, it is my honor to recognize Commander Clements and the essential contributions he has made to our great Nation.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, October marks Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Right now there are over 2.5 million breast cancer survivors in this nation.

Jean Kling in Aiken, SC is one. Upon hearing of her diagnosis, Mrs. Kling tearfully and bravely smiled at her husband and three grown children. Nothing had prepared any of them for this news. But like every other challenge in her life, Mrs. Kling encouraged herself in her faith in Jesus Christ and began the process of getting well.

She underwent a mastectomy. Lost all her hair during six months of chemotherapy and saw signs of re-growth during six months of radiation. After all her treatments, doctors said she was cancer free and she remains that way 10 years later.

Mrs. Kling is one of many women who have survived the devastating diagnosis of breast cancer. During October, we remember our loved ones who have lost their lives to this disease and we thank all those in the medical profession, researchers and the American Cancer Society for all they do to make a difference.

TRIBUTE TO CELIA TORRES
GARCIA MALDONADO

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to join in the commemorations of Hispanic Heritage Month and as it is known in my dis-

trict, as the Puerto Rico—Virgin Islands Friendship Celebration, to honor and commend a mover and shaker in my community, who has served our community, in particular its youth in an exceptional manner for many years. Celia Torres Garcia Maldonado, or Cielo, as she is affectionately known, has for the past thirty five years been the visionary behind an organization that has provided structure, creativity, and the opportunity to excel to young women and men on my home island, St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In 1974, when her young daughter expressed interest in becoming a majorette, Cielo, finding that there were not any viable groups for her to join on St. Croix, took it upon herself, with the help of like minded friends to found the St. Croix Majorettes, an organization which has stood the test of time in providing a positive outlet for St. Croix's youth to develop their performing talent.

As the story is told, with the purchase of a baton and the help of her sister Mirta L. Martnez, it all began. The St. Croix Majorettes was organized in May 1974 with Celia T. Maldonado as director, and Mirta L. Martínez and María Cotto as co-directors. These ladies were assisted by the late Miguel Duchesne.

The local majorettes started with twenty girls practicing at the Canegata Ball Park. Within two months, and with the help of the Doc James Radio Talk Show, parents were encouraged to register their children and this led to an increase of 150 active participants. In 1975, the St. Croix Majorettes and Marching Band were officially inducted into the Majorettes and Band Federation of Puerto Rico. The organization grew and eventually, Cielo and the St. Croix Majorettes, was responsible for hosting the first Majorette festival on St. Croix. Seven groups came from Puerto Rico and one from St. Thomas to participate in the VIPR Friendship Day celebrations.

Under the leadership of Cielo, the St. Croix Majorettes have been invited and have participated in numerous festivities on the U.S. mainland and Caribbean islands representing St. Croix in a dignified and diligent manner.

After thirty three years, Celio T. Maldonado, director of the St. Croix Majorettes, has over 300 members who are still performing whenever they are called upon to do so. They continue to practice at their headquarters located in Est. Peter's Rest. All members and parents of the St. Croix Majorettes have become her most precious "extended family".

Her utmost satisfaction, pride and joy is when former members, who are now parents, bring their children to enroll. As she travels around and meets her "extended family", her proud remark is always, "This is, or was one of my majorettes."

Cielo's reach has been far and wide. For instance, one of my staffers, Attorney Angeline Muckle Jabbar, one of the original group of little girls who are now successful in their careers, was molded by Cielo and the St. Croix Majorettes.

Madam Speaker, today, I ask the Congress to join me in commending an outstanding Virgin Islander and American of Hispanic Heritage who continues to serve her community and its youth in an outstanding manner.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3183,
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOP-
MENT AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to address briefly the language of Section 401 of the conference report, which requires the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to provide a report on barriers to the issuance of a combined construction and operating licenses (COLs).

As the Chairman of the Energy and Environment Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over the NRC, I want to ensure that the Commission, in responding to Section 401, remains cognizant of its responsibilities to comply with the substantive and procedural requirements of the Atomic Energy Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and NRC regulations in the issuing of COLs to new nuclear power plants. These laws cannot be overridden or even challenged by a reporting requirement appended to an annual appropriations bill.

The NRC should, of course, review COL applications in an efficient fashion, without undue or unwarranted delays. However, speed of action is not the only policy interest that the Congress has with respect to licensing. Public confidence in the fairness and integrity of the licensing process requires the Commission to ensure that licensees comply with the substantive safety requirements of the law and of NRC regulations. The Commission must therefore assure that it does not sacrifice crucial safety evaluations, public input or adequate environmental review as part of any effort to streamline or accelerate its regulatory functions.

Under Section 185 of the Atomic Energy Act, the NRC is directed, after holding a public hearing, to "issue to the applicant a combined construction and operating license if the application contains sufficient information to support the issuance of a combined license and the Commission determines that there is reasonable assurance that the facility will be constructed and will operate in conformity with the license, the provisions of this Act, and the Commission's rules and regulations."

The Act further stipulates that in conducting its licensing activities, "The Commission shall identify within the combined license the inspections, tests, and analyses, including those applicable to emergency planning, that the licensee shall perform, and the acceptance criteria that, if met, are necessary and sufficient to provide reasonable assurance that the facility has been constructed and will be operated in conformity with the license, the provisions of this Act, and the Commission's rules and regulations."

Moreover, the Act mandates that: "Following issuance of the combined license, the Commission shall ensure that the prescribed inspections, tests, and analyses are performed and, prior to operation of the facility, shall find that the prescribed acceptance criteria are met."

In addition, NRC regulations 10 CFR Part 51 and 10 CFR Part 52 implement the require-

ments of the Atomic Energy Act and NEPA in regards to the licensing process. Under these regulations, for example, the NRC is required to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) as part of the COL application. According to the NRC website, "the NRC staff estimates that the environmental review process will take approximately 24 months. This includes scoping, issuance of the draft EIS, a comment period, and issuance of the final EIS."

While it is true that the necessary reviews take time, the NRC's licensing regulations were enacted to protect the public from poorly sited locations, untested reactor designs, and other factors that could lead to environmental damage, unsafe construction, or even catastrophic nuclear emergencies. I support an efficient and effective NRC licensing process as long as it does not come at the expense of the safeguards codified in existing law.

In point of fact, it does not appear that the licensing process itself is to blame for any delays in new reactor approval. In 2007 the NRC established the Office of New Reactors (NRO), separate from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, so that the NRO can focus solely on the review of new reactors. Indeed, NRC Chairman, Dr. Gregory Jaczko, has repeatedly stated that the licensing delays are "almost exclusively tied to challenges with the [reactor] designs not being complete," resulting in license applications that reference uncertified design plans. This bottleneck has far more to do with the iterative design approval process, than with potential internal NRC barriers such as inefficient administration or inadequate funding. Certainly all must agree that it is impossible for the NRC to approve a license application for which there is not yet an approved design!

Finally, I would note that while Section 401 mandates report submission to the committees on Appropriations, the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which is the NRC's authorizing committee, also expects to receive copies of any reports submitted pursuant to this Section.

I look forward to seeing the Commission's report on this matter, and I urge the Commission to pay careful heed to the current laws and regulations under which the NRC operates, so that we ensure that the nuclear reactor application process works properly.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, I missed three recorded votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 753, "nay" on rollcall 754, and "yea" on rollcall 755.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2997,
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOP-
MENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMIN-
ISTRATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Conference Report for H.R. 2997, the Agriculture Appropriations Act of 2010.

My district is home to some of the most fertile farm land in our great nation, as well as some of the hardest working farmers.

While so many people identify Michigan with manufacturing, it can be easy to forget that agriculture is Michigan's second leading industry, and the bright spot in a struggling Michigan economy.

As you drive through my district, you will see fields full of dry beans, sugar beets, corn, wheat, soybeans, various vegetables, and other crops needed to feed our nation and the rest of the world. You will also see thriving cattle and pork industries.

This bill is important because it provides much needed funding for the Farm Services Agency which administers disaster and loan programs, farm commodities and conservation programs directed towards producers.

The bill also goes a long way in providing money for continued agriculture research which is so important in increasing harvest yields and furthering education for our producers. Agriculture research is vitally important to ensure that America remains the greatest food producer in the world.

Finally, this legislation will provide necessary money for our nation's struggling dairy farmers. In these tough economic times, dairy producers have been struggling with a steep drop in price for their product. My district is home to a large dairy industry, and it is of vital importance that we do all that we can to help these producers out.

While there are certainly challenges with this bill, it is vital that we move this important funding bill forward. The funding provided by this bill will serve as strong support for an industry that is crucial for our national economy.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, on rollcall no. 754, a motion to instruct Conferees on H.R. 2647, the Department of Defense Authorization, FY2010.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."