

and requests your support if such a request is made.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 5136 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked with the Committee on Veterans' Affairs regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER,
Chairman.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2010.

Hon. BOB FILNER,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
House of Representatives, Cannon Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. I agree that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to schedule a mark-up of this bill in the interest of expediting consideration. I agree that by agreeing to waive consideration of certain provisions of the bill, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs is not waiving its jurisdiction over these matters. Should this bill or similar legislation be the subject of a House-Senate conference, I will support the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

This exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, May 20, 2010.

Hon. IKE SKELTON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House
of Representatives, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Ways and Means in matters being considered in H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011.

Our Committee recognizes the importance of H.R. 5136 and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Therefore, while we have valid claims to jurisdiction over the bill, I do not intend to request a sequential referral. This, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that nothing in this legislation or my decision to forego a sequential referral waives, reduces, or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means, and that a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest will be included in the Committee Report and as part of the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill by the House.

I also wish to commend you for including in H.R. 5136, a requirement that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the U.S. Trade Representative, consider the effect that other countries' trade policies have on the ability of the United States to obtain rare earth minerals. Not only are those minerals critically important for many defense applications, they are also critical for many other high-tech applications such as wind turbine and hybrid gasoline-electric automobiles—and, as a result, to U.S. manufacturing competitiveness.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

SANDER M. LEVIN,
Chairman.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2010.

Hon. SANDER M. LEVIN,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Longworth Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. I agree that the Committee on Ways and Means has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to schedule a mark-up of this bill in the interest of expediting consideration. I agree that by agreeing to waive consideration of certain provisions of the bill, the Committee on Ways and Means is not waiving its jurisdiction over these matters. Should this bill or similar legislation be the subject of a House-Senate conference, I will support the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Ways and Means.

This exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,
Chairman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2010

MR. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, June 10, I was not present in order to attend my son's high school graduation ceremony. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 353, final passage of the FHA Reform Act of 2010, and "yes" on rollcall 354, passage of amendments to the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to authorize advances from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2010

MS. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was not present during rollcall vote Nos. 347–354 on June 10th. I would have voted as follows: On rollcall vote No. 347 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 348 I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 349 I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 350 I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 351 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 352 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 353 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 354 I would have voted "yes."

HONORING MS. ELLA COHEN

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2010

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Ella Cohen and Rye Neck High School for her winning the Stephen J. Wemiel Best Oralist Award 2010 in the "We The Students" National High School Moot Court Competition in March.

This competition brings high school students from around the world together to compete and showcase their oral advocacy skills. Students are tested on their understanding of cutting edge legal questions and the applicability of current legal issues to the high school setting. Crucial to this competition is the understanding of the Constitution and our complex judiciary system. Ella demonstrated sharp legal reasoning, addressing difficult questions about the first amendment.

Ella's award as "Best Respondent" in this competition is a testament to the quality education she has received at Rye Neck High school and her commitment to her studies.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ella and recognizing the teachers, the administrators and her family who have contributed to her academic success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WALTER HESSLING

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2010

MR. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Walter Hessling who passed away on November 27, 2009.

Walter was one of many courageous men who chose to serve his community as a firefighter. He was a Captain of the Dix Hills Volunteer Fire Department and served his community valiantly for 32 years.

To all of those who knew and loved him, his untimely death will forever be a reminder of his selflessness. His last heroic moment in the line of duty saved the lives of others who he never met. As time passes, the pain will fade, but the memory of Walter will always remain a shining example of truth and goodness to all of those whose lives he touched.

It is at this time we remember Walter Hessling for his bravery and kindness and for his dedication and service to the Dix Hills Fire Department.

IN MEMORY OF ZIA RAHMAN, BELOVED LEADER AND INTERFAITH DIALOGUE ADVOCATE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2010

MR. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Zia Rahman of Voorhees, who passed away on June 1st, 2010 at the age of 65. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Zahida, two

sons, and five brothers. Mr. Rahman made a lasting mark on the Voorhees community for his religious passion and understanding.

Mr. Rahman was the Managing Director of the Muslim American Community Association (MACA), but many will remember him for building a mosque in Voorhees. Six years ago, while trying to find a site for the mosque, Mr. Rahman and the MACA faced many obstacles. To overcome these challenges, Mr. Rahman brought together leaders of different backgrounds to create the Coalition for Multi-Faith Democracy. The members worked together to encourage tolerance and tear down stereotypes within the South Jersey community. Mr. Rahman inspired others with his passion to unite and build understanding between members of different faiths.

Mr. Rahman was an advocate for peace and understanding. He spoke in front of community groups, churches, and synagogues to encourage a better understanding of Islam. One of his proudest achievements was creating an agreement of cooperation and understanding between his mosque and the Diocese of Camden. Mr. Rahman educated and connected many throughout his lifetime. He united many people of different faiths while breaking down stereotypes about Islam.

Madam Speaker, Zia Rahman's commitment to Voorhees and its citizens should not go unrecognized. I express my deepest condolences to his family for their loss and pay tribute to the memory of this outstanding individual.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL DAVID J. FURNESS TAKING COMMAND OF THE 1ST MARINE REGIMENT OF THE 1ST MARINE DIVISION

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2010

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel David J. Furness on the occasion of his taking Command of the 1st Marine Regiment of the 1st Marine Division.

Colonel Furness was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on 16 May 1987 upon graduating from the Virginia Military Institute. After completing the Basic School and the Infantry Officer Course in Quantico, Virginia, he reported to the Second Marine Division where he served as a rifle platoon commander and 81mm mortar platoon commander with the 3d Battalion, 4th Marines and the 2d Battalion, 8th Marines from February 1988 to September 1991. During this period he participated in a contingency deployment to the Republic of Panama and two unit deployments to the Mediterranean Sea with the 26th and 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable). From September 1991 to May 1995, he served on the staff of the Basic School as a Staff Platoon Commander and a Tactics Instructor for both the Basic Officer and Infantry Officer Course. In June 1995, he left the Basic School to attend the Infantry Officer Advanced Course (IOAC) at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Colonel Furness served as a Rifle Company Commander and Battalion Operations Officer with the 3d Battalion, 7th Marines in 29 Palms, California from November 1995 to November 1998.

In November 1998, he served as the Commanding Officer, Recruiting Station Sacramento, until July 2001. In August 2001, he reported to the Marine Corps Command and Staff College (CSC) where he graduated and earned a Masters of Military Science degree in June 2002. From July 2002 to January 2003 he attended the School of Advanced Warfighting (SAW).

While a student at SAW, he was ordered TAD to augment the G-3 section of the First Marine Division and participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom as the Assistant Plans Officer. During April 2003, he returned to SAW, graduated, and in June 2003 reported to the First Marine Division and returned to Iraq where he served as the Operations Officer of the First Marine Division. In October 2003 he was reassigned as the Deputy G3. In January 2004, he returned to Iraq as part of the Division's advance party to prepare for the relief-in-place with the 82d Airborne Division in support of OIF II. He returned to Camp Pendleton in April 2004 and assumed command of the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines.

From December 2004 to June 2005, he deployed to the CENTCOM AOR as the Commanding Officer of Battalion Landing Team 1/1, the Ground Combat Element of the 15th MEU (SOC) and participated in Operation Unified Assistance and OIF III in South Baghdad, Iraq. From 20 January to 18 August 2006 he deployed as Commanding Officer Task Force 1/1, RCT-5 in support of OIF 05-07.1 operating principally in the cities of Karmah and Western Baghdad, Iraq. In October 2006 he relinquished command and assumed the duties of Executive Officer, First Marine Regiment.

During July 2007, He reported to the National War College as a student and was promoted to his current rank. After graduating from the National War College in June 2008 he reported to Headquarters Marine Corps, Office of Legislative Affairs to serve as the Director, Marine Corps Legislative Liaison Office, U.S. House of Representatives.

He is married to the former Lynda Taylor of Richmond, Virginia. They have four children David Jacob (17), Elizabeth (12), Benjamin (8), and Zachary (6).

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues please join me in recognizing the distinguished career of Colonel David J. Furness serving the United States Marine Corps and the People of the United States.

RECOGNITION OF MADISON TOWNSHIP ON ITS BICENTENNIAL

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 200th anniversary of Madison Township. At this significant milestone in the township's history, we reflect on the region's roots and acknowledge the hardworking families who call Madison Township home.

Madison Township, established as a part of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, predates the state of Ohio by 16 years. However, it was not until March 4, 1810, that the township was officially organized as its population reached 500. From humble roots, the township has swelled to a population of more than 22,000.

Named for the United State's fourth president, James Madison, the township includes all or part of Canal Winchester, Columbus, Groveport, Obetz, Pickerington and surrounding unincorporated areas. Madison Township consists of 24 square miles of land in the southeast corner of Franklin County and rests quietly at the confluence of Blacklick Creek, Big Walnut Creek, and Alum Creek. The proud home of Robert M. Brobst Park and the Madison Township Community Center, Madison Township is the home of regular community gatherings and festivities.

For two hundred years, Madison Township and its residents have played a crucial role in the growth of central Ohio and particularly of Ohio's 15th Congressional District. I am proud to represent the residents of Madison Township and recognize them as they celebrate their rich two hundred year history.

IN HONOR OF MARION EMILY FORD'S 95TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2010

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Marion Emily Ford for her 95th birthday. Mrs. Ford is a devoted mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, and for this she deserves great praise.

Mrs. Ford was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on February 12, 1915. During the Great Depression, she left school at age sixteen to help her parents who were raising eleven children. Her first job was as a saleswoman for Wanamaker's Department Store. While working at Wanamaker's, she was approached to be an understudy for Vivian Leigh, the famous star of *Gone with the Wind*. Mrs. Ford turned down the flattering offer. She moved to New Jersey in 1948, and settled in the Fairview section of Camden until 1975 when she moved into her daughter's home in Brooklawn.

Mrs. Ford has a deep appreciation for her heritage. She is a proud great-granddaughter of Pecan Wolf, a Native American from the Ottawa/Chippewa tribe. Mrs. Ford also has a passion for reading that continued even though her sight was taken by macular degeneration.

Madam Speaker, Marion Emily Ford's commitment to her family and community should not go unrecognized. I wish her a happy 95th birthday and all the best.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEVADA CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2010

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Nevada City Fire Department (NCFD) on its 150th anniversary.

In the early history of Nevada City, the town was plagued by wide-reaching fires, which burned the central business district to the ground five times between 1851 and 1863.