

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO HELP ELIMINATE UNCER-
TAINTY FOR MILITARY AND
OVERSEAS VOTERS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce legislation, with my colleagues Representatives CHARLES GONZALEZ and MICHAEL HONDA, which would help eliminate uncertainty for military and overseas voters when they request an absentee ballot this year that they will get ballots for each of the elections for the full year when voting absentee.

The Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act of 2009 repealed several subsections of Section 104 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), which has caused concern among overseas voting groups that this change may result in a situation in which a military or overseas voter might vote in a primary election but not receive ballots for the general election. This legislation would amend UOCAVA to make clarifications to the law and ensure that voters who request an absentee ballot will receive ballots for each election that occurs during the full election cycle.

The MOVE Act was a major step forward in the reform and modernization of UOCAVA; however, this particular change may have unintended consequences. As we are in the 2012 election cycle, we need to ensure that this does not inadvertently disenfranchise large swaths of our military and overseas voters. This bill proposes simple fixes that will help ensure the votes of every overseas American are counted.

LAWRENCE SALAZAR

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 Lawrence Salazar for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Lawrence Salazar is a 10th 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 Lawrence Salazar 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 Lawrence Salazar 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.

WINDPLANNERS OF CAMDEN
HILLS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight the outstanding accomplishments of a group of students in my district.

For the last 8 years, the Windplanners of Camden Hills Regional High School have endeavored to bring a full-size wind turbine to their school. What started out as a vision has now become a reality. After conducting feasibility studies, earning the support of their community, raising a half-million dollars, and clearing bureaucratic hurdles, the students erected a 155-foot turbine at their school this spring.

In the first week of operation alone, the turbine generated enough electricity to power six households for a month. Over the years, this project will save their school thousands of dollars, keep hundreds of tons of carbon emissions out of the air, and stand as a tribute to what a committed group can do—whatever their age may be.

I'm very proud of these students and the teachers and community members who have supported them. They have learned real-world lessons that will serve them well—and have taught us all some important lessons in the process.

RECOGNIZING FOND DU LAC
SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR 21ST CEN-
TURY READINESS

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, in order for our students to be competitive in the global economy, we must do our part to ensure that they are acquiring the knowledge and skills they need for success. The skills needed for success go beyond the basics of reading, writing, and math, however. When surveyed, employers continually emphasize that, in our 21st century economy, students need to be adept at critical thinking and problem solving; communication; collaboration; and creativity and innovation, in addition to being proficient in core subjects.

While it's important to talk about these skills, it's even more important to see and recognize where they are being successfully incorporated into educational curriculums at the local level. Fond du Lac School District, located in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, in my congressional district, is doing a lot of innovative work to prepare its students for success in the 21st century economy. Along with officials from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, I recently visited the Fond du Lac School District to learn about their efforts firsthand.

The Fond du Lac School District, through the leadership of Superintendent Dr. James Sebert and John Whitsett, the School District's Coordinator of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, rewrote the school's entire cur-

riculum in 2005 to fully incorporate 21st century skills. This fall, all students will be given Google Chromebooks to help further integrate technology into their education. Also this fall, the Fond du Lac Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Academy will open to many 3rd through 5th graders through lead teacher Sarah Edbauer. The STEM Academy will focus not only on a rigorous STEM curriculum, but it will also place a heavy emphasis on project-based and student-led learning as a method for teaching 21st century skills.

The STEM Academy in Fond du Lac is a good example of how community partnerships can broaden students' educational experience. Mercury Marine, based in Fond du Lac, is a world leader in marine propulsion and technology and a major manufacturer of outboard motors and inboard engines. The company has partnered in the development of the school's STEM Academy because of difficulties it has experienced finding qualified applicants to meet its workforce needs. The company conveyed, as have numerous other employers, that the nature of manufacturing jobs is changing and that successful employees need to be creative, need to be able to problem solve, and need to be able to work collaboratively with other coworkers, amongst other skills. Through the company's partnership with the Fond du Lac STEM Academy, it is hoping to grow a local workforce by getting students engaged in practical, real-world projects that will help them develop the skills they need to be successful when they enter the workforce.

It's important that Congress recognize the work that is being done in communities like Fond du Lac and that we look for ways to support these efforts. For these reasons, Rep. DAVE LOEBSACK and I recently formed the bipartisan Congressional 21st Century Skills Caucus to inform and discuss better ways to promote 21st century skills in our nation's educational system. I invite all of my colleagues to join our efforts.

HONORING MR. LLOYD HAND AND
MRS. ANN HAND

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Lloyd Hand and his wife, Mrs. Ann Hand, on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Hand are a very special couple from Texas who have since established themselves here in Washington, D.C. Both have been extremely successful in doing so, as Mr. Hand became involved in law and politics, while Mrs. Hand started her own business designing and selling custom jewelry.

Mr. and Mrs. Hand are just one couple to leave Texas to come to the Potomac. After first meeting at the University of Texas, the couple has been inseparable ever since. Mr. Hand first entered the political realm as assistant to Senate Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson, and eventually became U.S. Chief of Protocol once Johnson became President. Mr. Hand has served a long and rewarding career in government, and now serves as a senior

counsel at King & Spalding's Government Advocacy and Public Policy Practice Group. Mr. Hand has been able to utilize his decades of experience to provide counsel to Fortune 500 companies and other high-profile clients in this capacity.

Mrs. Hand has also become very successful in her own right. Beginning in 1988, Mrs. Hand started her company, Ann Hand, LLC, out of her home. Her business specialized in custom-made jewelry and design, and through her success she eventually opened a salon in Upper Georgetown. Since then, Mrs. Hand's distinctive pieces have received worldwide acclaim, and many members of Congress have come to value her talent and creativity. Mrs. Hand's pieces are one of a kind, and her business has been commissioned by many different companies and national organizations to design commemorative pieces.

Mr. Speaker, I am so happy to recognize this beloved couple from Texas. Mr. and Mrs. Hand have both made significant contributions to Washington, D.C. Mr. and Mrs. Hand have duly represented our state of Texas by making such a worthy impact on the Potomac, and I am pleased to honor their accomplishments today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. EFFIE C. GREAR

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Dr. Effie C. Grear, who died on May 16, 2012. Dr. Grear, a widely known and greatly beloved figure in her home town of Belle Glade, Florida and the other communities surrounding Lake Okeechobee, dedicated more than 50 years of her life as an educator. She earned her B.A. in Music Education from West Virginia State University, her M.A. in the same major from The Ohio State University, and her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

Highlights of her career included organizing the first bands at Florida A&M University High School in Tallahassee and Smith-Brown High School in Arcadia, Florida. She later became Band Director at Lake Shore High School in Belle Glade and then Assistant Principal at that school. After moving to the Assistant Principal position at Glades Central High School, she eventually became Principal in 1976, a position she held until retiring in 1976.

Dr. Grear had a long record of community involvement as a member of the Advisory Boards of Glades Central High School's Criminal Justice Academy and the Glades Community Development Corporation, the Florida and National Associations of Secondary School Principals, the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission, and the Association of School Curriculum Development. At the time of her passing, she was serving as a Commissioner on the Health Care District of Palm Beach County and its representative to the Glades General Hospital Advisory Board.

Among her many awards and honors are Belle Glade, Florida Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year (1982), Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award from the Urban

League of Palm Beach County (1988), Palm Beach County NAACP Community Service Award (1989), and the Florida Association of Women's Clubs Hattie T. Dorah Woman of the Year Award (1990). In 1991, she was named Florida Secondary School Principal of the Year. The following year, Dr. Grear was honored with the Ida S. Baker Distinguished Black Educator Award by the Governor and the Cabinet in Tallahassee.

In 2000, the Palm Beach County School Board recognized her long record of service to the boys and girls of the Glades area by naming the athletic field at Glades Central High School after her. That same year, I honored her myself with my Educational Leadership Award for Commitment to Boys and Girls in Palm Beach County, Florida. She was recognized again by Palm Beach Community College in 2004, when they gave her their Community Leadership Award during their annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Grear was married to the late William A. Grear, the first African American to serve as a City Commissioner in Belle Glade, Florida. The couple had two children, Rhonda Grear, a Registered Nurse, and William Grear, Jr., a digital technician with Bell South Corporation and former Belle Glade City Commissioner. Dr. Effie Grear enjoyed enormous respect among everyone in the educational field and all those familiar with her devotion to children and her love for her community. She was a good friend and mentor to many and she will be dearly missed.

KYLE ESTES

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 Kyle Estes for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kyle Estes is a 9th 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 Kyle Estes 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 Kyle Estes 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.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 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. STARK. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization, NDAA Act. Our country has always spent too much taxpayer money on an outdated, ineffective military apparatus; this year's reauthorization is no different. The pattern of lopsided investment causes us to sacrifice critically needed investments in job growth, health care, education, and economic recovery. Simply put, our level of defense spending does not reflect my values or those of the majority of Americans. Therefore, I will once again vote against the NDAA.

Defense already comprises almost 60 percent of the federal government's discretionary spending. Our nation dedicates entirely too much of its capital to military efforts at great monetary and human costs. We have spent trillions of dollars on wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and lost thousands of lives. The American people have had enough. Almost 70 percent of Americans want a complete and early withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, according to a recent Rasmussen survey.

What's more, two-thirds of Republicans and nine out of ten Democrats support making immediate and drastic cuts to defense spending, according to a recent survey by the nonprofit groups, Center for Public Integrity, the Program for Public Consultation, and the Stimson Center. The average suggested defense cut by those polled came to more than \$80 billion. That amount is almost twice what is due to be cut from defense in the sequester, the bipartisan deal reached at the end of last year to reduce our deficit.

Rather than listen to the American people, House Republicans have chosen to do the opposite—further increasing defense spending in this legislation. They've added an additional \$8 billion above the budget limits that were approved earlier this Congress as part of the Budget Control Act. This is why I joined with Representative BARBARA LEE (D-CA) to offer an amendment to cut that \$8 billion from the defense authorization. Doing so would simply ensure that defense spending falls in line with the limits set by Republicans in their own Budget Control Act. Unfortunately, the amendment was not approved.

The bottom line is that it's beyond time for us to cut defense spending, withdraw our troops, and redirect our focus to the troubles we're facing here at home. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this bill.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 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: