

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

development and validation of critical C-IED solutions ahead of the threat.

As a father of a West Point Cadet from the Class of 2013, Captain Borrebach has worked tirelessly to improve the protection of those Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines downrange as if they were his own. Over his tenure, he has contributed significantly to the improvement of the IED found and clear rate and correspondingly has helped prevent casualties and loss of life.

I am proud to share in the celebration of Captain Borrebach's remarkable accomplishments that have served this nation well in Afghanistan and Iraq. As he departs for his alma-mater, the United States Naval Academy, for his final assignment in his thirty-year career, I ask my colleagues to recognize his leadership and distinguished service.

CONGRATULATING JORDAN
BRITTON, MISSOURI TRACK AND
FIELD STATE CHAMPION

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hollister High School's Jordan Britton for winning the Long Jump and the Triple Jump State Titles at the Class 2 Missouri Track and Field Championships.

Jordan worked hard throughout the season to achieve his state championship titles. After districts he was ranked first in Long Jump. Upon reaching the state competition Jordan found himself struggling to match his previous best jumps. With help from Head Coach Tucker Pierce and Jump Coach Greg Brown, Jordan was able to recover and found himself in fourth place before his second to last jump. It was then that Jordan put forward his best performance with a leap of 21 feet and 10 inches, which was just enough to give him the top prize in the Class 2 finals.

Jordan also took the Triple Jump with a leap of 43 feet and 6 inches, gaining his second title at the state championship. Having entered the state competition in third place, Jordan knew he would have to jump a personal best to even medal. Competing against the number one seed in the final, Jordan overcame a 43 foot leap to secure first place by 6 inches, again giving his best performance in the second to last jump.

The Hollister School District as well as the track and field staff are proud to have such a fine young man representing their school. He truly represents his family, school and the state of Missouri in a positive manner.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jordan on his State Track and Field Championship Titles.

CANCER-FREE LABEL ACT

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, exposure to cancer-causing agents increases every American's risk of cancer, and they are found in everyday products and in the environment.

Since only 5% of cancer is caused by genetic factors, people can reduce their risk of getting cancer by the other 95% of causes by reducing their exposure to carcinogens.

We all know that we can reduce our risk of getting cancer by wearing sunscreen, quitting smoking, and steering clear of asbestos. But what about everyday products? Which make-up has carcinogens? Which pesticides? Which air fresheners, carpet cleaners, flea collars, and yes, food items, increase your family's risk of cancer? Which baby shampoos?

The reality is consumers do not know. Even if our constituents memorized the list of known and probable carcinogens, many substances in consumer products remain hidden. Words like "fragrance" and "artificial flavoring" are used in place of specific ingredients to protect companies' trade secrets, and they should. But there is no denying that this protection makes it harder for consumers to make fully informed choices.

And even if known carcinogens were not part of a product's ingredient list, certain manufacturing or storage practices can result in the introduction of carcinogens into a product, which then can pass into your body.

Today, I am introducing legislation called the "Cancer-Free Label Act." Under this bill, manufacturers who would like to market their products as being completely free of all known carcinogens would be allowed to seek a "cancer-free" label. By submitting a confidential application to be evaluated by the agency that regulates their specific product, a manufacturer could provide consumers assurance that the product is free of known carcinogens without having to divulge valuable trade secrets. The voluntary application would protect manufacturers' hard-earned intellectual property and could not be used by any agency of government for any reason other than determining the product's "cancer-free" status.

The application would simply include a full list of substances and a demonstrated adherence to best carcinogen-avoidance practices in manufacture, storage, and transportation. In addition, this program would not mandate any new bureaucracy to evaluate carcinogens; it simply creates a process for agencies to compare ingredients lists against existing government lists of known and probable carcinogens.

Unlike other well-intentioned efforts to get carcinogens out of consumer products, this legislation would not rely on mandates or bans. If a manufacturer does not choose to apply, there is no penalty. The labeling program is 100% voluntary. It would simply harness the power of the free market, enabling consumers to choose safer products for themselves and their families. We all remember the most recent example of this—it was consumer selection, not government intervention, that got BPA out of baby products.

I urge my colleagues to pass this market-driven legislation and give consumers and families across America the power to opt-out of cancer-causing substances in everyday products.

COMMEMORATING THE 38TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS

HON. SHELLY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call my colleagues' attention to the 38th anniversary of Turkey's unlawful and tragic invasion of Cyprus. Turkey's occupation, which began on July 20, 1974, left thousands of innocent Greek Cypriot civilians without their homes, their land, and their families. It is crucial for us to commemorate this unfortunate situation and assist the people of Cyprus in reaching a solution.

Many of the Cypriot generation who suffered the invasion have not lived to see justice or a resolution to this conflict. Although many of the survivors have had the opportunity to return to their homes on the northern side of the island, it was only to discover them occupied by Turkish settlers.

Only Turkey recognizes the occupied northern side of the country as a Turkish Cypriot state, but it does not even provide a valid standard of living to their own citizens. This was made evident through the recent demonstrations by Turkish Cypriots who have displayed their own dissatisfaction with the Turkish occupation. More recently, Turkey has threatened the use of force to stop Texas-based Noble Energy from drilling for oil and gas off the shores of Cyprus and to blacklist any businesses that work with Cyprus for natural resource extraction.

Meanwhile, the Turkish government has begun to sow instability throughout its region. Turkey recognizes the terrorist Hamas government in Gaza and even received its leader in the Turkish parliament earlier this year—disturbing hypocrisy from a state that receives US support for its own fight against terrorism. Turkey also demands that Israel end its naval blockade of Gaza, despite the deadly security threat Hamas poses to Israel. Turkey's repeated, flagrant criticism of Israel is particularly troubling and potentially destabilizing.

Turkey continues to deny the Armenian Genocide during which 1.5 million Armenians perished and has threatened punitive measures against the United States if Congress recognizes this tragic event. Since 1993, Turkey has maintained a destabilizing blockade of Armenia.

The time has come for Turks to end their threats and denials, withdraw their troops, and return the territory that is not rightfully theirs. That way, the Cypriots—and the Cypriots alone—can make the decisions affecting their future.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

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