

I expect this bill will pass today. I only hope that it can be improved in conference with the Senate so I can vote for the final spending agreement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote Nos. 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, and 223. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote Nos. 202, 205 and 214. I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 199, 200, 201, 203, 204, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, and 223.

HONORING DR. AILEEN RIOTTO SIREY FOR HER SERVICE TO THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF ITALIAN AMERICAN WOMEN AND OUR COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with my heartfelt thanks and appreciation that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to pay tribute to the invaluable contributions of my good friend, Dr. Aileen Riotta Sirey. After founding and leading the National Organization of Italian American Women for more than 30 years, Aileen has decided to step down from the helm. She has led NOIAW with pride, integrity, honor and, most importantly, passion—molding it into the outstanding organization it is today.

Aileen has one of the most unique personal stories I have ever come across. After receiving both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Brooklyn College, she began teaching in Brooklyn. With the birth of her daughter, JoAnne, she left the workforce and spent the next five years as a full time mother. When she decided to go back to work, she joined Beth Israel Hospital as a community organizer and she was soon recruited by the Maternal Infant Care Project, a program within the New York City Health Department, to develop the first In-Hospital Family Planning Program. Under this program, community women were recruited, screened, and trained in peer counseling in birth control and were placed in 25 New York City Hospitals. Women talking to women about family planning—which at the time was still not commonplace—was an extraordinary effort. Aileen went on to for two consulting firms in health services and later earned her doctorate in psychology and started her own practice. For most this would seem like a lifetime's of work already completed—but not for Aileen.

One of Aileen's greatest professional interests has been the effects of culture on values, attitudes, and behaviors. It was because of

this interest that, more than 30 years ago, Aileen gathered a small group of Italian American women in her Upper West Side apartment. That meeting and their desire to assist other Italian American women and develop a nationwide network of women sharing a common ancestry sparked the formation of the National Organization of Italian American Women. Through their commitment to this effort, NOIAW members have developed a very successful scholarship and mentoring program and also offer a variety of educational and social programs. Today, NOIAW has a strong membership and is well-known as a resource for other Italian American women pursuing their own educational and professional aspirations. Throughout our nation's history, Italian Americans have played a pivotal role in the success and progress of America. The myriad of invaluable contributions that those of Italian ancestry have made to this nation are immeasurable. NOIAW celebrates these contributions and our rich ethnic history—it is Aileen's lasting legacy to our country and to all Italian-American families.

I have had the distinct pleasure to work with Aileen on a variety of projects over the years. She is an extraordinary resource and her positive energy and enthusiasm is contagious. She instills an inspiration in others that does not quickly fade. I consider myself fortunate to call her my friend and would be remiss if I did not extend a special note of thanks to her for her many years of special friendship and support.

More than anything else, Aileen's greatest pride is in her family. I am proud to join her husband, Charles, her daughter and son-in-law, JoAnne and Sol, and her granddaughters, Emma and Maia, as well as all of those who have gathered this evening in extending my very best wishes to Aileen Riotta Sirey as she celebrates her retirement. She has set an extraordinary example of service and dedication—it is a bar to which we should all strive.

WOMEN WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this year's "Women Who Make a Difference" being honored by the YWCA in my home of Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Since 1954, the YWCA of Bucks County has worked to empower women and provide a wide range of educational programs to the disadvantaged and vulnerable populations in our community.

After accepting nominations from the community, the YWCA has chosen the following women to receive this year's honors: Anne Clark, Yolando D'Arcangelo, Jeryl DeGideo, Susan Eckert, Mynetta Edwards, Kim Everett, Kathy Feldcamp, L.J. Herman, Jo Klienmann-Wood, Jacqueline Garnett Neal, Sally Pollock, and Kathleen Rosso-Gana.

All of these women have made a big difference in my Congressional District. Their overall empathy for others has helped our neighbors fight life threatening diseases and overcome physical challenges. Their enthusiasm for learning has inspired our youth, and their sense of duty has compelled them to assist total strangers in crisis, sometimes putting their own lives at risk.

The hard work and dedication that these women have shown has made Bucks County a better place for all of us. Thanks again to the YWCA and all of this year's honorees.

MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

HON. LYNN JENKINS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, as a Nation, we pride ourselves on the support we give our men and women in uniform.

So much so, that over the last ten years, "Support the Troops" has become a rallying cry that cuts through all social and political difference.

This month is Military Appreciation Month, and today I rise to thank the men and women serving in our military in Kansas and around the world.

This week, as the House attempts to block the gutting of our defense department, I think it is important to remember that the first priority of the Federal Government is to protect us and there are brave men and women across the globe who deserve our support.

So from Fort Riley, Fort Leavenworth, Forbes Field, and other military installation across Kansas's Second District and indeed the world, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the men and women of our armed services. Your service makes my service possible.

ACLU RECOGNIZES SHARON KISSEL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I enter this statement on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU. The ACLU is a non-partisan organization with more than 500,000 members, 53 state and local affiliations, and countless additional activists and supporters, dedicated to the principles of equality and justice as set forth in the U.S. Constitution and in our laws protecting individual rights. The ACLU asked me to enter the following statement into the RECORD recognizing Sharon Kissel, a DC resident who serves as Legislative Librarian for the organization.

On the 15th anniversary of Sharon Kissel's tenure with the American Civil Liberties Union Washington Legislative Office, her colleagues and many friends would like to honor her tremendous work over the past two decades on many of our nation's most pressing civil rights and civil liberties issues. In her role as the Legislative Librarian, Sharon is one of the unsung heroines in the ACLU's efforts to achieve equal justice, freedom, and fairness for all. Over the past 15 years, Sharon's work has been critical to a wide range of issues, including the ACLU's advancement of the Fair Sentencing Act, the Violence Against Women Act, and the ACLU's national security advocacy.

Sharon has been a key participant in some of the most important civil liberties and civil and human rights campaigns over the past 15

years. One area of concern particularly in which she has been involved is the restoration of the rule of law in interrogations and detention practices in violation of human rights and the U.S. Constitution. She has participated in one of the leading coalitions against torture and indefinite detention, as a researcher, writer, and source of wise counsel for her colleagues.

Further, her work has been an integral part of the ACLU's efforts to protect our democracy from Constitutional amendments that would diminish the basic rights afforded to all Americans. Her research and advice were important to helping prevent an array of constitutional amendments, including the flag desecration amendment, the school prayer amendment, the federal marriage amendment, and the so-named victims' rights amendment. Without the work of Sharon and her coalition partners, the Bill of Rights would have been riddled with exceptions.

No matter what the issue, Sharon always approaches research with a joy and a curiosity that is contagious, which is part of the reason she is beloved by her current and former colleagues. Sharon is also described by her colleagues as a "genius" for her ability to find arcane tidbits of legislative history. Her daily in-depth review of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and other legislative research provides incredibly timely information. By feeding her colleagues these buried nuggets of information, Sharon helps the rest of the legislative staff shine as advocates for their issues. Sharon is the ACLU's secret weapon—pouring over 800-page bills and the barrage of amendments attached to omnibus bills. Her keen attention to Congress and broader public policy debates has enabled the ACLU to address many potential challenges to civil liberties, even before they reach the House or Senate floor. Moreover, Sharon has ushered the entire ACLU team's legal research capacity into the 21st century. She works continually to maximize resources and expand access to online research tools for her colleagues nationally. Throughout her career, Sharon's colleagues have also celebrated and admired her perennial role as a patient teacher and a devoted mentor to many who have worked with her over the years.

In addition to her invaluable work at the ACLU, Sharon's impressive career as a librarian spans over 40 years, and includes her work at the White House, the World Bank, the Federal Reserve, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Bar Association of the District of Columbia, and Shea & Gardner. Sharon also organized and managed the information resource center for President Bill Clinton's transition team after his election in 1992. Furthermore, Sharon's accomplishments in the field of library science extend to her professional affiliations—she has previously served as the President of the Law Librarians' Society of Washington, DC, and as a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Equal Justice Institute Library. Sharon has also worked as a faculty member for the American Association of Law Libraries Summer Institute.

Sharon came of age during the civil rights movement, and her passion for civil rights and social justice extends to her personal life. She has been actively engaged in DC politics for decades and is the go-to resource on local

civic and political issues, with a particular interest in safety and zoning issues. Many in the office, who have been working in national politics for decades, go to Sharon for information on local DC matters. Sharon's strong personal belief in the Bill of Rights and her devotion to her local community occasionally have sparked her to take action, such as the time she organized a demonstration of roughly 30 librarians in front of Kramer books when it appeared that the bookstore was going to comply with Kenneth Starr's subpoena of private book purchases in 1998. The owner of the store ultimately decided to challenge the subpoena on constitutional grounds.

Sharon and her beloved husband of over 40 years, Peter, also are active alumni of their alma mater, Syracuse University, and they established an endowed fund at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs to support activities that contribute to public understanding of civil rights and liberties. Sharon actually decided to pursue a career in librarianship after a work-study job in the Maxwell School Library, and Sharon and Peter have long maintained close ties to the school. She also received an M.L.S. from the University of Maryland, where she was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honorary Society.

Beyond her many professional accomplishments and contributions, Sharon is a dear friend to many at the ACLU. She has a generous and compassionate spirit. Sharon is always willing to share her deep love of Ireland and Irish politics, which has been a shared passion of her and her husband throughout their lives, and she will often bring back food or treats from her trips to Ireland with Peter to share with her colleagues. She is devoted to her family and enjoys her dogs, traveling, gardening, art, and music—especially Irish music! The personal and professional lives of her ACLU colleagues are richer because of Sharon's contributions, and we honor her 15 years of service to the ACLU and hope for many more.

WILLIAM F. EZZELL

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to William F. (Bill) Ezzell, one of America's leading Certified Public Accountants on his retirement from Deloitte, LLP.

As a member and former Chairman of the Board of Directors of the America Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), Bill has been an industry leader and pace setter for the accounting profession. His numerous accomplishments include the establishment of a major project within the AICPA foundation to increase the number of PhDs teaching auditing and tax in university accounting programs. He also played an integral role in the implementation of key legislation including Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 as well as the associated regulations.

Bill has been a frequent speaker and panelist at corporate governance forums and accounting conferences and has an expertise in emerging issues of interest to audit committees, corporate management, and auditors.

Bill graduated from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill with a B.S. degree in Business Administration and Accounting and had been with Deloitte 38 years. He has been a Commissioner on the Pathways Commission on the Future of Accounting Education, a recipient of the AICPA Gold Medal for Distinguished Service, and is a former Chairman of the AICPA Legislative Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, the Accounting Profession will miss Bill Ezzell's leadership and the Congress will miss the expertise he has provided through the years. I know my colleagues join me in thanking my good friend Bill for his years of service to the accounting profession and the guidance he has given us over the years. We wish him well on a well-earned retirement and hope he will be successful in his future endeavors.

HONORING CHERYL E. THOMPSON
UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Cheryl E. Thompson on the occasion of her retirement from Mantua Elementary School on June 30, 2012. She began in the Fairfax County Public School System in 1973 as a Physical Education teacher and she became the Lead Physical Education teacher at Mantua 21 years ago. After serving in that capacity for 11 years, Ms. Thompson was promoted to Assistant Principal, a role which she embraced for the last decade.

Ms. Thompson has served the children of Fairfax County for the past four decades, spending the last 21 years at Mantua, where she personified the concept of community-building. She was the voice of the Mantua Elementary Intramural Basketball Finals; she organized and served as the DJ for the yearly Ice Cream Social, Sixth Grade End-of-Year Party, Spirit Parade, and the Mantua Citizens Association Pool Party. Ms. Thompson coached girls' basketball at Woodson High School, my daughter's alma mater, for 14 years, winning a number of division titles and the Virginia State Title in 1982. She earned Woodson Coach of the Year honors three times. The athletic instruction and support that Ms. Thompson gave to her students was exemplary; however, her dedication to her students' education is even more admirable. She earned Teacher of the Year and Support Employee of the Year honors with Mantua Elementary as well.

While Ms. Thompson's absence will be felt throughout the Fairfax County Public School System, and especially at Mantua Elementary School, her dedication to her community will continue to resonate. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on her retirement and recognizing her many accomplishments.