

the Ship *Cheonan* without provocation. The *Cheonan* lost 46 of its 104 sailors in the attack, and the people of South Korea still mourn their loss.

The Republic of South Korea has been a steadfast ally to the United States for over 50 years, providing a vital foothold for security and stability in Asia; moreover, the United States is bound to South Korea through a shared belief in the values of democracy and the rule of law. We must not stand idly by while our allies overseas are attacked. Foreign aggression is a threat to international stability, and as such also threatens the security of the United States and its people. Secretary of State Clinton has already called out to the rest of the world, showing unwavering conviction that "we cannot allow this attack on South Korea to go unanswered by the international community." Nor can we in the U.S. Congress remain silent.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution to reaffirm the United States' commitment to our alliance with the Republic of South Korea. We condemn in the strongest terms the actions of North Korea for their aggression, along with a commitment to never again violate the terms of the Korean War Armistice Agreement. The United States must coordinate with our allies to take appropriate action in response to the hostility of the North Korean Government. We also strongly urge the international community to faithfully implement all United Nations Security Council Resolutions pertaining to security on the Korean Peninsula.

I support this resolution not only out of sympathy for our South Korean allies, but also because of the message it sends to potential aggressors abroad. It says we understand that stability around the world is necessary for security at home; it says that we will not remain silent in the face of violations of international treaties; it says that hostility towards peaceful democratic nations will not go unanswered. The safety of the people of the United States depends on our ability to work with the international community to stand by our allies and respond to aggressors.

CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTHDAY OF ATATURK

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, As co-chair of the Turkish Study Group in the House, I was invited to a celebration of the birthday of Ataturk, revered as the father of modern Turkey. At the event 16 year old Selin Odabas-Geldiay was asked to speak about the occasion. This very poised young woman gave extremely articulate and pertinent remarks which I felt were worthy of being shared with a much larger audience and am including them here.

REMARKS ON THE OCCASION OF ATATURK'S PROCLAMATION OF YOUTH AND SPORTS DAY IN TURKEY TO MEMORIALIZE THE START OF THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE, SELIN ODABAS-GELDIAY, MAY 20, 2010, HOME OF MIRAT AND HUDAI YAVALAR

It is a great honor for me to be here tonight and to speak about our great leader

Ataturk and the importance of May 19th. Ninety-one years ago yesterday, Ataturk took a very dangerous trip from Istanbul to Samsun, a city on the Black Sea. There he assumed command of the 9th Ottoman Army. This was a turning point for Turks as it represented the beginning of the Independence War. Because of the significance and the importance of that day, Ataturk dedicated this day to the Turkish youth as he had great confidence and trust in the ability of the Turkish youth to protect and continue the Turkish Republic he founded. I am one of those Turkish youth. When Ataturk spoke of the youth, he was not only referring to those young in age but also to those with open minds, ready to embrace and conquer new challenges.

For as long as I can remember, I have taken great pride in my Turkish heritage. Whenever I meet someone new, I always make a point of telling them that even though I was born in the United States, which I love, my roots are from Turkey. Even in my high school, if someone doesn't know me personally, he or she will still know me as "the Turkish girl." I have taken on this identity as a result of my upbringing and how my parents installed this pride in me by example. Ever since I was little, I have watched my parents say with joy, "I live in the United States, but I'm originally from Turkey." This phrase soon became my own as I met new people. As I was growing up, I remember attending many birthday celebrations for Ataturk at the home of our hosts Mirat and Hudai Yavalar (since May 19th is also considered Ataturk's birthday) and I thank them for also being good role models in teaching young people about Ataturk. Those are the only birthday parties I attended where the person whose birthday we are celebrating is missing in person. But I realize that Ataturk continues to live in our hearts and minds. How many leaders do you know who evoke such strong feelings of love and devotion in people's hearts 72 years after they are gone? Not too many, I assure you.

As a child I attended Turkish school every Sunday. We would learn grammar, history, and music, but most of all we would be learning about Ataturk. His leadership and bravery as a military genius were always highlighted. His achievements as a statesman are unmatched. I do not know of any other nation that has gone through and embraced the kinds of reforms Ataturk introduced in Turkey. Creating a secular republic, giving women the right to vote and be elected, changing the alphabet to Latin letters almost overnight, changing the way people dress are just a few of the incredible reforms he promoted and established in Turkey.

As I mentioned earlier, May 19th is dedicated to young people, not only to those who are young in age, but also those who are young in mind, meaning open to learning new ideas and new things. I am happy to be celebrating this important day with all of you.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak with you tonight.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF CLEVELAND MAYOR FRANK JACKSON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Mayor Frank Jackson as he is

named by the Cleveland-Marshall Law Alumni Association as a 2010 Alumnus of the Year for his work and leadership on behalf of those who live and work in the City of Cleveland.

Mayor Jackson has lived in Cleveland his entire life, and today resides in the same neighborhood in which he grew up. He began his formal schooling in the Cleveland Public Schools. He moved on to Cuyahoga Community College, where he earned an associate's degree. Subsequently, he earned a bachelor's and master's degree from Cleveland State University and later earned a law degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. Mayor Jackson was elected to the Cleveland City Council in 1989, where he led the charge to protect our most vulnerable citizens. Mayor Jackson is also a United States Veteran, having served our country in Vietnam with honor.

Mayor Jackson continues to work on issues such as jobs, the foreclosure crisis and affordable housing. He remains a public advocate for the homeless members of our society and he is the first Mayor to attend the annual Homeless Memorial Day event and other events organized by homeless citizens.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mayor Frank Jackson as he is being recognized by the Cleveland-Marshall Law Alumni Association for his tireless efforts on behalf of the people of Cleveland.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LINCOLN 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. LINCOLN 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 to 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 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.

THANKING RICK WEIDEMANN FOR
HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on May 25, 2010, we rise to thank Mr. Rick Weidemann for his 22 years of distinguished service to the U.S. House of Representatives. Rick has served this great institution as a valued employee of the Clerk of the House for 8 years and House Information Resources (HIR) in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for 14 years.

Rick began his career at the House with the Office of the Clerk in November 1987 as a Data Entry Clerk for the Finance Office. A year later he was promoted to the position of Senior Telecommunications Administrator with the Office of Telecommunications. In June of 1995, Rick joined HIR when the Office of Telecommunications was transferred to the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer. During this time, Rick managed the landlines and wireless requirements of Members, committee, leadership and House support offices.

In recent years, Rick has handled the increased workload and challenges of the position brought on by the explosive growth and variety of personal digital assistants (PDAs) and Smart Phones.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Rick for his years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

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:

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011," which provides \$726 billion in budget authority for the Department of Defense and the national security programs of the Department of Energy.

I thank Chairman SKELTON for his masterful leadership in bringing this legislation to the floor.

Mr. Chair, I support this bill for three reasons: (1) it restores and enhances the readiness of our troops, equipment, and defense infrastructure; (2) it takes care of our military personnel and their families; and (3) it authorizes the needed investments to keep our nation strong, safe, and respected in the world.

Let me briefly highlight some of the key provisions. This legislation:

TROOP AND EQUIPMENT READINESS

Provides \$1.2 billion for projects in Afghanistan to allow our commanders on the ground

to immediately respond to military construction needs in theater.

Authorizes \$13.6 billion for the training of all active duty and reserve forces to increase readiness as troops experience greater dwell time following the Iraq drawdown.

Authorizes \$345 million to fully fund the first increment of construction funds to modernize DOD schools.

Authorizes \$9.7 billion to fully fund day-to-day maintenance requirements of DOD facilities.

Provides a total of \$7.2 billion for the National Guard and Reserve, including \$700 million above the budget request.

HELP FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

Provides a 1.9 percent military pay raise.

Expands TRICARE health coverage to include adult dependent children up to age 26.

Increases family separation allowance for troops who are deployed away from their families.

Increases hostile fire and imminent danger pay for the first time since 2004.

Expands college loan repayment benefits.

Contains the most comprehensive provisions to address sexual assault in the military, including 28 recommendations of the Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault.

Establishes a pilot program to help military spouses take advantage of their personal skill sets to identify and obtain desirable and portable careers.

Authorizes an additional special one-time payment to seriously wounded servicemembers to pay for the relocation costs of their caregivers.

IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

Bans permanent bases in Iraq and prohibits U.S. control of Iraqi oil.

Requires report on responsible redeployment of U.S. forces from Iraq, the development of military capabilities that are necessary for the Government of Iraq to stand on its own, and the status of nearly 1,000 projects, programs, and activities that will need to be closed or transferred over a short period of time as a result of the drawdown.

Bans permanent bases in Afghanistan.

Requires reports to assess progress toward security and stability in Afghanistan and the conditions and criteria that would need to permit the transition of lead security responsibility to the Afghan government, and allow the redeployment of U.S. forces from Afghanistan.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND COUNTERRORISM

Authorizes \$87.8 million for the Combating Terrorism Technical Support office.

Authorizes \$2.6 billion for Homeland Defense and counterproliferation activities, including \$1.6 billion for chemical biological defense.

Provides \$20 million for two cybersecurity new start programs.

Provides \$1.6 billion to support nations providing support in Iraq and Afghanistan in the fight against al Qaeda and the Pakistan Taliban.

Extends DOD's Pakistan Counterinsurgency Fund through FY11.

RICHARDSON AMENDMENT #1

Mr. Chair, in my remaining time let me discuss an additional reason why I support this legislation. With the support of Chairman SKELTON and his committee, this bill includes an amendment I offered which I will briefly describe.

My amendment, Richardson Amendment #1, improves the bill by instructing the TRANSPORTATION COMMAND (TRANSCOM) to update and expand the PORT LOOK 2008 Strategic Seaports study. This study remains a crucial tool to ensure that our ports are ready to respond in the case of an emergency. My amendment would expand the scope of the report to include consideration of the infrastructure in the vicinity of strategic ports, including bridges, roads, and rail capacity, in addition to the facilities inside the port that are already covered.

Mr. Chair, it bears repeating that in time of war, "the role of the ports is to protect the forts." If the transportation systems and infrastructure in and around our strategic ports is deficient, the ability of these ports to fulfill their indispensable national security role will be compromised. That cannot be allowed to happen. My amendment will ensure that we have the information needed to make the investments needed to keep our strategy the best in the world.

I thank the Rules Committee for making my amendment in order and Chairman SKELTON for accepting it.

RICHARDSON AMENDMENT #2

I also offered a second amendment, Richardson Amendment #2, to increase the effectiveness of the Northern Command ("NORTHCOM") in fulfilling its critical mission of protecting the U.S. homeland in event of war and in providing support to local, state, and federal authorities in times of national emergency. Specifically, my amendment would have ensured that NORTHCOM (1) develops and has in place a leadership strategy that will strengthen and foster institutional and interpersonal relationships with state and local governments and (2) develops an instructional program to train key personnel how to lead effectively in the event of a disaster when they do not have command authority to dictate actions.

The purpose for NORTHCOM is to bring the capabilities and the resources of the U.S. military to the assistance of the American people during a catastrophic disaster. NORTHCOM leaders will be much more effective in saving lives, protecting assets, and enhancing resilience after the disaster has occurred if they are trained in the techniques of effective engagement with civilian leadership. My amendment would have ensured that such training will be available. Although this amendment was not made in order by the Rules Committee, my present intention is to introduce this legislation as a separate bill when the House reconvenes next month.

CONCLUSION

Madam Speaker, let me express my thanks to Chairwoman SLAUGHTER of the Rules Committee for making the Richardson Amendment in order and to Chairman SKELTON for accepting it. I also want to acknowledge the yeoman work of the Committee staffs and the excellent work of my Legislative Director, Gregory Berry, and Jeremy Marcus, my Senior Legislative Assistant.

In conclusion, I support H.R. 5136 because it restores and enhances the readiness of our troops, equipment, and defense infrastructure. It takes care of our military personnel and their families. And it authorizes the needed investments to keep our Nation strong, safe, and respected in the world. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for the bill on final passage.