

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.

HONORING THE 178TH FIGHTER
WING

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. AUSTRIA. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District, we are honored to recognize the contributions of the 178th Fighter Wing for their 60-plus years of service to our nation during their Hail and Farewell Ceremony on June 5, 2010.

The heritage of the 178th Fighter Wing and 162nd Fighter Squadron traces its roots back to the world famous 357th Fighter Group, the "Yoxford Boys" and the 362nd Fighter Squadron in England.

During World War II, the Wing's combat victories totaled over 695, a mark no other fighter unit anywhere has matched. Ever since, the 178th Fighter Wing has played an active role in air combat and support, training, security forces, engineering, medical, communications, aircraft maintenance, human resources and transportation in support of contingency operations around the world.

As the military's needs evolve with the emergence of new threats and advancing technology, the Base and Wing will be transitioning to new missions that will enable our military to meet the unique challenges of the 21st Century. It would have been impossible to imagine, during World War II, that planes conducting missions over nations half a world away would be piloted by the 178th Fighter Wing in Springfield, Ohio. It would be equally difficult to imagine then the quality and speed of the intelligence gathering process that will also take place in Springfield, through NASIC. We are confident the men and women of the 178th stand ready to meet future challenges and missions successfully, as they begin a new chapter in a proud legacy.

Thus, with great pride, we congratulate the men and women of the 178th Fighter Wing and their families for their exemplary service to this community and our country and extend best wishes to them for the future.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

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. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2011. The bill authorizes \$726 billion for defense programs, global military operations and pay and benefits for active duty military personnel, veterans and their families. As Memorial Day approaches, we are reminded of the great debt we owe to our men and women in uniform. This bill continues our commitment to

them, to their civilian colleagues, and to their families for their support and sacrifice.

The welfare and safety of our troops and their families is a priority of this Congress. That is why this bill authorizes funding to support not only the healthcare programs that our military personnel and their families depend on, but also the funding to ensure that our troops have the equipment and support they need for their mission.

In addition to authorizing funding for training, transportation and equipment, the measure includes additional funding specifically targeted to protecting troops in harm's way. For those currently serving on the front lines in Afghanistan and Iraq at risk of injury from improvised explosive devices, the bill authorizes \$3.5 billion for counter measures, \$3.4 billion for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, and almost \$1 billion to up-armored Humvees.

The sluggish economy places a special burden on the limited financial resources of military families. That is why the bill authorizes an average 1.9% pay increase for military personnel and establishes a career development pilot program for military spouses.

Healthcare for our troops and their families is a priority of this congress. The bill authorizes \$32.4 billion for defense health care programs. This includes a one-time authorization for cash payments to severely wounded combat veterans for attendant care, an extension of health care coverage to dependent children of Tricare Beneficiaries up to age 26, and \$524 million for medical research and development, including \$3 million in extra funds for research in alcohol and substance abuse disorders. For those suffering from mental health problems associated with multiple deployments and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, the bill also authorizes a 25% increase in the number of mental health providers for the military. According to the military, the number of military personnel who committed suicide in 2009, exceeded the number who died in combat in Afghanistan that year. This is a growing and silent killer that must be addressed.

I am pleased to report that the bill also authorizes \$2.5 million for the Bethesda Hospitals Emergency Preparedness Partnership which includes the Naval Bethesda Medical Center, the National Institute of Health Clinical Center, the National Library of Medicine, and Suburban Hospital, to develop plans and procedures to respond rapidly and successfully to any emergency situation in the Washington DC region. And, the measure also authorizes \$5 million for the Hydrodynamic Test Facilities at Carderock to replace the wavemaking equipment at the Carderock Division of the Naval Surface Warfare Center. These authorizations will not only strengthen our national security, they will also help create and retain good paying jobs for Montgomery and Prince George's county residents.

And, finally, I support the repeal of the discriminatory Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy. Since 1994, thousands of qualified and committed service members have been fired simply on the basis of their sexual orientation. At a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing in February, Admiral Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said, "I cannot escape being troubled by the fact that we have in place a policy that forces young men and women to lie about who they are in order to defend their fellow citizens." And, General Colin Powell, changing his long held position

on Don't Ask Don't Tell recently said, "It's been a whole generation since the legislation was adopted, and there is increased acceptance of gays and lesbians in society. Attitudes and circumstances have changed."

We cannot afford to turn away dedicated, talented and committed soldiers just because they are gay. Though this change will not go into effect until the Pentagon completes an ongoing review due in December, and the president and secretary of defense certify that a repeal is consistent with the military's standards of readiness and effectiveness, the end of this discriminatory policy is finally in sight.

Madam Speaker, this bill authorizes much needed funding for vital programs that benefit our men and women in uniform, their civilian colleagues, our veterans and to their families. I urge its immediate passage.

IN HONOR OF DETECTIVE DONALD
MALLOY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Detective Donald Malloy as he celebrates retirement after nearly thirty years of excellent service to the City of Cleveland Police Department.

Detective Malloy was appointed to the force on August 7, 1981, and he began as a patrol officer in the 4th District. During his career, Detective Malloy completed the Ohio Fire Academy program, became a certified finger print examiner and worked in the Crime Scene Records division. He spent the majority of his career in the Financial Crimes Unit, investigating and assisting in the arrests of numerous perpetrators.

Detective Malloy has been honored with commendation for his service, including awards from the City of Shaker Heights, the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority and the former Mayor of Cleveland, Mike White.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Cleveland Police Detective Donald Malloy, whose dedication, expertise and concern for the people of the City of Cleveland has helped to protect our community. We are grateful for his service. I wish Detective Malloy, his family and friends health and happiness.

CONGRATULATING GREATER
MOUNT ZION CHURCH

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, on June 12, 2010 the Greater Mount Zion Church in Brazoria, Texas will observe the Grand Opening and Church Dedication of their new worship facility. Greater Mount Zion Church is one of the fastest growing churches in Southern Brazoria County, having quadrupled their active membership and attendance since 2005. Greater Mount Zion services Southern Brazoria County with over 40 ministries, including several ministries aimed at serving children, teenagers, and young adults.