

There are over 700 soldiers in this command and because of MSG Wimberly's efforts, expertise, and dedication to Georgia Army National Guard Aviation, all units either passed or exceeded standards this past spring during the Forces Command Aviation Resource Management Survey inspection.

MSG Wimberly has also completed a tour in Afghanistan with a Georgia ARNG Infantry Embedded Training Team. Through this experience—and by participating in pre-mobilization validation training exercises—MSG Wimberly has developed an advanced ability to plan, coordinate, and execute complex logistic/supply operations.

He is an invaluable professional soldier whose dedication to mission accomplishment makes him worthy of recognition as a leader in the community, the National Guard, and our great nation.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Master Sergeant Sterling T. Wimberly for his service and his commitment to the betterment of his community.

OPPOSITION TO UNITED NATIONS CRITICISM OF ISRAEL

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I am emphatically opposed to using the U.N. to single out Israel for criticism on the issue of settlements, whether that criticism is in the form of a resolution or a statement. Should a resolution criticizing Israel come before the Security Council, the United States should clearly veto it. To the extent that we have disagreements with Israel on policy matters, we should find a way to express those differences in private, just as we would with our other close allies. The Administration has to understand that we stand by our friends through thick and thin.

Let's be clear; the issue isn't settlements; the issue is negotiations. Israel froze settlement construction for ten months last year. Israel has shown it is ready to take risks for peace. The onus is on the Palestinian Authority. If Palestinians object to settlements or oppose building permits—negotiate.

Israel, a friend and ally of the United States, is located in a dangerous neighborhood. Anyone who has recently watched the news or read a newspaper has seen the collapse of multilateral talks on Iran's nuclear weapons program, Hezbollah's successful effort to topple the government of Lebanon, and a wave of unrest spreading throughout the Middle East. Given the threats facing Israel, the long friendship between our two nations, and Israel's strategic importance to the United States, it is critical that the U.S.-Israel relationship is strong at all levels of our government.

The United States is in the middle of a ten-year commitment of military aid to Israel and I hope that the long tradition of strong bipartisan support in Congress to fully fund this commitment, even at a time of fiscal constraint, continues.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I would like to talk briefly about the amendment offered by my friend from New Jersey, Mr. PASCRELL.

The Pascrell amendment would restore funding to the fire grant programs which was cut by the Republicans in the CR. I wholeheartedly support the notion of restoring this funding. However, I must oppose this amendment because it restores the fire grant funding by cutting an equal amount from the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate.

The proposed \$510 million cut to the Science & Technology Directorate is on top of an \$85 million cut already proposed in the CR. If this amendment is adopted, the budget for the Science and Technology Directorate will fall to \$410 million from \$1.005 billion in FY 2010. This would be a 59 percent cut from FY 2010 levels. The magnitude of this cut would cripple the DHS Science and Technology Directorate. Some of the specific effects of this cut include:

- Elimination of all border security and maritime security research and development which includes cargo security research and development;

- Termination of all first responder research and development;

- Termination of all cyber security research and development;

- Termination of all non-aviation explosives research and development;

- Elimination of all human factors research and development including all biometric identification work;

- Elimination of all infrastructure and geophysical research and development including first responder monitoring and tracking work;

- Significant cuts to chemical and biological research and development;

- Significant cuts to radiological and nuclear research and development;

- Elimination of all university programs including the Minority Serving Institution program.

While the Republican cuts to the fire grants program in the CR are devastating, I cannot support solving one problem by creating an equally devastating one. And make no mistake, these cuts to the S&T Directorate will cripple our nation's ability to respond to future threats. As terrorists evolve and adapt, we must do so as well, and the S&T Directorate is at the forefront of this effort.

For these reasons, I must reluctantly oppose the Pascrell amendment, and urge a "no" vote on its adoption.

TRIBUTE TO FITZ JOHNSON

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I want to recognize African Americans from throughout Georgia's 11th Congressional District who have a major impact on their community. Today, I rise to recognize Fitz Johnson of Marietta, Georgia, the owner of Atlanta's professional women's soccer team, the Atlanta Beat.

Already an accomplished businessman and influential Georgian, Fitz brought women's professional soccer to Atlanta in 2010. Mr. Speaker, the hard work and passion that made Fitz a successful business owner are fueling his drive to make the Beat a successful franchise.

Not only did he help Kennesaw State University build the only women's specific soccer stadium in the United States, he is working 15-hour days doing everything from handling ticket sales to janitorial services to build a winner in Atlanta.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking Fitz Johnson for his contributions to his community, and wish him all the best with the Atlanta Beat.

ON THE BIRTH OF GENEVIEVE FRANCES DALTON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate Sean Dalton and his wife Kathryn Howell Dalton on the birth of their new baby girl, Genevieve Frances Dalton, who was born on Friday, February 4, 2011, at 7:59 p.m. in Alexandria, Virginia. Genevieve was 7 pounds, 10 ounces, and 19 inches long.

I am so excited for this new blessing to the Dalton family and wish them all the best. I want to also congratulate Genevieve's grandparents Brenda and Larry Dalton of Cary, North Carolina, and Dorothy and Stan Howell of Charlotte, North Carolina, on this wonderful new addition to their family.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Chair, I rise to express my opposition and urge my colleagues to oppose

Amendment 338, which would zero out funding for the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, also known as “DERA.”

Studies have shown that diesel emissions are one of the most significant threats to public health. In order to address this problem in a manner that is both responsible to businesses reliant upon diesel engines, and to protect the general public from further exposure to the damaging emission from diesel engines, Congress enacted DERA.

This voluntary program provided federal and state grant funding to retrofit diesel engines to reduce emissions. It has been endorsed by over 500 public health, environmental and industry supporters, including the American Lung Association, Caterpillar, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Retrofitting provides enormous environmental, and therefore health, benefits, but before this program was implemented, there was little economic benefit for vehicle and equipment owners to do so. It is estimated that DERA could reduce particulate matter emissions by 70,000 tons, generate nearly \$20 billion in economic benefit, and return \$13 of benefit for every one dollar invested.

The incentives provided by DERA support voluntary rather than regulatory efforts to assist states meet air quality standards. Zeroing out funding for this program would effectively kill those efforts. It would hamper the development and demand of “clean diesel” technology as well as put a further strain on those workers who manufacture, sell, repair, or retrofit diesel vehicles. This program has great support on both sides of the aisle and should not be eliminated here today.

For those reasons I again urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment.

TRIBUTE TO TECHNICAL SERGEANT CHARLES SIMPSON

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I want to continue recognizing African Americans from throughout Georgia's 11th Congressional District who have a major impact on their community. Today, I rise today to recognize Technical Sergeant Charles Simpson of Marietta, Georgia.

Entering service with the Georgia Air National Guard in 2000, TSgt Simpson has held positions as Security Forces Fire Team leader, Radio Transmission Officer, Squad Leader, and as a Drug Demand Reduction Non-Commissioned Officer with the Georgia Counterdrug Task Force. This program educates children in grades K–12 on the dangers of drug use, and I am proud of the work TSgt Simpson has done in affecting the futures of over 55,000 young students in Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, TSgt Simpson has deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and four times to Afghanistan in support of Enduring Freedom. He has been awarded two Air Force Commendation medals, three Air Force Achievement Medals, the Army Achievement Medal, and has recently been selected to advance to the grade of Master Sergeant.

TSgt Simpson displays a “can-do” attitude in his daily duties and is considered by his su-

periors and peers to be one of the bright stars of the Georgia Air Force National Guard.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking Technical Sergeant Charles Simpson for his service to our nation and his commitment to the betterment of his community.

CONGRATULATING CONGREGATION NER TAMID ON THE 50th ANNI- VERSARY OF THEIR FOUNDING

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, 2011 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of Congregation Ner Tamid of South Bay in my congressional district. People of all faiths from throughout the South Bay area of Los Angeles are conveying heartfelt congratulations to all the members and friends of Congregation Ner Tamid on this most auspicious occasion. For five decades Congregation Ner Tamid has upheld a faith-inspired tradition of service in both the South Bay region and beyond. The Congregation's programs for youth, families and seniors cast a bright light of human dignity and compassion across our community.

I also offer a special expression of our esteem to those being honored for their unique and sustaining contributions to Ner Tamid's work in our communities. The people of the South Bay are indebted to the distinguished 50th Anniversary honorees; Ruth & Leo David, Sheil Poucher, Mark Simon and Norm Lefkovich. Each of them deservedly receives the profoundly meaningful recognition of a grateful synagogue family and the community of which Congregation Ner Tamid is such an important part.

The dedicated social responsibility these honorees exemplify is replicated in a hundred programs and projects the rest of the temple members pursue. That is why Congregation Ner Tamid enjoys a valued and respected place in the life and culture of the South Bay region we are fortunate enough to call home.

So, it is with our best wishes that Congregation Ner Tamid of South Bay celebrates their 50th anniversary on March 12, 2011. I am sure the great legacy they have created in these first 50 years will only be stronger and more enduring on the occasion of the Congregation's 100th anniversary!

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise to reluctantly speak against the amendment offered by my friend from New York, Mr. WEINER.

The amendment offered by the gentleman from New York would cut \$298 million from NASA and increase the COPS program by a corresponding amount. While I wholeheartedly support the COPS program, and would like to work with the gentleman to find ways to restore the COPS funding, which was so irresponsibly slashed in the Republican CR, taking this money from NASA would do serious damage to NASA's ability to carry out its programs.

Specifically, the amendment would cut NASA's Cross Agency Support (CAS) account, which funds operations and maintenance of NASA's 9 Centers, component facilities and headquarters, including agency-wide management functions, and safety and reliability activities to assure safety and mission success.

This account also funds the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs at NASA. Cuts proposed by the Weiner amendment would cut the SBIR/STTR program and reduce the number of grants awarded to small businesses. A reduction of \$298M in CAS would represent 10% reduction to the CAS account—equivalent to shutting two of NASA's smaller Centers, for example, Dryden Flight Research Center, Stennis Space Center, or Ames Research Center.

The resulting budget after a \$298M reduction would not be sufficient to provide the minimum Center support required to safely implement NASA's mission. As these reductions would occur so late in the operating year, they would result in thousands of layoffs to on-site contractors, with 50 percent of the contractor workforce at risk. This equates to over 4,500 layoffs across all of NASA Centers.

As I said before, I am an ardent supporter of the COPS program. I am appalled that the Republican Majority has chosen to address deficit reduction by making our communities less safe by cutting the number of police officers on the street. However, I simply cannot support righting that wrong by creating another. At a time when our nation's economic competitiveness is being seriously challenged by our foreign competitors, it would be irresponsible to make further cuts to one of our nation's great innovative research and development agencies.

For these reasons, I must oppose this amendment and urge its defeat.

TRIBUTE TO SHAN COOPER

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I want to recognize African Americans from throughout Georgia's 11th Congressional District who have a major impact on their community. Today, I rise to recognize Shan Cooper of Marietta, Georgia. Shan serves as the Vice President of Lockheed Martin Aeronautics and General Manager of Lockheed Martin's Marietta facility.

She previously served as the Vice President of Human Resources for Lockheed Martin Information Systems & Global Solutions in Gaithersburg, Maryland and oversees the 8,000 Lockheed employees in Marietta.