

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

Air Force, Air Guard, Army Guard, Coast Guard, and the Department of Homeland Security. It would have been a sad turn of events and complete waste of national resources and defense assets if this unit were to be eliminated. For this reason, I was pleased to learn that after numerous letters and meetings with both Air Force and Air National Guard officials, the Air Force came to the same conclusion in regard to the loss of these men and women. Following a careful review of its original proposal, the Air Force updated its recommendations in November and included the restoration of 141 positions within the 102nd Air Operations Group. This conference report will now bring this recommendation to life and grant not only the heroes at Otis with the job security that they deserve, but our Nation with the adequate defense that it has been promised.

I would also like to take a moment to thank the conferees for their work in regard to a small provision that will have a big impact on the descendants of the over 5,000 African-American patriots who fought for independ-

ence and freedom during the Revolutionary War. This provision will authorize the National Mall Liberty Fund to establish a memorial in Washington, D.C. to honor the service and sacrifice of these brave men and their families. Massachusetts alone was home to 31 percent of the 5,000 known African American soldiers. Only 1,174 of the 1,550 are connected by birth, enlistment, or residence to a municipality, including 60 patriots from 10 towns in Barnstable County in my district. Sandwich (17), Falmouth (12), Barnstable (9), and Harwich (6) had the highest numbers. Many more could be unaccounted for and are awaiting discovery. I am confident that through the establishment of this fully-funded memorial many more heroic tales surrounding the African-American Revolutionary War heroes honored will come to light and further contribute to our Nation's history and legacy.

Finally, the conference report includes the reauthorization of the Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) program, which is composed of the FIRE and SAFER grant programs. As the

Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Committee's Oversight, Investigations and Management subcommittee I have witnessed firsthand the impact of these grants in improving the equipment and training of career, volunteer, and combination fire departments. Many fire departments throughout the Commonwealth, particularly in Fall River and New Bedford, where aging, industrial infrastructure remains particularly prone to fires, rely on these funds. Just this summer, I was able to work with my delegation to help secure a SAFER grant for Fall River Fire Department, which reinstated the jobs of 79 firefighters. A number of fire houses across the country are now waiting for a new round of funding to keep their doors open to the communities that they protect. This reauthorization is the first step in helping to do this, but I urge this body to act swiftly in setting aside the appropriate funding for the AFG program to keep the firefighters who risk their lives each day, employed and ready to assist.