

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2397) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes:

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Chair, I rise today to address the crucial need for retaining the U.S. military's force structure at Lajes Field.

Due to Air Force planners' short-sighted decision to draw down at Lajes, the United States is poised to surrender a military asset of unparalleled strategic value. Located on the Azores island chain between Europe and the United States, Lajes is like the Hawaii of the Atlantic Ocean—only closer to the American mainland. The islands belong to Portugal, a strong U.S. ally since World War II that has never prevented us from conducting operational missions.

The base at this crucial location has bolstered the United States' control of the Atlantic since World War II, proving critical to our tracking of Soviet submarines during the Cold War. It allows for U.S. access to Europe, the Middle East, and western and sub-Saharan Africa, and enables the expeditionary movement of warfighters, aircraft, ships, and global communications to AFRICOM and CENTCOM's joint, coalition, and NATO operations.

It is also a vital site for countering a major regional threat, al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, which has known ties to al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and other violent groups. In fact, from Lajes, ten of the eighteen African countries that hold State Department Travel Warnings can be reached within six hours. Further, Lajes is well-positioned to act as a logistical hub not only for the Defense Department, but also for USAID, the State Department, and other agencies.

Having engaged with Portuguese officials for years on this issue, I know that the consequences of drawing down the base will be dire. Our strategic planners may believe we can leave a mere skeletal operation at Lajes and retain access there, but in reality, the Air Force's decision to draw down at the base means a total end to the U.S. presence at Lajes. This will severely impact the Azorean economy, forcing Portugal to find a new tenant for the site. In light of the weak Portuguese economy, we do not want to make Azoreans choose between their alliance with the United States and their ability to feed their families.

While our strategic planners may not want to be in the Azores anymore, leaders of other nations feel differently. Several high ranking Chinese officials have visited the islands in recent years, including a sojourn by China's Ambassador to Portugal just a few weeks ago, as well as a June 2012 visit to Terceira by then-Premier Wen Jiabao. The Chinese did not divulge what all these delegates were doing there, but I assure you they weren't sipping port and enjoying the pleasant climate.

In the wake of the decision to wind down Lajes, we cannot assume the Portuguese will

exclude China or other bad actors from the site simply out of allegiance to the U.S.; the recent decision to send a rapid reaction force of 500 U.S. Marines to Moron, Spain—a contingent that would have much more flexibility at the logistics hub of Lajes—could easily be interpreted as a calculated insult to our Portuguese friends.

These Marines could easily be located in Lajes, which is a safe environment that allows for forward basing at Rota, Spain, or Sigonella, Italy, or if necessary, for the deployment of troops in Western and sub-Saharan Africa. This amendment would give Defense Department planners the opportunity to think outside the box. If they did, they would realize this solution would allow the Air Force to scale-down at Lajes, provide maximum strategic flexibility for the Marines, and fully utilize the Lajes facility.

The retention of Lajes was not an issue for seventy years because prior planners never contemplated giving up something so crucial to U.S. interests. Because this Congress does not assume that Chinese and Russian subs will voluntarily stop sailing beneath the Atlantic Ocean or that jihadists will stop training in sub-Saharan Africa, we need the flexibility that Lajes' unique location provides.

As we reduce our European footprint—comprising 110,000 personnel and dozens of military installations—we need to base our decisions on each site's global strategic value and tactical and strategic flexibility. It would cost billions to build a base like Lajes today, and we must understand that the decision by Air Force planners to draw down at Lajes means closing the site and losing our access there.

Therefore, Mr. Chair, I encourage my colleagues to vote for this amendment to retain the current force structure at Lajes Field, and to keep this crucial military asset fully staffed and fully operational.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2397) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes:

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Chair, I thank my colleagues Mr. WALBERG (R-MI); Mr. COHEN (D-TN); Mr. RIGELL (R-VA) for crafting this smart, commonsense amendment which would simply reduce the Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund by \$79 million and redirect those funds to the Spending Reduction Account, saving taxpayer dollars.

This is a targeted and smart cut, at a time when we are asking all to do more with less. And in fact, with this amendment, we would simply be funding this account at the level which this body passed last year.

Now more than ever, we need to make smart investments in our own infrastructure to create jobs and improve efficiency for our businesses.

A business owner in my district recently told me how his drivers lose two hours a day sitting in traffic . . .

. . . And many citizens in Connecticut are pleading to widen 1-84 around Waterbury and to modernize our interchanges.

Additionally, Newtown has recommended rebuilding Sandy Hook Elementary School, and there is an appropriate role for the Federal Government.

We must prioritize our investments and find ways to reduce our deficit.

I urge Members to support this amendment.

THE 1965 LANIER HIGH SCHOOL
BASKETBALL TEAM**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, 1965 will always be remembered in American History as a year of turmoil, unrest and great change. The Civil Rights Movement was in full swing, with marches, demonstrations and often dramatic confrontations by brave African Americans that were attacked, beaten and jailed as they struggled for equal rights. Their struggles shocked the world and made front page news and formented a change in the deep south.

Meanwhile as the war over civil rights raged, few noticed a sports revolution in the small city of Jackson, MS. They were seven skinny kids from Lanier High School and they dared to take on all corners. Under Principal Luther Buckley and Assistant Principal Will Anderson, legendary basketball coaches Harrison Barnes and Ormond Jordan, this team honed their skills, speed and prowess and developed into an unstoppable force whose starters came to be known as the Lanier Magnificent Seven. Known for their quickness, scoring offense and devastatingly tough defenses, this team ran up an amazing in-state record of 43 and 0 and averaged over 100 points a game in eight minute quarters and this was before the three point shot had been instituted into the game. With each game their record and legend grew and they not only won the State championship, in March 1965 they were invited to compete in the National Invitation Interscholastic Basketball Tournament, the NIIBT at Alabama State College in Montgomery Alabama.

On March 6, 1965, those seven inner city kids from Jackson, MS took on the best in the Nation, the vaunted Bears from Booker T. Washington High School from Suffolk, Virginia. The Bears were a force to reckon with, with two fantastic guards and the team was described by some sportscasters as the "team of the century." While both teams were known for their scoring prowess and dynamic offenses, the game was a defensive struggle from the very beginning. It featured heart-stopping action, amazing shots and stellar defense by both teams that dazzled the spectators and fans. The papers described it as an amazing game between two titans of high school basketball that featured great ball handling, tough perimeter defense and some of the best high school players and most electric shooting many had ever seen. At the buzzer the Lanier High School Bulldogs prevailed 58 to 55 and had done it. They beat the team of the century and won the coveted National High School Basketball Championship and were deemed

the best in the Nation. These proud, defiant and jubilant national champions rode a public bus back to Jackson, a bus also loaded with Freedom Riders determined to change the hearts and minds of a Nation. The Lanier Basketball Team came home winners but their triumph was swallowed up by the news of the day and the rabid turmoil of the civil rights movement.

These young men, heroes to their legion of fans at Lanier High School, the city of Jackson and the entire State of Mississippi never got their due. True champions, they held their heads high with their national championship trophy in their hands and placed it in the Lanier Trophy Case where it has sat for 48 years gathering dust and forgotten. But not anymore. Thanks to the efforts of Jackson businessman Johnny Morrow that has now changed. Morrow demanded that these men be recognized and put his name and clout behind the effort. He organized and brought together city, county and State government entities, local businesses and talented individuals to help with his cause. He energized schools and local and even national media and forced this recognition ceremony which he developed to right this long overdue wrong. And now due to his efforts they will be recognized.

Now is their time to be remembered and recognized. They have been called the best team you never heard of. Well now you have. Take pride Jackson. In 1965 seven inner city young men took on the best in the Nation and won. As we salute the accomplishments of African Americans during Black History Month, let us not forget our local heroes. Help us to remember, congratulate and salute the 1965 Lanier High School Basketball Team, the only Mississippi high school basketball team to ever win a NATIONAL championship.

We invite everyone to come out and show your love, support and admiration for what these men accomplished. On January 23rd at 6 p.m. at the Mississippi Sports Hall, the State will finally salute and give their due to the 1965 Lanier High School Basketball team. Come and meet the men who accomplished this amazing feat and learn of their daring, their courage and of their basketball dominance in 1965. Come and meet the only Mississippi High School Basketball Team to ever win a national championship. Come and meet the men who were and are the Lanier High School Basketball Team Bulldogs of 1965. The National Champions.

Joe Usry Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram is sponsoring the National Championship Rings to be presented to the surviving team members. Please join us on January 23rd at 6 p.m. at the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in Jackson, Miss. Come and meet the Magnificent Seven and the other members of the 1965 Lanier Basketball Team!

Coach Harrison Barnes and Assistant Coach Ormond Jordan

Team Members: Marvin Scott, Cornell Warner, Larry Hayes, Eddie Clanton, James Hudson, Elliot Guinn, Mitchell Johnson, George Amerson, Louis Tucker, Arthur Brown, James Garland, Charles Dalley, Robert Mayberry, Otha Mitchell, Henry Brown Jr.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,738,116,336,111.15. We've added \$6,111,239,287,198.07 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. JOHN B. BOY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. John B. Boy, the former President and C.E.O. of the U.S. Sugar Corporation, who died on July 16, 2013 at the age of 96. He spent 41 years at U.S. Sugar, serving as its President for 17 years until his retirement.

John held a degree in mechanical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Under his leadership, the Bryant Sugar House was built in Canal Point, Florida. Additionally, John acquired the South Bay Growers vegetable and sugar cane operations, where he began growing oranges and producing orange juice. Among his lasting contributions while serving as an engineer in his company's agricultural equipment shop, are the many important mechanical advancements in Glades agriculture that are still used today.

During World War II, John served in the U.S. Navy, becoming captain of three ships. After the war, he moved from Ohio to Clewiston, Florida, where he began his employment in the sugar industry. John contributed immeasurably to his community, and encouraged employees at U.S. Sugar, as well as those around him, to do the same.

As a measure of their appreciation for all that he did for the sugar industry, Clewiston's civic auditorium, located within sight of the U.S. Sugar plant, is named after him.

John is survived by his daughter, Betsy Terrill (Jim); sons, John Boy, Jr. (Connie) and H. Lane Boy; grandchildren, Jamie Terrill, Christopher Smith, Jennifer Price, Suzanne Boy, Stephanie Crawford, and Rachael Boy; and 10 great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, words cannot express how deeply sorry I am for John's passing. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family, friends, and all of those in the sugar community. I was privileged to know him and call him my friend. He will be dearly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on July 22, 2013, I was unavoidably detained and missed the following rollcall votes: Nos. 375 for H.R. 1542 and 376 for H. Con. Res. 44. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on these two rollcall votes.

Additionally, on July 23, 2013, I was also unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote 377, on ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 312. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on this vote.

IN MEMORY OF DAVID G. RICH

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of David G. Rich, who left a lasting impact on the 23rd District of New York. After fighting a courageous battle against cancer, David, of Falconer, New York, passed away July 11, 2013, in the presence of his beloved high school sweetheart and wife, Cindy, as well as his friends and family.

Following graduation from Falconer Central School in 1961 and the completion of bachelor's, master's, and superintendent's degrees at the State University of New York at Fredonia, David enlisted in the U.S. Army. He served as a first lieutenant in Vietnam, First Air Cavalry Division, until he suffered critical wounds in action in 1968. After his honorable discharge, David taught Social Studies at Cassadaga Valley Central School from 1970 to 1998. During this period, he volunteered as an adviser for the student council, the junior and senior classes, the chess club, and he contributed to the production of school plays. David's long tenure at Cassadaga allowed him to positively impact the lives of generations of students.

David's community involvement stretched beyond his devotion to Cassadaga students. He served as a Distinguished President of the Kiwanis Club of Falconer and went on to work as the Lieutenant Governor and Foundation Coordinator of the Southwestern Division of New York Kiwanis. David also volunteered in other clubs and organizations including the Falconer American Legion, the Eastern Star, the Travel Club of Herons Glen, and the Vietnam Veterans of America. With an exceptional affection for animals, David was also considered a "Legacy of Love" member of the Chautauque County Humane Society.

Through his dedication to others, David G. Rich made his community a better place. Although David will be greatly missed, his legacy will continue for generations to come. I am proud to honor him here today.