

In 2005, in order to better serve the people of Brazoria County, the Greater Mount Zion (GMZ) Education and Development Center was created. The GMZ Education and Development Center has implemented a number of programs focusing on areas such as academics, employment, financial management, family stability, and civic involvement.

Greater Mount Zion's newly finished facility will facilitate in continuing partnerships, as well as creating opportunities for new partnerships, with other churches, faith-based groups, schools, community organizations and businesses, thus allowing Greater Mount Zion and GMZ Education and Development Center to better serve their community. While Greater Mount Zion's prior facility consisted of a sanctuary that seated 130 individuals, three classrooms, and a multi-purpose building with a half-gym, the new campus includes a sanctuary which seats approximately 500 individuals, 10 classrooms, and a multi-purpose building with a full gym. The new campus will allow more individuals and organizations to use the facility for academic and other programs that help the residents of Brazoria find employment, achieve financial success, and attain their other personal and professional goals.

Madam Speaker, I once again congratulate the staff and congregation of Greater Mount Zion Baptist Church on the opening of their new facility and I thank them for all they have done for the people of Brazoria County.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 5136 the Fiscal Year 2011 Defense Authorization Appropriations Act.

It is fitting that we are considering this bill on the Friday before Memorial Day. In my state of North Carolina, patriotism never went out of style. We were patriotic before patriotism was cool. With Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base, other bases and our Guard and Reserve, units in my district, America's service members are our friends and neighbors, sons and daughters. We swell with pride at the work being done by our service members in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. As we pray for their safe and speedy return, we also remember those veterans who came before them, who served their country and protected our freedom throughout history. I am proud every single day, not only on Memorial Day.

Mr. Chair, this bill recognizes the service of our men and women in uniform, and gives our troops the resources they need. It provides \$567 billion to the Department of Defense and Department of Energy, and commits \$139 billion for today's active operations. In terms of future security, the bill strengthens our

counterterrorism efforts, providing our military with the additional tools they need to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al Qaeda and its extremist allies. Of particular importance to Fort Bragg, which houses the Special Operations Command, it enhances our capacity to directly act against terrorist forces. It also brings warfare into the information age by integrating cybersecurity protection with the protection of physical security.

H.R. 5136 strengthens protection for our troops at home and abroad, and increases support for our soldiers and their families. It honors our covenant with the Guard and Reserve by raising their pay and by investing in new equipment. It strengthens our compact with the citizen soldier, so that when Guard and Reserve are called to active duty that they have the equipment and training they need to be effective.

The bill contains an amendment that I offered with Congressman LARRY KISSELL and Congressman SANFORD BISHOP that reinforces the pact between the communities that host the military bases and the Department of Defense. The change confirms Congress' commitment to the quality of life of America's soldiers, officers, civilians and their families. While the Office of Economic Adjustment in the Department of Defense is tasked with providing technical and financial assistance to communities affected by Defense adjustments, there are often community needs that cannot be financed in a timely manner with local resources. Our amendment makes sure that Office now has the full authority required to fulfill its mission. The Department now has clear authority to roll up its sleeves, so the Department can help out while the changes are happening. I appreciate Chairman SKELTON's willingness to accept this amendment, and I hope that we can work together to fund those needs.

Mr. Chair, the members of our armed forces give so much to our country. Whatever we ask, even for the ultimate sacrifice, we know will be given. On the eve of our Memorial Day observation, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting yes on this bill, ensuring that our military is fully prepared for threats and challenges worldwide and that our troops get the benefits they deserve and have earned.

CONGRATULATING THE BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH FOR 59 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. McKEON. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Bethel A.M.E. Church for 59 years of outstanding community service.

Organizations such as Bethel A.M.E. strengthen communities through faith and selfless charity. From the Church's humble beginnings to the present day, those involved with Bethel A.M.E. have shown steadfast dedication to their surrounding community and have worked diligently to improve the lives of those less fortunate Americans.

Once again, congratulations to Bethel A.M.E. Church on its 59th anniversary. The

Church has truly been a force of good in Barstow and I look forward to its continued growth and progress in advancing goodwill throughout California's 25th District.

IN HONOR OF COMMANDER
DEBORAH WASHINGTON

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 Commander Deborah Washington as she celebrates retirement after nearly thirty years of exemplary service to the City of Cleveland Police Department.

Commander Washington started as a patrol officer in the 3rd, 4th and 5th districts after she was appointed to the force on June 1, 1981. She worked in the Juvenile/Gang Unit, Complaint Unit, Community Relations Division and the Financial Crimes Unit. On April 30th, 1999, Deborah Washington was appointed to the position of Commander of the City of Cleveland 5th District.

Commander Washington has been honored with numerous awards for her service, including commendations from Playhouse Square, Aftercare Residential Center, the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office, the United States Secret Service and Judge Ronald Adrine's office.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and gratitude of Commander Deborah A. Washington, whose service and leadership has helped protect the citizens of our community. She has helped keep our streets safe and strengthened the bonds of unity within the Cleveland Police Department. I wish Commander Washington, her family and friends health and happiness.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
JULIANNA MARIE PETRONE

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding individual in our community, Julianna Marie Petrone.

Julie's dedication to serving veterans and active duty military personnel was evident when she first began her career in the federal service at my Congressional District Office in 2002. Julie served the veterans and military personnel of New York's 2nd Congressional District with such passion and determination that she gave new meaning to the phrase "above and beyond the call of duty." Julie has worked tirelessly to ensure that these veterans and military personnel have received their medals and benefits with the dignity and justice they deserve.

Julie is now taking her call to serve our nation to the highest level. On Sunday May 30, 2010, Julie will be commissioned as 1st Lieutenant in the United States Air Force and will be serving at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base following Officers Training.

Julie has touched the lives of veterans on Long Island, and now she will touch the lives

of the citizens of our entire nation as she steps into her new leadership role as 1st Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

I congratulate Julie upon her tremendous achievements and wish her the best in her next step of service.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

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. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chair, it is with great appreciation that I rise in support of provisions contained within H.R. 5136, the Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011, relating to the procurement of steel armor plate and the definition of the term "produced."

Recently, the Department of Defense has implemented a regulation that allows the use of steel armor plate that is melted in foreign countries to be used in various defense applications, and I want to thank Chairman SKELTON and Ranking Member McKEON for including language that specifies that this type of steel must be melted in the United States.

I was informed of the urgency of this issue during a Steel Caucus hearing in March of this year, when we discussed that a Department of Defense regulation now merely requires the finishing processes of armor plate manufacturing to take place domestically, which is contrary to over thirty-five years of precedent requiring melting processes to occur in the United States. After this hearing, Rep. TIM MURPHY and I spearheaded a Steel Caucus letter to Secretary of Defense Gates, with 35 other Members of the Caucus signing the letter, which urged him to fully examine the implications of this regulation.

Steel armor plate plays a vital role in the protection of our troops and the defense of our nation, and the Specialty Metals Amendment, as originally included under the Berry Amendment in 1973, aims to ensure that American steel is used to protect our troops. The regulation amends the definition of produced under the Specialty Metals Amendment, and I am thoroughly concerned that this threatens the safety of our troops and the defense of our nation. Steel armor plate is used in Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles and MRAP All-Terrain Vehicles, and we must do everything possible to ensure that American made material is used in the production of these vehicles.

I understand that the House Armed Services Committee has closely followed this situation and has included report language in the past cautioning the Department of Defense on the implications of this regulation, and I applaud your continued efforts today on remedying this situation and protecting our national security and the American industrial base.

RECOGNITION OF SANDRA GARDEBRING OGREN

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and celebrate a dedicated public servant and friend, Sandra Gardebring Ogren.

Sandee has served California Polytechnic (Cal Poly) State University remarkably as the Vice President for University Advancement. Drawing upon her long record of distinguished public service, Sandee's leadership has contributed to the university's national recognition as an institute of higher education and excellence. Her tireless efforts have helped the university continue to flourish as an invaluable source of innovation and graduates of the highest academic level.

Prior to her work at Cal Poly, Sandee served as Vice President for University Relations at the University of Minnesota for six years. From 1991 to 1998 she was a member of the Minnesota Supreme Court and for two years previously she was a member of the Minnesota Court of Appeals. Additionally, she has held a variety of other public sector jobs including Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 5 Enforcement Division.

Clearly, I could talk all day about the extraordinary accomplishments of Sandee and her work in the areas of the law, the environment, human services, transportation, and education, just to name a few. I am honored to work with her and proud to call her my friend.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

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. PLATTS. Mr. Chair, I am proud to have joined with my friend from Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, in introducing this amendment which will provide our servicemembers that are affected by Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) with access to cutting-edge treatments. As we all know, TBIs have become the "signature wound" of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Record numbers of troops return to American soil in need of treatment and rehabilitation. While the Department of Defense has been a leader in providing treatment to our wounded warriors, it has been slow to embrace innovative treatments, such as Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy.

This amendment would establish a five-year "pay for performance" innovative treatment pilot program. The pilot program would allow healthcare providers outside of the Department of Defense to treat active duty military personnel and veterans with cutting-edge TBI treatments not offered at military medical facilities. The private healthcare providers would only receive reimbursement from the Department of Defense if the treatment was proven to be successful. Servicemembers and veterans who voluntarily opt into this program would do so at no cost.

I see this amendment as a win-win. Not only will our troops receive access to innovative therapies, but it encourages the private sector to invest in new and inventive treatments for TBI. The amendment also requires the Department of Defense to maintain a database to track the effectiveness of such treatments. It is my hope that after the conclusion of this five-year pilot, the Department of Defense will begin providing proven therapies at military medical facilities.

Our men and women in uniform deserve the best treatments available. This common-sense amendment would help to expand access to new therapies in a fiscally responsible way. I encourage all of my colleagues to join with me to support this amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, May 27, 2010, I was unable to participate in all of the day's votes due to a family emergency. Had I been present I would have voted: on rollcall No. 306—No—H. Con. Res. 282, Providing for adjournment or recess of the two Houses; on rollcall No. 307—No—H. Res. 1404, Providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011; on rollcall No. 308—Yes—H. Res. 1161, Honoring the Centennial Celebration of Women at Marquette University, the first Catholic university in the world to offer coeducation as part of its regular undergraduate program; on rollcall No. 309—Yes—H. Res. 1372, Honoring the University of Georgia Graduate School on the occasion of its centennial; on rollcall No. 310—Yes—Skelton of Missouri Amendment No. 1; on rollcall No. 311—Yes—Marshall of Georgia Amendment No. 4; on rollcall No. 312—Yes—McGovern of Massachusetts Amendment No. 13; on rollcall No. 313—Yes—Inslee of Washington Amendment No. 82; on rollcall No. 314—Yes—Gutierrez of Illinois Amendment No. 21; on rollcall No. 315—No—Eshoo of California Amendment No. 42; on rollcall No. 316—No—Pingree of Maine Amendment No. 80; on rollcall No. 317—No—Patrick Murphy of Pennsylvania Amendment No. 79; on rollcall No. 318—No—Sarbanes of Maryland Amendment No. 47.