

Journal, which the Chair will put *de novo*.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.J. RES. 47

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove myself as a cosponsor of H.J. Res. 47.

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

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 68, AUTHORIZING LIMITED USE OF ARMED FORCES IN LIBYA; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2278, LIMITING USE OF FUNDS FOR ARMED FORCES IN LIBYA

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-114) on the resolution (H. Res. 328) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 68) authorizing the limited use of the United States Armed Forces in support of the NATO mission in Libya; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2278) to limit the use of funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for United States Armed Forces in support of North Atlantic Treaty Organization Operation Unified Protector with respect to Libya, unless otherwise specifically authorized by law, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill (H.R. 2219) and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 320 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2219.

□ 1752

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2219) making appropriations for the Depart-

ment of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, with Mr. WESTMORELAND in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I first would like to thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS), the former chairman of the subcommittee, for the complete cooperation that we had with each other in preparing this very nonpartisan, non-political Defense appropriations bill for 2012.

The base budget of this bill is \$530 billion, which is \$9 billion below the President's budget request. It was not easy to find the savings, but we were determined to find those savings without having any adverse effect on the warfighter or the readiness of our Nation.

The base bill is \$530 billion. In addition to that, rather than having a supplemental for Iraq and Afghanistan, we included a section that is referred to as OCO, the Overseas Contingency Operation, which is \$119 billion. The bill includes no earmarks for Members' districts. The bill contains no money for Libya because none was requested. The administration did not request money for Libya. We asked numerous times what their plans were, how long it might take, what the cost might be. We did not get an answer until just very recently. And they said, No, they did not request any funding, and they were basically going to make up the balances by a reprogramming. They would not ask for a supplemental, but they would reprogram some of the existing funds.

It's a good bill. I wish it had more money in it for certain areas. I would like to have seen a much larger pay raise. We provided the necessary funding for the 1.6 percent pay raise for the military, which was the authorized level and the requested level, but we just had to find that \$9 billion. The staff had to work extremely hard to make sure that we did not have an adverse effect on any of our soldiers or our overall readiness.

The bill provides \$32 billion for the Defense Health Program. We understand the needs of our soldiers that are wounded. There are, unfortunately, too many of them. We have provided what we think is adequate money to care for whatever their medical requirements, their medical needs are. And it includes considerable research into medical issues. The research is important because a lot of the injuries that came out of Iraq and we are seeing come out of Afghanistan are such that in pre-

vious wars, the troop would probably not have survived. But because of advancements in medical care, because of the research, because of advancements in medicines, because of the ability to remove the casualty from the battlefield quickly and get to a hospital quickly, we're saving the lives of many of our troops that would probably not have survived in previous wars.

We include funding for the construction of 10 Navy ships. We include money for 32 Joint Strike Fighter aircraft. We include \$3.3 billion for 28 F-18 Super Hornets and 12 EA-18 Growlers, \$2.8 billion for 116 H-60 Blackhawk helicopters, and \$699 million for the Reaper UAV, which is an advancement of the Predator. I'm trying not to go into too much detail because it is a very lengthy bill.

The reductions that we made in order to achieve the \$9 billion in savings, we took favorable contract pricing adjustments, contract and schedule delays resulting in fiscal year 2012 savings, unjustified cost increases, or funding requested ahead of the anticipated or historical underexecution of contracts, rescissions of unneeded prior year funds, and reductions that were authorized in the House-passed 2012 National Defense Authorization Act under the chairmanship of Chairman MCKEON. Specific reductions include \$435 million in savings from those contract and production delays in the AMRAAM system. We will provide for the RECORD the details of all of the areas where we took the savings.

All in all, it is a good bill for the money that we had available. There are things that we would have added. We would have increased the military pay raise. We just didn't have the money. So we went to the authorized level. There's much more to be said that will be said as we read this bill for amendments, which will probably not happen now until we come back after next week's recess.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DICKS. I yield myself such time as I may utilize.

(Mr. DICKS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DICKS. It has, once again, been an honor to work with my friend from Florida, Chairman BILL YOUNG, to prepare the Defense appropriations bill for FY 2012. In the longstanding tradition of this committee, the bill has been prepared on a bipartisan basis, and I support the bill. I know that Chairman ROGERS will be glad to hear that.

I am happy to report that the bill provides the funds necessary to support our troops both at home and in the field. It also makes the investment in research and development and acquisition needed to fully equip our troops and maintain our Nation's technological edge.

□ 1800

Within the funds provided, and after careful review, the committee exercised its constitutional responsibility

to allocate resources to those programs that best support the requirements of our military forces.

In writing this bill, the committee had to make hard choices. The allocation for this bill is \$530 billion, \$9 billion below the request. While this is \$17 billion above the fiscal year 2011-enacted level, much of the increase is absorbed by the military pay, operation and maintenance, and the Defense Health Program accounts.

The bill also provides the funds needed to support U.S. service personnel. Examples of this include the military pay accounts fund at a 1.6 percent raise, consistent with the budget request and the level included in the House-passed fiscal year 2012 armed services authorization bill.

The bill also provides \$32.3 billion for the Defense Health Program, including \$125 million above the request to continue the committee's longstanding efforts to improve research and treatment of traumatic brain injury and psychological health conditions. The bill also includes funding increases for several research efforts including peer-reviewed breast cancer, prostate cancer, ovarian cancer, and lung cancer research.

The bill fully funds \$2.3 billion requested for family programs and adds funding for several initiatives including \$250 million to replace schools owned by local education authorities and \$40 million for Impact Aid.

The bill addresses many of DOD's most pressing investment needs. It funds 10 ships, as requested in the budget, and 32 Joint Strike Fighter aircraft. I would like to have seen more Strike Fighter aircraft because I believe they're doing a much better job on this program. Last year it was in some trouble. This year Admiral Venlet has said repeatedly that they're, in fact, ahead of the training schedule. So I think this is very good news.

The bill also adds funding to fill gaps in DOD capabilities. Some examples include the M1A2 System Enhancement Package: \$272 million is included to prevent a break in production of tanks. And this is something that our committee agreed with on an overwhelming basis, that shutting down the tank line in Ohio would be a terrible mistake because we'd lose the skilled workers and then we're going to reopen this tank line in 2 or 3 years, and it would just be a waste of money. So we bridged that gap.

HMMWV Force Protection: \$50 million is added to develop and test and improve armor and other blast protection technologies on the HMMWV.

Long Range Strike: \$100 million is added to reduce technical risk and schedule risks for this program. We're moving ahead on a replacement for the Trident submarine. The C-17 replacement is included to replace the operational loss of a C-17 aircraft. The committee has steadfastly replaced—when there have been operational losses,

we've replaced the equipment. This is another example.

Special Operation Command shortfalls: this is one thing we had in our bill in 2011, and this year an increase of \$250 million is added to address unfunded requirements identified by the Special Operations Command.

National Guard and Reserve equipment: \$1.5 billion is included to fund equipment shortfalls in National Guard and Reserve equipment.

Intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance: \$50 million is included above the request to continue to fill gaps in DOD ISR equipment.

Israeli missile defense programs: \$130 million is added to enhance Israeli missile defense programs including the Arrow missile defense system.

Small business innovative research: \$50 million is included to continue the committee's efforts for SBIR Phase III transition.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities: \$20 million is added to continue defense research at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Energy efficiency improvements: the bill includes \$82 million above the request to field equipment that will reduce the energy footprint of deployed Marine Corps units. The bill also includes \$10 million above the request for pilot programs to improve DOD energy efficiency.

The bill provides \$118.7 billion for operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and for continuing the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq. The bill ensures that troops have essential force protection and provides the means for the Afghans to provide their own security. The bill includes \$12.8 billion to train Afghanistan's National Security Forces.

While the bill provides essential support for our troops, I remain concerned about our Nation's direction in Pakistan and ongoing operations in Afghanistan. There is cause to question the reliability of our partnership with both countries. In the light of recent events, we must reassess the extent of U.S. military involvement and the objectives of U.S. foreign policy in that part of the world, reexamining whether U.S. national security requires a continued deployment of over 100,000 U.S. service personnel.

I welcome President Obama's decision to start the withdrawals, and I also urge a ceasefire and a political settlement. After a careful review of the security situation, I believe it is time to significantly accelerate the withdrawal of U.S. forces.

To accomplish this objective responsibly will take some care. By necessity, a political solution in Afghanistan will involve negotiations with Taliban representatives. It will also demand taking into account the interests of surrounding nations to ensure that those neighbors do not fight with one another along sectarian or tribal divides within Afghanistan.

Finally, we must guard against creating a vacuum similar to the one that

occurred at the end of the Soviet occupation in 1989. Even with these cautions in mind, I believe it is time to begin the process of bringing the level of deployed U.S. troops in line with a new assessment of our security interests in the region.

I look forward to hearing from General Petraeus and General Odierno. We worked with them on the surge in Iraq, which turned out to be very successful. The military has done a very good job in Helmand and Kandahar and has dominated the Taliban in recent times, which is very positive.

We still have a problem on the eastern front between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and we need to continue to put pressure on al Qaeda, though the capture and death of Osama bin Laden was something that all the troops that have served here since 2001 should take satisfaction in, the person who led the effort against the United States in one of the most horrific acts and one of the most economic destabilizing acts that has ever occurred to our country.

While I have concerns about our Nation's policies in Afghanistan and Pakistan, I strongly support this bill. It's a bipartisan bill, and it provides the resources needed by our troops. I urge your support for the bill.

I also want to thank the staff. I know Chairman YOUNG will join me in this. We have a tremendous staff that works together. They worked together when I was chairman. They're working together now that Chairman YOUNG has—he had been chairman before and has now regained his chairmanship. And the staff has done an extraordinary job. It's a major piece of work to put together a \$530 billion bill and know all these programs, and I commend them for their good work.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I am happy to yield 5 minutes to the very distinguished chairman of the Appropriations Committee, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I thank Chairman YOUNG for yielding me this time.

And thank you and your other partner, this dynamic duo that we have here between Chairman YOUNG and Chairman DICKS. Thank you for your good work.

The nearly \$649 billion in total funding within this bill will provide our Armed Forces with the resources they need for the Nation's missions abroad and the protection of our people here at home.

This bill sustains our military readiness, facilitating the continued modernization of our national defense systems and preserving the American Armed Forces as the greatest military in the world.

As our soldiers and marines continue to put their lives on the line to eliminate terrorism and protect freedom around the globe, Congress must provide the necessary support and funding to keep them safe and well equipped, and we must do so in a timely manner.

These efforts include adequate funding for equipment procurement, base operations, and military pay. To improve our defense capabilities and prepare for future challenges, we've provided funding for research and development into new technology.

□ 1810

This legislation also provides essential funding for health and quality-of-life programs for the men and women of the armed services and their families.

But, as in all of our appropriations bills, this year especially, this legislation reflects hard decisions to cut lower-priority programs, reduce spending in programs that can be scaled back, and target funds where they're needed most so that our Nation can continue on the path to fiscal recovery.

No bill, no Department, including the Pentagon, should be immune from scrutiny during these precarious financial times. This legislation identifies fiscally responsible savings, savings that will in no way impair the safety or effectiveness of our troops, the success of our military operations, or our military readiness.

The bill also increases oversight of Defense programs and funds to ensure that tax dollars are being spent wisely and efficiently. We've taken a critical eye and increased scrutiny on some programs to ensure American taxpayers are receiving the proper benefits for their defense investments.

I want to thank, again, Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member DICKS for their tireless work. In fact, it's a very bipartisan spirit and commitment, and that's the rule of this subcommittee over the decades of time, and their commitment to crafting a very responsible Defense bill. And of course the staff has worked tirelessly to make this day possible.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all of our colleagues to support this bill. It's a good one.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP), who is a former member of the Defense Subcommittee and now is the ranking Democrat on the Military Construction-VA Subcommittee.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to rise in support of the committee's recommended FY12 Defense appropriations bill.

I'd first like to commend Subcommittee Chairman YOUNG, Ranking Member DICKS, Chairman ROGERS, the subcommittee members and staff on both sides of the aisle for continuing the fine tradition of bipartisan cooperation and teamwork in producing this bill.

Of note, the bill provides \$530.5 billion in total for the DOD in fiscal year 2012, \$17 billion more than the current level. In addition, the bill provides \$118.7 billion for contingency funding for the ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It continues our longstanding commitment to our troops and their families by including a pay raise for the troops, strengthening health care services for servicemembers and their families, and providing \$2.3 billion for family support and advocacy programs.

The bill protects our troops in harm's way by providing \$3.2 billion for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, \$2.8 billion for combating IEDs in Afghanistan and Iraq, and a total of \$453 million for the modernization of the M1 Abrams tanks.

The bill also includes an additional \$1.5 billion for the National Guard and Reserve equipment, \$633 million for military medical research, including \$233 million for cancer research, \$125 million for psychological health and traumatic brain injury research.

I'm pleased that the committee included \$141 million for University and Industry Research Centers, of which \$20 million was included for Historically Black Colleges and Universities for research.

As a former member of the subcommittee, I'm reminded of my dear friend and colleague, former Chairman Jack Murtha, who followed one central creed and principle in developing an annual House Defense appropriations bill, and that was to create a bill which provided our servicemen and -women all the resources and tools they need to do their job as effectively and efficiently as possible. I believe this bill does just that. And I do earnestly believe that Chairman Murtha would be very proud of this bill. And I'm pleased to support its passage.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I am happy to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), the former chairman of this subcommittee and the former chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I thank very much Mr. YOUNG of Florida and Mr. DICKS of Washington for the fabulous work they've done working together and developing this measure, which is something over \$500 billion. And the public certainly will know that that's no small amount of money. But certainly, also they'll know it is the reason for us to have a Federal Government—funding available to preserve our Nation.

And as we leave this weekend to celebrate the 4th of July and the history of our country and the history of freedom, not just here but also available around the world, we know it's the work of this subcommittee and people like these leaders that have allowed us to continue to be on the point of the spear for freedom around the world.

Indeed, if there's a reason for us to have a Federal Government, it is to be able to preserve our freedom and to provide opportunities for others elsewhere in the world.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, it's also very, very important for me to point out that we are about serious and difficult challenges, especially in the Middle East at this moment.

A while ago, my friend NORM DICKS mentioned 1989 and Afghanistan and the challenges there. At that point in time, the Soviet Union was attempting to take over all of Afghanistan as a way of taking over the Middle East and to extend their desire to take over the world. A stop to that came by way of this committee's work and leadership from this committee.

If you have not taken the time to read about Charlie Wilson's war, you should, and recognize that that war led to the chants for freedom in Afghanistan.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. LEWIS of California. If one would recognize, as of Charlie Wilson's war's time, we were successful at stopping the Soviet Union. But as we had that success, America did what it often does overseas: We walked away and left a vacuum in Afghanistan. And it was that vacuum that allowed the terrorists, al Qaeda and others, to extend themselves and train themselves and put us in the pressure box that we are in today in the country.

America must constantly be aware that we are the force for freedom and, working together, we will continue to help freedom in the world.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, I want to extend my deepest congratulations to these two gentlemen, these two leaders of this committee, BILL YOUNG and NORM DICKS, extremely talented people who are bringing our committee and the Congress back to regular order so that we can work with one another and make changes in bills like this with free debate on the floor. Indeed, that is the strength of our Congress.

If the people will be patient with us, we'll actually accomplish some things. Indeed, freedom will continue to be a force in the world because of the work of these gentlemen. And our congratulations, as well as our best wishes, go out to their continued work and success.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), a member of the Appropriations Committee and someone who is a very dynamic leader on our committee and that I enjoy working with.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, first let me thank our ranking member, Mr. DICKS, for your leadership for this time, but also for your patriotism and for your commitment to our country and to our troops. And it is an exciting committee, and it's a very important committee. And I want to thank Chairman ROGERS for your leadership, and for also his service and for the attempts to bring this committee together in the spirit of bipartisanship.

While I think everyone knows that I respect and support the President and I applaud him for his tremendous leadership on so many issues, like many of

my colleagues, I was tremendously disappointed to hear the President's announcement last night.

□ 1820

Almost three out of four Americans want to bring our troops home from Afghanistan, and this was far from the significant reduction that the American people were expecting. A token troop reduction of 10,000 by the end of this year and waiting another year to remove another 23,000, which in total would merely reverse the 2009 troop escalation, is really, for me, unacceptable; and quite frankly, it flies in the face of the growing bipartisan calls across our war-weary Nation to exit Afghanistan and to refocus on our priorities here at home.

Now, I voted against this original authorization in 2001, which was a very difficult vote for me to cast because I ended up being the only one to cast a "no" vote. But I knew then that that authorization was an authorization that was a blank check to wage war for any reason, against any nation, for any length of time. And this has now become the longest war in American history.

As we spend over \$2 billion a week on this decade-long war, critical programs—like programs for women and children, nutrition programs, food stamps and Medicare—are on the chopping block. So enough is enough.

There is no military solution in Afghanistan. And in a world where terrorism can emanate from the tribal regions of Yemen or a hotel room in Germany, we cannot adequately address these challenges through a military-first, boots-on-the-ground strategy. It is clear that occupying states and nation-building does not make for effective counterterrorism, and the financial and human costs of continuing this war are indefensible.

With over 1,600 troops killed and tens of thousands more seriously wounded in Afghanistan, the human toll continues to mount each and every day. So we need to bring our troops home and use the savings for our economic challenges here at home, especially for job creation. That's why I'm going to offer some amendments to this bill to end funding for combat operations in Afghanistan and to provide, though, funding for the protection and the safe and orderly withdrawal of our young men and women as quickly as possible. I urge Members to support this amendment.

I will also be offering an amendment to transfer the \$5 billion Pentagon war slush fund to a deficit reduction.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DICKS. I yield the gentlewoman 2 additional minutes.

Ms. LEE. I want to explain these amendments today during general debate, so I appreciate the time because I think this is important for the public to know that there is a \$5 billion Pentagon war slush fund just sitting over

there. So I want to offer an amendment to take that war slush fund, \$5 billion, and apply it to deficit reduction.

Especially in this time of deficits and a struggling economy, I hope we can all agree that we should not be handing the Pentagon a \$5 billion blank check for a war slush fund that has little accountability and runs counter to our constitutional duty to control the purse strings through this Congress.

We also cannot forget about the 45,000 troops in Iraq. I will be offering an amendment to ensure that all of them are brought home at the end of the year as agreed to in our Status of Forces Agreement. My friend and colleague from Illinois, Congresswoman JAN SCHAKOWSKY, and myself will offer an amendment to simply require the Department of Defense to provide audit-ready financial statements. That's a pretty simple request, I would think. Now, this \$648 billion budget is \$17 billion above last year's budget. It could be cut at least by \$75 billion to \$100 billion without, mind you, jeopardizing our troops or our national security.

As the daughter of a military veteran, let me just say that I support each and every dollar in this budget for our troops because they deserve our support for their safety and their protection and their economic security; but we should be cutting waste, fraud and abuse out of the Pentagon. And we should begin to cut these Cold War-era weapon systems that have no mission, no reason to be developed in this new world of terrorism when we see ourselves faced with asymmetrical warfare. It just doesn't make any sense. So \$648 billion is too much; it's much too much. We can ensure our national security, protect our troops, and reinvest some of these dollars to create jobs at home with a rational defense budget.

We will never pay down our debt as long as the military budget continues to soar.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to a very distinguished senior member of the Defense Appropriations Committee and also chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN).

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I would like to associate myself with your remarks and those of the ranking member. This is a good bipartisan bill carved out of an allocation that I would have preferred be higher; but we, too, on this subcommittee must do our part to lower the Federal deficit.

This bill deserves our strong support because, as the chairman said, and others, it has an important pay raise in there for all of our troops who are volunteering. It also provides more first-class medical care for those that are injured. It provides more money for ships, 10 new ships—two of them being *Virginia* class submarines—additional money for fighter aircraft, which are badly needed, and as was mentioned

earlier, \$1.5 billion for the National Guard equipment for both overseas and home State missions. Remarkably, this money was not requested by the administration.

I also want to take a minute to reflect on the collective bipartisan frustration many are feeling with the administration's handling of the Libyan operation, another of what we might call "overseas contingency operations." We will debate the nature of our national interest on Libya tomorrow as we consider measures that go to the heart of Congress' constitutional role to declare war.

But here this evening this committee is in the process of developing an incredible spending program for fiscal year beginning in October. I understand there are no funds designated for Libyan operations in this bill. However, in reality, this Libyan mission, whether NATO-led or not, is heavily dependent on U.S. assets, and these assets must be accounted for by our committee.

We are all aware that our chairman, Mr. YOUNG—and he referred to it in his remarks—since April 1 sought information from the administration about, first, the nature of the mission in Libya; two, the cost of the mission; three, the length of the mission; and, four, any anticipated changes to the mission. We are also aware that the President finally responded with his June 15 letter to Congress in which he reports that the Department of Defense has spent over \$750 million over the last 3 months, \$10 million a day in Libya. Mr. Chairman, the President errs when he fails to provide this committee with accurate, timely, and precise information about any mission.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I support this mark, I support this bill, and I thank the chairman and the ranking member and the committee staff for the great work they've done.

Mr. DICKS. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to a very important member of the Defense Subcommittee, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I certainly rise in strong support of this fiscal year 2012 Defense appropriation bill. I want to particularly thank Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member DICKS and their staffs for a fantastic job. Thank you very much for your hard work and a great bill.

This bill is a great example, when it comes to our national defense, that we work together as Americans, not as Democrats, not as Republicans, but as Americans. At a time that we're in a number of conflicts around the world, it's important that we show that we stand united in support of our troops and against our enemies.

There was a point made about what's the longest war. I would say the longest war in American history is the Cold War. We were in that war for well over

40 years, and we're at war today against terrorism and radical elements out there that are trying to kill us and to maim us and to harm our national interests.

This is a long-term commitment, and I certainly congratulate this committee for doing the job that's necessary.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the fiscal year 2012 Defense Appropriations bill. Chairman YOUNG, Ranking Member DICKS and the staff on both sides have worked together to produce a very good bill that supports our warfighters, plans for the future, and funds current operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, while also taking into account the fiscal restraints of the current economy.

I think every Member would agree that our troops deserve the absolute best we can give and this bill reflects that they are our top priority by providing a 1.6 percent pay increase. The bill also provides for important health research—from traumatic brain injury to psychological treatment—in order to help troops transition from battle to home.

The defense funding bill also ensures our military has the necessary equipment to succeed not only in the present, but in the future as well. The bill replaces the C-17 that went down in Alaska last summer, provides for the procurement of 32 Joint Strike Fighter aircraft, funds the building of 10 Navy ships, and provides for the purchase of 48 Reaper UAVs.

Finally the bill accounts for the current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, ending the bad habit of "emergency" funding bills that were rarely subjected to regular order and often loaded up with non-emergency items. The bill is \$9 billion less than the President's request—a reflection of our times and the realization that no department in the Federal Government is exempt from budget cuts.

Again, I rise in strong support of the FY12 Defense Appropriations bill. I commend Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member DICKS for their hard work and urge my colleagues to vote in support of the bill.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to another very important member of the Defense appropriations subcommittee, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

□ 1830

Mr. COLE. Thank you for yielding, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the fiscal 2012 Defense Appropriations Act and urge all Members to extend their support as well. This is a fine bill that the committee worked on in an open fashion, and it includes input from both sides of the aisle. Thanks to Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member DICKS, it is a strong, bipartisan bill that will do much good for the defense of our country.

Mr. Chairman, we will have many spirited debates on amendments during the course of the consideration of this legislation, and that is a good thing. But, rest assured, at the end of the day this legislation is and will remain a very good product.

The spending levels in the bill do not exceed the 302(b) allocations adopted by the Appropriations Committee,

which are within the overall spending level approved by the House budget resolution.

The bill itself includes \$530 billion for the normal operations of the Department and \$118.7 billion for the conduct of the global war on terror. It includes a 1.6 percent pay raise for the troops. It has \$453 million for the procurement of additional updated Abrams tanks, and it has \$2.7 billion for the continued development of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, a weapons system that is critical to maintaining air superiority for the United States Air Force.

Additionally, the bill will withhold 75 percent of the funding for the Pakistan Counterinsurgency Capability Fund until the Secretary of Defense provides lawmakers with a report detailing the strategy and metrics for the use of those funds. The committee also adopted an amendment that would provide \$1 million for the creation of a bipartisan commission to make policy recommendations on Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Mr. Chairman, this is a strong piece of legislation, one that I fully believe we should support, and I would ask all Members to do so.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. I would like to advise the Chair that I have no further speakers. I do have a brief closing statement after Mr. DICKS, when he is prepared to close.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, first of all, I would like to again thank the chairman for his great work and the work of the staff.

The President did lay out the rationale for why we got involved in Libya. He said that we were there to help protect the Libyan people. There were two resolutions adopted by the United Nations. And it wasn't just the United Nations. You had the Arab League and NATO involved in this. And, yes, I think the President would have been better advised to have asked for authorization, but this was a situation where the Libyan people were going to be slaughtered and the President felt that he had to act.

Some of us just got back from a trip. We saw the men and women who handle the equipment, who fly in there, do the jamming, all the different things that are done. They have done a phenomenal job. And now the President has turned the leadership of this over to NATO and they are taking the lead, though the gentleman from New Jersey is quite correct; they cannot do all these things without tankers, without other things, some of the special intelligence and reconnaissance that we have that just isn't out there for anybody else.

So I hope that tomorrow's debate will be on the merits. Let's look at this thing; let's talk about it. I think this will be a worthwhile discussion. But remember, there was going to be a no-fly zone, an embargo. We were going to protect the people. I think the President laid out exactly what this was about.

We have to look at this in terms of Egypt and the other countries in the area. Thousands and thousands of people are fleeing from Libya, and this is going to cause a major problem in the countries that surround Libya.

Ronald Reagan attacked Libya. I think he called Qadhafi a "mad dog," and I don't remember him coming to Congress before he let the bombers go in there and attack him.

So I am one who is very restrained at the use of force, but in this case I think the President had to act, and he had the United Nations, the Arab League, NATO, he had the French and the British demanding action.

I think we have to look at the result here, too. I think right now the rebels have a very good chance of succeeding, and I hope they can do it in a timely way. We would all like to see this over as quickly as possible. But remember Kosovo. That took a significant amount of time before that worked out. There were a lot of critics, a lot of critics of President Clinton when he did that, but in the end it turned out very well for everyone. In Libya, I think Qadhafi should be replaced. I wish we were more candid about that, and the President has said that.

So I hope we look at this fairly and realize the damage that would be done to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization if the United States all of a sudden pulled all of its forces out of this. They would not be able to continue. This would be a worldwide embarrassment to the United States of America, to our great country and to our military.

I think we have to look at all of the ramifications of this issue. This is a serious matter and should not be politicized. Senator Jackson from my State used to say, when it comes to national defense, the best politics is no politics. Call it on the merits and do it in the best interests of our country and in the best interests of people serving our military.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Again, I want to thank Mr. DICKS for being such a good partner and working in a bipartisan way to guarantee that we did the best we could with the money we had available to provide for the national defense. I would say again, we have not had any impact adversely on any of our troops and we have not adversely affected the readiness of our country, while we have taken some of those slush funds and some of those wasteful funds, we did take some of those, in order to achieve the \$9 billion in savings that we were required to achieve.

The bill is lengthy. As you can hear from the various speakers, there are many, many, many parts of this bill. The specific details of the bill have been available for over 2 weeks so that Members have had every opportunity to study the bill.

In order to get where we are, it took a lot of work, because, number one, we

had to finish last year's bill. That was no fault of Mr. DICKS. He worked hard as chairman last year to produce another very good bipartisan bill, cooperating totally with us on the minority side, the minority at that time. But we didn't get that bill to the floor. I wish that we had, but it didn't quite make it.

So this year we finished the work for FY 2011, and now this is the bill for FY 2012. Again, it is a strong, bipartisan, no-politics good defense bill. But in order to get to this point, to get where we are, required tremendous dedication on the part of all of the members of the subcommittee, as well as the staff. The professional staff of our Defense Subcommittee is very, very special and works extremely hard. I would like to call attention to that staff.

On the minority side, Paul Juola, who also worked on the majority side at one point, and Becky Leggieri. On the majority staff, Brooke Boyer, Walter Hearne, Jennifer Miller, Tim Prince, Adrienne Ramsay, Ann Reese, Megan Rosenbusch, Paul Terry, B.G. Wright, Sherry Young, and the chief of staff, Tom McLemore.

They have done a tremendous job. I know that oftentimes when the House finished its business and Members would retire to their respective homes, staff stayed and they did the analysis that had to be done to achieve the savings that we achieved, but also to make sure that we accomplished what had to be accomplished to provide for our troops, to provide for their welfare, to provide for the readiness of the Nation.

□ 1840

I said in my opening remarks there were other items, other things, other parts of this bill that I would like to have increased. I would like to have been able to increase the pay raise that goes to our military. The money just wasn't there. But we did insist on funding the full 1.6 percent, which doesn't sound like a lot. At least it's not a reduction.

Mr. Chairman, this is a good bill. We're not going to vote on this bill tonight. We will read this bill—it's my understanding now from leadership—for amendment under the 5-minute rule the week after next and we'll be prepared to, again, in a bipartisan way, deal with any issues that might come up at that time.

I yield back the balance of my time. The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia) having assumed the chair, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under con-

sideration the bill (H.R. 2219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

TEXAS TORT REFORM

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's medical liability system is broken. It has put limits on patient access to health care and has increased costs. But since 2003, my home State of Texas has been a leader on medical liability reform. As a result of tort reform, from 2003 to 2009, Texas has seen an increase of roughly 60 percent in new physician licensure applications. And since 2003, Texas had 21,640 new physicians licensed. That means more doctors to treat patients—especially in rural areas with limited access to health care. All major physician liability carriers in Texas have cut their rates, giving Texas doctors affordable premiums and allowing them to focus on quality of care.

Texas is a model for tort reform for the Nation. I urge the Congress to adopt a similar policy to increase patient access to care and save our Nation billions in defensive medicine costs.

HANDS OFF MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. TONKO. This evening I will be joined by my colleague from California, Representative GARAMENDI. He and I will discuss for this next hour the issue that deals with a program that is tremendously popular in this country, that deals with our senior population as they have the resources through a program dubbed "Medicare" that enables them to enjoy with dignity their senior years and to be able to have the security of knowing that there is affordability and accessibility for their health care needs. Obviously, as our senior population continues to grow and the longevity curve continues to climb upward, our senior population has reminded us that their dignity and their quality of life has been addressed in a very strong way as the calculated curve for life expectancy continues to mount, which is a positive force in the lives of all Americans.

The efforts that we see afloat in this House at this Capitol range across a number of cuts and reforms that people are proposing for the future budget for this country. There is this Ryan Roadmap which has been developed and dubbed the "path to prosperity" by the author and by the Republican majority in the House. However, many of us

have seen it for its true value and its attempts to end Medicare, so much so that we have dubbed it the "road to ruin," a situation that would undo a Medicare program, and it is why signs such as this next to me here would greet many of us when we arrive in our district for district work period or on weekends as we break from session here in the House of Representatives: "Hands off my Medicare." It's very bold, it's very straightforward, and it's very understood. The message is real, and it has reached us because it talks about an attempt here to end Medicare in this House. It would force seniors to find their own insurance in the private market. They would be asked to shop with a coupon in hand. The money that the government would kick in for coverage, part of that coupon would not nearly keep pace with the actual costs—the costs that seniors would be forced to pay.

Of course, as 32 cents—which has been the on-average expectation of the coupon—for every \$1 of premium costs would be the outcome, that means that the risk would shift from our senior population to have them dig into their pockets, and the risk would be removed from government and placed in the hands of seniors. It would take away what is a stable, dependable system and put a profit-driven insurance arena of companies in charge of rationing care for our seniors.

This is a very unacceptable outcome, Representative GARAMENDI, and I'm glad that you have joined us this evening in this Special Order, where we'll focus on the Ryan Roadmap and what it really means, what it calculates to do, and the impact it has on so many elements of the population out there. And thank you, Representative GARAMENDI, for joining us this evening as we talk about this attempt to end Medicare and shift the risk from government to seniors.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Representative TONKO, thank you so very much for the opportunity to join you this evening on this critical issue. We often call this the Ryan Roadmap, but it really is the Republican budget proposal. It's not only the chairman of the budget committee that put this out, but every Republican in this House voted for it. So they really have adopted this as their roadmap, as their solution to the problems that face this Nation.

□ 1850

You spoke very eloquently about the way in which this proposal would change who pays and how it's going to be paid for. It shifts the burden away from all of us. It shifts the burden onto individual seniors.

One of the things that I found very interesting was: How much does it cost an individual senior?

Now, recognize that those who are seniors today also suffer. It's not just those who will become seniors but those who are seniors today, and I'll