

The Senate transportation bill also includes a desperately needed one-year extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. This program provides an essential lifeline for more than 700 rural federally forested communities and 9 million schoolchildren across the nation. For Oregon, these payments may mean the difference between keeping criminals in our jails and sheriffs on the road or financial insolvency and the dissolution of county governments.

Congress can debate the XL pipeline any day of the week. And we should. Let's have a debate about the route, expedited approval, and environmental reviews. Let's have a debate on energy policies to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil, bring down the price of gas for American consumers, and lead to a more secure energy future. But it's telling that Republican leadership has refused to bring a clean XL pipeline bill to the floor of this House. Instead, they insist on attaching it to must-pass legislation to score political points and to try to embarrass the President—these are not serious efforts to legislate.

With the national unemployment rate still hovering around 8 percent and the real unemployment rate closer to 15 percent it is absolutely unacceptable that Congress would take any risk of jeopardizing what should be a bipartisan effort to maintain or create millions of private-sector American jobs.

I urge my colleagues to reject this motion and to quickly pass a conferenced transportation bill that makes desperately needed investments in our transportation system, creates jobs, and helps ensure rural counties across the nation are able to offer basic government services.

#### NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

### HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, at this moment, there are more than 400,000 young Americans in the foster care system. They face both enormous chances of hope and opportunity, but also hardship. Like all children, they need guidance and they need an advocate.

During National Foster Care Month, we work to improve the reality of our Nation's foster youth and especially honor the dedicated foster families who care for these youth. All children deserve loving, safe, and stable homes. Each year there are thousands of foster youth who age out of the system without a permanent family. Studies show that these youth are more likely to end up homeless, commit to a life of crime, or suffer from undiagnosed or untreated mental health challenges. Within the foster care system, there are bright stars of help and hope.

Today I'd like to share a story of one such extraordinary foster parent: Mrs. Eula Gardner Dowdy. Over the years, Eula Gardner Dowdy of Clarksville and her late husband have brought more than 100 children into their home as foster children. The Dowdy house became a home to children regardless of age, race, creed, or ability. Backgrounds changing, the one constant for these children was their need for love and caring, and Eula's willing-

ness to welcome them into her family. The 2006 Tennessee Foster Parent of the Year, Eula has received many deserving accolades for her contributions to the Clarksville community.

There are countless Eula Gardner Dowdy's in our great country whose love enriches the children that enter their homes. I rise today to thank all those who bring foster children into their hearts and make a lasting and powerful difference in lives of those children. During National Foster Care Month, I ask my colleagues to rise with me in thanksgiving for the many foster parents who are wonderful examples of devotion to the youth of today so that they may have hope for a better tomorrow.

#### MALLISYN BRUCE

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mallisyn Bruce for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Mallisyn Bruce is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Mallisyn Bruce is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mallisyn Bruce for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

#### SECOND INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU

### HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ma Ying-jeou will be inaugurated as President of the Republic of China (Taiwan) on May 20, 2012. On January 14, 2012, he won reelection and I sincerely congratulate him for his achievement.

I would like to applaud the effort that President Ma and his people have put forth to develop a strong democracy that promotes freedom, liberty, and the rule of law. To people around the world, Taiwan is a beacon of democracy and it is an honor to recognize their continued commitment to this distinguished ideal.

The United States and Taiwan have a long history of economic cooperation and friendship over the years. As a friend of Taiwan in the United States Congress, I would like to add that many of my colleagues and I strongly support our commitments to Taiwan under the Taiwan Relations Act. This partnership between the United States and Taiwan is inval-

able and we look forward to continuing to work together in the future. We also support Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations such as the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Again, on the occasion of Mr. Ma's inauguration, we wish Mr. Ma and his people continued success in all their endeavors.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

### HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4310) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chair, I rise today to bring to your attention a non-partisan, good governance issue—accountability and transparency. Specifically, accountability and transparency for the War Budget, which for accounting purposes is treated separately from the Department of Defense (DoD) Base Budget.

The Government Accountability Office, GAO, the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, and the Congressional Research Service, CRS, have all testified before Congress about the limited transparency in DoD war cost estimating and reporting) Despite this challenge, members from both political parties have worked in a bipartisan manner to support our 43rd and 44th Commanders in Chief to ensure that our troops have the war-related resources they need to win the Global War on Terror. As we move forward, it is my hope that we will preserve this spirit of bipartisanship while also working to overcome the challenge of providing good faith estimates about what our war effort actually costs.

Last year's Budget and Control Act, BCA (P.L. 112-25) appropriately recognized the distinction made by previous Congresses between the Base Budget and the War Budget. It places specific limits, or caps, on the Base Budget; the War Budget, however, has no limit. This creates a potential loophole for the President and/or Congress to evade the BCA limits by moving money for regular activities from the Base Budget to the War Budget's unlimited resources.

This is the first full cycle of Budget requests, authorizations, and appropriations under the BCA. Despite the varied views on the law, the President and the Congress have a duty to abide by its letter and spirit unless an alternative law is agreed upon. This bill is not about finding an alternative replacement for the BCA; it's about making sure the men and women in harm's way have the appropriate legal authority and resources to effectively fight on our behalf. It should also be about providing for our troops in an accountable and transparent manner.

The FY2013 Budget Request calls for shifting \$6.1 billion in basic compensation for military personnel from the Base Budget to the War Budget. The troops associated with these

costs are currently not deployed in overseas combat operations. Rather, they are part of the troop reductions set to begin next year. This means the FY2013 War Request and this bill's War Budget are overstated by \$6.1 billion with basic compensation costs that have traditionally been funded through the Base Budget. As the GAO has stated, "Costs that are incurred regardless of whether there is a [war] operation, such as the base pay of active duty military personnel, are not considered [war-related] (emphasis added)." This new use of the War Budget for base pay was highlighted earlier this year at a House Budget Committee oversight hearing entitled *The Department of Defense and Fiscal Year 2013 Budget*. It is a clear circumvention of the BCA limits.

As we move forward in the Budget process, we should aim to ensure our troops receive full, base salaries and benefits from their usual source—the Base Budget. After all, the primary reason we employ troops is to protect our nation, and we need to continue to use the Base Budget to compensate our troops. This bill undermines public reporting of accurate War costs by accepting the President's request to shift \$6.1 billion in base salaries from the Base Budget to the War Budget. However, neither the President's request nor this bill actually funds the DoD. So, in the days ahead I urge us to work towards preserving the integrity of the law by restoring accountability and transparency between the Base Budget and the War Budget.

If we fail to bring to light any potential exploitation of BCA loopholes in the law's early years of enforcement, then we simply make tomorrow's challenges greater while willfully turning a blind eye to the oversight record provided by the GAO, CRS, CBO and other credible sources.

H.R. 4310 was reported out of the Armed Service Committee and passed the House on a bipartisan vote of 56–5 and 299–120, respectively. I applaud the Armed Services Committee for including report language that states, "[Section 403] would require that the [FY2014–2017] Department of Defense budget request include amounts for the end strength of the regular component of the Army and the Marine Corps in the base budget and not through emergency, supplemental, or overseas contingency operation funds." I hope the bipartisan majority supporting the bill will have the opportunity this year to accelerate its call to fully compensate our troops in an accountable and transparent manner.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF PETER VALENCIA

#### HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the career achievements of Peter Joseph Valencia, Jr. who recently celebrated his 70th birthday while in service to the third Congressional District of New Mexico. Mr. Valencia was born and raised in Farmington, New Mexico and received his B.A. in Economics from Fort Lewis College and his M.A. in Business Education from Adams State College. He then served in the U.S. Navy in the 1960s on the Flag Allowance Staff of Rear Admiral Monroe in San Diego, California.

After his time in the military, Mr. Valencia worked in Employee Relations for El Paso Natural Gas Company in Farmington and was later appointed by two New Mexican Governors to serve as the Deputy Commissioner for the New Mexico Motor Transportation Department. In 1981, he returned to Farmington to run his family's business; however, when then-U.S. Congressman TOM UDALL opened a new district field office in Farmington in 1999, Mr. Valencia was a perfect fit for a position that he continues to hold to this day.

Mr. Valencia has devoted his life to public service and is proud to be able to continue to serve the people of San Juan County at the age of 70. He is a staple of San Juan County and has developed a sterling reputation while partnering with the Navajo Nation, Jicarilla Apache and neighboring Chapter Houses. As a Field Representative, Mr. Valencia has maintained a level of excellence and diligence in helping all people of Northwest New Mexico.

Along with his service to New Mexico's third Congressional District, Mr. Valencia is a dedicated family man. He has been married to his wife Lynda Valencia, a retired public school teacher and administrator, for over 40 years and has three children—DeAnza Sapien, Peter Valencia III and Felix Valencia—and a granddaughter, Miranda Sapien.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great appreciation that I ask my colleagues to stand with me in thanking Mr. Peter Joseph Valencia for his leadership and excellent service to the people of San Juan County, the surrounding communities of New Mexico, and this country. Please join me today in recognizing his remarkable achievements and wishing him many more years of success.

#### HONORING FIRST BOOK

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring First Book on the occasion of their twentieth anniversary and in celebrating their work on behalf of children in need, here in the District of Columbia and across the country.

First Book is a nonprofit organization that provides brand-new books and educational resources to schools and community programs that work with children from low-income families. Since 1992 it has distributed over 90 million new books to children in need.

First Book was founded in Washington, DC, twenty years ago this week, by Peter Gold, Elizabeth Arky, and Kyle Zimmer, who recognized the critical need for books among the children of the city's poorest neighborhoods, and how this limits children's futures. The children of the District of Columbia were the first beneficiaries of First Book's work, and D.C. children have been a special focus of the organization over the years, even as it expanded to every state in the union and Canada. In the past two years alone, First Book has provided more than 300,000 brand-new books to children across this city.

Ms. Zimmer continues to lead the organization today, and her vision and passion have enabled First Book to grow into a world-class

social enterprise with an unsurpassed record of success.

First Book's commitment to the children, teachers, and local community leaders they serve is realized through the organization's ground-breaking business models. Reflecting the best of social sector and private sector partnerships, First Book works with the publishing industry to create new and innovative ways to get books and other educational resources to children who would otherwise go without them. By providing access to a steady stream of new and quality books, First Book is elevating the quality of education, giving teachers the resources they need to help their students become more successful in school and in life.

I ask the House to join me in honoring Kyle Zimmer and her colleagues at First Book, and further ask the members to introduce First Book to teachers in their home districts. The more schools and community programs join First Book's network, the closer we will come to achieving equity in education for all children.

#### KYLER MCGEHEE

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kyler McGehee for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kyler McGehee is a 12th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kyler McGehee is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kyler McGehee for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

#### HONORING THE VETERANS OF THE LITTLE ROCK ROTARY CLUB

#### HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Rotary Club of Little Rock and their members who have served in our nation's Armed Forces.

The Little Rock Rotary Club was organized in 1913 and chartered as the 99th club in 1914.

As well as being Arkansas's oldest civic organization, with its more than 450 members, it is also the largest.

The main objective of Rotarians is serving their community, and the Little Rock Rotary Club carries this out through their numerous community projects.