

HONORING KATHERINE TANKSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Katherine Tankson. Katherine has shown what can be done through tenacity, dedication and a desire to serve others.

Katherine Tankson is a native of Sharkey County and resides in Rolling Fork, Mississippi. She has served in the educational arena for a total of 42 years. This included 12 years in the South Delta School District as a classroom teacher and 19 years as an administrator, before her first retirement in December of 2000. The South Delta School District is located in the Mississippi Delta and serves the students of Sharkey and Issaquena Counties with a present enrollment of 988 students.

Upon receiving her Bachelor's of Science Degree in Business Education from Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, MS in 1969, her only desire was to return to her hometown to teach with the goal of helping to make a difference in the lives of children. Mrs. Tankson has received two master's degrees. She has a Master's Degree in English from Jackson State University, in Jackson, MS, and her second Master's Degree is in Education Administration and Supervision from Delta State University in Cleveland, MS.

During her tenure with South Delta School District, she served as the auditor in the district for the International Curriculum Management Audit Center, Inc., located in Huxley, Iowa. In that position she conducted curriculum management audits in school districts in the Bermuda territory of the United Kingdom, also on the United States in the States of Georgia and California. She was appointed by the Mississippi Department of Education to serve as auditor throughout the State in various schools selected by the State.

In January 2001, she was employed with the Mississippi Department of Education as Project Director for the Technology Academy for School Leaders (TASL) until June 2004. As the director she worked with superintendents, principals, and other administrators across the State in the areas of technology and curriculum development.

In July 2006, she returned to the South Delta School District where she currently serves as Superintendent. Under her leadership, significant progress has been made in changing the culture of the district and the schools. An increase in necessary resources critical to the success of being effective teachers, administrators, and instructional leaders has flourished in the district. As a result the district and schools have seen significant increases in student achievement, and improvements in classroom delivery and instruction through the use of 21st century technology. The district has also undergone \$4 million dollars in renovation at the South Delta High School which has produced a by-product of improved parent and community involvement to say the least.

Mrs. Tankson's career in education is long standing—after 31 years, retiring in 2000, she came out of retirement and gave 11 more years to educating and leading before retiring

again June 30, 2012. Those 11 more years give her that grand total of 42 years in education, which is worthy of recognition. She is still an active member of numerous educational organizations.

Although she has left her footprints through schools in various States in the U.S. including the Bermuda territory, her love for Mississippi is where she started and ended her career. Providing the students of the South Delta School District in Rolling Fork, MS with a quality education is her passion. Her contribution to education will be forever appreciated for the countless number of students she has touched guiding them to the path of success. She has not only had a positive impact on students but also parents, teachers, and even community members, and for that too she will be appreciated.

She married her high school sweetheart, James Tankson, a retired educator of 40 years, and they have three beautiful daughters, Dr. Jeanetta Denise Tankson, Dr. Janice Valencia Tankson, and Ms. Jamie Alicia Tankson-Cunningham who is also aspiring to acquire her doctoral degree in education. Her son-in-law, Rev. Therman Cunningham, Jr. is currently working toward a doctoral degree in theology. Mrs. Tankson also has two precious, loving granddaughters—Trinity Alicia Cunningham and Taylor LeAnn Cunningham.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Katherine Tankson for her passion and dedication to the South Delta School District in Rolling Fork, MS.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

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:

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chair, I support passage of H.R. 5856, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2013, which supports our servicemembers and makes important investments in our national security and in the health, well-being, and readiness of our Armed Forces.

Our country owes a debt of gratitude to our military and their families for their service and selfless sacrifices. We in Hawaii are proud of the men and women in our military that have served and are currently serving in Afghanistan. Above all, we must also never forget those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Supporting our servicemembers and their families, whether it's during deployment or as they transition back into civilian life, is a solemn commitment we must keep.

Many of our men and women in uniform are suffering from serious wounds from their service, both visible and invisible. That's why I'm pleased to see increases in traumatic brain injury and psychological health funding as well as suicide prevention and outreach. The bill also boosts resources for peer-reviewed research on Gulf War Illness, Lou Gehrig's dis-

ease, breast cancer, prostate cancer, vision and spinal cord conditions, and many other medical research initiatives.

This legislation will further protect access to health coverage for Hawaii's military retirees, who have dedicated their careers in service to our country. Through the adoption of an amendment offered by Representative STEARNS, no funds could be used to implement a fee to enroll in TRICARE for Life.

Hawaii has a strong military presence and is home to thousands of military families. As a strong advocate for Impact Aid, I welcome the increased amount of this funding, which helps ensure the federal government does its part to support our nation's local school districts and military families and educate military-connected children.

By providing support for the operation, maintenance and procurement for our military's installations in Hawaii, including Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Schofield Barracks, and Kaneohe Marine Corps Base, H.R. 5856 protects jobs and advances President Obama's strategic refocusing on the Asia-Pacific region. The measure also affirms the critical role of our citizen soldiers and airmen in the defense of our nation in providing for critical Army equipment needs and rejecting force structure reductions and aircraft retirements proposals that would have negatively affected Air Guard and Reserve units across the country.

With turmoil continuing in the Middle East, now more than ever we must stand strong with our friend and ally Israel. This measure includes additional funding for joint U.S.-Israeli defense cooperation, and continued support for Iron Dome system, which has protected and saved lives from the daily threat of rockets aimed at towns and cities in a country surrounded by hostility and instability.

While H.R. 5856 supports our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines in Hawaii and around the world, this defense appropriations bill contains provisions that raise serious concerns. For example, this bill slows down the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan; it is over the President's budget request and over the Budget Control Act passed last year. H.R. 5856 excludes funds requested by the President for the production of domestic biofuel for our military, an important initiative our military leadership supports. Furthermore, the bill places a significant amount of our nation's resources in certain weapons systems the Defense Department neither requested nor needed.

It is my hope that Senate will address these serious issues and that we can pass a final bill that is fiscally responsible, reaffirms the American people's commitment to our servicemembers and protects our national security.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

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. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I cannot support this bill in its current form.

It's telling that every domestic program in this year's budget is taking a hit—in some cases, a huge hit. The House majority seems perfectly fine with cutting grant funding for our firefighters, our cops, and other first responders. The House majority thinks it's good public policy to cut programs designed to help the most vulnerable in our society, but any suggestion that we need fewer defense contractors provokes howls of protest. Any suggestion that national security-related corporate welfare should be ended—and I'm referring to the over-budget F-35 program as a prime example—evinces the most hysterical rhetoric about “weakening America's defenses.”

Let's deal with the facts. We spend more on defense than most of the rest of the world combined. We won the Cold War over 20 years ago, yet this budget continues to fund unnecessary and radically over-cost Cold War legacy weapons programs that we don't need, can't afford and won't help us deal with the kind of terrorist threat we face now and into the future. The House majority is throwing the poor under the bus even as it throws a kiss to the military-industrial complex.

The bill also continues funding a war that should have been over long ago. As I've said since 2009, our continued presence in Afghanistan is prolonging the conflict, not helping end it. The President's ill-considered assassination-by-drone policy in Pakistan, which now features Vietnam war-style “signature strikes” against groups of individuals without verification of their status as terrorists, has led to the deaths of an increasing number of innocent civilians. Indeed, the escalation of the drone strikes and the loosening of the intelligence standards under which they operate comes even after Osama bin Laden was killed last year.

The original rationale for invading Afghanistan—getting bin Laden and his associates—no longer exists, yet this bill continues to fund a war whose purpose has clearly been achieved. There is perhaps no greater example of a policy on autopilot than our war in Afghanistan, which is one of the many reasons I do not support this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 103RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I am pleased to recognize the National Association for Advancement of Colored People for its 103rd year of pursuing justice and equality for everyone in America, regardless of color, religion, or gender. The NAACP is one of our nation's most revered and outstanding organizations dedicated to social, political, and economic equality. It has fought countless battles—from race riots to voter suppression—to protect the rights of all persons.

I commend the leadership of President Benjamin Jealous who has been outspoken on the

most pressing issues in our communities. He has inspired thousands of Americans across the country to take action, whether it is organizing the “Justice for Trayvon Martin” movement or protests against unfounded voter ID laws.

Furthermore, I am pleased to acknowledge the Mid-Manhattan branch of the NAACP located in my district for its unwavering commitment to our community. The branch is involved in mentorship programs, youth development, and encouraging people to be politically and socially active. This year they helped to organize the “Silent Stop and Frisk” march in June, which rallied roughly 72,000 of our community. I had the pleasure of marching in unison with them against unjust stop and frisk practices that discriminately target minorities and violence in our communities. The event was an example of NAACP's continuous efforts to galvanize and mobilize our communities to stand up for equality.

I am proud to congratulate the Mid-Manhattan branch for receiving the Thalheimer award for outstanding membership enrollment at their annual convention in Houston, Texas earlier this month. I applaud them for their accomplishments in health and education advocacy, fighting for economic empowerment, and continuously standing up for justice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring the NAACP during its 103rd anniversary for its accomplishments and tireless commitment to uplifting all communities throughout America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2012

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 487 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

H.R. 5856: THE MORAN AMENDMENT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, last week the House voted on an amendment by Mr. MORAN which prohibits U.S. funds from being used to purchase Russian-made Mi-17 helicopters for the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). After more than 10 years at war, we recently reached the grim milestone of losing our 2,000th service member in this war. It has been clear for a long time that more of our blood and our money will not help us “win” Afghanistan. Yet long after the last member of our Armed Forces leaves Afghanistan, U.S. taxpayers will be footing the bill for more than half of the \$4 billion per year it will take to support the ANSF over the next decade. This financial support includes military equipment, training and uniforms.

The underlying bill includes a total of \$238.7 billion to continue operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, on top of the \$1.3 trillion we have already spent. It is time for the U.S. to end its

nation-building exercise in Afghanistan, stop funding military spending there and bring the troops home safely and responsibly.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND DEDICATION OF MS. BEATRICE BEILER OF LONG BEACH CALIFORNIA

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the tireless service and dedication of one of my own constituents, Ms. Beatrice Beiler. Ms. Beiler has been an essential part of the Long Beach foster care program for over 20 years and has a truly inspirational story.

Upon retiring from Hughes Aircraft in 1992, rather than living the life of leisure that many retirees do, Ms. Beiler chose to be of service. Coming from a big family herself, she has always been very family oriented and it is this experience that opened her mind to the idea to giving back through foster care.

Her caring spirit and giving nature instilled Ms. Beiler with a heart that is able to see the needs of others and immediately try to fulfill those needs. When Ms. Beiler found out that there was a shortage of foster homes able to house multiples of siblings of two or more, she volunteered her home to foster children siblings without hesitation. As a result, she helped many children to avoid damaging transitions by helping them to stay together and maintain a sense of family in spite of the turmoil that led to their entry into the foster care system.

In California there are over 80,000 children in the foster care system, the majority of whom are placed there as a result of parental abuse or neglect. As a member of the Congressional Caucus of Foster Youth I am particularly impressed by the service that Ms. Beiler has done for my community and the many families and children she has helped to reunite. Through her work, many children have had the opportunity to grow up in a safe and loving environment that they might not have otherwise had.

Ms. Beiler has been able to help many foster children succeed despite their painful pasts. Children like Kelsey, a foster child Ms. Beiler has raised since she was just 8 months old until the age of 17, find not only shelter but also love and nurture while in the care of Ms. Beiler. She has seen students go from struggling to stay in school to making straight A's. She has watched many go from dire situations to reunification with their families. It is stories like these that fuel her passion to continue to reach out to anyone whose life she can change for the better. Along with her dedication to the foster care system, Ms. Beiler has also opened a daycare facility to continue to be able to help parents and children in need. It is her mission to touch as many hearts and lives as she can.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Beiler is the type of woman we should all look to emulate. She is selflessly committed and graciously generous with her time, her money, her home, and her love. It is with great pleasure that I have the opportunity recognize the hard work and dedication of this unsung hero.