

I have had the great honor of representing Hollister in Congress for many years. It is a remarkable little city that is nestled between scenic coastal mountain ranges and surrounded by some of the world's most productive agriculture. There is little to hint that this beautiful rural community lies just fifty miles south of San Jose and the greater San Francisco Bay Area metropolis. However, along with its neighbor, the City San Juan Bautista, founded in the late eighteenth century, Hollister and its region's history are a microcosm of the California story, and the airport is an important part of that narrative.

After WWI, pilots like Frank Bryant began shipping their planes by rail into Hollister for assembly and flight preparation. The little field just north of town was a popular site for various flying activities. By the mid 1920s, a pioneer in the then new business of crop dusting, a man named Everett Turner, purchased the land and converted the old pasture into Turner Field. For the next twenty years, crop dusters, mail-carrying aircraft, and all manner of recreational airplanes flew in and out Hollister's Turner Field airfield.

With war looming in the early 1940s, the U.S. Navy took control of Turner Field and commissioned it the Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Hollister. After the attack on Pearl Harbor and America's entry into WWII, the U.S. military faced a critical shortage of trained carrier pilots. The Navy began a massive pilot training program, which included the acquisition of the Del Monte Hotel in nearby Monterey to house pilot trainees at the nearby Monterey Naval Air Station and the expansion of the former Turner Field to primarily help train those and other pilots in ground attack techniques. VC-39 was the first squadron to report followed by VC-42 and VC-68 in 1943. The new base soon grew to accommodate two light carrier air groups of four squadrons with the addition of two hangars and a ground training building. By 1945, at the height of the Navy's presence, the base included 210 acres, two 200 foot wide tarmac runways of 4,300 and 4,000 foot lengths, and billeting for 167 officers and 928 enlisted men.

After the War, the Navy no longer needed its Hollister base and it sold the airfield to the City of Hollister. Since that time, the little airport has built upon the excellent facilities left by the Navy to grow into a thriving general aviation airport. It has become a national center for historic aircraft restoration as well as home to a critical base of aerial operations for Cal Fire, the State of California's wildland fire service. It is also an important business hub. With its close proximity to the San Francisco Bay Area, good flying weather, and high quality transportation links, the Hollister Airport is poised to become a leading regional economic engine. In addition, the Hollister Airport now hosts one of the West's premier air shows.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in offering our gratitude to the Hollister Airport family—past, present, and future—for making this little gem such an important piece of our nation's aviation economy and culture.

H.R. 5326, THE COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5326, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013. The legislation contains damaging cuts to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and to the Legal Services Corporation. It also contains provisions that would further weaken the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and the protections that the agency provides to unionized workers.

H.R. 5326 contains a nearly \$227 million cut to NASA's top-line, putting it at \$1.15 billion below its FY2010 funding level. Thousands of private-sector jobs at NASA centers across the country have already been lost as a result of austere budget reductions. The cuts included in this legislation will result in the loss of hundreds more. NASA must be given adequate funding to ensure that the agency can accomplish its assigned missions, to maintain and grow investments in America's global competitiveness in aerospace technologies, and to preserve the United States' world leadership in space exploration.

This legislation contains a \$20 million cut from FY2012 levels to the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). The LSC provides vital legal support to the most vulnerable populations, including veterans, victims of domestic violence, and those who would not otherwise be able to afford legal representation. The cuts included in H.R. 5326 would force the LSC to lay off over 100 staff attorneys at a time when an increasing number of Americans are experiencing poverty.

This bill includes an amendment that would prevent the National Labor Relations Board from protecting American workers seeking exercise their right to form collective bargaining units by prohibiting funds from being used by the NLRB to litigate conflicts that arise out of secret ballot union elections. When workers attempt to form a union, they must often rely on the support and expertise of the NLRB. This amendment would take that assistance away. This provision further weakens the nation's only agency dedicated solely to protecting workers' rights in this country.

Another amendment to this bill effectively prohibits the Department of Justice from enforcing the most fundamental of civil rights: the right to vote. According to a recent report from the Brennan Center for Justice, in the past year alone, fourteen states have enacted voter identification laws or imposed executive orders about voting or voter registration which have resulted in numerous documented instances of American citizens being denied the right to vote. The Department of Justice's inability to exercise critical oversight of such laws and executive orders will continue to result in the disenfranchisement of racial and ethnic minorities, low-income voters, seniors, and students.

H.R. 5326 puts American jobs, basic rights, and our global leadership in the aerospace sector at risk. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this bill.

RECOGNIZING LT. DOMINIQUE WRIGHT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Lt. Dominique Wright for excellence in education and athletics. On May 29, 2012, Lt. Dominique Wright graduated from the United States Naval Academy, becoming the first African American woman from the District of Columbia to graduate from there, and was commissioned at Annapolis, Maryland.

Lt. Wright, the daughter of a single parent, has overcome many obstacles in her young life. Yet she became the quintessential scholar-athlete. "Dom" or "Domatron," as she is called by friends was a mathematics major who plans on attending law school. She was a star on the Midshipmen's lacrosse team, starting all 21 games during her junior year, just one year after learning the sport. Lt. Wright was lettered in track and field in high school and was a Junior Olympian.

Lt. Wright is only the second African American woman from the District of Columbia to attend the Naval Academy, but is the first one to graduate. I nominated Lt. Wright twice: first in 2008 to the Naval Academy Prep School, then in 2009 to the Naval Academy. Dominique's excellence in scholastics and in sports should encourage other young people, particularly young women of color, to understand that no field is off limits.

Lt. Wright is an inspiration to young girls, to women, and to all the residents of the District of Columbia. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Lt. Dominique Wright, the first African American woman graduate of the United States Naval Academy from Washington, D.C. and a trail-blazing example of excellence.

ACCUSED PERPETRATORS OF 9/11 SCHEDULED TO FACE TRIAL BEFORE A MILITARY COMMISSION

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, no one in this body needs to be reminded that on Sept. 11, 2001, the United States suffered one of the most horrific acts of mass murder in the history of our country. The deaths of nearly 3,000 Americans thrust this nation into a fight against an unconventional, non-state enemy that embraces terror, violence, and human destruction in a purposeful attack on civilian populations. That fight continues today.

In March 2007, the alleged mastermind of the plot, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, was captured. He and four others have been charged with 169 overt acts in furtherance of the 9/11 attacks on innocent Americans, including 2,973 individual counts of murder in violation of the law of war and providing material support of terrorism. They are now scheduled to face trial at Guantanamo Bay detention facility in Cuba.

Despite the horrific nature of the crime that was perpetrated against our nation and our citizens, a foundation of the American justice system is the right of the accused to receive a fair trial no matter how abhorrent the action. While we have an obligation to use all of the instruments of our national power and authority to counter the threats of terrorists who maim and murder with utter impunity, we cannot allow our outrage and thirst for justice to trump this uniquely American rule of law. We must be guided, and when appropriate, constrained by our core values. This is essential to our effort, and to our legitimacy, in engaging and defeating enemies who traffic in fear and live in darkness. Our enemies continue to pose a serious, adaptive and asymmetric threat and our efforts to deter them must be equally zealous.

We must ensure that all of our efforts are relentlessly empirical and pragmatic, while demanding compliance with the rule of law. All instruments of our national power and authority must be used to oppose these modern asymmetric threats. We must recognize that the instruments that are constrained and guided by our core values, including the rule of law, are the only truly effective and sustainable instruments. While the most effective instruments for countering these threats are those that are constrained and guided by our core values, including the rule of law, we must also, as Justice Jackson said at the Nuremberg Trials, “stay the hand of vengeance” and ensure that “power [pays tribute] to reason.” Our reformed military commission will ensure the steady hand of justice is applied with these alleged war criminals. Justice, after all, “is the greatest interest of man on earth. . . and so long as it is duly honored, there is a foundation for general security, general happiness and the improvement and progress of our (human) race.” Daniel Webster, Sept. 12, 1845.

Reformed military commissions are fully integrated within our federal framework of criminal justice, are overseen by our Article III appellate courts, and are severely confined to their law of war jurisdiction. Reformed military commissions can and will deal effectively, independently, and fairly with the law of war violations referred to them for trial, and they are already featuring a specialized interagency legal practice within the law of armed conflict and counterterrorism. Our military commissions are comparable to a civilian court, in that they have been modeled on the federal criminal justice system and incorporate all of the guarantees that are essential to a fair and just trial. To begin with, the accused is presumed innocent, and the prosecution has the burden of proving his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The accused is also protected against self-incrimination. Statements obtained through the use of torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment are not admissible, and before any statement of the accused may be admitted, a military judge must find it to be reliable, probative, and voluntary.

The simple fact is, the rights of the accused before a military commission are virtually identical to the rights of the accused in a federal court: the right to notice of the charges; the right to counsel and choice of counsel; the right to be present during the proceedings; the right to present evidence, cross-examine witnesses, and compel attendance of witnesses in his or her defense; the right to exculpatory

evidence that the prosecution may have as to guilt, sentencing, and the credibility of adverse witnesses; the right to an impartial decision-maker; the right to suppression of evidence that is not reliable or probative or that will result in unfair prejudice; the right to not be deposed without his or her consent; and the right to appeal to a federal civilian court of appeals and, ultimately, to the United States Supreme Court.

While there may be differences between the military commission and the federal court venue, the divergence exists for principled reasons. It is grounded in necessity. It remains consistent with the rule of law. And it ensures that the commission has the ability to provide accountability during a time of armed conflict when no other adequate or effective means to do so exists.

Finally, let me say that the proceedings before military tribunals are transparent. In this regard, they also closely parallel federal practice. Prosecutors are committed to allowing family members of the victims, the media, and the public to access to the proceedings. This reflects the belief—not only within the commission structure, but among our citizenry as a whole—that there is great value in allowing Americans, and the world, to witness criminal trials and to see first-hand the fairness and impartiality with which our nation dispenses justice.

These cases of alleged terrorists and murderers will be handled fairly within the rule of law, persistently and consistently to their end. Brigadier General Mark Martins, the chief prosecutor of the military commission, recently indicated that he has foregone an opportunity for promotion to ensure consistent handling of these important matters to their conclusion. We have come to expect no less than this selfless and heroic act from this General. He is a lawyer of exceptional skill and a man of extraordinary principle. He not only understands the form of the law, but also its spirit. And he recognizes, as Dr. Martin Luther King once said, that denial of justice anywhere diminishes justice everywhere. There is no better person for this job than Gen. Martins, a Harvard classmate of our President, and I for one am grateful that he has agreed to remain in this position, and to see this trial through a full and fair hearing of the alleged heinous acts of war and terror on the American public.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret, nor is it an overstatement, to say that we live in a dangerous world. My state of Mississippi knows this well with the proud service of thousands of our sons and daughters serving the military and the nearly 100 Mississippians who have given their lives in protection of our freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan. We should not allow our fears—or our outrage over acts designed to stoke those fears—however to guide our actions, even in these challenging and sometimes anxious times. Only fairness and justice can lead us to peace, and when the world thinks of fairness and justice, I want it to think of America. I have no doubt that when the accused perpetrators of 9/11 are brought to trial before a military commission, this country, and our system and values, will be considered in precisely that way.

PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM TO BE AWARDED TO DR. JAN KARSKI, AMONG THE RIGHTEOUS AMONG THE NATIONS

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the nearly seventy bipartisan Members of this Chamber who joined with me last December in writing President Obama to urge him to bestow the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously on the late Dr. Jan Karski. Earlier this week, at a White House ceremony, Dr. Karski received that well deserved recognition. The announcement that he would receive the honor was made last month by the President at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in the company of Elie Wiesel.

Dr. Karski was a man of incredible courage. While others fell silent and looked the other way, his conscience and moral compass led him to do what was right. At great personal risk, he infiltrated the Warsaw Ghetto and a Nazi camp so he could report authentically about the suffering of innocent men, women and children. As he recounted the tragic images in his memoir, *Story of a Secret State*: “Everywhere, there was hunger, misery, the atrocious stench of decomposing bodies, the pitiful moans of dying children, the desperate cries and gasps of a people struggling for life against impossible odds.” He shared his eyewitness accounts with the Allied leaders including British Foreign Minister Anthony Eden and President Franklin Roosevelt and pleaded for a strong response. While those pleas were not initially successful, he was persistent in his efforts to make the world understand the reality of the Holocaust and to open the eyes of those who could—and eventually did—intervene. He was not one to be intimidated. He was one who fearlessly spoke truth to power.

Dr. Karski has since been widely recognized by the governments of Israel and Poland for his contributions. Israel granted him honorary citizenship and Yad Vashem honored him as a “Righteous Among the Nations.” He also received Poland’s highest civilian award, the Order of the White Eagle, along with its premier military decoration, *Virtuti Militari*. Both the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League have named awards in Dr. Karski’s honor in recognition of his heroic and consistent efforts to stop the Holocaust.

Many of our colleagues in the House and Senate know about what Jan Karski did to awaken the West to the horrors of the Holocaust as it was unfolding in his native Poland. In fact, several of our colleagues were students of Dr. Karski’s during his forty year career as a professor at Georgetown University here in Washington. I know their chance to study under his guidance left an indelible impact on them that continues to serve the Nation. Former President Bill Clinton, who was also a Georgetown student while Dr. Karski was teaching, summed it up by saying “as a professor, he continued to educate his students about the importance of freedom and the lessons of justice he had so courageously learned firsthand.”

Those are lessons that continue to be important for all to learn. As President Obama said at the Holocaust Memorial Museum last