

A TRIBUTE TO ALBERT
WILTSHIRE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Albert Wiltshire for his unwavering service.

Mr. Wiltshire's career would not be as successful as it is if it weren't for his stellar academic track record. He graduated from Brooklyn's Boys High School when it was regarded as one of the city's top schools for learning. Mr. Wiltshire then received his Bachelor's degree from St. Francis College, a Masters in Public Administration from New York University, and a Senior Managers in Government Program Certificate from the prestigious Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Mr. Wiltshire's illustrious career began with the New York City Police Department, where he served for 20 years during the civil rights era. Following his retirement, Mr. Wiltshire worked for 13 years at the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation serving as President and CEO. It was here that he made an indelible mark by strengthening the company's financials while also providing countless opportunities for minorities and women to enter the business community.

Mr. Wiltshire went on to work as Vice President Keyspan Corporation, one of the nation's largest energy conglomerates. He would work as a liaison between the company and the government to ensure the needs of the community were met, and to spearhead environmental awareness.

Since 2007, Mr. Wiltshire has worked as my Chief of Staff, helping me represent the people of New York's 10th congressional District in Brooklyn. Managing personnel in two Brooklyn offices and the nation's capitol, Mr. Wiltshire is one of my most trusted advisors on key legislative issues and public policies. Mr. Wiltshire's vast experience with the community in Brooklyn has been invaluable, providing sound leadership and direction in the 10th district.

While his service in the public and private sector has consumed most of his time, Mr. Wiltshire continues his involvement with the Madison Boys and Girls Club, Brooklyn School of Music, and the vestry of the Church of St. Luke and St. Matthew.

Mr. Wiltshire is a proud father, grandfather, and mentor to many. The life he chose to lead is one that is admired by many and should be emulated by all. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the many achievements of Mr. Albert Wiltshire.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, and 888 I am not recorded because I was absent due to a family event. Had I been present the week of December 2nd, I would have voted "aye"

on rollcall No. 888. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, and 887.

IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1540, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the Motion to Instruct Conferees, which instructs House conferees to insist on the inclusion of certain amendments intended to improved the sexual assault prevention and response in the Armed Services that were contained in the version of National Defense Authorization Act passed by the House on May 26, 2011.

While 1 in 6 women in the United States will experience some type of sexual assault in her lifetime, as many as 1 in 3 veteran women report that they have experienced some form of Military Sexual Trauma during their service. Due to shame, guilt or fear of not being believed, countless victims do not report their assault and it has been reported that as few as 13 percent of these sexual assaults are reported to the proper authorities.

Mr. Speaker, not only do cases of sexual assault largely go unreported, but response protocols necessary to protect victims of assault need to be improved.

In addition, more must be done to protect these victims after they report their abuse. Victims of sexual assault face a lack of confidentiality, protection, support, and access to legal counsel once an incident is reported.

Currently, victims of rape or sexual assault do not have the right to a unit or duty location transfer following an assault. The result is that victims of these unspeakable crimes often have to continue serving alongside their assailant. As of this date, the Department of Defense has not yet adopted policies that will enable sexual assault victims to escape constant contact with their attackers.

Mr. Speaker, this is a huge problem. Something must be done.

Fortunately, the problem of rape and sexual assault in the military has been addressed by provisions in both the House- and Senate-passed versions of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2012 (NDAA). In both the House and Senate versions, the NDAA makes improvements in the military's response to sexual assault and to provide greater protections for our service men and women in the armed forces. Our hope is to ensure zero tolerance for sexual assault in the military.

However, the House and Senate versions of this act differ significantly. The House version of the NDAA has stronger provisions regarding sexual assault in the military by strengthening legal protections for the victims, providing support and guidance to victims, and by strengthening the systems in place to prevent future assaults. That is why the Motion to Instruct directs House conferees to insist on the inclusion of these provisions in the compromise legislation negotiated in the Conference.

Among the House-passed improvements are provisions:

ensuring that sexual assault victims be afforded legal counsel if desired; protecting the confidentiality and victim advocates;

requiring that commanders transfer duty stations; and

requiring adequate training and education programs to prevent sexual assault.

Mr. Speaker, we have a duty to protect our men and women in the military, who put their lives on the line for our country. We have a duty to make our armed forces safe for all men and women who wish to serve. It is dangerous enough risking one's safety in defense of our country on foreign shores. It is simply intolerable for American servicewomen and men to have to assume the risk of sexual assault from their comrades.

The provisions in the version of H.R. 1540 passed by the House reflects a zero tolerance policy when it comes to the sexual assault of members of the Armed Forces by members of the Armed Forces. That is why I strongly support this Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1540. I urge all of my colleagues to do likewise.

MR. CHARLES L. NEUBERT

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Charles L. Neubert of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, for his faithful and dedicated service to the United States of America through turbulent times.

Charles Neubert was serving in the National Guard in the State of Washington when he decided to transfer to active duty in 1941. He was assigned to the 16th Truck Company, Quartermaster Corps. At the time, Charles Neubert was only 20 years old. He was stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Mr. Neubert was working in the motor pool during the surprise military attack conducted by the Imperial Japanese Navy on the morning of December 7, 1941. Mr. Neubert watched helplessly as 353 Japanese fighters and bombers launched their assault on the naval base. When he recalls this day, Charles Neubert can remember thinking that the planes just kept coming and coming. More than 2,400 American lives were lost on that day, and almost 1,300 were injured.

Charles Neubert continued to serve his country in the 357th and the 356th Truck Companies on both Pearl Island and on Tinian in the Marianas Islands.

Charles Neubert would be discharged from active duty in the Army in June 1945, just a few months before the end of the war. He would join the Naval Reserves in 1950, and he served aboard the USS *Douglas H Fox* (DD779) for 15 months during the Korean War. He was discharged in 1953.

Mr. Speaker, Charles L. Neubert, who only a few months ago celebrated his 90th birthday, is a fine example of the faithful and dedicated men and women that make up our armed forces. His selfless actions, and those of his generation, should forever be remembered and cherished by a grateful nation.

A TRIBUTE TO ABU BEKR COURT
NO. 74

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Abu Bekr Court No. 74 for its long history of community involvement through activities and sponsorships.

Abu Bekr Court No. 74 has participated in all of the programs and projects of the Imperial court, Daughters of Isis. Individual Court members have been actively involved in numerous community volunteer activities on behalf of the organization.

The projects supported by Abu Bekr Court No. 74 and its members include: homeless women's shelters, a hospital for children with special needs, gifts of love baskets to elderly and needy community residents, donations to local community churches and the NAACP. Under the leadership of their Illustrious Commandress, Dt. Shirley Holliday, Abu Bekr Court has been in partnership with Tilden Hall by sponsoring multiple clothing drives.

The Court has served in many capacities throughout the community. They attended a World Day of Worship at Berean Baptist Church and gave a sizable monetary donation to their Drum Line Youth group, while also raising hundreds of dollars to participate in the Breast Cancer Walk. The Court has also donated school supplies to several schools in Brooklyn and Long Island, as well as donating over 200 knit hats to cancer patients through the American Cancer Society.

Abu Bekr Court No. 74 is pleased to have had 57 Daughters lead this Court and serve as Illustrious Commandress since 1949. As part of Abu Bekr Court's great history, two of

their Daughters served the Imperial Court Daughters of Isis as Imperial Commandress, which is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a Daughter. Dt. Phyllis McKoy who was elected and served as Imperial Commandress in 1984 and now Dt. Ruth Mayfield Ellerbe who was elected and installed as Imperial Commandress of the Imperial Court Daughters of Isis on August 18, 2011.

The Court looks forward to continuing their long tradition of service to the community and to remain supportive to the Imperial Court, Daughters of Isis.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the community achievements that Abu Bekr Court No. 74 has made in Brooklyn and throughout New York City.

**PANDEMIC AND ALL-HAZARDS
PREPAREDNESS REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2011**

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2405, the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act of 2011. I am pleased to report that this legislation represents a bipartisan effort to make certain that our nation is prepared to successfully manage the effects of natural disasters, infectious disease outbreaks, and acts of bioterrorism.

The Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act reauthorizes and makes minor—but important—improvements to programs and activities first established in the 2004 Project Bioshield Act and the 2006

Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act, also known as PAHPA. Let me highlight three provisions that deserve particular attention.

First, with respect to the Food and Drug Administration, we took great care to ensure that the agency is focusing on the medical countermeasures—or products that combat chemical, biological, radioactive, and nuclear agents—of highest importance. As we all know, if everything is given priority, then nothing is truly a priority. H.R. 2405 requires FDA to work with industry on industry-submitted regulatory management plans for prioritized countermeasures to facilitate scientific exchanges between the FDA and product sponsors to streamline our ability to make these products available.

Second, the legislation makes improvements to the nation's blueprint for public health preparedness and response activities that will enhance the ability of the health care system to respond to mass casualty emergencies.

Finally, H.R. 2405 continues investment in state and local public health departments to ensure we have the requisite infrastructure to respond to public health threats.

I'd like to thank Congressman ROGERS and Congressman GREEN—the sponsors of the legislation—for their hard work on H.R. 2405. I'd also like to recognize Congresswoman MYRICK, Congresswoman ESHOO, and Congressman MARKEY who contributed a great deal to the Committee's work on this bill.

I understand that Senator BURR and Senator CASEY have recently introduced comparable legislation in the Senate. I look forward to working with our Senate colleagues on this issue and sending final PAHPRA legislation to the President for his signature.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.