

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

STEVE EBNER TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Steve Ebner. Since 2006, Mr. Ebner has served as Fire Chief at the Fort Lewis Mesa Fire Department and on August 1, he will step down from this position.

Beginning his career as a volunteer in Maryland, Mr. Ebner worked for nearly 42 years in the fire service industry. His experience gained him teaching positions at both the University of Maryland and San Juan College Fire Science Programs. In 2006, after many distinguished years of service, the Fort Lewis Fire Department appointed Mr. Ebner to the fire chief position.

During his time at Fort Lewis Mesa, Mr. Ebner was essential to the development and expansion of the fire department. With improved training sessions and enhanced services, Mr. Ebner advanced the department's ability to perform. His leadership and commitment to the community were also recognized this past spring when eight department members shaved their heads in support of Mr. Ebner's battle with chemotherapy.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Chief Steve Ebner. I rise today to thank him for his work on behalf of the state of Colorado, and I wish him the best in his fight against cancer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday July 17 and Wednesday July 18, 2012, I was not present for recorded votes and was with my constituents in my district preparing for and attending tornado recovery related events with the First Lady of the United States.

If I were present, I would have voted in the following way:

Tuesday July 17

H.R. 6018—To authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes—voted “yes.”

S. 2009—Insular Areas Act of 2011—voted “yes.”

Wednesday July 18

H.R. 5872—Sequestration Transparency Act of 2012—voted “yes.”

McCollum Amendment to H.R. 5856—Reduces Military Retirement Funds (for military bands) by \$187,770,000 and applies the savings to the spending reduction account—voted “no.”

Kingston/McCollum Amendment to H.R. 5856—Reduces the amount of Defense Department funding for professional sports spon-

sorships by \$72,300,000 and applies the savings to the spending reduction account—voted “yes.”

Quigley Amendment to H.R. 5856—Reduces the Navy Shipbuilding and Conversion account by \$988 million (funding for one DDG-51 Destroyer) and applies the savings to the spending reduction account—voted “no.”

Cohen Amendment (#1) to H.R. 5856—Reduces the Navy Cruiser Modernization account by \$506,660,000 and increases the Defense Health Program (for cancer research) account by \$470 million—voted “no.”

Pompeo Amendment to H.R. 5856—Strikes the \$250 million Rapid Innovation Fund from the bill and applies the savings to the spending reduction account—voted “no.”

Markey Amendment (#1) to H.R. 5856—Reduces the funding for ground based missile defense by \$75 million and applies the savings to the spending reduction account—voted “no.”

Amash Amendment to H.R. 5856—Allows outsourcing of Defense-related work and strikes the requirement that such outsourcing be done on a competitive and cost-beneficial basis—voted “no.”

Cohen Amendment (#2) to H.R. 5856—Reduces the Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund by \$175 million and applies the savings to the spending reduction account—voted “no.”

Cicilline Amendment to H.R. 5856—Strikes the \$375 million in funding for the Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund and applies the savings to the spending reduction account—voted “no.”

Woolsey Amendment (#1) to H.R. 5856—Reduces total defense funding by \$181 million—the same amount that the FY13 Transportation/HUD bill cut the Federal Transit Administration—voted “no.”

Markey Amendment (#2) to H.R. 5856—Prohibits the use of funds to operate or maintain more than 300 land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs)—voted “no.”

Woolsey Amendment (#2) to H.R. 5856—Reduces funding in the bill by \$293,900,000—the same amount as was cut in the proposed FY13 Labor/HHS appropriations bill for Title X Family Planning (zeroing out the account)—voted “no.”

Woolsey Amendment (#3) to H.R. 5856—Reduces funding in the bill by \$1,700,000,000—the same amount as the Republican budget cut the Social Services Block Grant program (zeroing out the account)—voted “no.”

Lee Amendment to H.R. 5856—Reduces funding for the Overseas Contingency Operation (OCO) by \$21 billion, excluding: the Defense Health Program; Defense Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities; the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund; and the Office of the IG—voted “no.”

King (IA) Amendment to H.R. 5856—Prohibits the use of funds to be used to implement, administer, or enforce the requirements in the Davis-Bacon Act—voted “no.”

RECOGNIZING THE FLINN FAMILY AS THE 2012 SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Flinn family for being selected as the Santa Rosa County, Florida Outstanding Farm Family for 2012.

Shannon Flinn first began farming with his father in his native Illinois. From a young age, he has always been actively involved in all aspects of farming and personifies the spirit of American ingenuity that has helped make our Nation prosperous. His hands-on experience helped develop a natural aptitude for finding unique solutions to complex problems. In 1972, Shannon moved to Santa Rosa County, Florida, and in 1989, he and his wife, Audra, were married. Audra plays an instrumental role in their success, especially during the planting and harvesting seasons.

The Flinn family embodies the industrious nature and household unity that characterizes our Nation's family farmers. Today, along with their three children, the Flinns farm peanuts, cotton, corn, and soybeans on 500 acres of land in Northwest Florida. Sheldon, 16 years of age, is known as an excellent operator and is skilled at using essential farm equipment to plow, plant, and harvest the crops. Aaron, still relatively young at the age of 11, is a helpful worker who has already developed the patience required to think through problems that routinely arise on the farm. Megan, their oldest child, currently attends nursing school, but still finds time to help out on the farm when she is able.

The Flinn family is also very active in their local church and Cobbtown Christian Academy, where Sheldon and Aaron attend school. Shannon also serves on both the Santa Rosa County Farm Bureau Board and the Jay Peanut Farmers Cooperative Board of Directors.

Mr. Speaker, our great Nation was built by farmers and their families. The Santa Rosa County Outstanding Farm Family of the Year Award is a reflection of the Flinns' tireless work and their dedication to family, faith and farming. On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my congratulations to the Flinn family for this great accomplishment. My wife Vicki and I extend our best wishes for their continued success.

H.R. 4367

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 4367, a bill which would remove the current requirement under the Electronic Funds Transfer Act that ATM machines

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

have a physical label indicating the fee charge. Currently, ATM machines have both a physical posted notification and an on-screen prompt that inform the customer of any fees prior to the withdrawal or transfer of money. These fees are often used to offset the cost of a patron withdrawing money from an ATM owned by another financial institution.

H.R. 4367 is an essential piece of legislation which prevents greed-motivated individuals from fraudulently removing the physical fee notification and then filing frivolous lawsuits on financial institutions for not having the physical notification posted. This fraud forces financial institutions to waste huge amounts of money on legal fees, some as much as \$500,000, merely to defend frivolous lawsuits. Unfortunately, the cost of this litigation forces banks to raise their ATM fees to deal with the action of a few unscrupulous individuals exploiting a legal loophole.

Today, virtually all ATM machines display on-screen notifications of a transfer fee, prior to allowing the customer to withdraw money. Altering the law so that banks are only required to post an on-screen fee notification will help them avoid expensive, unjust, and unnecessary lawsuits. H.R. 4367 is an essential and necessary part of modernizing our financial regulations to fit the needs of the digital world. Please know that I firmly support H.R. 4367 and would have voted in favor of it.

HONORING BARDSTOWN, KY

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the town of Bardstown, Kentucky on its recent honor of being named the "Most Beautiful Small Town in America." This distinction was made by Rand McNally and USA Today after considering the 650 nominated towns.

This is a tremendous honor for Bardstown and its residents. Whenever people visit Kentucky, I always tell them to visit Bardstown because I believe it best exemplifies the beauty of the Bluegrass State. I am proud to call Kentucky my home, and I hope this honor will continue to draw attention to this beautiful town and all that Kentucky has to offer.

Bardstown, the second oldest city in Kentucky, has previously been named one of the 100 Best Small Towns in America and one of the 50 Best Small Southern Towns. Bardstown is home to many historic and notable sites, most notably "My Old Kentucky Home," which was visited by American composer Stephen Foster. The legendary story says it was his inspiration for the Kentucky State Song. Bardstown holds another impressive title of "Bourbon Capital of the World." Bardstown is home to Heaven Hill and Barton Brands and the distilleries at Maker's Mark and Jim Beam are just outside of town.

It is important to highlight the wonderful leadership of Bardstown, and this honor reflects on their work within the community. Thank you for making Bardstown what it is today.

I encourage everyone to visit beautiful Bardstown, Kentucky. You will fall in love with the majestic landscape and the sense of community.

RECOGNIZING 2012 BLUE STAR MUSEUMS: THE FRISCO HERITAGE MUSEUM AND THE COLLIN COUNTY FARM MUSEUM

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Frisco Heritage Museum in Frisco, Texas and the Collin County Farm Museum in McKinney, Texas for participating in the National Endowment for the Arts' Blue Star Museums program.

This program—also supported by Blue Star Families organizations and the United States Department of Defense—encourages museums across the country to offer free admission to active duty military personnel and their families between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Over 1,800 facilities nationwide participate, and many extend the offer of free admission to veterans of our Armed Forces. Two of these great institutions are located in Collin County, Texas, the place I'm privileged to call home.

The Frisco Heritage Museum exists to "collect, preserve, study, interpret, exhibit, and stimulate appreciation for the history and culture of Frisco, Texas—and the North Texas region—to all the people of the region." This great museum is situated on a six-acre Heritage Center where folks can visit a reproduction of the Frisco Train Depot and historic buildings that were moved to the lot. The museum itself walks visitors through Frisco's development from a small railroad town to the fastest-growing city in America.

Another museum designated as a Blue Star is the Collin County Farm Museum. This great facility, which boasts over 8,500 square feet of collections and exhibits, strives to "develop a better understanding and appreciation of Collin County's rural heritage." The museum also loans out artifacts to popular area attractions, allowing the public to enjoy historic equipment such as a Model T Ford and early-model tractors.

I commend both museums for honoring our nation's heroes by opening their doors free of charge. After all, it's the men and women of our Armed Forces who have defined the American story and who still fight to protect the freedoms that allow the United States to be the most innovative nation on earth.

To the staff, supporters, and volunteers of the Frisco Heritage Museum and the Collin County Farm Museum, thank you for your first-rate efforts. You help make our community great.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5856) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 5856, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2013. We are still a nation at war. Our troops continue to remain in harm's way fighting for our country in Afghanistan. Our consideration of this legislation must begin with an acknowledgement of this critical fact.

In that light, I am pleased that this legislation gives our troops the support they need while they are serving our Nation abroad. The bill provides \$519.2 billion for the Department of Defense's base budget, and \$88.5 billion in funding for the war. It also gives a 1.7 percent pay raise to our troops and provides \$2.3 billion for family support and advocacy programs. I am also very pleased to see the Committee include \$181 million in funding to keep the M-1 Abrams tank production line in operation, which will help ensure our military industrial base is strong and vibrant. The legislation also provides \$1.6 billion for activities to counter Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), which continue to be a leading killer of our troops abroad. All of these programs are an accurate reflection of our priorities as a nation.

That being said, I am dismayed that House Republicans chose to write all of this year's appropriations bills under a lower limit than was established under the Budget Control Act (BCA). The BCA represents a bipartisan compromise on Federal spending and it should be respected. The Senate Committee on Appropriations is moving forward with the limit established under the BCA with the blessing of the Republican leadership. Such a disconnect between the two bodies on an issue of critical significance only adds to the uncertainty surrounding our economy and is not in our national interest.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this vital legislation so our troops can know they have the support of the Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF BISHOP GREGORY KEITH BLUE, D.MIN.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bishop Gregory Keith Blue, D.Min., Presiding Prelate of Perfecting Ministries Worldwide, Inc. and Overseer of Body of Christ Church International, who is celebrating 30 years of Pastoral Ministry this year. He will be honored at a banquet on Saturday, July 21, 2012 and at a church service on Sunday, July 22, 2012, in Columbus, Georgia.

A native of Miami, Florida, Bishop Blue holds five degrees: a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, Master of Arts in Psychology, Master of Divinity, and Doctorate of Divinity.

Stepping out of the United Methodist Church, Dr. Gregory Blue stepped into apostolic purpose birthing Perfecting Ministries Worldwide and Body of Christ Church International. Following Ephesians 4:11-13, "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets,