

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING ARMY NATIONAL
GUARD SPECIALIST SERGIO
EDUARDO PEREZ

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with immense sadness and great respect that I rise to remember Army National Guard Specialist Sergio Eduardo Perez for his bravery and willingness to fight for his country. Specialist Perez was a member of the Indiana National Guard 713th Engineer Company, headquartered in Valparaiso, Indiana. While Specialist Perez was on a route clearance patrol in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, he was killed in an attack that involved rocket-propelled grenade fire and small arms fire. His sacrifice will forever be remembered by those he fought to protect.

A native of East Chicago, Indiana, Sergio graduated from Lake Central High School in 2010. Sergio's high school principal recalls that Sergio was a quiet, reserved young man and a hard worker. His classmates speak of his kindness, respect, and willingness to help others. Shortly after graduating, Specialist Perez joined the National Guard, and his company mobilized at the end of September 2011. Sergio is remembered by friends as an all-around great guy who made a strong impression on those who knew him. According to loved ones, Sergio was a person who genuinely cared about everyone around him. He had a gentle spirit and a deep devotion to his family. In Sergio's own words, "It takes a lot to make me mad, and when I am, I can't be mad for long. I get along with almost everyone. I work way more than I should and I'm starting to realize how short life is." For his remarkable courage and selfless commitment to the Army, Specialist Perez is worthy of the highest praise. His life was taken from us far too soon. He will be greatly missed and forever cherished by those who loved him.

Specialist Perez leaves behind a beloved host of family and friends. He is survived by his adoring parents: Sergio E. Perez, Sr. and Veronica Orozco. Sergio also leaves to cherish his memory three loving sisters: Candice Perez, Andrea Jimenez, and Karyme Jimenez, and his half brother, Axel Perez Martinez. He will be greatly missed by his maternal grandparents, Alicia and Charles Orozco, and his paternal grandparents, Severo and Ramona Perez. Specialist Perez also leaves behind many other dear friends and family members, as well as a grateful, yet deeply saddened community.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army National Guard Specialist, Sergio E. Perez. Specialist Perez sacrificed his life in service to his country, and his passing comes as a great loss to our nation, which has once again been shaken by the realities of war. Specialist

Perez will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country. Thus, let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall votes 499–503. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "no" on No. 499, "no" on No. 500, "yes" on No. 501, "no" on No. 502, and "no" on No. 503.

RECOGNIZING THE 302ND AIRLIFT WING'S REDEDICATION OF THE SUMIT 38 MEMORIAL

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the rededication of the 302nd Airlift Wing's SUMIT 38 memorial.

On Saturday, May 13, 1995 a C–130 with call sign SUMIT 38 assigned to the Air Force Reserve Command's 302nd Airlift Wing based at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, crashed near Bliss, Idaho. SUMIT 38 had flown 15 support personnel to Boise, Idaho for firefighting training and crashed during its return flight to Colorado. Six Air Force Reservists lost their lives that day.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert R. Buckhout, 1st Lieutenant Lance Dougherty, Captain Geoff Boyd, Chief Master Sergeant Jimmie D. Vail, Master Sergeant Jay Kemp and Staff Sergeant Michael L. Scheideman perished in the crash. The men and women of the 302nd Airlift Wing, their families and the community will continue to mourn the loss.

Let us always remember the crew of SUMIT 38, and never forget the sacrifice they made in the service of our Nation. On Saturday, August 4, 2012, the 302nd Airlift Wing will rededicate the memorial to the fallen crew at Peterson Air Force Base in its new location. The memorial will become the centerpiece of the new Total Force Integration C–130 squadron operations facility.

I ask the Members of Congress to join me in remembering and honoring the crew of SUMIT 38.

H.R. 5856

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, last week the House of Representatives passed H.R. 5856,

the Department of Defense Appropriations Act. While I strongly oppose some provisions of H.R. 5856, I voted in favor of this legislation in order to support our troops, military families, and veterans, and to advance other important priorities for our national defense.

I applaud the leadership of Chairmen ROGERS and YOUNG and Ranking Member DICKS in crafting a bill that provides an increase to service members' pay, strengthens health care services, and advances critical research for cancer, Traumatic Brain Injury, and other conditions. H.R. 5856 supports a continued investment in small businesses through the Rapid Innovation Program, provides for the production of two Virginia-class attack submarines, advances the Iron Dome program, and seeks to hold Pakistan accountable by ensuring they are cooperating with the United States in counterterrorism efforts, including dismantling and disrupting the manufacture of improvised explosive devices—an issue that I specifically addressed through two successful amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act offered earlier this year.

However, I must also note my strong disappointment that this legislation breaches the Budget Control Act of 2011—the bipartisan, bicameral agreement enacted into law last year, which was designed to help rein in spending and stabilize our nation's finances. Despite the fact that over \$1 billion in spending was reduced through the successful adoption of an amendment offered by Representative MULVANEY and Representative FRANK, effectively freezing defense spending in the bill at current levels, H.R. 5856 still exceeds the budgetary cap set by last year's Budget Control Act by several billion dollars. An additional amendment was offered by Representatives LEE, VAN HOLLEN, and SMITH that would have brought the bill's spending in line with the levels set by last year's Budget Control Act. Unfortunately, while I voted in favor of this amendment, it was not adopted by the full House. Moreover, I offered an amendment to H.R. 5856 to strike funding for the Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund (AIF). As originally presented in the full House of Representatives, H.R. 5856 proposed \$375 million in spending over the next fiscal year for large-scale water, power, transportation and other projects in Afghanistan through the AIF while our national infrastructure is crumbling here in America and in my home state of Rhode Island. While my amendment did not pass, I did vote in favor of a successful amendment offered by Representative COHEN to reduced AIF funding by \$175 million.

With President Obama's announcement of the U.S.-Afghanistan Strategic Partnership Agreement in May 2012, our nation took another step toward the end of combat operations in Afghanistan and the transition of military and security operations to the Afghans by 2014—a timeline that had not yet been identified in 2011 during consideration of the FY 2012 Department of Defense Appropriations Act. I, and many of my colleagues in Congress, would prefer an accelerated drawdown

• 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.

of U.S. combat troops—one that allows for the safe, orderly, and expedited withdrawal of our combat forces. During consideration of H.R. 5856, I voted in favor of amendments offered by Representative LEE and Representative GARAMENDI that would have helped bring our troops home from Afghanistan sooner. Unfortunately, these amendments did not pass. As the White House has affirmed in reference to the Partnership Agreement, the decisions regarding future troop levels and funding will need to be made in consultation with Congress.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate in a bipartisan fashion to reach an agreement in the coming weeks that advances the important priorities I have identified while also fulfilling our commitment under the Budget Control Act, ending the War in Afghanistan as quickly and safely as possible, and recognizing the urgent need to reinvest in our own economy and our own infrastructure right here at home.

RECOGNIZING THE NAMING AND GROUNDBREAKING OF THE MICHAEL N. CASTLE TRAIL AT THE C&D CANAL

HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, the Delaware delegation recognized the vision and tireless efforts of former Congressman Mike Castle of Delaware to develop a recreational trail along the Chesapeake and Delaware (or C&D) Canal by breaking ground for construction of the trail.

The C&D Canal, managed by the Philadelphia District of the Army Corps of Engineers, has been in operation since 1829. Today, it is one of the busiest working waterways in the world, with over 25,000 vessels passing through it each year. The canal is a critical commercial waterway serving the Ports of Wilmington, Baltimore, and Philadelphia. The C&D Canal is bordered by a 16-mile stretch of flat, uninterrupted land, perfect for a trail, and surrounded by more than 7,500 acres of public land, creating a unique and safe environment for recreationists. In 2004, Congressman Castle saw these assets as an ideal opportunity to enhance the canal's existing resources by adding a recreational trail.

Under Congressman Castle's leadership, a working group was formed in 2004 with representatives from the State of Delaware, New Castle County, the Army Corps, Delaware City, Chesapeake City, the State of Maryland, and recreation groups. In 2005 and 2006, public workshops were held to solicit ideas and comments from local residents regarding potential recreational uses along the C&D Canal. In March 2006, a concept plan was completed by the working group, recommending the creation of a recreational trail along the canal to be used by walkers, joggers, cyclists, and equestrians. In 2007, design work for the trail began and environmental assessments were completed, and in 2009 trail design was completed.

Congressman Castle was instrumental in obtaining resources for the trail. In addition to supporting efforts to acquire state and local

funding, he also secured a total of \$2.2 million in Public Lands Highways Discretionary awards in fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010 from the Federal Highway Administration to go toward planning and construction of the trail.

Congressman Castle's vision and years of work to build a trail along the C&D Canal was not forgotten when he left office. Recognizing the tremendous benefits that could be realized by the trail, the delegation picked up the project where Castle left off. Since then, the delegation has worked with the Federal Highway Administration, the State of Delaware, New Castle County, the recreation community, and others to reinvigorate the working group and secure additional funding to build the first phase of the recreational trail along the banks of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal.

The recreational trail along the C&D Canal will provide a common link to communities across the States of Delaware and Maryland from Chesapeake City to Delaware City. It will create a safe and inviting recreational opportunity along the canal and will bring families and other groups to hike, bicycle, jog, skate, or ride horseback along the trail. Local business, including restaurants and shops, will reap the benefits of this increased tourism to the area. The C&D Canal trail will also support healthy lifestyles through outdoor recreation. The trail will improve safety along the canal and increase the appeal and land value of residential developments in the area. The C&D canal recreation trail will be an attractive asset for the Middletown, Odessa and Townsend region that will draw new residents to the area.

Congressman Castle long ago embraced the notion that the C&D Canal is like an emerald necklace draped across the northern portion of our beautiful state, and we are so very pleased that this jewel will be named after our dear friend.

On July 9, the Delaware Department of Transportation broke ground on Phase I of the recreational trail. This first phase will complete approximately nine miles of the trail from Delaware City to just beyond Summit Marina in Delaware, including the construction of two trail heads, parking areas, and comfort stations.

Honoring Congressman Mike Castle's long-time support of recreational and commuter-oriented greenways and trails in Delaware and across the nation, as well as his vision, leadership, and steadfast support of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal trail, the Delaware delegation hereby dedicates the trail to him, and officially recognizes the name as the "Michael N. Castle Trail at the C&D Canal."

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNI- VERSARY OF MT. VERNON BAP- TIST CHURCH

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 175th anniversary of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church in West Monroe, La.

The church began when a small band of early settlers in southwest Ouachita Parish established a place of worship. These pioneers initially held services in homes, and it is believed the first building of the Mt. Vernon Bap-

tist Church was a simple one-room log house. While the building has changed many times over the past century to accommodate the ever-growing membership, the church has continued to provide spiritual guidance to the Ouachita Parish community since its inception. Today, the sanctuary comfortably seats 600, and the average Sunday school attendance is over 400.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mt. Vernon Baptist Church for its dedication to providing a steadfast place of worship. Countless Sunday morning services, baptisms, and weddings have been held there, and I am confident it will be a strong source of Christian love, comfort and fellowship for well over the next 100 years.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

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. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in reluctant opposition to H.R. 5856, the FY2013 Department of Defense Appropriations Act.

Last summer, Congress and the President enacted the bipartisan Budget Control Act, BCA, a difficult compromise by both Democrats and Republicans. As a result, caps on both discretionary and defense spending were significantly tightened for Fiscal Year 2013 appropriations. Because this bill fails the test of balance and funds billions of dollars of unnecessary programs within the Defense Department, while disregarding the caps set forth by the BCA, I cannot support it in its current form. I hope to support this bill when it returns from the Senate.

I would refer my colleagues to the Budget Control Act and to Section 302, enforcement of budget goals. It's right there in plain English what the defense appropriation number will be. That was the Budget Control Act that was supported and voted on by the Chairman of the Budget Committee, the Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

In fact, the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Mr. ROGERS, said last year when we passed it, and I quote: "Tough choices will have to be made, particularly when it comes to defense and national security priorities, but shared sacrifice will bring shared results." He went on to say, "The Appropriations Committee has already started making tough decisions on spending and will continue under the spending limits and guidelines provided in this bill," meaning the Budget Control Act. That was August 1st of last year.

The Chairman of the full Committee was right last year but the bill that's before us violates that bipartisan agreement. As a result of that violation, the Defense Appropriation Bill exceeds significantly what was requested by