

not in any way prejudiced with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives or the appointment of conferees on this or similar legislation.

In addition, I ask that the Ways & Means Committee be included within the definition of "appropriate congressional committee" so that it will receive the report required in subsections 2(e)(1) and (2) of the bill with respect to resource allocation for staffing requirements as well as the report on the level of manpower data available at all ports of entry.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 1299, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Sincerely,

DAVE CAMP,

Chairman,

Committee on Ways and Means.

Enclosures.

TRIBUTE TO MILITARY FAMILIES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on May 30 The Times and Democrat of Orangeburg, SC, published a thoughtful tribute to military families. As chairman of the Military Personnel subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee, but more importantly as the grateful dad of four sons currently serving in our military I appreciate the message.

NEEDS OF MILITARY FAMILIES MUST NOT BE OVERLOOKED

With Monday's Memorial Day gathering at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, the United States officially begins its observance of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, paying tribute to the 3 million men and women who served during one of the most challenging missions this country has ever faced.

As we remember the military personnel who fell in Vietnam and those who lived to return home, we should also remember the families of our servicemen and women, the challenges they face and the courage they display.

Stressors confronting military families were identified in the 2012 Blue Star Families Military Family Lifestyle Survey released earlier this month.

"The families of America's men and women in uniform are the backbone of the United States military," U.S. Senator Richard Burr, R-N.C., said at a joint session of the Senate and House Military Family caucuses when the Survey results were presented.

"They provide the support that our servicemen and women rely upon as they serve in the finest armed forces in the world, and the more information we have about their unique situations, the better equipped we will be to accurately target assistance and support for them. This survey will help us identify and provide the kind of support they need and deserve."

The survey, which details the challenges faced by military families after more than a decade of continuous war, and the way families and service members are coping, found that among the key concerns are: pay/benefits, with specific emphasis on changes to retirement benefits; the effects of deployment on children; military spouse employment;

and issues surrounding post-traumatic stress, combat stress and traumatic brain injury.

The survey found that 62 percent of respondents who felt their service member had exhibited signs of post-traumatic stress, regardless of any official diagnosis, said the person did not seek treatment, demonstrating there is still much to be done to help service members and their families "cope with the invisible wounds of war."

Frequent separation, the subsequent predeployment and reintegration processes and the issues surrounding frequent relocation place added pressures on military families—those of National Guard and Reserve service members as well as active duty—who also have to deal with the same issues as other families, including balancing work and family, parenting, education and maintaining healthy relationships.

According to the survey, since September 11, 2001, more than 2 million service members have been deployed, with a large percentage of those serving multiple deployments—some as many as five tours of duty.

That is a huge period of time for families to have to be apart, representing many missed birthdays, holidays, graduations and other major milestones in the lives of families.

The survey also noted that although service members themselves are surviving head trauma and other catastrophic injuries their predecessors did not because of the vast improvements in medical technology, "those injuries, both physical and non-physical, have an impact on the family unit and are additional and substantial stressors upon a small segment of the population as well as the agencies and community organizations designed to support them."

We must never forget the sacrifices our military families make—the worries, the fears, the loneliness they endure—while their loved ones serve and protect this nation across the globe.

"Often, when discussing our nation's armed forces, we tend to focus primarily on our brave service members who put themselves in harm's way to protect the freedoms we cherish," U.S. Representative Sanford Bishop, D-GA, said when the Blue Star Families survey results were presented. "However, we cannot forget that the families they leave behind sacrifice just as much as our heroes who deploy on missions for our country. These families are impacted in countless ways—seen and unseen—and we have an obligation to do right by them. The Blue Star Families survey will serve as an informative guide on what we can do as a nation to ensure that our troops, veterans and their families have the support they need."

The full survey report is available at <http://bluestarfam.org/2012survey>.

NANCY RODRIGUEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Nancy Rodriguez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Nancy Rodriguez is a 12th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Nancy Rodriguez is exemplary of the type of achieve-

ment 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 Nancy Rodriguez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE WOODBURY ROTARY PARK MEMORIAL WALKWAY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Woodbury Rotary Park's Memorial Walkway in Woodbury, NJ. This memorial is a special tribute to the unsung heroes who assisted the American war effort in both times of war and peace.

Construction of the walkway would not have been possible without the extraordinary efforts of The Rotary Club's Herbert A. Budd, Jr. A member since 1959 and two-time president of the organization, Mr. Budd raised \$20,000 for the memorial's creation. Mr. Budd's hard work was aided by the contributions of those in the community whom I proudly recognize as playing a critical role in the memorial's construction.

This memorial, featuring an engraved recognition of all who served, reminds us all that "Some gave all, all gave some." This monument serves to honor those who worked behind the scenes to give us a strong foundation upon which our forces relied.

Mr. Speaker, the Rotary Club, particularly Mr. Budd, and the surrounding community should be applauded for their efforts and commitment in building this memorial. This memorial represents the crucial role of the American people who have gone unannounced in serving America's forces. I encourage all of my constituents to visit this memorial and peacefully reflect upon such invaluable service.

CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Caribbean American Heritage Month. The area I represent, the 17th District in New York, which comprises areas of the Bronx, Westchester, and Rockland Counties, is home to a significant Caribbean American population that contributes to our State through local businesses, community development and its rich diversity. It has been an honor to learn about the various countries in the Caribbean from where these families come, to experience their cultures, and to observe as they participate fully in all aspects of American society.

My support for Caribbean Americans extends well past the boundaries of my district.

As the Ranking Member and former Chairman of the House Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, I have visited many Caribbean countries and have learned the importance of the region to the United States and the entire Western Hemisphere. In fact, last year I wrote an amendment, which passed the Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously, urging the State Department to place U.S. Embassies in five Caribbean countries that are without a permanent diplomatic post. I strongly believe that bolstering U.S.-Caribbean relations needs to be a priority, and opening these embassies would benefit U.S. ties with the entire region. I also had the honor of joining President Obama earlier this year at the Summit of the Americas where we reinforced our dedication to the Caribbean and, last year, had the unique experience of traveling with a delegation of Caribbean ministers to Israel.

My time spent with my Caribbean American constituents and in the great countries that make up the Caribbean has helped me to truly appreciate the influence of Caribbean culture on the U.S. This June, I am pleased to take this opportunity to commemorate Caribbean Americans Heritage Month, and look forward to a future of working closely with the Caribbean American community ensure positive cross-cultural relations.

HONORING ISRAEL SOTO, LEADING EDUCATOR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a great force in the education of our children, Israel Soto, principal of PS/MS 57. He is retiring after a long career in public service. Mr. Soto got his start in education teaching in Washington Heights, in my congressional district. As a Puerto Rican immigrant, he has taken an active role in bilingual education, having served as a school Bilingual Coordinator and Assistant Director of Bilingual Education.

In 1999, Mr. Soto ascended to principal of PS/MS 57, a pre-K-8 school in East Harlem. Last year, 67 percent of enrollees were Hispanic or Latino. Mr. Soto's expertise in bilingual education and the fact that his second language was English, like many of the school's students, made him an ideal choice for principal. His talents extend to all facets of education, however. Under his leadership, PS/MS 57 has gone from a near-failing school to one that received a grade of "A" in its latest Progress Report and is ranked in the 93rd percentile of all New York City K-8 schools.

Mr. Soto has deservedly received numerous awards during his tenure as principal. In 2001, he was named "Principal of the Month" in his school district and in 2004 was recognized as the "Educator of the Week" by Channel 41. He has also been inducted into the "Calm Fellows Program for Distinguished Principals" at Columbia University as well as being honored by Children 4 Children, the YMCA of New York, the New York Post and El Diario La Prensa.

Mr. Soto's work at PS/MS 57 serves as a model for current and future educators. He has built strong partnerships with teachers,

parents, community organizations and the private sector while keeping his focus internal, on his students. This outreach has significantly increased the academic resources available to his students and demonstrates the supreme importance of an active and charismatic principal such as Mr. Soto.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring a great man and an impassioned educator who, first and foremost, believes in all of our extraordinary children.

MELANIE KURTZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Melanie Kurtz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Melanie Kurtz is an 8th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Melanie Kurtz 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 Melanie Kurtz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

TO AMEND THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE ACT OF 1990 TO MAKE CERTAIN UNITED STATES TERRITORIES ELIGIBLE FOR NONPROFIT CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS UNDER THAT ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation that will amend the National and Community Service Act, as amended by the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, to make the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands eligible for the Nonprofit Capacity Building Grants under that Act.

The Nonprofit Capacity Building Grant Program awards intermediary nonprofit organizations with funding to provide development training to small and mid-sized nonprofits on best practices, financial planning, grant writing, and compliance with applicable tax laws.

In my district, we have hard working nonprofit organizations and advocates who commit themselves to truly noble causes. Whether it is the protection of families from domestic violence or raising funds to find a cure for cancer, nonprofits work tirelessly for the greater

good of all members of our community. The technical correction I offer here today would allow organizations in the Northern Marianas and other U.S. territories an equal opportunity to apply for federal funds to increase the effectiveness of nonprofits and to expand their impact within their communities.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and allow the U.S. territories an equal opportunity to compete for this program.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION REFORM ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the Food and Drug Administration Reform Act, H.R. 5651, is based on user fee negotiations between FDA and the prescription drug, generic drug, biologic, and medical device industry. This reauthorization of the FDA user fees will provide stability with FDA's new product review as companies submit new and innovative devices and drugs for approval.

In codifying the User Fee Agreement, this committee has included additional provisions designed to address some of the defects of the regulatory structure and overreach by the FDA. Under my Chairmanship of the Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee, we held a hearing into FDA's regulatory efforts in the medical device space. During our hearing, many of the witnesses talked about the reluctance of FDA to approve devices and how FDA continually moved the goalposts for approval. I am glad that Title VII of this bill includes a significant number of reform provisions designed to bring certainty to the medical device field.

In addition to reforming approaches to medical devices through Title VII, the FDA's approach to rare diseases must also be modernized. I'm happy the Committee included the Faster Access to Specialized Treatments Act, FAST Act, H.R. 4132, which I introduced with my friend and colleague, Representative ED TOWNS. FAST updates and modernizes Section 506 of the Food, Drug & Cosmetic Act, and updates the Accelerated Approval statute to reflect two decades worth of medical sciences that has occurred since Accelerated Approval was first created. FAST will help FDA implement broadly effective processes for the expedited development and review of innovative new medicines intended to address unmet medical needs for serious or life-threatening diseases by using modern scientific tools.

The use of surrogate endpoints may result in fewer, smaller or shorter clinical trials without compromising FDA's existing high standards for safety or efficacy. Surrogate and clinical endpoints only need to be reasonable predictors of clinical benefit to support accelerated approval. They do not need to be validated or proven first. The changes made to current law permitting the Secretary to require validation of surrogates following accelerated approval is not intended to change FDA's long history of granting accelerated approval based on unvalidated, but predictive, surrogate endpoints.