

them employment and taking police officers' work away from violent crimes, where they should be better be used.

SUPERINTENDENT JANE RUSSO'S RETIREMENT

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very dedicated leader from my community, our superintendent Jane Russo. She has served the Santa Ana Unified School District for over 25 years. As the first woman superintendent for Santa Ana Unified, she has been a visionary for the community.

Superintendent Russo has built partnerships with parents, with community leaders, with government, and with business leaders. She has taken leadership roles she has mentored and she has shown parents and faculty and administrators, the business community, all of us, what it is to truly collaborate and work together.

With approximately 58,000 students, 61 schools, 4,500 employees, Superintendent Russo manages the second largest employer in Santa Ana and the largest school district in Orange County and the sixth largest school district in California.

Her accomplishments have been recognized at the State and national levels. Under her leadership for the school district's academic performance index, it increased by nearly 100 points, and she received the highest score on State compliance report cards for special education and the highest increase in State testing for English language learners scoring proficient and above.

Ms. Russo will leave a lasting legacy in our district. She has shaped and made our community even better, and I am honored to recognize such a great member of our community, and I congratulate her on her retirement.

MEDICARE

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, next week marks the 45th anniversary of implementing Medicare. On this occasion, it is right that Congress work together to protect and strengthen Medicare for our future generations. Sadly, instead of preserving Medicare, my Republican colleagues have approved a plan to destroy it.

The Republican budget privatizes Medicare programs, turning control over to the insurance industry; ends guaranteed Medicare coverage for seniors, replacing it with a voucher system; doubles out-of-pocket medical costs for seniors.

I ask my colleagues, where are your priorities? We should be creating jobs and helping middle class families. We

should not be dismantling safety net programs like Medicare and Medicaid.

Let's stop the politics. Let's work together. Let's work on a plan to protect our seniors and be responsible to lower the deficit.

NOW IS THE TIME TO PASS THE PENDING FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, for more than a short period of time, we've had an opportunity to talk about free trade agreements, and when we talk about it, it's about jobs, jobs in the economy. More than 57 million jobs in America are directly supported by international trade. Free trade with other nations not only creates more jobs for Americans; it creates more opportunity around the world.

In my district, over 58,000 jobs are directly supported by exports. In fact, last year almost \$20 billion worth of merchandise was exported from my district alone. If Washington is serious about creating more jobs, then we should immediately pass the pending free trade agreements with Korea, Colombia, and Panama.

New jobs are created in our local communities when our Nation increases free trade. Free trade also lowers prices for the American consumer. When burdensome tariffs are lifted, the average American family of four sees an increased purchasing power of approximately \$10,000.

Now is not the time to play political games with these free trade agreements. Now is the time to pass these pending free trade agreements so that we can create jobs here at home and help ease the burden on American families.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO NORTH KOREA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112-40)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency

declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008, expanded in scope in Executive Order 13551 of August 30, 2010, and addressed further in Executive Order 13570 of April 18, 2011, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2011.

The existence and the risk of proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula, and the actions and policies of the Government of North Korea that destabilize the Korean Peninsula and imperil U.S. Armed Forces, allies, and trading partners in the region, continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to these threats and maintain in force the measures taken to deal with that national emergency.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 23, 2011.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE WESTERN BALKANS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112-41)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the Western Balkans emergency is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2011.

The crisis constituted by the actions of persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting (i) extremist violence in the Republic of Macedonia and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region, or (ii) acts obstructing implementation of the Dayton accords Bosnia, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, in Kosovo, or the Ohrid Framework Agreement of 2001 in Macedonia, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on June 26, 2001, in Executive Order 13219, and to amendment of that order in Executive Order 13304 of May 28, 2003, has not been resolved. The acts of extremist violence and obstructionist activity outlined in Executive Order 13219, as amended, are hostile to U.S. interests and continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For

these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the Western Balkans and maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 23, 2011.

□ 1230

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2219, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 320 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 320

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. When the committee rises and reports the bill back to the House with a recommendation that the bill do pass, the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. (a)(1) During the 112th Congress, it shall not be in order to consider an amendment to a general appropriation bill proposing both a decrease in an appropriation designated pursuant to section 301 of House Concurrent Resolution 34 and an increase in an appropriation not so designated, or vice versa.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to an amendment between the Houses.

(b) With respect to H.R. 2219, subsection (a) shall apply only in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. NUGENT. For the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 320 and the underlying legislation, H.R. 2219, which appropriates funds for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2012.

The rule is a truly open rule, one which provides for ample debate on the bill and gives Members of both the minority and the majority the opportunity to participate in debates. Any Member can submit an amendment to H.R. 2219 as long as it's germane, in keeping with the rules of the House.

As a member of the Rules Committee, I'm proud of the transparency, the openness, and the free-flowing debate that we've seen thus far in the 112th Congress, especially in the appropriations process. One way we can show our commitment to the change we promised the American people is by supporting open rules like this one. The underlying bill keeps our promise to bring an end to wasteful pet projects. In keeping with the House earmark ban, H.R. 2219 doesn't contain a single earmark.

Now, as a father of three sons all currently serving in the United States Army, this bill is of special importance to me. It's important to the Blue Star moms and dads whose kids have answered the call of duty and are serving their country in uniform. But this legislation isn't just important to the moms and dads and husbands and wives of the loved ones serving overseas. This legislation is important to all Americans. This appropriations bill ensures that the men and women in our Armed Forces are equipped with the tools and the resources they need to get the job done. It's a bill that ensures we can continue to go to bed at night and be safe and sound in our homes, knowing our troops are protecting our Nation and our way of life.

Mr. Speaker, I had the honor and privilege of visiting Iraq and Afghanistan and Pakistan during the last constituent work week. While there, I got to meet many military leaders, our allies, but, most importantly, our troops on the ground. I saw with my own eyes the equipment they're working with and the environment that they're working in. I saw what they had and heard about what they needed to get their jobs done. And this legislation is vital to giving our men and women in uniform the resources they need to perform their mission and, more importantly, to get them home safely.

Mr. Speaker, while I support our troops no matter where the President sends them, I also believe we need to focus on the wars we're already fighting. To that end, I'm sorry there aren't restrictions on using these funds in Libya. I thank Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member DICKS for not appropriating for further hostilities in that

country. We can't stretch our resources so thin that we ultimately end up tying the hands of our troops.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a minute to discuss the rule's commitment to budgetary transparency. The budget resolution adopted earlier this year included specifically delineated funds for operations related to the global war on terror. This fund is capped at \$126 billion. The intent of the budget language was to preserve these funds specifically for the war on terror and to ensure that the money wasn't diverted for unrelated programs.

Previous majorities have used similar constructs for the exact same purpose. Additionally, in previous Congresses, the Budget Committee chairman was prepared to advise the Chair that in terms of spending levels, it is impermissible to use funding for the global war on terror to offset increases in spending elsewhere in this bill. The same is true this Congress. Section 2 of the rule codifies the budget resolution's intent and the past practices of this House. The rule prohibits funding for the global war on terror from being used to pay for operations of any other kind. This provides transparency and accountability as to exactly how much money is being spent on the global war on terror, rather than counting the funds as an off-budget emergency spending program.

With that, I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes" on the rule and to vote "yes" on the underlying legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2219, the Defense Department Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2012, represents \$530 billion in regular discretionary spending, \$8.9 billion below the President's request, but \$17 billion above the fiscal year 2011 enacted level.

Before going further into my remarks, I would like to thank my friend and fellow Floridian for yielding time to me, and I extend a personal thanks to him and his family, and particularly his three sons that are serving in the Army. I don't have three sons, but I had three uncles who served in the Army in another era, in the Second World War. And as I was proud of them, I am also proud of Mr. NUGENT's sons and the many families and servicemen and -women in our military.

From pay raises for military operations, this legislation offers a basically reasonable and comprehensive approach to our Nation's defense activities.

□ 1240

Yet I'm deeply concerned by really the staggering amounts of money this country continues to devote to the military. At a time of fiscal austerity when the majority is slashing tens of billions of dollars from essential social programs, it's, in my view, absurd that we continue to exempt the Department