

spent over \$50 billion on the war in Afghanistan. According to the Congressional Budget Office, ending the wars could save \$1.4 trillion.

The President's announcement that he will begin removing surge troops does not reflect a significant policy change in Afghanistan. Removing the 30,000 surge troops from Afghanistan over the next year and a half only means that by the end of next year, we will be exactly where we were before the surge in December of 2009. Roughly 100,000 American soldiers will remain in Afghanistan to fight a war that I have serious reservations about.

I urge President Obama to reconsider his Afghanistan policy and commit to a meaningful drawdown of our troops.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE MCCOLLUM AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment offered by the gentlelady from Minnesota, Ms. MCCOLLUM.

The amendment would prohibit the Department of Defense from advancing their recruitment and retention goals through various athletic sponsorships.

At a time when our forces are undertaking operations in multiple theaters, I think it is wise that this body not end the very successful platform used by the Department of Defense to recruit men and women into their ranks.

Contrary to popular belief, sponsorships also go far beyond driver appearances, commercials and decals on race cars. In fact, the National Guard's Sponsorship of the Panther Racing IndyCar team has not only been successful in recruitment efforts, but it also has been successful in technology sharing.

J.R. Hildebrand, who drives the National Guard Indy car, wears ear sensors that measure the G-forces he experiences during a crash. That information is very useful for neurosurgeons who treat soldiers suffering from Traumatic Brain Injury, often the result of roadside bomb attacks.

Understanding the nature and effects of Traumatic Brain Injury advances the ways in which we protect and treat our fighting men and women, and those same sensors worn by J.R. Hildebrand will soon be deployed to our soldiers downrange.

These athletic sponsorships are great recruitment and marketing tools, and they also help improve the lives and care of our service men and women. I urge my colleagues to oppose the McCollum Amendment.

HONORING TERRY DRESSLER

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Terry Dressler, recently retired after 33 years of public service devoted to protecting the air quality along the Central Coast of California.

Terry has had a distinguished career in his field, beginning his work with air pollution control in Ventura in 1978. He then worked in San Luis Obispo for almost eight years before coming to serve the Santa Barbara community for more than twenty three years, most recently serving for the last seven years as the Air Pollution Control Officer for the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (APCD).

As a result of the work of Terry and his team, the County of Santa Barbara has improved its air quality through attainment of federal standards and has made major progress towards meeting state standards. Terry has effectively instituted and enforced programs that reduce stationary, marine shipping, and mobile source emissions while raising community awareness of air quality issues. Additionally, he was instrumental in the creation of the District Community Advisory Council and has worked with its members on state and federal clean air strategy. These initiatives have enhanced the agency's reputation for excellence in local and statewide communities.

My staff and I have worked closely with Terry in his efforts to lead the district towards its clean air mission and I have seen firsthand the great progress and improved air quality standards instituted by Terry and the APCD. His strong leadership and knowledge have directly, and positively, influenced the health of the residents of the County of Santa Barbara.

Terry is recognized as a dedicated public servant who has devoted his career to protecting the health and safety of the citizens of the County of Santa Barbara and the State of California. Terry's accomplishments in the field of air quality and his charismatic presence have left a lasting impact on his colleagues, staff, and community members, and we can all breathe a little easier as a result of his outstanding efforts. I am pleased to commend Terry for his commitment to excellence in the field of air quality, and I wish him a happy retirement surfing the Central Coast.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LINDA S. MULLER

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and salute Linda S. Muller, who is marking her 20th Anniversary as President and Chief Executive Officer of The Greater Hudson Valley Family Health Center. Under Linda's diligent and tireless leadership, The Greater Hudson Valley Family Health Center has grown from a small facility located in the basement of St. Luke's Hospital serving 4,000 patients each year to a greatly expanded and

modern health center providing comprehensive primary and preventive health care to more than 18,000 patients annually in the City of Newburgh and the surrounding towns in eastern Orange County. As a result of Linda's tremendous commitment and passion for universal health care, many thousands of medically underserved families and individuals in our region receive the highest quality of care from the dedicated physicians and staff at The Greater Hudson Valley Family Health Center.

In addition to overseeing the historic expansion of the health center's physical facilities, including the recent construction of a state-of-the-art new facility in the City of Newburgh, Linda has devoted a great deal of energy to increasing the services offered to our local community. The obstetrical health program developed by Linda in 2005 has now assisted more than 3,000 women in delivering healthy babies, many of whom now continue to receive health care at the health center. Linda also has responded to the urgent medical needs of our local community. This included creating programs to improve chronic health care management for diabetics and those with cardiovascular disease and initiating a model treatment program for people in our community living with HIV. Similarly, when it appeared that urgently needed treatment for people with substance abuse and chemical dependency problems might be lost to the City of Newburgh, Linda stepped in and created The Center for Recovery, which has now supported more than 800 patients in making a transition into healthy lifestyles free from drugs and alcohol.

Linda has led The Greater Hudson Valley Family Health Center through her strong dedication to the premise that health care is a right and not a privilege. She has imparted to every one of the more than 200 employees who work at the health center the importance of fulfilling the center's mission to provide high-quality, affordable, and easily accessible health care to everyone in our community, regardless of their status or ability to pay for care. Linda and her husband Charles will also celebrate another anniversary this summer, celebrating 40 years of marriage. They have three wonderful children, Jonathan, Christopher, and Jessica and three beautiful grandchildren, each brought into this world by one of the health center's extraordinary obstetricians.

IN RECOGNITION OF GEORGIA CARAWAY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a very special constituent of the 26th District of Texas, Georgia Caraway. After 13 years of service as the Executive Director of the Denton County Museums, Mrs. Caraway will retire later this month.

As Executive Director, Mrs. Caraway's professionalism and dedication has greatly impacted her community; she has spent her career striving to preserve Denton County's history through projects such as the Courthouse-on-the-Square Museum and the establishment of Denton County's Historical Park. Mrs. Caraway believes her greatest accomplishment

was the founding of the Denton County African American Museum. Through her astute leadership and cooperative fundraising efforts, she enabled the restoration of the county's museums and saved taxpayers thousands of dollars. In addition to her work with the museums, she has also helped complete a series of historical photography books that commemorate Denton County, and she hopes these achievements will encourage others to remember the county's origins and history.

Mrs. Caraway has left a lasting legacy in Denton County through her work. I thank Mrs. Caraway for her service and am proud to represent her in Congress.

HONORING MS. JEANNE KUCEY

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jeanne Kucey on her recent election to the Board of Directors at the National Association of Federal Credit Unions, NAFCU.

Ms. Kucey has served as President and CEO of JetStream Federal Credit Union since 2009. Responsible for operations in both Miami Dade County and Puerto Rico, her extensive experience in the financial services arena, including her time with credit unions in Atlanta, Georgia and San Diego, California, will be a tremendous asset to the NAFCU board.

Not only does Ms. Kucey bring a wealth of financial management knowledge to the table, she exemplifies the community based nature of credit unions through her work with the "Marlene Ericca Empowering Workshops" which provides life skills and mentoring to local disadvantaged women. Ms. Kucey is also an active member of the Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Kucey is a welcomed addition to the NAFCU board and will have the opportunity to make an immediate impact in her new role as recent regulatory reforms have created a particularly challenging time in the credit union community.

It is because of the hard work and dedication of Jeanne and others like her that the credit union community has been able to continue to serve its members during the tough economic times our country continues to experience.

I wish Ms. Kucey the best of luck in her new role as a member of the NAFCU Board of Directors. I look forward to working with her in this capacity and ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Jeanne on this achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 497 on July 6, 2011, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

BELARUS DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 515, the Belarus Democracy Reauthorization Act of 2011, which will support human rights in Belarus by encouraging the free expression of ideas among pro-democracy activists.

I would like to commend Mr. SMITH, the gentleman from New Jersey, for sponsoring this legislation and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Mr. BERMAN, for their efforts in bringing this legislation to the floor.

Madam Speaker, Belarusians have the same right to self-government and free speech as their neighbors and through the reauthorization of assistance to their civil society, H.R. 515 will help them regain rights which have been repressed by the ruling regime.

Since he was elected as his country's first president in 1994, Aleksandr Lukashenko has steadily consolidated his power, reversing promising reforms put in place following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The CIA World Factbook describes Belarus as "a republic in name, although in fact a dictatorship." Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called it "the last true remaining dictatorship in the heart of Europe."

Belarus has been criticized for its dismal human rights record by the U.N. Security Council, the U.S. State Department, the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Council, the European Parliament, the European Commission, and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

As a result of its human rights violations and a steady record of state-sponsored political repression, Belarus is subject to numerous sanctions from both the United States and the European Union. In 2004, Congress unanimously passed the Belarus Democracy Act, which authorizes assistance for political parties, non-governmental organizations, and independent media toward democratic and humanitarian reforms.

This legislation affirms that it remains in the interest of our country that Belarus returns to its rightful place among its fellow European democracies. Unfortunately, recent events validate its current designation as a rogue state. The White House released the following statement regarding its last Presidential election which saw widespread violence and voting irregularities:

The flawed December 2010 Presidential election in Belarus and its aftermath—the harsh violence against peaceful demonstrators; the continuing detention, prosecution, and imprisonment of opposition Presidential candidates and others; and the continuing repression of independent media and civil society activists—all show that the Government of Belams has taken steps backward in the development of democratic governance and respect for human rights.

Madam Speaker, the focus of H.R. 515 is on the Government of Belarus, not its people.

Many of my constituents and their families came to this country fleeing repression from totalitarian regimes. Hearing their stories, I am constantly reminded that a government which respects human rights, free speech, independent courts, and transparent elections is essential to personal liberty. As we pursue sanctions against the government of Belarus, we must provide support to the pro-democracy movement.

With H.R. 515, we will send a message that governing through fear, censorship, and the threat of violence has no place in a legitimate republic. As we mark the 235th birthday of the United States and the rights we enjoy, let us encourage those who wish to apply our principles to their own governments.

With this legislation, we support the political activists, the independent journalists, and the civil society leaders who risk so much for the good of Belarus.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 515.

CONGRATULATING CORPORAL BURT RICHARDS

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Corporal Burt Richards for being awarded the American Red Cross Community Courage Award for his work in educating the youth of today about the service of veterans.

Corporal Richards and the local chapter of the Jewish War Veterans spearheaded the campaign to close Palm Beach County schools in remembrance of Veteran's Day. While they were not successful in their efforts to close schools, they were successful in creating a new lecture series called "The Veteran Speaks," which has ensured that students in Palm Beach County are educated about our American war veterans.

I would like to congratulate Corporal Richards and the American Red Cross for the Palm Beach-Treasure Coast region for their great work on behalf of veterans and for the award. It is an honor having Corporal Richards as a constituent, and I look forward to a continued partnership in educating south Florida's youth about our veterans.

HONORING EULESS CITY SECRETARY SUSAN CRIM FOR MORE THAN 21 YEARS AS A DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it my distinct pleasure to rise today to recognize Mrs. Susan Crim, a dedicated public servant who is retiring after serving more than 21 years as City Secretary for the City of Euless, TX.

Mrs. Crim was born in Woodward, OK, and is a graduate of Northwestern State University in Alva, OK, where she obtained an associates degree in applied science. She is also a graduate of the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification program, where she attained her Texas