

also developed city gas distribution systems in most of the districts of Gujarat with active public and private participation.

He was also instrumental in setting up a modern university, Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University, to provide highly skilled technical manpower to the industries in the petroleum sector.

Mr. Pandian's work is unmatched and it is my honor to pay tribute to him.

COMMEMORATING SEPTEMBER 11

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, September 11, 2001, is a day forever etched into the memory of most Americans. On that day, over 3,000 innocent people—including 48 men and women from the state of Maryland—died during the attacks on the Pentagon, the World Trade Center, and aboard Flight 93. We gather today to honor their memory and the sacrifice of the families of the victims. We also renew our commitment to honoring the sacrifice and service of the citizens who risked their lives to help the victims as well as the survivors.

While 9/11 is a day of great sadness, it is also a moment of pride. Our reaction as a nation to those events—both as they were unfolding and afterwards—reveals much about us as a people. On that day, our enemies thought they could break our will, but they underestimated our resolve and resilience. They sought to divide us, but they misjudged the breadth of our unity and the depth of our commitment to freedom.

As we look back on the 9 years since the attacks, we are reminded that the threat is not over—the United States still faces enemies who spread hate through violence. The federal government and Congress have an obligation and duty to protect our nation. We have made great progress since the attacks, but there is still much to be done.

It is on this day that we also reflect on the way Americans from all backgrounds came together as one in the face of adversity. While every American should take a moment out of his or her day to remember those who were lost, we must continue to dedicate ourselves to giving back to our communities.

CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to join with Latinos and Latinas in California's 35th Congressional District and all across the United States in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, which starts today. This month is a great opportunity to learn about and to recognize the history of Hispanics in our state and our country, their significant accomplishments and their important ongoing contributions.

The Hispanic community in America, which now numbers almost 50 million people, is di-

verse. The largest group is Mexican-Americans, many of whom tomorrow will be celebrating 200 years of Mexico's independence from Spain and later this year will commemorate the centennial of the Mexican Revolution, when the people of Mexico rose up against an oppressive dictatorship to establish a democratic government that promoted equality and human rights.

Despite the diversity among Hispanics, members of the community share common values with one another and with all other Americans: faith, family, and love of country. The Hispanic dream—the hope of a better, more prosperous future—is the American Dream.

Economically, culturally, and politically, Latinos are a vital part of our district, our state and our nation. American life has been enriched by Hispanic contributions in business, education, government, and the arts for more than 200 years.

As we celebrate the progress, success and achievements of the Hispanic community, we must also recognize the considerable challenges the community faces. Many Hispanic families and businesses have not fared well economically over the last several years as the failed economic policies of the Bush Administration led to the worst recession since the Great Depression.

Hispanics, like African Americans and other minorities, have been particularly impacted by the economic downturn, with higher rates of unemployment and predatory subprime mortgages.

Over the last year and a half, the Democratic-led Congress has been working hard to improve the lives and meet the needs of America's Hispanic families—from the economy, to small businesses, to making college more affordable, to health care, to veterans. We must do all we can to better ensure that all Latinos, like all Americans, have a meaningful opportunity to improve their lives and pursue the American Dream. I will continue to be a strong advocate for Hispanics and all of my constituents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably delayed and unable to return to the floor in time for rollcall vote 519.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 519, I would have voted "aye" (H. Res. 1052, Honoring the members of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard of the State of Oklahoma for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States since September 2001).

FINDINGS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ARMED SERVICES RELATING TO EFFICIENCY AND REFORM PURSUANT TO H. RES. 1493

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the budget enforcement resolution for fiscal year 2011 passed by the House of Representatives on July 1, 2010, as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee I am submitting for inclusion in the Congressional Record efforts by the committee that will achieve deficit reduction through reduction in waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, promoting efficiency and reform of government, and controlling spending within Government programs authorized by this committee.

As stewards of the public funds, it is imperative that Congress support a commitment to oversight of all aspects of federal spending and to ensure that tax dollars are protected from waste, fraud and abuse and that the Federal Government is efficient in meeting the needs of our country. Members of the Armed Services Committee embrace this obligation and have taken an active role to protect America's tax dollars while ensuring our nation's defense.

Of all our efforts to ensure the best value for every taxpayer dollar, I am particularly proud of the Committee's accomplishments on defense acquisition reform during the 111th Congress. As you know, former ranking member John McHugh and I appointed a Panel on Defense Acquisition Reform in March 2009. Over the course of the subsequent 12 months, the Panel held 14 hearings examining all aspects of the defense acquisition system. The exceptional work of this panel, led by Chairman ROB ANDREWS and Ranking Member MIKE CONAWAY, led directly to passage of the IMPROVE Acquisition Act of 2010, which will reform much of the defense acquisition system and potentially save taxpayers billions of dollars. This is in addition to the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009, signed into law by President Obama on May 22, 2009, which has already started to save money for the American taxpayer by reforming the way the Department of Defense acquires weapon systems.

These major efforts to bring much needed reform to the defense acquisition system are in addition to all of the Committee's continual work overseeing defense budgets, programs, and spending. Also, the committee undertakes an annual national defense authorization bill that includes a number of provisions that seek to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse within the Department of Defense, and the Department of Energy for defense matters.

During the first session of the 111st Congress, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, H.R. 2647, was signed into law on October 8, 2009. Public Law 111-84 contains a number of provisions that seek to root out fraud, waste and abuse within the Department of Defense (DOD), and also sought to enhance the effectiveness of our national security programs and policies. Examples of such legislative action include:

Limited low rate production of Future Combat Systems spin-out early-infantry brigade

combat equipment pending a technology readiness assessment, independent cost estimate and the testing of all systems constituting the equipment set in their production configuration (section 111).

Required a joint and common requirement for unmanned cargo-carrying capable unmanned aerial vehicles to avoid costly duplication of multiple service programs (section 142).

Limited the obligation of funds for Net-Enabled Command Capability (NECC) until the Department provided a roadmap for command and control systems. This provision contributed to the program being subsequently cancelled in the fiscal year 2011 budget submission (section 217).

Required the Secretary of Defense to issue policy guidance requiring the establishment of a third-party certification process for private security contractors to allow for greater governmental oversight and prevent fraud and abuse within such contracts (section 324).

Developed a comprehensive plan for improving inventory management practices for spare parts (section 328).

Directed the DOD to implement a new acquisition process to improve the speed and quality of developing or purchasing information technology (IT) goods and services for the Department (section 804).

Established life-cycle management and product support managers for major weapons systems to allow greater visibility of the operation and support costs for a weapon's entire life-cycle (section 805).

Clarified reporting requirements to ensure that cooperative agreements and grants are treated in the same manner as other contracts in Iraq and Afghanistan to improve interagency coordination and reduce waste and duplication of programs among federal agencies (section 813).

Eliminated a loop-hole that allowed contractors to overcharge the Department on certain contracts (section 814).

Extended the Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan by one year to continue its oversight activities (section 822).

Allowed the Department to recoup award fees from companies and contractors who activities jeopardize the health and safety of government employees and service members (section 823).

Required a GAO report on the Acquisition Workforce Development Strategic Plan for the federal civilian workforce (outside of the Department of Defense) to improve the quality and training of the civilian workforce to enhance each agency's ability to tackle waste, fraud and abuse in their service contracts (section 834).

Established an entity to oversee the transition of Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System (DIMHRS) from a single Department-developed program to multiple service integrated pay and personnel systems in order to capture the benefits of the significant financial investment that had been made in the unsuccessful development of the DIMHRS system (section 932).

Codified a requirement for the Secretary of Defense to develop an annual plan for shaping and improving DOD's civilian employee workforce to improve the quality and training of DOD civilian workforce, especially in the acquisition and audit fields (section 1108).

During the second session of the 111th Congress, the Committee continued its over-

sight responsibilities and additional initiatives are contained in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011, which builds upon the accomplishments of the previous session. H.R. 5136 contains legislative priorities that will continue efforts to reduce waste, fraud and abuse within the Department.

Allows the Navy to budget for large capital ships over a period not to exceed three quarters of the number of years of planned ship construction. This provision would allow for more efficient use of the limited ship building funds available (section 121).

Limits the obligation of funds for the F-35 program, a \$380 billion acquisition program, until specified milestones have been met by the program to help ensure the program produces a viable aircraft within cost limits. (section 141)

Directs the Secretary of Defense to create a comprehensive improvised explosive device project data base to reduce the duplicative projects that are being conducted by DOD (section 143).

Requires the Secretary of Defense to determine better ways to effectively address its research and development and procurement requirements for body armor for the individual services (section 144).

Requires separate program elements for the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle Program to provide Congress better visibility over the costs and acquisition plans for the program (section 214).

Requires the Secretary of the Army to submit a cost benefit analysis of future options for developing tank-fired munitions (section 232).

Establishes a pilot program for micro-grid components and systems for the Department of Defense to achieve economies of scale for bulk purchases of effective systems (section 243).

Requires reports from the Government Accountability Office (GAO), DOD, State Department, and US Agency for International Development on contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan. The reports are intended to strengthen management of contracts, coordination of contracts among the agencies, and oversight (sections 822 and 823).

Establishes a Joint Medical Command to improve medical care and services for service members, families and retirees and could result in significant savings for the Department of Defense's Health Affairs program (section 903).

Reduces budget transfer authority to ensure that budget requests are validated. This will help to ensure that high priority programs are funded and prevent wasteful spending for lower priority programs (section 1001).

Directs the Secretary of Defense to conduct an independent review of each working capital fund within the Department of Defense to ensure better management and oversight of these funds (section 1402)

Amends the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 to make it more effective and provide for continuous monitoring of IT systems (section 1701).

Requires the Department of Defense to provide an assessment of facilities that can be retrofitted with insulation to improve energy savings (section 2833).

Report language: "Matters Relating to the Common Database for Tracking Contracts and Contractor Personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan." Highlights that agencies have been slow to im-

plement the database, and that GAO and the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction have both stated that if the database were complete, it would be a helpful tool for performing audits, oversight, and investigations.

In addition, the House yesterday considered H.R. 6102, which amends the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, Public Law 111-84, to extend the authority of the Secretary of the Navy to enter into multiyear contracts for F/A-18E, F/A-18F-SF, and EA-18G aircraft. Passage of this bill would save the Department of the Navy an estimated \$600 million in contract savings in fiscal year 2010.

Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee I remain committed to ensuring that the committee continues its efforts to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse and advance efforts to ensure cost-effective capabilities and to control spending within the Department of Defense. I appreciate the opportunity to share the actions taken by the Committee during the 111th Congress to achieve deficit reduction through the elimination of waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, promoting efficiency and reform of government, and controlling spending of programs authorized by this committee.

FINDINGS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES RELATING TO EFFICIENCY AND REFORM PURSUANT TO H. RES. 1493

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, the Financial Services Committee continues to work hard throughout the 111th Congress; fulfilling the pledge our New Direction Congress has taken, with your leadership, to restore fiscal discipline and accountability in the stewardship of the Federal budget.

I am pleased to provide an update since my letter on May 26, 2010, on what our Committee has specifically done to promote efficiency and prudent government reforms while reducing waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement with respect to government programs and agencies within our jurisdiction. As of this week, we will have held over 65 oversight hearings that achieve these objectives.

A list of recent oversight hearings that fully comply with the Rules of the House, as required by H. Res. 40 sponsored by Representative JOHN TANNER, is attached. These hearings have directly resulted in stronger transparency and protections for U.S. taxpayers, including increased returns from the TARP warrants program, vigorous oversight of the conservatorship of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and the future of housing finance, and other key areas where taxpayer dollars are at stake.

As you know, this Committee played a key role in fully protecting taxpayers and rooting out waste, fraud and abuse with our work producing the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which the President signed into law on July 21, 2010, P.L. 111-203. This historic new law overhauls