

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

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. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, as we prepare to observe Memorial Day, the House passed a measure that makes a significant investment in our armed forces. In addition to much-needed additions in equipment, mental health care, and health services, the FY 2011 Defense Authorization Act includes a significant step forward for human rights. I am proud to say that this Congress has taken action to end the outrageous "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. By the end of 2010, it is my hope that all members of our armed forces will be able to serve our nation proudly and openly.

I am also pleased that the Committee has taken my request for additional environmental cleanup funding seriously. This bill provides \$20 million over the President's request, which is a small, but important first step. Our nation has tens of millions of acres of land that are contaminated with toxins and munitions left over from military training. Much of this now serves as parks, housing, or business development where Americans work and play every day. Yet the last of these sites won't be cleaned for another 250 years. It was my hope to include a provision, which I submitted to the Rules Committee as an amendment with Representatives BROWN-WAITE and FARR, to require that the military notify families and businesses living and operating on these sites. I am disappointed that this simple and common-sense amendment was not made in order, and it is my intention to offer it as a stand-alone bill. Americans have a right to know.

The continuous commitment to the escalation in Afghanistan concerns me greatly. The money and effort is misplaced and ultimately ineffectual. I am also disappointed that the House voted to preserve funding for the extra engine program for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. I have opposed this program for years, as have President Obama, Secretary Gates, the Army, Navy, and Marines. This is a sad reminder of how parochial interests can overwhelm good policy, and I will work with my colleagues to remove this funding in conference with the Senate.

I also look forward to working with my colleagues to clarify the Department's role with respect to the siting of wind energy projects, and to clarify the bidding process with regards to the Army's M915 truck.

No bill is ever perfect, and I will work to refine and strengthen this legislation through the conference process.

TRIBUTE TO VIOLA DUVALL STEWART

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an unsung civil rights pioneer and educational justice advocate. Mrs. Viola Duvall Stewart, who is currently 90 years old, filed the first lawsuit in 1945, seeking equal pay for African American teachers in South Carolina.

Viola Louise Duvall was born the only child of Vincent and Pearl Duvall in Charleston, South Carolina on June 30, 1919. She was named for two of her mother's sisters who died in the Spanish flu pandemic of that era. After her mother and Vincent Duvall were divorced, she married Coleman Wheeler and Viola gained two sisters, Angela and Ruby.

Viola graduated as salutatorian from Conception High School in 1937. That fall she enrolled in Howard University from which she earned a Bachelors of Science degree in chemistry in 1941.

In 1944, Viola Duvall was in her third year teaching science at Burke High School in her hometown of Charleston making just \$12 a week. She was recruited by the South Carolina NAACP to be the plaintiff in a case to equalize teachers' salaries in the State. Due to the intimidation and fear of losing their job, many teachers refused to participate in the lawsuit. Ms. Duvall was shunned by her fellow teachers and neighbors, who were fearful to associate with her for the public stand she was taking.

The case went to trial in April 1944. Ms. Duvall was represented by NAACP Chief Counsel Thurgood Marshall, who was nervous about being in South Carolina for the first time. The judge on the case was U.S. District Court Judge J. Waites Waring, a member of an old Charleston family.

The case didn't have an auspicious beginning when Judge Waring asked the School Board attorneys for the date of the Donald Murray case in Maryland. Mr. Marshall jumped up to respond and was dismissed by the judge. The same line of questioning continued, each time Mr. Marshall knew the response because he had been the attorney on all the cases in question, but the judge would not allow him to speak. The packed audience began to whisper because they feared Judge Waring would not give Ms. Duvall and her distinguished attorney an opportunity to be heard. And they were right.

Without giving the plaintiff the chance to present her case, Judge Waring turned to Mr. Marshall after he ended his questioning of the School Board attorneys and apologized for seeming rude. It is reported he said, "This is a very simple case, but what I wanted to find out from the School Board was how long it knew it was supposed to pay Negro teachers equal salaries and hadn't paid it. There's no need to take the court's time on this." In less than 15 minutes, without either side making an argument, the case was decided in favor of the plaintiff, Viola Duvall.

As a result of Ms. Duvall's determination and sense of justice, it took just a matter of months to ensure all of South Carolina's 6,000 black teachers received the same pay as their

white counterparts. However, she didn't remain in South Carolina long to enjoy the fruits of her labor.

Ms. Duvall met her future husband, Nathaniel C. Stewart, a second lieutenant with the Tuskegee Airmen on a blind date in 1945, when he was stationed in Walterboro, South Carolina. They were married on August 14, 1945, and later that year moved to his hometown of Philadelphia so he could attend pharmacy school. He graduated and went onto become the first African American department head at Philadelphia General Hospital as the director of pharmacy services.

Mrs. Stewart took a break from teaching to focus on her family. She did return to the classroom in 1964, as an intenerate special education instructor serving visually handicapped children around middle and high schools in the Philadelphia Public School District. She retired from teaching in 1981.

Viola and Nathaniel Stewart had two sons, Nathaniel, Jr. and Louis, and five grandchildren. She currently resides in Silver Spring, Maryland. She is a life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She also served for many years as Treasurer of Galilee Baptist Church of Philadelphia, where she has been a member for more than 50 years.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of this remarkable woman. Viola Duvall Stewart is one of the many heroes whose selfless acts led to a better life for so many people. Her name is not one that is recognized, but her actions left an indelible mark on the teaching profession and the civil rights movement in South Carolina. It is my honor to thank Mrs. Stewart for taking a stand despite the tremendous challenges of the day. It is because of people like her that I, and so many others, are where we are today.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

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. BORDALLO. Mr. Chair, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. The bill continues a strong tradition under the leadership of Chairman IKE SKELTON of Missouri of providing our men and women in uniform with the training, equipment and authorities that they need to protect our country. In particular, I rise in strong support of subtitle C of title 28 of this bill which includes several provisions that further strengthen Congressional oversight of the military build-up on Guam and directly address concerns raised in the draft environmental impact statement on the military build-up.

Of significant importance is Section 2822 which grants authority to the Secretary of Defense to assist the Government of Guam in

providing funding for civilian infrastructure improvements required as a result of the realignment of military installations and the relocation of military personnel on Guam. Congress has granted this authority before, most recently during the realignment of forces to Bangor, Washington. The authority granted to the Secretary addresses concerns raised by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and our community in regards to mitigating the impact of the buildup on our local infrastructure. The authority granted in Section 2822 also expands on President Obama's request for \$50 million in transfer authority to modernize infrastructure at the Port of Guam. To accommodate the influx of servicemembers and their dependents, our island will have to modernize aging infrastructure, build and repair roads, improve water and wastewater capacity, and increase capacity at the Port of Guam among many other preparations. This authority will assist our island in preparing for the realignment of forces to Guam and mitigate impact to our community.

Section 2824 is also important as it allows the Secretary of Defense to transfer rights and management authority of Navy's water and wastewater system to the Guam Waterworks Authority. This provision will create one single water and wastewater system on the island, create economies of scale, and will remove redundancies in our current system.

Most importantly, I worked to include an amendment that incorporated the full text of H.R. 44, "The Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act," to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. This provision would recognize the people of Guam for their sacrifices during World War II when Guam was occupied by enemy forces. With the realignment of forces to Guam, it is important that this longstanding issue be resolved so that the military build-up on Guam is implemented with community support. The Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act was adopted by the House as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, but was subsequently removed during conference with the Senate. I thank my colleagues for voting to adopt this provision once again.

I want to thank Chairman IKE SKELTON of the House Armed Services for his leadership on issues affecting the readiness of our military forces. I look forward to working with my colleagues toward passage of H.R. 5136 by the full House of Representatives.

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING HOUSING FUNDING TO COMBAT AIDS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 137, "Expressing the sense of the Congress that the lack of adequate housing must be addressed as a barrier to effective HIV prevention, treatment, and care, and that the United States should make a commitment to providing adequate funding for developing housing as a response to the AIDS pandemic," as introduced by my

distinguished colleague from New York, Representative NADLER.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to be a serious issue in the United States. A growing body of empirical research shows that HIV patients' housing and other socioeconomic factors are of equal or even greater importance than their medical care or personal health behavior in determining their long term health status. 70% of all persons with HIV or AIDS have reported periods of homelessness or unstable housing in their lives, the rates of HIV infection are 3–16 times higher for those who are homeless or have unstable housing, and the HIV/AIDS death rate is 7–9 times higher for homeless adults than the general population.

The link between poverty and HIV risk and outcomes is well established. Poor living conditions such as homelessness and overcrowding undermine safety and efforts to promote responsible sexual behavior. A lack of stable housing greatly reduces people's ability to reduce their risk of HIV, as people who are homeless or have unstable housing are 2–6 times more likely than the general population to use hard drugs, exchange needles, or trade sex for money or shelter.

Despite this evidence that adequate housing is an important effect on HIV prevention, the housing resources devoted to the national response to HIV/AIDS have been inadequate and housing has been largely ignored in policy discussions at the international level.

H. Con. Res. 137 recognizes that stable, affordable housing is a key component of any effective strategy to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, as well as its treatment and care. It further recognizes that the United States should make a serious commitment to providing adequate funding for developing housing as a response to the AIDS pandemic. I am proud to support this resolution, and strongly urge my colleagues to join me.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

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. WOOLSEY. Madam Chair, we've heard these arguments before.

The Secretary of the Army said he was concerned about how the proposed change would affect "the efficiency . . . of the Army."

A five-star General warned of "social experiments" and worried that with reform in military personnel policy ". . . we may have difficulty attaining high morale."

Those are not quotations from 2010 about the right of gay and lesbian Americans to serve openly in the military. They're from more than 60 years ago, during the debate over racial integration of the armed forces.

Does anyone believe they were right? If so, please speak up.

Is anyone prepared to argue that our military has suffered from the full participation of African-Americans in its ranks?

I hope we all remember this history lesson as we prepare to vote on a repeal of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy, an embarrassment unworthy of a great country and a great military.

It is responsible for the discharge of 13,000 honorable Americans, men and women who were told their service is dispensable . . . not because of how they behaved, but because of who they are.

It does violence to cherished American values like equality, inclusion, and tolerance. And it damages our national security too.

Given the military's recruitment challenges at a moment that we're still, unfortunately, fighting two wars . . . it is incomprehensible to me that we would reject any capable person who wishes to serve.

It was particularly galling to watch as hundreds of language specialists who could speak Farsi and Arabic were dismissed just when they were needed most, when our occupation of Iraq began.

The assertion that openly gay service members would undermine unit cohesion is just bunk, Madam Chair.

It is an argument based on fear, not fact. The research suggests that Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are comfortable serving side-by-side with fellow soldiers who happen to be gay or lesbian.

To suggest otherwise is to insult our troops, as the author of the amendment Mr. MURPHY has pointed out. Because the morale argument assumes our soldiers are so unprofessional—and even unpatriotic—that they would let another soldier's sexual orientation distract them from the mission.

Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, may have put it best when he said, "I cannot escape being troubled by . . . a policy which forces young men and women to lie about who they are in order to defend their fellow citizens. For me personally, it comes down to integrity—theirs as individuals and ours as an institution."

And now it comes down to our integrity, the integrity of those of us privileged to serve in the people's House.

We must have the integrity to do what's right . . . to support our troops and strengthen our military . . . by repealing the cruel and un-American Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.

RECOGNIZING NYASHA SPROW AS A STATE HONOREE IN THE 2010 PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS PROGRAM

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nyasha Sprow from Prince William County, Va., for being a state honoree in the 2010 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program. Nyasha is a volunteer with the Prince William Chapter of the American Red Cross and a seventh-grader at Virginia Virtual Academy. Additionally, she has become a passionate advocate for organ and tissue donation.

Nyasha has become a spokesperson for the National Kidney foundation and she works to