

his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
BRAZOSWOOD BUCCANEERS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, June 11, 2011, the Brazoswood Buccaneers baseball team won the title of Texas 5-A State Champions at the Dell Diamond in Round Rock, TX. It is with great pleasure that I extend my congratulations to the players and coaches of the Brazoswood Buccaneers baseball team on their outstanding victory.

The Brazoswood Buccaneers baseball team finished the playoffs with an undefeated 12–0 record, which put their season-ending winning streak at fourteen. Their hard work and dedication to the sport was rewarded with Brazoswood's third State Championship. Winning this title is not only a major accomplishment for the Buccaneers, but also for Houston 5A baseball. The Buccaneers' have brought the championship back to the Greater Houston area for the first time in three seasons. The 2011 Buccaneers are part of proud tradition in the Houston area as Houston 5A teams have won seventeen out of thirty State Championships.

Mr. Speaker, my grandson Michael Pyeatt is a member of this team. I am extremely proud of my grandson and his teammates' accomplishments, and inspired by their steadfast efforts to achieve their goal. It is therefore my pleasure to once again extend my congratulations to the players and coaches of the Brazoswood Buccaneers baseball team on the occasion of being named the Texas State 5-A Champions.

HONORING HAYDEN WHITE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Hayden White. Hayden is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 692, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Hayden has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Hayden has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Hayden has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Hayden renovated and constructed extra storage space in the basement of the Dillingham-Lewis Museum in Blue Springs, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Hayden White for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2112) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Chair, I am compelled to rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2112, the Fiscal Year 2012 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for three reasons.

First, the bill makes drastic and dangerous cuts to food safety programs and nutrition assistance for women, children, and seniors.

Second, by underfunding President Obama's request by 23 percent, this bill also makes draconian cuts to necessary conservation programs that protect our country's water supplies and manage critical natural resources.

Third, this substantially reduces funding for the Commodity Futures Trading Corporation, the watchdog agency designated by Congress to protect consumers from Wall Street greed and predatory conduct.

Madam Chair, the funding reductions in this bill will adversely affect every American. For example, the \$285 million slashed from the Food and Drug Administration will be a devastating blow to the agency tasked with ensuring food safety standards. The FDA is our country's first and most important line of defense against diseases such as E.coli and Salmonella, and with outbreaks of these illnesses on the rise, this cut endangers everyone in America.

In my home state of California, agriculture is a \$36.6 billion industry that generates at least \$100 billion in related economic activity. Any threat to the quality of our produce jeopardizes the economy of our state and the health of all who enjoy our products.

Madam Chair, this bill recklessly cuts funding for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission by 44% below the President's budget request. The CFTC was established to implement Wall Street reforms and is charged with policing price speculation in commodities, futures, and derivatives markets. The reduction in funding obviously is intended to deprive the CFTC of the resources needed to detect, deter, and prevent the abusive practices that culminated in the economic collapse of 2008. Crippling the CFTC will leave Wall Street speculators free to drive up the price of oil and other commodities while making it more difficult to protect the pension plans of hard working Americans from the effects of another economic downturn.

Madam Chair, this bill also hurts our environment by cutting \$1 billion from conservation programs. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) would be cut \$171 million relative

to its FY 2012 farm bill-mandated level, and if this bill becomes law the government would be unable to honor contracts it has already signed with farmers across the country employing environmentally sustainable agricultural methods.

The bill also cuts the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) by \$350 million. The bill cuts the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) by 64,200 acres and the Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP) by 96,000 acres. In addition, the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) would be cut \$50 million and \$35 million, respectively. The bill would also cut the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) conservation operations budget by nearly \$128 million.

Another troubling aspect of this bill is the reduction made to domestic and international nutrition programs, which hurt the most vulnerable among us.

The proposed cuts to the Women, Infants, and Children nutrition program (WIC), the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), and the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) would see hundreds of thousands of low-income women, infants, children and seniors losing their food aid.

Last year, WIC provided nutritious food, counseling on healthy eating and health care referrals for over 9 million women and children under age five and saved more than 200,000 babies from dying at birth. Proper nutrition combats low birth weights and improves a baby's immune system, saving on healthcare costs. The Republican-proposed \$650 million cut to the WIC program would deny these services for up to 350,000 low-income women and young children for the next year. In California, 31,800 to 55,700 women and children would be turned away.

Cuts to the CSFP and TEFAP would hurt low-income senior citizens who have extremely limited options when it comes to proper nutrition. There are 52,000 seniors living in the 37th Congressional District of California, which I represent, and nearly 15 percent of them depend on these programs to stay healthy and avoid hospital visits due to poor dietary health. For this reason, I offered an Amendment to H.R. 2112, redirecting \$10 million to CSFP so senior citizens will not have to choose between paying for medication and paying for food.

Finally, H.R. 2112 makes drastic cuts to international food aid and poverty alleviation programs. These programs constitute a critical component of US foreign policy, expressing humanitarian goodwill to our allies around the world and promoting a positive image of America abroad. Given all the President and Secretary of State have done to improve our international standing, it makes no sense for Congress to undo this good work by lessening its commitment to combat world hunger.

I. disturbs me than in their short-sighted rush to cut spending, my Republican colleagues would take food from the weakest and the poorest among us while preserving the Bush-era tax cuts for the super-rich. The American people do not accept this trade-off. My constituents in the 37th Congressional District reject this trade-off. I urge my colleagues to join them and me in voting against this unfair and ill-considered legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
COLONEL KEITH A. LANDRY

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary service of Colonel Keith A. Landry. This month, Colonel Landry will end his tenure as Commander of the Louisville District of the Army Corps of Engineers after establishing a record of service that has helped strengthen and protect our community. While he may be leaving Louisville, his service and contributions will be visible for decades to come.

Born in North Carolina and hailing from Beaufort, South Carolina, Colonel Landry was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers upon graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1985. From there, he embarked on a career driven by his dedication to service and country that has taken him around the world and back. After completing combat tours during both Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom, Colonel Landry began his command in Louisville in 2008, leading the District's significant engineering achievements to include over a billion dollars worth of military construction, the inspection of hundreds of miles of levee, and operation and maintenance of reservoirs, locks, and dams.

Since arriving in Louisville, Colonel Landry has worked to ensure that "River City" is not just our nickname, but a source of pride. His committed leadership helped shepherd the McAlpine Locks and Dam expansion project to completion, ensuring that Louisville would continue to benefit from the billions of dollars of cargo transported up and down the Ohio River year after year. And thanks to his expertise and guidance, the Ohio River has not had an unexpected closure to commercial navigation for more than a day during his command—an extraordinary feat, given extreme weather and flooding that we experienced during that time.

Through his 26 years of service to our nation—and counting—Colonel Landry's work has not just helped improve our infrastructure and safeguard our communities, but it has contributed to our economy and the strength of our nation. We in Louisville are grateful for the time he has dedicated to our city, and will surely miss his expertise, commitment, and leadership.

I am proud to join all of our community in thanking him for his outstanding service, dedication, hard work, and faithfulness to our nation. And I urge all of my colleagues to join me in wishing the best to a true public servant, Colonel Keith Landry, and his family in this next chapter of their lives.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LIMITED USE OF FORCE IN SUPPORT OF THE NATO MISSION IN LIBYA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation authorizing the limited use of United States forces in support of the NATO mission in Libya. This resolution is a companion to a Senate joint resolution introduced today by Senators JOHN KERRY, JOHN MCCAIN, BENJAMIN CARDIN, and RICHARD DURBIN.

Since Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi responded to peaceful demonstrations by attacking Libya's own citizens, the United States has been actively engaged with our international allies in thwarting the ability of the Qaddafi regime to visit violence, murder, and destruction on the people of Libya. This past February, the United States imposed economic sanctions on Libya and froze the assets of its leadership, promising to hold Qaddafi, his family, and the government of Libya accountable for its human rights abuses. Qaddafi responded by increasing his assaults on civilians. As Libyan forces approached the city of Benghazi, in which Qaddafi vowed to show "no mercy" to opposition forces which had captured the city, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1793, mandating "all necessary measures" to protect civilians in Libya, implementing a "no-fly zone", and enforcing an arms embargo. On March 19, the United States Armed Forces and our coalition partners launched Operation Odyssey Dawn in an effort to enforce the Security Council resolution. That mission has since come under NATO command and is now called Operation Unified Protector.

Mr. Speaker, there can be no question that the United States is engaged in hostilities in Libya. Our Armed Forces have assisted in combat operations including providing intelligence, aerial refueling, targeting, and other aspects of NATO's daily bombardment of Libyan forces loyal to Qaddafi. The President engaged in these hostilities without an authorization from Congress, and has anyway exceeded the 60-day War Powers limitation on the use of force without congressional consent. It is high time that Congress asserts its authority and engages proactively with the administration on this most serious question of war.

But the solution, Mr. Speaker, is not to simply cut off funds. Instead, Congress must limit and closely monitor the President's commitment of forces. This resolution authorizes the use of force in Libya for one year from the date of enactment, limiting the President's ability to engage our Armed Forces indefinitely. This resolution bans the use of ground forces and requires the President to continually report to Congress on the progress of our military operations, the plans to achieve our stated goals, and the changing situation on the ground. We must also make an effort to put Libya's frozen assets to good use, returning funds to the Libyan people and using some of that money to offset the cost of NATO's operations.

It is too late to debate whether we should be involved or not: we already are. What we must do is ensure that the legislative and executive branches are working in harmony to maintain a military commitment that is limited and brief, and that best serves the people of Libya. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

DEDICATION OF N.C. VETERANS PARK

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, today citizens and communities all across the United States join together to celebrate our nation's 235th birthday. In doing so, we rejoice in the moment, reflect on the past, and recommit ourselves to a brighter future for our wonderful nation.

One very special celebration is taking place today in Fayetteville, North Carolina, that deserves the special recognition of the U.S. Congress—the dedication of the North Carolina Veterans Park.

Fayetteville, and all of North Carolina, have a long and historic commitment to the men and women who have protected our country's freedoms. From Cherry Point Air Station to Charlotte Air National Guard, from Camp Lejeune to U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City, from Fort Bragg and Pope Army Air Field to New River Air Station and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, from the Military Ocean Terminal at Sunny Point to the Oak Island and Wrightsville Beach Coast Guard Stations, North Carolina has opened its hearts and hands to support those who have made so many sacrifices and opportunities for all of us.

Embracing the military and its veterans have earned North Carolina the distinction as the "most military friendly state" and home to one of the largest percentages of veterans in America. Ensuring that our veterans' service and sacrifice are never forgotten will be the legacy of the North Carolina Veterans Park.

This multi-dimensional park will capture the commitment, courage, and country-first attitude that shines through the veterans of our nation. And in doing so, it will be a legacy that generations and generations can learn how the actions of a few saved so many.

I want to share the words of our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, who once said, "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations."

The North Carolina Veterans Park will be another chapter in our state's and nation's efforts to honor those who have served and lived with great distinction.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, the North Carolina Veterans Park storyline states:

From the soils of North Carolina,
You left your families and homes
With purpose to serve your country.
You are our veterans.

This is your place to reflect on and
Share your experiences.
To feel pride in your service,
Bond with fellow veterans, and heal.
Here, may you find your support and inspiration

To live your lives today.
The people of North Carolina
Honor your service and welcome you home.