

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.

For example, they support youth and educational opportunities through international student exchange programs, and, each year, they award eight different scholarships to Arkansas's college students.

Along with serving our community, many members of the Little Rock Rotary Club have bravely served in our nation's Armed Forces.

They will be recognized next week in Little Rock, and I want to take this opportunity to thank them for their bravery and their service to our nation and preserving our freedoms.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF LITTLE ROCK VETERANS

Dan G. Beranek, Tom Bonner, Harvey F. Brown III, Sam L. Chaffin, James B. Conner, Samuel D. Cummings Jr., Eugene G. Eberle Jr., Victor A. Fleming, Irving B. Goldberg, Wayne A. Gruber, Thomas Harding Jr., James T. Harvey, Richard B. Homard Ph.D., Gerald K. Johnson D.D.S., J. Floyd Kyser, Aaron Lubin, Maxwell J. Lyons II, Jack R. McCray, George E. McLeod, Carleton McMullin, Patrick D. Miller, Marc Oudin, Prosper F. Paul, Eugene M. Pfeiffer III, Ashley S. Ross Jr., Ted L. Snider, William Boyd Ward, E. Grainger Williams, George G. Worthen, Calvin D. Biggers, Ralph G. Brodie, Robert A. Callans, Joseph Thomas Clements III, Reggie A. Corbitt, Steve Michael Daugherty, John A. Festa, James F. Gadberrry, William C. Goolsby, Lynn Ray Hamilton, James E. Harris, Richard F. Hatfield, Barry D. Hyde, Greg M. Joslin, Beverly J. Lambert III, Robert M. Lyford, William Aubert Martin, Bob G. McKuin, Roger McMennamy, David F. Miller Ph.D., Walter W. Nixon III, James J. Pappas M.D., Arthur J. Pfeifer, Carl S. Rosenbaum, Elwood W. Smith, Arthur E. Squire Jr., Alfred L. Williams and Jerry C. Wilson.

SECOND INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT MA JING-JEOU

HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Taiwan on the second inauguration of President Ma Ying-jeou. In so many respects, Taiwan has come a long way in its progress. Taiwan has become one of the world's leading economic forces, despite enormous pressure and obstacles.

As a close ally and friend of Taiwan, we celebrate the rapid advancement of the island nation. Given our close ties with Taiwan—ties that include our common defense and economic cooperation—their progress as a nation is vital for American interests. I am proud to be a member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.

A basic element of our common economic well-being is trade. Taiwan is a major trading partner of ours and a major importer of one of our largest industries, agriculture. Taiwan imports large amounts of wheat, corn, and soybeans, mostly from the United States. Poultry and pork production is a staple of Taiwan's livestock sector and drives demand for imported corn and soybeans from the United States, Taiwan's prime supplier.

In these trying days of world economic upheaval, it is certainly gratifying to know we not only have a good friend but a good customer in Taiwan. By their continued imports of our products, Taiwan helps to provide American

jobs, which is more important than ever for the American people.

Good luck President Ma. We wish you the best in your second term.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. CHIP CRAVAACK

OF MINNESOTA

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. CRAVAACK. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment, which would express a sense of Congress that fighter wings performing the 24-hour Aerospace Control Alert missions provide an essential service in defending the sovereign airspace of the United States in the aftermath of 9/11.

Mr. Chair, the tragic events of 9/11 exposed holes in our nation's air security and reinforced the need for the U.S. military to take the steps necessary to significantly increase our ability to intercept hostile aircraft. Today, there are fighter jets placed at strategic points all across the United States, charged with the mission to provide air defense through the detection, deterrence, and if necessary, defeat of hostile air attacks. These sites, known as Aerospace Control Alert sites, have fully armed aircraft and trained personnel on 24-hour alert, 365 days a year.

One such Aerospace Control Alert site resides in my district. The 148th Fighter Wing of the Minnesota Air National Guard, also known as the "Bulldogs," operates out of Duluth, Minnesota, and provides force protection of our country's northern border between Madison, Wisconsin, and Portland, Oregon. The Bulldogs have been performing the ACA mission successfully for years and were selected for the Raytheon trophy, which is awarded for outstanding performance to an Air Force or Air National Guard fighter unit with a mission in air defense. In fact, I am proud to say that the Director of the Air National Guard, Air Force Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III announced just this month that the 148th Fighter Wing was selected as the 2012 Air Force Association Outstanding Air National Guard Flying Unit.

Given the importance of the 24-hour Aerospace Control Alert mission to our national security, I was greatly concerned when I learned a few months ago of NORAD's proposed reduction of the 24-hour alert mission requirement at two Aerospace Control Alert (ACA) sites in the Continental United States. It is my understanding that this proposal was submitted in line with the President's budget request for FY 2013 and the U.S. Air Force's decision to make force structure changes.

My concern grew when I learned of a January 2012 GAO report that reviewed NORAD's 2010 analysis on whether it could change the number and location of its fighter sites without affecting the military's ability to defend the country against airborne attack. GAO's conclusion was that this NORAD analysis did not

adequately balance risk with targeted budget reductions.

I recognize that our country's current fiscal reality necessitates the Department of Defense to tighten its belt and look for ways to do more with less.

However, I think it is imperative that decisions that directly affect our nation's ability to defend itself should be made on the basis of risk-management principles that balance risk and costs.

Therefore, I also rise today in support of Section 352 in the underlying bill, which would direct the Secretary of Defense to maintain our nation's existing eighteen ACA sites until the Secretary submits a report that shows the cost-benefit analysis and risk-based assessment of how future ACA changes would affect the DOD budget and force structure.

I would like to thank Congressman LOBIONDO for adding this important provision to the bill, and I urge the adoption of my amendment in recognition of a critical asset in our nation's defense system.

REMARKS ON THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge—a great feat of technological and engineering mastery, a San Francisco landmark, and a national treasure. Today, it is my distinct honor and high privilege to mark its 75th birthday on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Proving that in times of hardship, America has always invested in big things, the Golden Gate Bridge was built in the midst of the Great Depression. San Franciscans were out of work and saw no end to their woes. Yet voters nonetheless approved the construction bonds to build the bridge. As collateral, San Franciscans were willing to risk their homes, their farms and their businesses—their very livelihoods, in the hope that the toll dollars would help pay back the bonds. The Golden Gate Bridge was a symbol of hope and a vision for the future.

Joseph Strauss envisioned the Bridge, which takes its name from the Golden Gateway that links the Pacific Ocean to the San Francisco Bay. It was Irving Morrow who designed the Art Deco styling and its world-famous international orange color that made the Bridge distinct and unique. The many engineers who constructed the Bridge all shared the American spirit that makes our country great. When it opened on May 27, 1937 Strauss shared his poem, "The mighty task is done" which encapsulated all that had been accomplished.

Twenty-five years ago, I had the distinct pleasure of participating in the 50th anniversary celebrations where hundreds of thousands of people crowded onto the Bridge to celebrate. The enormity of the crowd was so unexpected that the Bridge flattened under its weight. Today, the Golden Gate Bridge remains the most graceful and spectacular bridge in the world, beloved by our city and visited annually by millions of people