

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

the Defense Department. The reality is the other bills that are coming through the Appropriations Committee are taking much deeper cuts—cuts to education, cuts to affordable health care, cuts to public safety—because of the funding increases in this defense bill. In other words, our investment in jobs, and the economy, and our kids future is being slashed as a direct result of the fact this defense bill exceeds the spending level set in the Budget Control Act agreement.

Mr. Chairman, I would refer our colleagues to the statements made by Admiral Mullen, who served as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Admiral Mullen pointed out that our military strength depends on our economic strength and our economic strength depends on our long-term fiscal health. Admiral Mullen said, "Our national debt is our biggest national security threat." He went on to say, "with the increasing defense budget, which is almost double, it hasn't forced us to make the hard trades. It hasn't forced us to prioritize. It hasn't forced us to do the analysis." We can no longer go along with business as usual if we are going to get our fiscal house in order.

That is why this House agreed to the Budget Control Act last summer, and it's unfortunate that this bill comes to the floor in violation of the agreement, in violation of an understanding that in order to get our fiscal house in order, we had to make tough decisions on defense and non-defense alike. And by violating the agreement in this regard, what the Committee is saying is they are not willing to make really tough decisions. In fact, they're making irresponsible decisions with respect to the nondefense domestic spending.

I agree with Admiral Mullen who said we all need to share in this responsibility. I agree with what my Republican Colleagues said last year when we passed the Budget Control Act. Let's stick to an agreement and let the American people know that when this body comes to an understanding after a hard fought compromise, we stick with it for the public good.

The Defense Appropriations bill provides \$606 billion in defense spending in FY13. It includes \$518.1 billion in funding for non-war related expenses. It also provides an additional \$13.7 billion for Military Personnel Programs and \$63.5 billion for Operation and Maintenance Programs. I am also pleased that the bill provides a requested pay raise for military personnel and supports critical funding for the DoD Peer-Reviewed Prostate Cancer Research Program and the DoD Breast Cancer Research Program.

However, the bill provides billions of dollars in funding that the Department of Defense says it neither requested nor needs. For example, it continues to fund unnecessary aircraft programs that the Defense Department did not allot for in its budget this year, and spends \$138 million to resurrect C-27J contracts that the Air Force decided not to renew. Many other wasteful items that are unnecessary to our national defense are included at the expense of national funding priorities that directly impact our country's future economic growth, including investments in education, seniors, and research and infrastructure.

During this difficult fiscal period we have to be much smarter and more efficient about how we shape our defense budget. Throughout this debate, I have made clear that we must take a balanced approach to cutting the budget including eliminating unnecessary spending.

There is no doubt that Congress has a responsibility to pass a Defense Appropriations bill which reflects a commitment to the millions of dedicated men and women and their families who sacrifice to keep our country safe. However, as testimony before the Budget Committee and House Armed Services Committee has made clear, we can reduce defense spending even as we continue to provide for our men and women in uniform, for our veterans and for their families, without compromising national security.

Unfortunately, the FY13 Defense Appropriations bill upends the balance painstakingly designed by the BCA and appropriates funds unnecessarily to some programs at the expense of other high-priority programs. The unrequested funding provided in this legislation will result in direct cuts to such national priorities as education, health care, research and development, and vital job training. I am also concerned that this bill deprives deserving employees of the Department of Defense of a modest cost-of-living adjustment by not providing for a civilian pay raise of .5 percent, as proposed by the Administration.

Mr. Chair, there is no higher priority than providing for the security of our country. However, during these difficult economic times, we have to be smarter and more efficient in how we shape our defense budget. In the end, the strength of our military depends on the strength of our economy. If we don't reduce our long-term deficit and get our fiscal house in order, we will weaken our capacity to fund a strong military. At the end of the day, this bill falls short of accomplishing that objective.

IN RECOGNITION OF SANDRA UPTAGRAFFT PARTICIPATING IN THE 2012 OLYMPICS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Sandra Uptagrafft. Sandra will participate in the 2012 Olympics in London.

Uptagrafft, of Phenix City, Alabama, is a Petty Officer 1st Class in the United States Navy Reserves. This will be her first time as an Olympic athlete when she shoots in the women's 25m sport pistol and 10m air pistol events.

Uptagrafft's husband, Eric, will also be participating in the 2012 London Olympics. The couple will celebrate their anniversary while in London on August 5th.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to Sandra and best wishes to her and her husband in the Olympics and a happy anniversary.

THE ADVANTAGES OF HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight some innovative health care pro-

grams being implemented by Applied Extrusion Technologies in Terre Haute, Indiana. AET Films is a leading supplier of specialized oriented polypropylene films in North America.

In 2005, while being faced with ever increasing insurance premiums, they chose to take the path less traveled, empowering their employees through a high deductible health plan coupled with a health savings account. Over time they further implemented healthy employee incentives and education programs to help employees make better consumer-driven health decisions. The results of these programs have been irrevocable, as AET Films has seen near 0 percent premiums increases since implementation.

With the Supreme Court's recent ruling, and our vote this week to repeal the Affordable Care Act in its entirety for the 4th time, it is important to understand the creative steps being taken in the private sector that lower health care costs, and incentivize better health outcomes—all without government control or interference. I commend AET for their innovation, and encourage the Senate and the President to join the House in repealing the Affordable Care Act, which dismantles innovative programs pursued by AET Films and job creators across the United States, and replace it with private sector reforms that lessen the cost of health care for all Americans.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN DOUGLAS S. BORREBACH

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Douglas S. Borrebach of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO), who will be departing after four years of outstanding service. Originally from the 18th congressional district, which I represent, Captain Borrebach's significant contributions at JIEDDO have contributed to tremendous success in countering the threat of improvised explosive devices.

Upon Captain Borrebach's arrival to JIEDDO in June 2008, his actions significantly contributed to resource planning, programming, budgeting and execution management to maximize JIEDDO's investments in the Joint Warfighter Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED) capabilities. A financial management expert and trusted steward of our taxpayer dollars, Captain Borrebach was critical in developing programmatic estimates, with JIEDDO managing a \$10 billion budget for C-IED requirements.

After nearly three years as JIEDDO's Controller, Captain Borrebach was handpicked to lead the Requirements and Resources Directorate at JIEDDO in April 2011, a testament to his keen analytical capabilities and ability to identify current and future resourcing opportunities. The confluence of his superb leadership, operational background, and expert knowledge in acquisition and financial management was instrumental in fulfilling one hundred percent of Combatant Command Counter-IED Joint Urgent Operational Need Statements. Over the past four years his efforts to collaborate with academia, industry, and the whole of government has led to the