

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2055) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 2055, the fiscal year 2012 Military Construction and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Appropriations Act. This legislation, which provides \$129.7 billion in funding for the VA, is critical for our veterans returning from multiple tours of duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world, and all those who have so bravely and honorably served our nation in the Armed Forces, including the 46,370 veterans living in the 15th district of Michigan.

There are a number of provisions in this bill with which I am pleased. First, it continues the Democratic-initiated effort to provide advance appropriations for the Veterans Health Administration so the VA may adequately plan for our veterans medical needs. Second, it builds on the previous Democratic Congresses' commitment to our veterans by providing funding to reduce the VA claims backlog, allow for quality medical care, and ensure the promise of a college education.

I am particularly pleased efforts to weaken workers' rights were defeated during consideration of this legislation. Both a proposed ban on implementation of Project Labor Agreement requirements as well as a proposal to bar VA and the Department of Defense from enforcing the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirement on contracts would have unjustly harmed middle class working families and led to poor construction on VA and DoD facilities.

Mr. Chair, this legislation continues the Democrats tradition of caring for our veterans. This job is never done and at a time when we are engaged in conflicts around the world, it is imperative our current and former military men and women know that their government supports them.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting our veterans by voting "yes" on H.R. 2055.

HONORING JIM LEHRER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished journalist. On May 12, 2011, Jim Lehrer announced that he is leaving the "NewsHour" as a regular anchor effective the week of June 6, the final step in a carefully planned retirement. He said he will still appear many Fridays to moderate an analysis of the week's news.

Born in Wichita, Kansas in 1934, Jim Lehrer received an A.A. degree from Victoria College and a B.J. in 1956 from the University of Missouri before joining the Marine Corps. From 1959 to 1966, he was a reporter for The Dallas Morning News and then the Dallas Times-Herald. He was also a political columnist at the Times-Herald for several years and in 1968 became the city editor.

Lehrer's newspaper career led him to public television, first in Dallas, as KERA-TV's executive director of public affairs, on-air host and editor of a nightly news program. He subsequently moved to Washington, DC to serve as the public affairs coordinator for PBS, and was also a member of PBS's Journalism Advisory Board and a fellow at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Lehrer went on to join the National Public Affairs Center for Television. (NPACT) as a correspondent.

Lehrer has been honored with numerous awards for journalism, including the Chairman's Award at the 2010 National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences News & Documentary Emmy Awards, the 1999 National Humanities Medal, presented by President Bill Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and in October 2011, the National Press Club will present him with their top honor, the Fourth Estate Award. In 1999, Lehrer was inducted into the Television Hall of Fame with Robert MacNeil and into The Silver Circle of the Washington, DC Chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. He has won two Emmys, the Fred Friendly First Amendment Award, the George Foster Peabody Broadcast Award, and the William Allen White Foundation Award for Journalistic Merit and the University of Missouri School of Journalism's Medal of Honor. In 1991, he was elected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jim Lehrer on an extraordinary career. This trailblazing journalist has made a lasting impact on his profession. I thank Jim for his important contributions, and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. SUDIE TATUM

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give tribute to Dr. Sudie E. Tatum who passed away on June 1, 2011. On Sunday, June 5, 2011, services were held at Greater Galilee Missionary Baptist Church. The church had long planned to celebrate her life on this date; they felt no need to change it and held her funeral as part of "Dr. Tatum Day."

Dr. Tatum was born as Sudie Ethel Ware in Harrell, Arkansas and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She was a high school dropout, who became an educator. She graduated from UW-Milwaukee with qualifications for both teacher and social work. Dr. Tatum earned a master's degree in education administration and a doctorate in theology. Dr. Tatum taught adult basic education at Milwaukee Area Technical College.

She was active in church leadership and for 38 years served as president of the Women's Auxiliary of the General Baptist State Conven-

tion of Wisconsin. As president, she was a strong advocate for women, raising funds for mission work and was quite able of reminding men in authority that women kept the churches going.

Dr. Tatum's work with the church led her to distant La Hatte, Haiti, where she felt compelled to build a new church and school. She asked her family for money to help build the church and school. She contributed money that she had saved to purchase a car and family members donated the rest of the needed \$18,000.

Dr. Tatum was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, Earl Tatum. She never gave birth but raised her late sister's children as her own. Survivors include the children she raised, David Hollins Sr., Jynette Hamilton, Pastor Sudie B. Jones, Shirley Owens, Ruthie L. Darrough and James Hollins Jr.; and their children. Instead of flowers, she requested an offering for home and foreign ministries; therefore, a collection was taken as people left her service.

Mr. Speaker, I rise because Dr. Sudie E. Tatum is an example of the best of what Milwaukee and the Fourth Congressional District has to offer. She will be remembered as a woman who packed plenty of life into her 92 years and, who took the opportunity to combine the joys of her life: love of family, education, social work, guidance and missionary work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on the evening of June 13, 2011 because of pressing matters in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted for the LaTourette Amendment to the FY 2012 Military Construction and VA Appropriations bill to remove language from the bill which rolls back worker protections by discouraging the use of Project Labor Agreements. In this fragile fiscal climate, Congress should be defending our skilled laborers, whose essential work contributes to our economic recovery. Restricting existing policies which permit the establishment of basic terms and conditions on complex, large scale construction projects is harmful for workers and a distraction from the important programs which are funded in the underlying bill.

Additionally, I would have voted against the Amash Amendment, which would have prohibited compliance with the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage law. The Davis-Bacon Act has been a cornerstone of labor protection for 80 years, and I would have proudly voted to uphold it.

SALUTING SERVICE ACADEMY
STUDENTS—KEVIN CARRINGER

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary group of

young men and women who have been chosen as future leaders in our armed forces by the prestigious United States service academies. It is a privilege to send such a fine group from the third district of Texas to pursue a world-class education and serve our nation.

As we keep them and their families in our prayers, may we never forget the sacrifices they are preparing to make while defending our freedoms all across the globe. I am so proud of each one. God bless them and God bless America.

Today I salute Kevin Carringer, a United States Military Academy Appointee. Kevin is a graduate of Plano West Senior High School where he ran cross country, and track. Kevin also participated in triathlons, winning a consistent first place amongst his age group, and also achieving fifty miler awards for BSA canoeing and kayaking. Kevin worked hard at various jobs through his summers and serves as an Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. He served as president of the Plano West Cycling Club and was a member of the National Honor Society. Kevin's personal ambition and motivation to protect freedom inspire him to attend a United States Military Academy. In an essay Kevin stated he aspires to become the best Ranger the Army has seen, and believes that the full four year lifestyle of military discipline and training is required as his first stepping stone to success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during rollcall votes 391, 408, and 409. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 391, "nay" on rollcall 408, and "yea" on rollcall 409.

TRIBUTE TO MR. EDWARD HARVEY HOOMES, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Mr. Edward Harvey Hoomes, Jr., of Brewton, Alabama, a respected public servant who passed away after an extended illness on June 9, 2011. He was 76 years old.

During his lifetime, Edward Hoomes was a much beloved member of his community, and spent many years working for the Escambia County Commission. E.H., as he was called by his friends and family, honorably served in the United States Army from 1957 to 1959, reaching the rank of Specialist 3.

Mr. Speaker, E.H. will be remembered for his character, strength, love of the outdoors and his loving heart. All who knew E.H. will surely miss him.

On behalf of the people of South Alabama, I would like to extend my condolences to his wife, Betty, their daughters, Beverly and Sandra, their son Robert, and their families for the loss. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

HONORING SUNG MO "STEVE" KANG

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Sung Mo "Steve" Kang, Chancellor of the University of California, Merced; and to thank him for his leadership and dedication to the academic advancement of the Central Valley.

Since March 1, 2007, Steve Kang has served as Chancellor of the University of California, Merced, the first American research university of the 20 century. Kang is an experienced educator, researcher and administrator. Previously, he was Dean of the Baskin School of Engineering at UC Santa Cruz. He now serves on the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium Board, MentorNet Advisory Board, the UC President's Advisory Council on Science and Innovation, Business-Education Alliance of Merced County, and the Board of the Great Valley Center as its Chairman. He also serves on international advisory boards for institutions in Canada, Korea, Switzerland, and Taiwan.

He brings a wealth of experience from a long and distinguished career in private industry and higher education. Kang served as a department head (1995–2000) and a professor (1985–2000) in electrical and computer engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He was a visiting professor at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, the University of Karlsruhe and the Technical University of Munich, and a Chaired Visiting Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science of Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST). He has also taught at Rutgers University.

Prior to his career in education, Kang worked for AT&T Bell Laboratories, where he led the development of the world's first 32-bit microprocessor chips as a technical supervisor and designed satellite-based private communication networks as a member of technical staff.

His leadership in industry is evidenced by his earlier appointment to the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Nanotechnology, a joint federal-state venture to promote California as the premier center for nanotechnology research, development, and commercialization. He served as president of the Silicon Valley Engineering Council, the alliance for engineering leaders in Silicon Valley, with more than 60,000 engineers.

Kang holds 15 U.S. patents in electrical engineering and has written or co-authored 11 books and 400 technical papers and won numerous awards and fellowships for his work and publications. His current research interests include nanoelectronics, lower-power, very large-scale integrated (VLSI) circuits; modeling and simulation of semiconductor devices and circuits.

Kang is a fellow of IEEE, ACM and AAAS, Foreign Member of National Academy of Engineering of Korea, and is listed in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in Technology, Who's Who in Engineering and Who's Who in Midwest. He received the Alexander von Humboldt U.S. Senior Scientist Award (1996), IEEE Millennium Medal (2000), Chang-Lin

Tien Education Leadership Award (2007), Korean-American Leadership Award (2008), IQ Quality Award (2008), and many other accolades. Most recently (2009), Kang was inducted into the Silicon Valley Engineering Hall of Fame.

He earned his bachelor of science degree, graduating summa cum laude, from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, N.J.; his master of science from the State University of New York at Buffalo; and his doctorate from UC Berkeley. All his academic degrees are in electrical engineering. Kang and wife, Mia, live in the chancellor's residence in Merced. They have two grown children.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Sung Mo "Steve" Kang, Chancellor of the University of California, Merced for his numerous years of selfless service to the education of our community.

HONORING JENNIFER FORSETH

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Jennifer Forseth, a teacher at Centerfield Elementary School, and her fourth grade class from Oldham County in the fourth district of Kentucky.

Ms. Forseth and her students have been recognized by the National Energy Education Development Project for their outstanding work on energy programs this year.

Ms. Forseth's class conducted a study detailing how to improve energy efficiency in their school that culminated in a presentation of their findings. Their academic initiative earned them a scholarship and recognition by the NEED Youth Awards.

It is my hope that the accomplishments of Ms. Forseth and the fourth grade students from Centerfield Elementary School serve as inspiration for others to increase their own energy efficiency. I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing their accomplishments.

VALENTINA ROSENDO CANTÚ

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on February 16, 2002, 17-year-old Valentina Rosendo Cantú was almost finished doing her washing in a stream when eight soldiers suddenly appeared. They beat her until she passed out. When Valentina came to, she was raped, not once, but twice, as the rest of the soldiers stood by, watching and mocking her.

She was finally able to escape, returning home to her husband and three-month-old daughter, but she hasn't been able to escape from the memories of what happened to her.

For the last 9 years, Valentina has been begging for these bad guys to be punished. Despite her tireless pursuit of justice, the Mexican government refuses to allow her case to be tried under civilian jurisdiction while the military courts have completely dropped the