

There are many members on the House side which have worked hard and tirelessly on this issue. In particular, I would like to thank the gentleman from Texas, Mr. GOHMERT, who served with distinction as a federal judge prior to coming to this body and has a keen understanding of the legal implications and interpretations of statutory language. He, along with Mr. RIGELL and Mr. LANDRY, have been instrumental leaders in working with all sides of this issue and helping to come up with compromise language which moves us forward in a positive way.

This language is not perfect, but it moves us in the direction we need to go. We should continue to work on this next year.

RECOGNIZING ERNIE LEE MAGAHA FOR HIS SERVICE AS THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER FOR ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 21, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize Ernie Lee Magaha for his service as the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller for Escambia County, Florida. For more than fifty-five years, Mr. Magaha has served the people of Escambia County with constant professionalism and an unwavering commitment to service.

Mr. Magaha is a native northwest Floridian and a graduate of Century High School. After graduating from Century, Mr. Magaha enlisted in the Army and served our nation with honor and distinction in the South Pacific during World War II. In 1947, Mr. Magaha was honorably discharged from the Army, and he enrolled at Auburn University, where he graduated with a degree in Economics in 1950.

After graduating from Auburn, Mr. Magaha returned to northwest Florida, where he married his wife, Lucile, and together they raised their two sons Ernie Lee, Jr. and James. In 1951, Mr. Magaha was hired as the Florida State Auditor in Escambia County. He worked in this position in the State Comptroller's Office until 1956, when he decided to run for elected office. Mr. Magaha's commitment to public service was evident to the voters of Escambia County, and in 1957 he took office as the Clerk of the Court.

When Mr. Magaha was elected as the Clerk of Court, there were only three employees. Escambia County and the Clerk's office have grown immensely in Mr. Magaha's fifty-five years in office. Today, the Clerk's office serves a population of nearly 300,000 citizens. Thanks to Mr. Magaha's constant leadership, the Clerk's office has maintained an excellent service record and is an integral part of the northwest Florida community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Ernie Lee Magaha for his years of outstanding leadership and service to Escambia County. My wife Vicki and I wish Mr. Magaha and his family all the best.

INTENT TO VOTE YES ON H.R. 3197

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 21, 2012

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 646 for H.R. 3197, I mistakenly voted "no" when I intended to vote "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 21, 2012

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I was ill with the flu and missed seven votes: on Tuesday, December 11, 2012, rollcall vote No. 620; on Wednesday, December 12, 2012, rollcall vote No. 621, rollcall vote No. 622, and rollcall vote No. 623; and, on Thursday, December 13, 2012, I missed rollcall vote No. 624, rollcall vote No. 625, and rollcall vote No. 626.

If I had been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall Vote No. 620 (Approval of the Journal). I also would have voted "aye" for each of the following: rollcall vote No. 621 (H. Res. 827 Previous Question), rollcall vote No. 622 (H. Res. 827), rollcall vote No. 623 (H.R. 6190), rollcall vote No. 624 (H.R. 4310, On Motion to Instruct Conferees), rollcall vote No. 625 (H.R. 4310, On Motion to Its Permit Closed Conference Meetings), and rollcall No. 626 (H.R. 4053).

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF ANNE BODENSTEIN UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA OFFICE OF SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 21, 2012

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the retirement of Anne Bodenstein after an extensive career of service to the citizens of Santa Rosa County, Florida.

Ms. Bodenstein's career with the Office of Supervisor of Elections began in 1992, when she volunteered and dedicated her time as a poll worker and as Polling Place Coordinator. Her involvement with the electoral process continued and she was selected to serve as Inspector, and later as Clerk in her local precinct.

Her commitment and strong work ethic were recognized by many, including Governor Jeb Bush, who appointed her as the Santa Rosa County Supervisor of Elections to fill the remainder of her predecessor's term. Her abilities were also recognized by the Santa Rosa County electorate, who eventually elected her to the Office of Supervisor of Elections, a role which she has held since January 2005.

While serving as Supervisor of Elections, Ms. Bodenstein led a permanent staff of six and orchestrated upwards to 500 Election Day employees. She also oversaw the implementa-

tion of four separate voting machine upgrades during her tenure.

Ms. Bodenstein is truly an exemplary public servant with numerous commendable accolades, including 1996 Santa Rosa County Employee of the Year. The Northwest Florida community is grateful for the integral role she has played in our electoral process.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Anne Bodenstein for her exceptional public service to Santa Rosa County. My wife Vicki and I wish her all the best in her retirement.

A VOTE FOR SPEAKER BOEHNER'S PLAN B IS A VOTE FOR TAX INCREASES

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 21, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, last night we hoped to have proof that Republicans can raise taxes. Speaker BOEHNER's Plan B not only raised taxes on millionaires, but on working families too. Yet, Grover Norquist, tax lobbyist and self-appointed Emperor of Taxes, proclaimed that Plan B does not violate his "no tax increases pledge." Sorry Grover, it does, and conservative groups know it.

Heritage Action, Club for Growth, Citizens United, Tea Party Express and others all agree that this bill raises taxes, and oppose it for exactly that reason.

We were hopeful that Speaker BOEHNER decided to send a message to Grover Norquist that his tax pledge days are over—every Republican that would have voted for the plan would break the pledge by voting to raise taxes. Norquist's pledge was ridiculous to begin with. Presidents Reagan and Bush both said they wouldn't raise taxes, but did because it was the responsible thing to do.

Unfortunately, last night the Republican caucus failed to stand up to their misguided ideology on tax increases. At the last minute, Speaker BOEHNER pulled the bill because it didn't have the votes. Rather than take a difficult vote, the Speaker showed us, yet again, that the House Republicans cannot deal with the problems of this country.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF INOVA LOUDOUN HOSPITAL

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 21, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Inova Loudoun Hospital, which celebrates 100 years of serving Loudoun County this year.

Inova Loudoun Hospital first opened as "Leesburg Hospital" on June 5, 1912 in a rented house on Market Street by Mr. P. Howell Lightfoot, Dr. William C. Orr, Dr. John A. Gibson and Mr. Horace Littlejohn. In 1997, due to the growing population in Loudoun County, "Loudoun Hospital" expanded and moved to the Lansdowne location where it currently exists today. The hospital again grew

to meet Loudoun County's emergency care needs with the opening of the Cornwall Emergency Department in 2003.

Today, Inova Loudoun Hospital is a 183-bed "advanced acute-care hospital" on two campuses, which offers a variety of specialties and employs over 1,500 people. In 2011 the hospital provided care for 12,010 inpatients, 66,953 emergency room visits, 2,637 births and a wide range of outpatient and ambulatory services to our community. In the summer of 2011, Inova Loudoun announced that it is once again expanding to better serve the Loudoun community with a redevelopment project to upgrade patient convenience, technology and building design.

I have had the privilege of working with Inova Loudoun and its excellent staff many times over the years. It is a wonderful organization and I have long been impressed by the hospital's commitment to serving our community and making health care more accessible for Loudoun residents.

I congratulate Inova Loudoun Hospital on reaching this remarkable milestone.

RECOGNIZING HELEN GUETTLER McENTYRE UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM SERVICE AS WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA TAX COLLECTOR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 21, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Helen Guettler McEntyre upon her retirement after forty-two years of dedicated service to the citizens of Washington County, Florida as Tax Collector. Mrs. McEntyre is a Florida native who was born in Fort Pierce. As one of sixteen children in a large, loving family, she was taught the value of hard work and honesty in all she did. The strong foundation of principles she gained as a child contributed to the way she operated as Tax Collector—with integrity and dignity.

Mrs. McEntyre began her lifetime career in public service on October 1, 1970. Throughout her forty-two year career in the Tax Collector's Office, she worked tirelessly to ensure efficiency and success for Washington County. Her final accomplishment before retiring was implementing driver's license services from the Collector's office, which further reflects her willingness to improve services for the citizens of Washington County. Mrs. McEntyre is truly an exemplary public servant, and Northwest Florida is grateful for the integral role she has played in our community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize Helen Guettler McEntyre for her exceptional public service to Washington County. My wife Vicki and I wish her all the best in her retirement.

MEDICARE IVIG ACCESS AND STRENGTHENING MEDICARE AND REPAYING TAXPAYERS ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1845, a combination of two common-sense Medicare reforms that would improve access to intravenous immune globulin (IVIG) home infusion for beneficiaries with primary immunodeficiency diseases while streamlining the process for repayments to the Medicare Trust Fund.

While the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 sought to ensure that patients needing IVIG therapy could receive their infusions at home, the current policy does not cover the items and services necessary for providers to administer it in the home. As a result, access to home infusion is limited and seniors who rely solely on Medicare have no choice but to receive their treatments in the hospital, a more risky environment for immune deficient patients. The Medicare IVIG Access Act would create a three-year demonstration project that would study coverage of the items and services needed to administer IVIG home infusion.

This legislation is fiscally responsible, paid for through the inclusion of the Strengthening Medicare and Repaying Taxpayers (SMART) Act. The SMART Act would sensibly reform the Medicare Secondary Payer system, increasing the likelihood of and speed up reimbursements to the Medicare Trust Fund. This is a win-win—beneficiaries and companies will be able to resolve their claims faster and the Trust Fund will be strengthened through a more efficient repayment process.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

VOTE EXPLANATION ON THE CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4310 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 21, 2012

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, on December 20, 2012, I inadvertently cast a "yes" vote for this bill. I intended to vote "no."

There is no question that this legislation contains some important provisions that will benefit our troops and their families, including a small (1.7%) pay raise, special pay and bonuses (such as special retention pay for aviators, nurses, etc.), additional funding for family housing and support services, and other helpful measures. I was pleased that the final bill included a provision I authored that creates a permanent National Language Service Corps within the Defense Department.

The NLSC currently exists as a pilot program that has recruited more than 1,800 members. To date, Corps members have worked with the Department of the Navy, the National Security Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other fed-

eral agencies. For instance, the NLSC provided translation and interpretation support services to the U.S. Army Pacific for counter-insurgency training in Thailand. Far too few Americans can speak or understand foreign languages, and as a result, we are hampered in participating in global commerce and in defending our national security. The permanent establishment of the National Language Service Corps is a meaningful step toward helping our government meet its foreign language needs.

Unfortunately, this bill fails to address some key issues of concern to my constituents.

For example, the bill continues funding for an exo-atmospheric kill vehicle—a provocative and destabilizing system that will waste millions more on our failed national missile defense effort. The bill perpetuates a bloated nuclear weapons complex that does not enhance our security and in fact compromises our non-proliferation efforts. Worse, the bill continues to fund our combat operations in Afghanistan, instead of restricting the use of those funds to withdrawal-related operations only. There is simply no reason—military or political—for us to continue the war in Afghanistan. In the broadest sense, this bill continues the acquisition programs and policies that have been in place for decades. This bill does nothing to fundamentally reshape and downsize our armed forces. It continues Cold War weapons acquisition programs that have no place in a 21st century where the threats are vastly more diffuse and dispersed. For all these reasons, I cannot support this bill.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4310, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Ranking Member SMITH and Chairman McKEON in reaching an agreement on the proposed Air Force structure changes for FY13 in the conference report on H.R. 4310. Since the Air Force's original proposal in February, I, along with a number of my colleagues in the Massachusetts delegation, have been concerned over the future of the 102nd Air Operation Group within my district. The work of these Guardsmen at the historic Otis Air National Guard Base on Cape Cod is critical in supporting active duty Air Force members in a joint 24/7/365 intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance mission. The work that is completed at Otis has the direct impact of saving the lives of Americans overseas, and it is all done locally, in a cost-effective manner. Not many Guard bases have the training or infrastructure to support such concentrated day to day activities, but the men and women of Otis greatly contribute to Massachusetts' widely understood reputation as the "brain state" through their education and specialized training. Their work is further supported by an extensive network of communications infrastructure and technology. Otis is also a part of the larger Massachusetts Military Reservation, which employs an efficient State and Federal base model to share responsibilities, labor, and costs associated with the base among the