

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.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

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. KUCINICH. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2011. This legislation authorizes \$725.9 billion for defense programs this year, including \$159.3 billion specifically for the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the so-called "war on terror." Once again, the House of Representatives easily approves billions of dollars for war, while a bill that would provide genuine assistance to our constituents gets watered down by the demagoguery of fiscal responsibility.

Our national security is not preserved or furthered through the military occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan. Our presence in the region continues to foment resentment toward us and undermines the human rights of the Iraqi and Afghani people. To date, more than 4,000 U.S. servicemembers have lost their lives in Iraq, and more than 31,000 have been wounded. As the number of troops in Afghanistan surpasses the number in Iraq, over one thousand U.S. troops have been killed thus far. With the continuation of the wars, we are creating a new generation of Americans that will experience the trauma of war, like Vietnam veterans before them.

According to the United Nations, air strikes continue to be the leading cause of civilian deaths in Afghanistan, despite the Administration's claims that avoiding civilian casualties is a cornerstone of the Afghan strategy. Innocent Afghans are killed, detained or threatened in frequent night raids conducted by North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces, while Afghan President Hamid Karzai buys million-dollar villas in Dubai. This bill also authorizes \$4.9 billion for ammunition and weapons systems, including for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles—or drones—that conduct indiscriminate attacks against suspected militants in Pakistan. According to a study conducted by the New America Foundation, three civilians die for every suspected militant killed by a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) drone in Pakistan.

I am also concerned about a number of the amendments adopted in the bill that I believe have no place in a bill that is intended to address our national security. Language addressing sex-offenders and language that has considerable implications on our foreign policy was included as part of an en bloc amendment that addressed a significant gap in the health care services provided to our veterans pre and post-deployment. An amendment was also adopted that would allow the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to conduct defense-related pilot programs with the Department of Defense (DOD). I have fought for years to keep NASA separate from DOD in order to preserve NASA's mission integrity and therefore, longevity.

While I oppose the underlying bill, I supported an amendment that would lead to the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) military policy. For the past 17 years, DADT has forced our service men and women to hide who they are as they selflessly sacrificed their lives for our country. The amendment would repeal DADT following the receipt of recommendations from a Pentagon working group tasked with formulating the implementation of the repeal and certification from the President and Secretary of Defense that the Department of Defense is prepared to implement its repeal.

Since the implementation of this discriminatory and misguided policy in 1993, almost 14,000 service members have been fired because of their sexual orientation. The United States is well behind many of our allies in allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military. Policies, like DADT, that create an atmosphere of fear and mistrust among colleagues serving side-by-side have no place in the military. I applaud the repeal of DADT and believe it is a significant step toward ensuring equality in our military and securing rights for members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.

I urge my colleagues to reflect on the policies and fiscal implications included in this legislation. As the country struggles to pull itself out of one of the worst economic recessions in history, we must commit to our priorities here at home—protecting our environment, keeping people in their homes, and getting people back to work.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

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:

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chair, I rise to oppose out of control war and defense spending. This bill (H.R. 5136) would authorize a record \$726 billion for defense. Congress refuses to find money to maintain COBRA premium assistance for jobless workers, but somehow we can afford yet another increase to our already bloated defense budget.

We should recognize that this legislation would fix a long-standing injustice by creating a path for the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." I was proud to vote for the Murphy Amendment and I look forward to the day when LGBT Americans enjoy equal rights in all facets of society, including marriage. Although I strongly support the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," I cannot vote for this legislation.

The waste in this bill is shameful. It includes \$361.6 million more than the Pentagon wants for a missile defense program that doesn't work, and \$485 million in funding for another engine for a fighter jet that already has a working engine. I offered an amendment that

would have cut the extra funding for missile defense, but it was not allowed to come to the floor for a vote. An amendment to strike money for a duplicative engine that the Pentagon doesn't want or need was also defeated.

Congress needs to get our priorities in order. We should be working to create jobs and assisting those impacted by the recession, not continue runaway defense spending. I urge all of my colleagues to oppose this wasteful bill.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RON KLEIN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, May 27, I was unavoidably detained.

Had I voted, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 312.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL POMEROY**

OF NORTH DAKOTA

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. POMEROY. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2011, though I have concerns about certain provisions that have been included in the bill.

While I strongly support many aspects of the bill, I am concerned about the inclusion of language to overturn the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Earlier this year, the Secretary of Defense ordered a study of the issue of repealing "Don't Ask Don't Tell." He said that while he believes it should be repealed, he first wanted to gather input from the troops before moving forward with repeal. I agree with the approach of Secretary Gates. I also agree with our military's service chiefs, including Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz, who said we should complete the Secretary's review before passing legislation to repeal "Don't Ask Don't Tell." I believe we should follow the lead of our military leaders. That means following the process we set up earlier this year to gather input from our troops and study the effect of repeal on our military forces. That is the best way to make sure our troops have their views heard, and that the right decision is made for the men and women in our armed forces.

While I voted against the amendment to end the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, I will be voting in favor of final passage of the 2011 NDAA. I believe that it is vitally important that Congress enact its yearly Defense Department authorization bill in a timely matter. This legislation helps to set military policy and any delay