

Ambassadors for Youth award. Victoria Stave is an 11th grader at Arvada West High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Victoria Stave is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Victoria Stave for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. JEFF FLAKE**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5855) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer an amendment, designated as Flake #1.

This amendment is straight forward; it would reduce funding for the Office of the Secretary by \$50,000 and transfer a revenue neutral amount to U.S. Customs and Border Protection salaries and expenses.

This is a nominal cut from the Secretary's nearly \$122 million in funding, again only slightly more than the Committee provided for the Secretary to spend on receptions next year.

I offer this amendment as a means of bringing an important issue to both Congress' and more importantly the Secretary's attention.

Let me start by thanking the Chairman and Ranking Member for their attention to border issues in this bill as well as the staff's assistance in bringing this amendment to the floor.

In the report accompanying last year's Homeland Security appropriations bill, the Committee directed the Department to provide a "resource allocation and staffing model for the ports of entry."

As would appear to be the trend with Congressional requests for information, answers to questions, or budget documentation, the Department either failed to prioritize or simply ignored this request and it is reiterated in this year's report.

The committee report notes: "As the Committee has not yet received the CBP workload staffing allocation model, the Committee cannot assess CBP's identified needs."

As we are all no doubt aware, funding for border security efforts between the ports of entry has increased exponentially over recent years, while the budget for Customs and Border Patrol officers at the ports has not kept pace.

As I travel the border region, in addition to concerns regarding border security and the

changing nature of threats between the ports, I hear persistent concerns that our ports of entry are understaffed.

Those serving at the ports of entry have at least a dual role, facilitating legitimate trade and travel safely while also preventing unauthorized people and goods to cross the border.

I could talk at length about the benefits of cross-border trade for communities along our borders and beyond, but let me cite just a couple of examples.

Focusing on the southern border, Mexico is the third largest U.S. trading partner and the second largest U.S. export market, with a reported six million U.S. jobs depending on trade with Mexico.

The executive director of the Arizona-Mexico Commission was recently quoted as saying "Arizona's border is the gateway for some \$26 billion worth of imports and exports and some 44 million people each year."

A recent Maricopa Association of Governments release cited that legal Mexican visitors spend roughly \$7.3 million a day in Arizona and Arizona business exported nearly \$6 billion in goods in 2011.

Benefits of trade along the southern border are certainly not limited to border communities.

For example, the Mariposa Port of Entry in Nogales is one of the largest ports of entry for fruit and vegetables in the U.S. In 2011, the U.S. imported 13.4 billion pounds of fresh produce grown in Mexico and more than a third of that entered through Nogales.

Clearly, a secure border and economic stability in the border region are not mutually exclusive and main component of success toward that goal is the right staffing levels.

I can assure you that I am the last member that would support writing any agency a blank check. The process of the Appropriations Committee performing the necessary oversight and accurately reviewing port of entry staffing needs begins with the Department delivering the staffing model and information that was requested a year ago.

I thank the chairman and urge adoption of the amendment.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARTIN HEINRICH**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2012*

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed four votes today, which included rollcall votes 315, 316, 317 and 318.

If I had been present, I would have cast the following votes on amendments to H.R. 5325, Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2013: rollcall vote 315 (McClintock Amendment #3): "yea," rollcall vote 316 (Hirono Amendment): "yea," rollcall vote 317 (McClintock Amendment #5): "no," rollcall vote 318 (Matheson Amendment): "yea."

#### INTRODUCING THE STOP NON-NATIVE ANIMALS FROM KILLING ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2012*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Stopping Non-Native Animals from Killing Endangered Species, or SNAKES, Act. This bill implements a successful pilot program in which specially trained dogs help to detect the Burmese python and other constrictor reptiles ravaging the Everglades ecosystem. The bill will fund a program to prevent the snakes from establishing sustainable populations in new areas as well as to control the snakes that are already out there.

I am a Florida native and travel across the Everglades frequently. Until recently, there was rarely a time that I would drive through the Everglades and not see animals like wading birds and rabbits along the roadside. Since these snakes have spread over the last few years, however, I rarely see any animals at all anymore. In fact, recent studies have shown the mammal population in the Everglades has declined over 90 percent in some cases.

This drastic reduction in numbers is the result of the Burmese python and other constrictor reptiles wreaking havoc throughout the Everglades, obliterating endangered and local wildlife, and upsetting the delicate balance of the ecosystem. The snakes in Florida are contained to a relatively limited area right now, but they will not remain that way. Experts anticipate that the snakes may expand beyond the Everglades, or escape from pet-owners and breeders in other parts of the country to then possibly establish new breeding populations there.

I am sad to say that while there is no proverbial silver bullet to completely eradicate the snakes already in the Everglades, we do have some tools at our disposal that can stop them from spreading. This bill today implements one such technique that has already recently proved its success in the field.

Auburn University EcoDogs, working along with Federal, State, county, tribal government entities, universities, and non-profit stakeholders, recently trained dogs for a study to assess whether detection dogs were an effective tool for python management efforts. As it turned out, dog search teams can cover more distance and have a higher accuracy rate in particular scenarios than human searchers.

The team consisted of two dogs, named Jake and Ivy, a dog handler and a snake handler. It performed free-ranging python searches on a variety of State, Federal and tribal lands. In controlled searches, dogs performed approximately 2.5 times faster than human searchers, in addition to having a significantly higher success rate of 92 percent during controlled canal searches, when compared to the human search team of 62 percent. The SNAKES Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to work with the stakeholders to establish this detection program.

These specially trained dogs can also respond to specific python sightings throughout the year. A rapid response team will take a dog directly to the site where a python was recently spotted in order to track the snake from

there. In addition to organized searches, this will help manage and control the spread of pythons and other large constrictor snakes.

I would not be introducing this bill if the dogs were ever in any danger, Mr. Speaker. At no point do the dogs approach the snakes. Instead, once a dog indicates that a snake is in the area, it is taken to a safe distance while a human handler captures the snake.

Unfortunately, these snakes have already destroyed much of the wildlife of the Everglades. This program alone will not bring them back. Nor will it completely eradicate the snakes that are already breeding, as there are simply too many snakes that are too widespread.

However, these dogs are useful for keeping the snakes where they are and stopping them from spreading to other areas. We should, therefore, quickly establish a full-time dog detection team so that we have the ability to respond with the best tools available in order to prevent what happened in the Everglades from happening anywhere else in the United States.

TEA ANDERSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Tea Anderson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Tea Anderson is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Tea Anderson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Tea Anderson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2012*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to being unavoidably detained, I missed the following rollcall vote: No. 357 on June 6, 2012. If present, I would have voted: rollcall vote No. 357—Bishop (NY) Amendment, “nay.”

TRIBUTE TO THE TOWN OF OAKHAM ON THE OCCASION OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2012*

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 250th anniversary of the town of Oakham, Massachusetts. Beginning in 1742, Scotch-Irish Presbyterians began to buy land in what was then called “Rutland West Wing” in the hopes of incorporating their own town under a Presbyterian form of government. After two failed attempts, Oakham was finally incorporated on June 7, 1762.

In early colonial times, the present town of Oakham was a virgin forest occupied by bands of Nipmuk Indians who made seasonal camps in the area for hunting, fishing, and agricultural purposes. During King Philip's War (1675–1676) a 150 square mile area known as Naquag, which includes the land presently known as Oakham, became a stronghold for Native Americans. The Native Americans were on the losing end of the conflict and many of them then left central Massachusetts looking for new homes. Those who remained were forced to live in four “Indian Towns” under close supervision by the colonists. This left the entire area of Naquag open for colonial expansion.

In 1686, five Nashaway Indians, who claimed ownership of Naquag, sold the territory to a group of land speculators from Lancaster, Massachusetts for “25 pounds hard cash.” By 1722, Scotch-Irish immigrants began to buy lots in the area and the town of Rutland was soon incorporated with a Congregational minister. Oakham's founding would be another 40 years in coming.

By the beginning of the Revolutionary War, Oakham's population had grown to nearly 600 people. The town was strongly pro-revolution so loyalists in town were forced to leave their property behind and flee to British strongholds in Boston and Canada. The town raised a company of Grenadier to prevent a British attack on Boston during the War of 1812 and also sent nearly 100 volunteers to serve during the Civil War. Nearly one fifth of these soldiers would not live to see Oakham again.

The sixth Massachusetts Turnpike was built between Pelham and Shrewsbury in 1799. This 43 miles toll road followed Old Turnpike Road in Oakham and remained in service until 1828, making travel to and from Oakham much easier and faster. In 1877, The Central Massachusetts Railroad opened providing quick transportation for both people and goods throughout the northeast. A depot in town helped Oakham grow and prosper, but by the early 20th century population began to decline as people began to leave farms and move to industrial centers.

Today, Oakham has settled into a quiet bedroom community. Recreation has become Oakham's economic focal point with two campgrounds and an 18-hole golf course. An abundance of state land in town provides open space that can be enjoyed by residents and visitors all year long.

From ice fishing, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling in the winters to hiking, biking, horseback riding, and hunting in the warmer

months, Oakham is a relaxing retreat for many.

On the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the town of Oakham, Massachusetts, I congratulate its citizens and praise their dedication and perseverance throughout the town's history. It has been an honor to represent this great community and I wish the people of Oakham a healthy and prosperous future.

SVETLANA MIKHAYLOVA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Svetlana Mikhaylova for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Svetlana Mikhaylova is an 8th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Svetlana Mikhaylova is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Svetlana Mikhaylova for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE'S MEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2012*

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the University of California, Irvine's (UCI's) men's volleyball team for winning the 2012 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Men's Volleyball National Championship. This is UC Irvine's third national championship in six years, which makes them one of only five programs to have won more than two men's volleyball titles.

UC Irvine won the 2012 championship with a 3–0 (25–22, 34–32, 26–24) victory over USC. Senior Carson Clark was named the Most Outstanding Player (MOP) after recording a match-high 22 kills, hitting .465, and added eight digs and three service aces. Clark joined Ryan Ammerman (2009) and Matt Webber (2007) as the only Anteater players to have earned MOP distinction. Kevin Tillie, Chris Austin, and Connor Hughes were named to the All-Tournament team along with Clark.

The Anteaters concluded the year ranked No. 1 in the country in the final AVCA Coaches Poll. The Anteaters were ranked No. 1 or No. 2 all but two weeks this season. UCI was ranked No. 1 for five weeks this season which was the most weeks at the top of the poll by any school in the country this year. The Anteaters have been ranked No. 1 in five different