

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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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:

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 4310, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013," which provides \$642 billion in budget authority for the Department of Defense and the national security programs of the Department of Energy.

Although the bill is not perfect and contains several provisions that I do not support, on balance I support the legislation because it (1) provides our troops the resources they need to protect and defend our country and themselves; (2) supports military families; (3) makes important investments to keep our homeland safe; and (4) incorporates three critical amendments I offered to strengthen the nation's strategic ports (of which the Port of Long Beach is perhaps the most critical), provide expanded protections for women service members, and enhances the effectiveness of the Northern Command ("NORTHCOM") in protecting the homeland in event of war.

I thank Chairman MCKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for their hard work in shepherding this bill to the floor on this bill and for their commitment to the men and women of the Armed Forces.

Let me briefly highlight some of the key provisions that I support.

I support the provisions in the bill providing all service members a pay raise of 1.7 percent, the level included in the President's request, and extends certain special pay and bonuses for active-duty and reserve personnel. The bill limits any annual increase in cost-sharing rates under the TRICARE pharmacy program to the percentage increase in retiree pay, beginning October 1, 2013. I am also pleased that the bill extends access to family housing for six months for service members mustering out due to personnel reductions.

Mr. Chair, combating domestic violence and deterring sexual offenses in both the civilian and military sectors is a national priority. That is why I am pleased that this bill includes provisions requiring secretaries of the military departments to establish special victim teams for investigation, prosecution and victim support in connection with child abuse, serious domestic violence or sexual offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The bill further requires that at least one team in each military department be in place within one year of enactment and that each secretary report within 270 days of enactment with a plan and timeline for the establishment of the remainder of the special victim teams that the secretary has determined are needed.

Mr. Chair, this bill provides the resources needed to protect our troops in harm's way. It provides:

\$2.8 billion for measures to counter IED activities in Afghanistan;

\$3.2 billion for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles in Afghanistan;

An increase of \$321 million in unrequested funds for modernization of M-1 Abrams tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles, vehicles that help protect the lives of our troops; and

\$7.6 billion for operations and maintenance of the Special Operations Command, an amount that includes \$2.5 billion in the Overseas Contingency Operations account.

Another reason for supporting this bill is that it provides expanded opportunities for small businesses to participate in Defense Department contracts. For example, the bill includes

several provisions designed to eliminate barriers that have prevented many small and medium-sized businesses from competing for Pentagon contracts. It also establishes new DOD goals for procurement contracts awarded to small businesses. There are also provisions to amend the Small Business Act to establish a government-wide goal for participation by small businesses at not less than 25 percent of all prime contracts for each fiscal year, and 40 percent of all subcontract awards for each fiscal year.

Mr. Chair, as I noted earlier in my remarks, an additional reason why I support this legislation is because it includes three amendments that I offered to improve the bill. I want to thank Rules Committee Chairman DREIER, Ranking Member SLAUGHTER, Armed Services Committee Chairman MCKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for working with me to include these amendments.

My first amendment, Richardson Amendment No. 82, requires the Department of Defense to post on all its websites information on sexual assault prevention and response resources.

In light of technology, many people, particularly service personnel receive the majority of their information via the Internet.

Further, online access to the needed information is particularly important because persons needing sexual assault resource information may be reluctant to seek information in a public setting without fear of losing privacy, or worse retaliation.

My second amendment, Richardson Amendment No. 112, improves the bill by increasing the effectiveness of the Northern Command ("NORTHCOM") in fulfilling its critical mission of protecting the U.S. homeland in event of war and to provide support to local, state, and federal authorities in times of national emergency. This amendment was included in last year's National Defense Authorization Act and I am pleased that it is included again this year also.

The purpose for NORTHCOM's existence is to bring the capabilities and the resources of the U.S. military to the assistance of the American people during a catastrophic disaster. NORTHCOM leaders will be much more effective in saving lives, protecting assets, and enhancing resilience after a disaster has occurred if they are trained in the techniques of effective engagement with civilian leadership. My amendment ensures that such training will be available.

I want to thank my good friend and colleague, Congressman DON YOUNG of Alaska for working with me across the aisle and partnering with me on the amendment, Young/Richardson Amendment 141. This amendment calls for the expedited completion of the study of the Nation's strategic ports called for in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 Conference Report 112-329.

As the representative of a district served by the largest port complex in the nation, I have long been a strong champion on protecting our nation's ports.

My colleagues have heard me say often that "in times of war, the role of the ports is to protect the forts."

This amendment also directs the Department of Defense to provide a copy of the report to the GAO for additional review of the extent to which the facilities and infrastructure serving strategic seaports meet the Department of Defense's requirements.

The completion of this report is vital in the assessment of the structural integrity and deficiencies of the port facilities.

It further examines infrastructure improvements that are needed directly or indirectly to meet national security and readiness requirements.

In addition to assessing the impact on operational readiness, this report will identify potential funding sources to undertake needed improvements.

#### CONCLUSION

Finally, let me note my strong support for the bipartisan Smith/Amash Amendment, which was accepted and included in the bill. This amendment amends detention provisions enacted last year in order to ensure that any individual detained on U.S. soil has the rights and liberties enshrined in the Constitution. The amendment would ensure that no person detained, captured, or arrested in the U.S. pursuant to the Authorization for the Use of Military Force could be indefinitely detained, held in military custody, or forced to face a military tribunal. As the Constitution states, it makes clear that any person apprehended in the United States would be guaranteed due process provided by a civilian court established under Article III of the Constitution. This commonsense, bipartisan amendment is supported by 27 Retired Generals and Admirals and more than 25 leading organizations, including the Bill of Rights Defense Committee, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church, Union for Reform Judaism, Physicians for Human Rights, and National Religious Campaign Against Torture.

Finally, let me note my opposition to sections 536 and 537 of the bill relating to service members who are gay and lesbian. These provisions are unnecessary and unhelpful for the reasons discussed in the Statement of Administration Policy issued by the Obama Administration. I agree with the Administration's position and oppose the inclusion of these provisions. It is my hope that they will be removed before this bill reaches the President's desk.

In conclusion, I believe the good things in this bill outweigh the bad and for that reason urge my colleagues to support and join me in voting for the bill on final passage.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVE KING**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 253 I was detained while attempting to reach the House Floor to cast my vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 17, I was unavoidably detained during several rollcall votes, numbers 259, 260, 261, and 262.