

as the one I represent, El Paso, Texas, to be eligible for Urban Areas Security Initiative, UASI, funding under the FY2013 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill.

As you know, UASI provides funding to address the unique planning, organization, equipment, and training needs of high-threat, high-density urban areas. The program assists in building an enhanced and sustainable capacity to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism.

Unfortunately, the FY12 Homeland Security Appropriations bill contained provisions that would arbitrarily deny funding to more than 50 cities like El Paso, Texas. These hinder the progress that communities like El Paso, have made to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks and could potentially undermine the ability of these cities to safeguard their communities.

As former Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I know very well the importance of providing our cities with adequate resources to prepare, prevent, and protect against attacks. This is a time for our communities to remain vigilant. It is unwise to cut off resources by including arbitrary language that restricts funding for cities like El Paso, which sits on the U.S.-Mexico border across from what is arguably one of the most violent cities in Mexico—Ciudad Juarez. Yet, despite this, El Paso is ranked the safest large city in the U.S. I attribute this to the great work of law enforcement in our community which is supported by resources provided by UASI under the Department of Homeland Security's State and Local Grants programs. UASI has directed more than \$21.8 million to El Paso since 2007. Additionally, El Paso—Juarez is a major center for manufacturing and international trade and commerce. El Paso is home to one of the largest ports of entry on the U.S./Mexico border, and is recognized as one of the top trading points in the entire United States. El Paso is home to Fort Bliss, one of the United States largest military bases and the Department of Defense's top ranked military asset.

In 2010, El Paso, Texas received \$5,389,900 as part of the UASI program and an additional \$75,000 through the UASI Non-profit Security Grant Program to help nonprofit organizations at high risk of attack and located within one of the UASI-eligible areas.

With continued violence in Mexico and other potential security threats in our area, these funds are especially critical. As our local governments continue to face budget difficulties, these federal grants help ensure that our local law enforcement agencies have the resources they need to ensure El Paso remains the safest large city in the U.S.

El Paso has a track record of wisely investing UASI funds in projects such as an emergency notification system, an information fusion center, urban search and rescue teams, hazardous materials specialty teams, and critical interoperable communications infrastructure upgrades.

The UASI grant has provided the El Paso Region with equipment such as: chemical and hazardous materials detectors, thermal imaging cameras, personal protective equipment, command units, generators, tactical ballistic helmets and vests, security systems, response vehicles, emergency notification system, and even medical cache for H1N1 pandemic, as well as numerous other projects.

The grant funds have also assisted in coordination exercises, including: ranged inter-departmental communication and training, agency communication and training, and EOC exercises to regional cross-discipline and multi-agency training scenarios. All of the exercises are compiled and analyzed through After Action Reports, which are indispensable as training tools to reflect our areas of strength and weakness. In addition, the grant has also funded training such as National Incident Management System, Bomb Team, Hazmat, and other training exercises deemed eligible on the grant.

El Paso area communities have all benefited from the regional UASI by significantly increasing their capabilities. The funds allowed for the purchase of equipment and training such as those outlined by the Department of Homeland Security's National Planning Scenarios and Target Capabilities Lists. I urge my colleagues to support Mr. HIGGINS amendment, the Urban Area Security Initiative, to ensure that our communities and our country remain safe. Mr. Higgins' amendment ensures that communities like mine in El Paso, Texas receive the support they need from the UASI program.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and help continue to keep our large cities safe.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF EVERETT "BUD" RANK, JR.

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mr. Everett "Bud" Rank, Jr., lifelong Valley farmer and former Clovis Unified School District Trustee. Mr. Rank left us on the same property along the San Joaquin River in northeast Fresno where he was born in 1921.

Mr. Rank spent much of his life working with the Future Farmers of America, where he helped organize the Clovis chapter of the organization. He was then president of that chapter, as well as a member of many other farming organizations, including the Farm Bureau California Young Farmers and Ranchers, Clovis Young Farmers, the Clovis Grange.

As a Clovis High School graduate, schools and children were his greatest contribution to the local community, as his wife says. He served three terms as head of the Clovis Unified Board of Trustees in the late 60's and early 70's. To honor his work in education, Bud Rank Elementary School in Clovis was named after him in 2006.

Mr. Rank worked two tours of duty within the Agriculture Department, as Western regional director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service in the 1970s, and as the head of ASCS and executive vice president of the Commodity Credit Corp. in the 1980s. He also served as a member of both President Nixon and Reagan's administrations' Agricultural Departments, all while being an avid golfer and ardent family man.

He is survived by his wife Evelyn, their three daughters, two grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

I applaud Mr. Rank for his years of tireless work on behalf of agriculture and education.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great appreciation that I ask my colleagues to stand with me in honoring Mr. Rank's remarkable life and his work in advancing our education system and agricultural productivity in the Valley. Please join me today in recognizing the commitment, dedication, and success of Mr. Everett "Bud" Rank, Jr.'s life.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

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:

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chair, I rise today in reluctant opposition to H.R. 5855, Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2013. H.R. 5855 provides \$39.1 billion in discretionary funding for Department of Homeland Security (DHS), a decrease of \$484 million below last year's level and a decrease of \$393 million below the President's request.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) appropriations bill includes funding for all components and functions of DHS, including Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Coast Guard (USCG); Secret Service (USSS), the National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD), which includes Infrastructure Protection and Information Security (IPIS) and the Federal Protective Service (FPS), the Office of Health Affairs (OHA); the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), the Science and Technology Directorate (S&T), the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO), departmental management, Analysis and Operations (A&O), and the Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

Mr. Chair, I would like to thank my friends Chairman ROBERT B. ADERHOLT and Ranking Member DAVID E. PRICE on their hard work on the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act. Although this bill provides adequate funding for some programs that I support, they are far outweighed by some unexplainable provisions in the bill.

This bill underfunds the Federal Air Marshals program by \$50 million which will reduce coverage on high-risk flights. The Administration has echoed my sentiment in a recent statement on administration policy. I also have reservations about extending a civilian pay freeze through fiscal year 2013. This is neither sustainable nor desirable.

As a Member of the House Homeland Security Committee, I cannot support this bill. We as Members of Congress have a responsibility to protect our communities from any possible danger. For this reason, there is no higher priority than to adequately fund our homeland security, particularly our first responders such as firefighters.

Firefighters are often the first responders to any and every emergency. As we saw on 9/11 firefighters are dedicated to saving lives and we must provide them with the resources to maintain their morale and readiness. Stringent budget cuts on the local level have left fire departments understaffed, unprepared, and unequipped to perform their duties to highest level.

Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs attempt to ameliorate this deficiency. In this bill both grant programs are once again underfunded. This legislation only funds up to 25 percent of the necessary funds required to effectively support local fire departments with hiring firefighters, providing modern safety gear, modern fire trucks, and other vital tools to our first responders.

It makes no sense to weaken our Homeland Security program by cutting their resources in a time when terrorist threats continue to put our Nation at risk. We as Members of Congress must unite and assist our brave first responders in their efforts to help contain any threats by providing them with all necessary resources, rather than turn our backs and leave them without sufficient funding.

Mr. Chair, DHS is charged with safeguarding America against diverse and relentless adversaries. Charged with this difficult but important task, providing DHS with the necessary provisions is a no brainer. But this bill has come short of providing those provisions. I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 5855 so we have that opportunity to provide our first responders with those provisions.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAPE COD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th Anniversary of the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce plays an essential role in the Cape Cod community, networking local businesses and offering visitors an insider's perspective on much of what the Cape has to offer.

Founded in 1922, the Chamber of Commerce has grown to represent almost 1,400 members. From charities and museums to banks, churches and wildlife sanctuaries, the Chamber represents a diverse array of organizations on the Cape that help to define its unique character. These businesses provide vital services to both residents and visitors. Without the hard work the Chamber has done over the course of its long history, and without the numerous organizations it represents, the business community on the Cape could never have developed the vitality and ingenuity that makes it so remarkable.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce and its CEO, Wendy Northcross—as well as the hundreds of business and organizations that make it all possible—for their years of hard work. I am certain the Chamber's and their member organizations' futures will be bright.

UNCERTAINTY DESTROYS JOBS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in Wednesday's Washington Examiner, columnist John Stossel quoted economist John B. Taylor of the Hoover Institution who stated "Unpredictable economic policy—massive fiscal 'stimulus' and ballooning debt, the Federal Reserve's quantitative easing with multiyear near-zero interest rates, and regulatory uncertainty due to Obamacare and the Dodd-Frank financial reforms—is the main cause of persistent high unemployment and our feeble recovery."

Over the past three and a half years, our economy has not improved: our unemployment rate has remained above eight percent, our small business owners have been forced to pay higher taxes, and our government spending continues to spiral out of control, destroying jobs.

The President and his liberal allies in the Senate continue to support legislation that creates more barriers resulting in economic uncertainty. This sense plays a tremendous role in our economy's inability to recover quickly. It is past time for the President and the Senate to work with House Republicans and pass legislation aimed to create jobs through private sector growth.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, I was delayed and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 362, "aye" on rollcall No. 363, "aye" on rollcall No. 364, "aye" on rollcall No. 365, "aye" on rollcall No. 366, "aye" on rollcall No. 367, "aye" on rollcall No. 368, "no" on rollcall No. 369, and "aye" on rollcall No. 370.

TRIBUTE TO KYLE McCULLOUGH

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to Kyle McCullough. Kyle, a 28-year-old Wasco County resident, is a former Army Special Forces soldier who served this country with honor and distinction. In Ramadi in 2006, he fought in one of the toughest engagements our forces encountered during Operation Iraqi Freedom. And now Kyle is currently in the process of reenlisting in the Army.

While at home, his mind is not far from his comrades in harm's way overseas. In recent conversation with his little brother, USMC 1st

Lt. Kristoffer "Turf" McCullough, currently serving in Afghanistan, he was asked: "Do people even remember that we're over here?"

Kyle, as ever his nature, jumped into action. In May, Kyle walked a distance of 198 miles over eight days from his home in Dufur to the Oregon coast in Seaside to raise awareness for the troops. That's an average of 24.5 miles every day, or two miles longer than the driving distance between Hood River and The Dalles.

During the trek, Kyle not only raised a few blisters on the bottom of his feet, but he also raised money for the Hood River-based Gorge Heroes Club, which provides care packages to deployed troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. With the money Kyle raised, the Gorge Heroes Club will be able to provide 1,250 soldiers overseas with morale-boosting care packages from home.

Media throughout the northwest covered Kyle's walk—and it was not lost on deployed servicemen and women overseas, either. Oregon National Guard Major Jack Gillentine, stationed in Kabul, said in a recent letter to the Gorge Heroes Club, "Thank you very much for the packages you sent us. Some of the non-perishable food goes on our trucks for missions when we cannot get to a chow hall. I especially wanted to say thank you to Kyle McCullough. I read the article and I appreciate his huge effort. Thank you for all you do."

The Gorge Heroes Club supported more than 5,000 troops last year alone. As a direct result of Kyle's dedication and willingness to persevere through pain and exhaustion, troops deployed around the globe will continue to receive these much needed morale boosting care packages.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my fellow colleagues join me in recognizing Kyle McCullough. He has earned the thanks of a grateful Nation not only for his courage on the battlefield, but for his homefront support of his fellow servicemen and women who every day put their lives on the line for our way of life.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAPE VERDEAN HISTORICAL TRUST AND ITS SO SABI! EXHIBIT

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cape Verdean Historical Trust, its members and the upcoming So SABI! exhibit. On June 16th, So SABI! will open its doors and invite the public to explore Cape Verdean music, art and literature and the influence of the oldest Creole culture in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

So SABI! allows all residents of Massachusetts—those of Cape Verdean descent and those not—to learn and appreciate the impact those first immigrants have had on shaping the modern culture and economy of our Commonwealth, where nearly 300,000 descendants of Cape Verdean immigrants make their home. My district, which includes Cape Cod, the Islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, and the towns of Southeastern Massachusetts, is home to the fastest growing Cape Verdean populations in the United States. This comes as no surprise, given the stark similarities in lifestyle and resources between the Commonwealth and this island community.