

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Chairman, I support the provisions in this bill that support a second engine for the F-35.

The Air Force will soon shift its air-to-ground, air-to-air, and air-supremacy roles to the F-35, and the F-35 will eventually number more than a thousand jet fighters, or 95 percent of the fighter force structure.

To power these aircraft, the Air Force will require some 2500–3000 engines at a cost of more than \$100 billion.

We are fortunate to have two excellent engine manufacturers, Pratt Whitney and GE. Both started out as candidates for the F-35 engine.

The question now comes: Do we need and want a second engine, produced by GE?

More specifically—

Do we want to sole source, run this program out 25 years or more, without price competition?

In addition to price competition, do we want competition on innovation, reliability, and durability?

Do we want to run the operational risk of having no back-up if problems show up in one engine?

Do we want to keep competition in the defense production base?

A second engine for the F-35 makes sense and saves money.

I urge the House to leave intact the second engine provisions in the defense authorization bill before us today.

## AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC DAY

**HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan—as they prepare to celebrate Republic Day on May 28.

Republic Day commemorates the day Azerbaijan first declared independence from the Russian Empire on May 28, 1918. Though the Azerbaijan Republic later succumbed to Soviet forces in 1920, in its 2 years of independence Azerbaijan achieved a number of measures on state-building, armed forces, education, economy, and universal suffrage, from which it benefits today.

Azerbaijan's second opportunity for freedom and independence began in 1990 as Azerbaijanis began gathering in protest against Soviet rule. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan declared anew their independence.

On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of the State of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and on October 18, 1991, their Constitution was approved.

The last 19 years of independence has not been without challenges. The territorial integrity of Azerbaijan was violated and the Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding regions of Azerbaijan have been occupied by neighboring Armenia. In 1993 the UN Security Council adopted four resolutions demanding complete, unconditional, and immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. NATO, OSCE, EU and other international organizations also repeatedly called for the restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, and I support a swift, peaceful resolution to this conflict, as well.

Azerbaijan is a key global security partner for the United States. Azerbaijan was among the first nations to offer our own country with unconditional support in its anti-terrorism efforts, providing use of its airspace, airports, and troops for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Azerbaijan was also the first Muslim nation to send troops to Iraq.

Azerbaijan has extended important overflight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights to support ISAF and has regularly provided landing and refueling operations at its airports for U.S. and NATO forces. Also, Azerbaijan plays an important role in the Northern Distribution Network, a supply route to Afghanistan by making available its ground and Caspian naval transportation facilities.

Azerbaijan has opened Caspian energy resources to development by U.S. companies and has emerged as a key player for global energy security. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline project is the most successful project contributing to the development of the South Caucasus region and has become the main artery delivering Caspian Sea hydrocarbons to the U.S. and our partners in Europe. Notably, in 2009 Azerbaijan provided nearly one quarter of all crude oil supplies to Israel and is considered a leading potential natural gas provider for the U.S. supported Nabucco pipeline.

Madam Speaker, as a proud member of Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I congratulate the Republic of Azerbaijan on the celebration of Republic Day, and commend President Obama's nomination of Matthew Bryza to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan. I believe that Mr. Bryza has the knowledge and experience necessary to reassure our Azerbaijani friends that the United States appreciates their support and will continue to work with them to achieve peace and stability in the Caucasus. I look forward to further collaboration between our two nations.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. MIKE McINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for mili-

tary activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Chair, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee and a strong supporter of the Joint Strike Fighter alternative engine program, I rise today in opposition to the Pingree/Larson Amendment.

This amendment, which would redirect funding for the program, is about terminating jobs, killing competition and giving a \$100 billion monopoly to one contractor who is already \$2.5 billion (50 percent) over budget.

This amendment would add \$20 billion to the deficit by eliminating the savings GAO says will occur with competition.

Supporting this amendment means making the choice to give one company a sole source contract for the next 30 years versus having two companies compete head-to-head every year, resulting in the best price and best engine.

There was no competition for this program. The engines for every major weapons program in history have been competed—except for the Joint Strike Fighter, the largest defense program ever.

Congress is not required to give a rubber stamp to the Defense Department, which has been proven wrong in its opposition to several key programs, including development of the Predator, creation of the U.S. Special Operations Command and funding for the V-22 Osprey.

If this amendment passes, our national security will be put at grave risk, as the U.S. and Allied forces will depend entirely on one engine for 90 percent of their fighter jet fleets.

And, there will be job loss. We must maintain our support of the competitive engine program to sustain the thousands of jobs in the United States that are a result of this program.

I am pleased to join both the Armed Services Committee Chairman and Ranking Member, and the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Air & Land Forces, the Sea Power & Expeditionary Forces Subcommittees, and the Acquisition Reform Panel in opposing this amendment.

My colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee and I approved funding for the alternative engine program to continue, and the Department of Defense's own analysis states that "the estimated costs of a competitive engine acquisition strategy are projected to be approximately equivalent to a sole-source scenario." If that is the case, I am confident the benefits of a competitive engine strategy warrant continued support.

Therefore, I strongly oppose the Pingree/Larson amendment and I rise in support of keeping jobs, sustaining competition, and our country's national security.

## IN HONOR OF MAJOR RONALD WAYNE CULVER, JR.

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a model citizen, revered husband and father and one of our Nation's great heroes. On May 24, 2010, our State and Nation lost a true patriot when Major Ronald Wayne Culver,

Jr., aged 44, died in Iraq from injuries sustained during combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Major Culver was raised in Shreveport, LA, by his loving parents, Ronald and Betty Culver, and graduated from Louisiana State University in Shreveport. He lived and worked in El Dorado, AR, for most of his life and has been the commander of the John C. Carroll VFW Post 2413 in El Dorado for the last three years.

He was an active member of the El Dorado community and served on the Union County 4-H Foundation Board, helping to raise funds for the local 4-H program's activities.

Major Culver served in the Army National Guard for 22 years. He carried out his duties with pride in his country and without reservation and each of us owes him our eternal gratitude for his selfless sacrifice.

Major Culver was a highly-decorated combat veteran and received numerous awards and citations during his 22-year career, including the Bronze Star; Purple Heart; Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon; Louisiana War Cross; Louisiana Commendation Medal; Louisiana Longevity Ribbon; Louisiana Emergency Services Ribbon; Louisiana Cross of Merit; Combat Action Badge; and Overseas Service Bar.

Major Culver committed his life to his family; his community and his country. My deepest thoughts and prayers are with his loving wife, Tracey, and two children who live in El Dorado, his parents and the rest of his friends and family during this extraordinarily difficult time.

Our Nation is safer and stronger because of brave heroes like Major Culver. Today, I ask all Members of Congress to join me as we honor the life of Major Wayne Culver and his legacy, as well as each man and woman in our Armed Forces who give the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great country.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

### HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Chair, when the President announced his decision to repeal the current policy, known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," earlier this year, the military service chiefs and the Secretary of Defense requested the opportunity to carry out the President's directive in an orderly manner that would assure the maintenance of discipline and morale in the Armed Forces. It

was agreed at that time, including by the President, that a survey would be sent to all the troops so that their input would be taken into account regarding how best to implement the new policy, and that a report with such recommendations as to how to best implement the new policy would be issued this December, before any legislative action was taken. I believe that that process, which was agreed to by the President pursuant to the request of the service chiefs and the Secretary of Defense, should be followed.

Breaking the agreement now by having this vote is most unfortunate, and I strongly disagree with the decision of the President, the Speaker, and the majority leadership to break that agreement today.

#### HONORING THE CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS IN THE STANLEY CUP FINALS

### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today because the Roar is back on Madison.

My Chicago Blackhawks are Western Conference champions and just a day away from Game 1 of the Stanley Cup finals.

Diehard Hawks fans have been waiting since 1961 for the Cup to come home to the Windy City.

And it's on behalf of every last one of them that I want to thank the brain trust that has made this all possible.

In just three years, Rocky Wirtz, Dale Tallon, John McDonough, Stan Bowman, and Jay Blunk have resurrected a franchise and reminded Chicago that it has always been a hockey town.

Tomorrow night the United Center will be bathed in red and rocking so loud folks might just mistake it for the old Chicago Stadium.

As I've said here before, I look forward to coming back this summer with Lord Stanley's Cup freshly engraved with names like Toews, Kane, Byfuglien, and Niemi.

We're just four wins away.

#### CONGRATULATING THE PATRIOTS OF PACE HIGH SCHOOL'S BASEBALL TEAM

### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today and congratulate the Patriots of Pace High School on becoming the Region 1 Class 5A Baseball State Champions. The hard work and dedication of all the young men on the team is truly extraordinary. For that reason, Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor and recognize their accomplishments.

Pace High School's baseball team, led by Coach Charlie Warner, finished the season with an impressive 29-2 record. While they were ultimately able to achieve their goal and bring home a State championship, it was not done without countless hours of practice and immeasurable amounts of sacrifice. The time

the team spent together on and off the field will not only be remembered for leading them to a second state title in five years, but the forged friendships and lessons learned will never be forgotten. The character, talent and commitment of the young men on Pace High School's baseball team has indeed set the bar high for their classmates and the community.

On behalf of the United States Congress and the entire community of Northwest Florida, I congratulate Pace High School's baseball team for winning their fourth State championship. Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of these young men. My wife Vicki and I wish them much continued success in the future.

#### RECOGNIZING MAY AS NATIONAL ARTHRITIS AWARENESS MONTH

### HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, May is National Arthritis Awareness Month and I rise to let Americans know how they can prevent and decrease the pain and disability of arthritis. Arthritis is the nation's most common cause of disability in the U.S., affecting 46 million adults and 300,000 children. Arthritis is also a common co-morbidity for most other chronic diseases. For example, 57% of adults with heart disease and 52% of adults with diabetes also have arthritis.

There are over 100 types of arthritis. Osteoarthritis, the most common form, affects 27 million Americans, often causing severe pain and disability, interfering with work productivity, and resulting in joint replacement. The risk of osteoarthritis increases rapidly beginning at age 45, affecting many people in their prime working years. The combination of the aging Baby Boomer population, increased longevity, and the obesity epidemic are creating a "perfect storm" for dramatically increasing the prevalence of osteoarthritis, especially in women.

Despite this troubling prediction, there is some good news. Numerous new initiatives are underway to address these issues. The National Public Health Agenda for Osteoarthritis, developed through a partnership of the Arthritis Foundation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and 50 other organizations, a blueprint for actions to stem the tide of osteoarthritis. The Agenda states the need to increase availability of evidence-based intervention strategies; increase public health attention for prevention and disease management; increase research to better understand disease risk factors and other effective disease management strategies.

In addition, a new national public service advertising campaign is being undertaken and the Arthritis Foundation is encouraging adults to take simple steps to prevent or decrease the pain and disability of osteoarthritis. The new multimedia campaign features messages about the important role that physical activity and weight reduction play in preventing and managing osteoarthritis. The related website—[www.fightarthritispain.org](http://www.fightarthritispain.org)—includes important information, like an osteoarthritis risk assessment tool for people to find out their risk level and learn how to fight osteoarthritis pain, and