

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

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. PETERS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013. As a former Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve, and as the son of a World War II veteran, I firmly believe that Congress has a responsibility to ensure that the United States has the best trained and best equipped military in the world. However, I have a number of concerns about this legislation that cause me to be unable to support it.

Last year during consideration of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2012, I expressed my disappointment in the pace of troop withdrawals from Afghanistan initiated by President Obama. I supported an amendment to that bill that would have accelerated the withdrawal by reducing funding for combat operations while allowing for a reserve force of 25,000 troops to protect American personnel, carry out anti-terrorism operations, and assist with the training of Afghanistan's security forces.

While a similar amendment was submitted to the National Defense Authorization Act we are considering today, the Republican majority unfortunately refused to make it in order and instead only allowed a vote on an amendment offered by my colleague Representative LEE. Her amendment would require the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan. While I support the intent of the amendment, I am concerned that it does not provide our President and military leaders with the ability to keep a small reserve force in Afghanistan to help build up the capacity of the Afghan military or carry out limited operations against terrorists plotting against the United States. I prefer the approach advocated by my colleague Rep. MCGOVERN, which is why I am a cosponsor of legislation he has authored entitled the Afghanistan Exit and Accountability Act. This bill would require the President to submit a plan to Congress for an accelerated transition of our military out of Afghanistan, and to report regularly on the implementation of that plan.

During consideration of last year's National Defense Authorization Act, the Senate included provisions that could be construed as allowing for the indefinite detention of those apprehended on United States soil. The Ranking Member of the Armed Services Committee ADAM SMITH and my colleague from Michigan Representative JUSTIN AMASH offered an amendment that would have clarified that any

person captured in the United States must be extended the right to be charged and tried in a U.S. Court consistent with the Constitution. Unfortunately this amendment was defeated, and the bill now creates a dangerous, and I believe unconstitutional, precedent.

Finally, the bill funds the Department of Defense at a level \$8 billion above the one set for defense spending in the Budget Control Act passed last year. If signed into law, this would necessitate dangerous cuts to non-defense spending if we are going to meet the deficit reduction targets agreed to by President Obama and the Republican Leadership in the House. The Republican Budget would offset these increases in defense spending by imposing harmful and draconian cuts on programs that help provide food assistance to needy children, health care to our seniors, and assistance to unemployed parents trying to get back to work.

Everyone in this body supports keeping our Nation and our troops safe. Unfortunately, for the reasons outlined above, I cannot support this legislation. I remain hopeful that the Senate will produce a bipartisan bill that responsibly ends the war in Afghanistan as soon as safely possible, respects the Constitution, and ensures that our deficit reduction goals are met through balanced cuts that do not disproportionately impact the most vulnerable Americans.

TRIBUTE TO BOB CUDWORTH

HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Bob Cudworth for his service to this nation in World War II and to congratulate him upon the occasion of serving as the Grand Marshall of the Camillus Memorial Day Parade.

Lt. Cudworth arrived in Iwo Jima on February 25, 1945 with Alpha Company, 9th Marines, 3rd Division. During a period of three days, 87 Marines from his Platoon were killed in action; Lt. Cudworth was dangerously close to being injured when an enemy bullet nearly grazed his boot. Lt. Cudworth and his Platoon were instrumental in taking "Hill Oboe" from the Japanese. He departed Iwo Jima in April 1945.

It is important that we remind our Veterans that they are greatly appreciated for their service to this great Nation and that they will never be forgotten. It is because of our service men and women that the United States of America remains the Greatest Nation in the History of Mankind.

The men and women who served our country in World War II are shining examples of patriotism, strength, courage, and decency. It is with great honor that I pause and reflect upon the sacrifices of men and women like Bob Cudworth.

I wish to extend Mr. Cudworth my gratitude for his dedicated service to the United States of America and congratulate him upon the occasion of serving as the Grand Marshall in this year's Camillus Memorial Day Parade, where we honor and remember all of our heroes of war, past and present.

HONORING ALMA T. GAMMAGE

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Whereas, forty-two years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve in the Educational System; and

Whereas, Mrs. Alma T. Gammage began her educational career in teaching in the Chattahoochee County School System in Georgia and this year she retires from teaching at Edward L. Bouie, Sr., Elementary Theme School in Lithonia, Georgia, she has served the DeKalb County Public Schools System well and our community has been blessed through her service; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents as a Teacher, Educator and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader, a devoted scholar and a servant to all who want to advance the lives of our youth; and

Whereas, Mrs. Gammage is formally retiring from her educational career today, she will continue to promote education because she is a cornerstone in our community that has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Alma T. Gammage on her retirement from the DeKalb County Public Schools System and to wish her well in her new endeavors;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim May 18, 2012 as Mrs. Alma T. Gammage Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

HONORING THE WORLD WAR II VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the World War II veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C. on May 23, 2012 with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides World War II veterans the opportunity to visit the World War II Memorial on The National Mall in Washington, D.C. This memorial was built to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on May 23 answered our nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the European Campaign to the Pacific Asian Theatre to the African Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorial. I am proud to submit the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

Robert Agramonte, Anthony P. Barrett, Raymond J. Bayster, Kenneth I. Beardsley, Howard B. Blumenthal, William Brandfon, Robert Chapman Buckley, Carl C. Burgess, John W. Capron, James P. Carney, Irwin E. Chukerman, Otto Gabriel Chvosta, Frederick A. Coleman, John Fred Corradetti, Edward Cygan, William J. Darras, Francis J. Dawson, Everett L. Dean, David R. Denis, Elaine L. Detweiler, G. Grant Duncan, Edward A. DuVernay, William J. Eisler, Jr., Harris J. Enervold, Victor F. Erdelac, Charles P. Esposito, Raymond Farley, Clyde F. Friedman, George F. Gebes, Louis Joseph Giannini, Howard Gilbert, Richard D. Golden, Joseph H. Gondek, Robert Fred Groen, Frederick L. Hanson, Hubert K. Hawbecker, Edwin J. Helman, George Hewitt, Harold M. Hogueisson, James M. Holec, Edward J. Hollowed, Richard Casper Hoogenboom, Raymond P. Hynek, Julius Jackson, Albert S. Jacobson, Kenneth Jahnke, Richard J. Kalina, Benjamin F. Kelly, Thomas Stanley Ketcik, John H. Klingberg, Max Kolpas, Albert Kreitzer, Lenon Lathan, Kenneth Lawrence, William Leonard, Samuel David Levine, Edward F. Lobus, Emil L. Martino, Rufus E. Meeks, Marion Messman, Ernest P. Meszaros, Walter G. Moeller, James P. Moffett, Ralph Mollo, Jerome Moss, Jr., William Mossman, Robert E. Murray, Edward Obrochta, John Pankovich, Charles V. Parker, Michael Pill, Carlton Hunt Prinderville, Theodore Purvin, Raymond F. Puszczan, Carl M. Qualeatti, John Thomas Quinn, Louis T. Rivard, Benjamin S. Rosales, Edward J. Rudenga, Walter S. Rybicki, Lawrence N. Sands, Jr., Vaile J. Scott, Vernon P. Seiler, Marguerite K. Smith, Eli Sobat, George F. Soukup, Paul B. Stoxen, Richard Earl Taylor, Joseph E. Tierney, Fred H. Tolzien, Dennis Trettel, Harold S. Troupin, Robert G. Wachholz, Edward C. Williams, Jr., Joseph T. Zich.

TRIBUTE TO BOB MITCHELL

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my loyal district administrator, Bob Mitchell, in honor of his retirement after dedicating more than 32 years as my right-hand-man, my confidant, political adviser and tireless ambassador for southern and eastern Kentucky.

Bob Mitchell is arguably one of the greatest political advisers in the history of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He understands the power of partnerships, regionalization and communication, yet never underestimates the importance of gratitude and humility.

His father, the late Murrell Mitchell, who served as a member of the Knox County School Board, as well as three terms as a Knox County Magistrate, inspired Bob's political interests and philanthropic heart. It is thus his courage of conviction that has driven his work to transform southern and eastern Kentucky and improve the quality of life in our rural region.

With Bob Mitchell at the helm of all district projects, thousands of families now have access to clean water and sanitation systems, are protected by flood-control projects and live without the fear of yearly floods, have better roads to travel on, and have good-paying, stable jobs. He also helped launch and provide guidance to non-profit organizations like the Southeast Kentucky Economic Development Corporation for job creation, Forward in the Fifth for education, The Center for Rural Development, TOUR Southern and Eastern Kentucky to promote tourism, PRIDE for environmental education and clean-ups, as well as Operation UNITE in fighting drug abuse.

Countless organizations and political candidates have coveted Bob Mitchell's impeccable leadership skills. He has served on a litany of boards from financial institutions to non-profit organizations and assisted with campaigns from county seats to Presidential hopefuls. His legacy will continue to flourish from the seeds of wisdom, hope, and inspiration he has planted across our great Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring my friend and my partner, Bob Mitchell, on his retirement. My wife, Cynthia and I wish Bob and his wife, Nancy all the best in the years to come.

HONORING CITY OF ORANGE MAYOR WILLIAM BROWN CLAYBAR

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a public servant that I have had the honor to know and work with.

A native and lifelong resident of Orange, Texas, William Brown Claybar is more than just a Mayor, he is a community leader. Brown Claybar runs a small business the community has relied on for more than three decades. While serving our community at city hall, he is also serving our Lord and his flock in many varied roles at the First United Methodist Church.

A graduate of Lutch Stark High School and Stephen F. Austin State University, Brown Claybar pursued further studies at the Commonwealth College of Mortuary Science and Rice Institute—Advanced Management Institute. A Past President of the South East Texas Funeral Directors Association, he has also chaired the Legislative Committee for the Texas Funeral Directors Association, served as Secretary of the Selected Independent Funeral Directors, a board member of the Great-

er Orange Area Chamber of Commerce and served as a former President and trustee of the West Orange-Cove Consolidated Independent School District.

It is impossible to name all his civic and community service, because the list is so long—the 1999 Community Builders Award from Madison Lodge 126 AF & AM and the Texas Grand Lodge of Texas, the 2002 distinguished Christian Service Award from Salem United Methodist Church, the 2003 Velma Jeter Scholarship Foundation Humanitarian Award, the 2008 Torch Award from the Beavement Chamber of Commerce and the April 2011 "Person of the Year" award from The Record Newspaper.

While he's proud of his many forms of service, his community is now taking a moment to let him know how proud we all are of him and how honored we all are that his wife Linda and their children and grandchildren have so willingly shared him with the town they all love so much.

When Brown Claybar says he has "thoroughly enjoyed" being Mayor, he means it. Through two severe hurricanes, Mayor Claybar has managed Orange's "competing interests" with a steady grace and a very large dose of common sense. While understanding the impossibility of "being all things to all people," Mayor Claybar has been the glue that has kept Orange together in tough times. His town will miss him. His staff will miss him. I will miss him.

Orange is a unique community that has faced difficulty with a humble and stalwart determination. That is also a fit description for Mayor Claybar who has helped the Golden Triangle's jewel navigate a tough start to the 21st century following Hurricanes Rita and Ike.

After a decade as mayor of Orange, William Brown Claybar is leaving city hall a stronger place than he found it. That truly is the highest compliment a Mayor can pay a community he loves so much.

CONGRATULATING DELORES HUERTA FOR BEING AWARDED THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Delores Huerta for being awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Presidential Medal of Freedom is the nation's highest civilian honor and I cannot think of anyone in this country more deserving of this distinction than Delores Huerta.

A lifelong labor leader and civil rights activist, Delores Huerta's activism has helped redefine the way laborers in California and across the country are treated. From fighting to ensure safer working conditions to negotiating better salaries, Delores Huerta's influence extends far beyond California's San Joaquin Valley. Her unparalleled drive and dedication embody the spirit of activism that keeps our country moving forward.

In 1962, Delores Huerta co-founded the United Farm Workers Union with labor legend Cesar Chavez. As part of their struggle to ensure that farm workers receive a fair wage and