

Second, the National Guard's dual-status gives it expertise in certain operations that partner nations must execute regularly. Our National Guardsmen are experts in disaster relief, border security, search and rescue, and civil disorder operations, among other operations. Finally, SPP brings our states and territories into security cooperation and provide conduits for developing non-security relationships such as strengthening economic or educational exchanges.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud of the work the Oklahoma National Guard has done working with Azerbaijan. My amendment is a modest step toward properly funding this vital program.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF BOBBY & SHIRLEY STALLINGS

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate dear friends and neighbors of mine, Bobby and Shirley Stallings, and celebrate with them on a very special occasion. On June 20, 2013, Bobby and Shirley celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Bobby and Shirley were married on June 20, 1963, by Chaplain Jolly at McCoy Air Force Base in Central Florida. They spent the beginning of their marriage in Salina, Kansas on Schilling Air Force Base where Bobby was stationed working on Atlas missiles in underground silos. While stationed in Kansas, Shirley went back to high school to earn her diploma and worked part time. Upon the completion of his service in the U.S. Air Force, Bobby went to work at Kennedy Space Center for North American Rockwell until 1969 when Mission Apollo 11 landed the first humans on the moon. Saving every penny possible in order to start their first business, Bobby and Shirley opened a child care center to help educate and prepare children for the future.

Bobby and Shirley have been abundantly blessed with a wonderful family and many friends. They are the parents of a son and daughter, and grandparents of two granddaughters. In addition, Bobby and Shirley remain in touch with many of the children they provided care for at their child care center.

Their dedicated service to their community and country is to be admired. I would like to congratulate them both for all of their accomplishments during their marriage, and in particular, thank them for all the sacrifices made while Bobby served in our nation's military.

Marriage and strong families are indispensable contributors to the prosperity of our nation. On behalf of the people of Central Florida, I am honored to recognize Bobby and Shirley for their testament of loyalty and faithfulness to one another and their family. I offer my sincerest congratulations to them for 50 years of marriage, and may God continue to bless them and their family in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, on the Legislative Day of July 24, 2013, a series of votes was held. Had I been present for these roll call votes, I would have cast the following votes:

rollcall 399—I vote “nay.”
rollcall 400—I vote “no.”
rollcall 401—I vote “no.”
rollcall 402—I vote “no.”
rollcall 403—I vote “no.”
rollcall 404—I vote “no.”
rollcall 405—I vote “no.”
rollcall 406—I vote “aye.”
rollcall 407—I vote “aye.”
rollcall 408—I vote “aye.”
rollcall 409—I vote “aye.”
rollcall 410—I vote “no.”
rollcall 411—I vote “aye.”
rollcall 412—I vote “no.”
rollcall 413—I vote “aye.”
rollcall 414—I vote “yea.”

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

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. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Chair, I'd like to use my time to say thank you to the House and all of the Members who participated in some vigorous debate, for having conducted the affairs of the House in a most professional way, proving to our constituents that we can work things out and that we can work together.

I just want to say thank you to my colleague from Indiana Mr. VISCLOSKEY, who is handling the minority leadership on this bill for the first time. I think he deserves a lot of credit and a lot of applause for the good job that he did in keeping this schedule on track.

PETER, thank you very much.

While it seems a long time ago, it was only Monday night that we finally received the 100 amendments that would be filed and considered during the debate. We had to analyze those amendments by Tuesday—yesterday—so that we could begin the debate on this bill. Our staff did an outstanding job in working late into the night Monday night analyzing these amendments so that we could consider where we would be on those amendments.

Our staff is led by Tom McLemore as staff director and Paul Juola in a similar position for Mr. Viscloskey. The other members of the staff are Becky Leggieri, Brooke Boyer, Ann Reese, Megan Rosenbusch, Tim Prince, Walter Hearne, B.G. Wright, Paul Terry, Maureen Holohan, Jennifer Miller, Adrienne Ramsay, and Sherry Young. They are a most profes-

sional staff and it is hard to find any better team of staff members than those that I just mentioned.

Finally, I want to thank my good friend and strong supporter, the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, for all his help during the process of managing our bill this week. His dedication to the subcommittee is invaluable, and I sincerely appreciate his friendship and his assistance in managing the bill. Similarly, I would like to thank the gentleman from California, Mr. CALVERT, and the gentleman from Arkansas, Mr. WOMACK, for their assistance in this process. I have said on more than one occasion that we have a great group of members on our subcommittee who are dedicated to providing for the needs of our national security and for the men and women who wear the uniform in defense our freedom. The special efforts this week of the members of our subcommittee, and in particular the members I mentioned are clear proof of that.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE REPRESENTATIVE JERRY CHARLES DOCKHAM

HONORABLE RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, North Carolina state representative Jerry Dockham has been a public servant of Davidson County for 23 years. Appointed to the North Carolina House of Representatives in 1990, Representative Dockham was continuously elected to serve 12.5 terms to represent the 80th District in the NC House.

A business graduate of Wake Forest University, Jerry operated an insurance company in his hometown of Denton, North Carolina for 38 years.

During his time in the North Carolina House, Jerry served as Chairman of the Committee on Insurance, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Banking and a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Commerce and Job Development. Representative Dockham was consistently ranked in the top 10% of House legislators by the North Carolina Free Enterprise Foundation. He has received numerous awards, such as, 'Legislator of the Year' by the North Carolina Society of Anesthesiologists and the 'Emergency Medicine Advocate of the Year Award' by the North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians.

The husband of a teacher assistant, Representative Dockham has served on the Davidson County Community College Board of Trustees for 26 years. Jerry is an active member of his community, serving as a member of the Thomasville Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Denton Lions Club. He and his wife, Louise, are the proud parents of Andy and Matthew.

In his farewell speech on the floor of the North Carolina House, Representative Dockham left his colleagues with these words of advice: "I would just leave you with two requests. First of all, always honor this chamber. Always honor the House of Representatives and what it stands for. This is the People's House. And secondly, I would ask you this: always be kind to each other. We're down here,

we're away from home, we're away from our family and we deserve to be kind to each other. Whether you agree or disagree with someone, it doesn't cost anything to be kind to that person."

Mr. Speaker, I rise to call his extraordinary service and devotion to North Carolina to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker on July 24, 2013, I missed rollcall vote No. 408. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 23, 2013, I inadvertently voted "no" on roll No. 394—An amendment to H.R. 2397—the Department of Defense, offered by Mr. FLORES, numbered 41 printed in House Report 113–170 to prohibit any funds from being used to enforce the selective fuel bans set forth in Sec. 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NATION'S FIRST BALE OF COTTON

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this country's first bale of cotton in 2013, which was delivered by the Rodriguez Brothers' Farm at 2:15 p.m. on Friday, June 21, 2013, to the La Feria Co-Op Gin. The cotton with seeds weighed 1,920 pounds.

Cotton is an important agricultural commodity to South Texas. Last year, in the 34th Congressional District of Texas, which is anchored in Cameron County, 217,106 bales of cotton were produced, worth an estimated \$72,500,000.

The first bale, once ginned, will be delivered to the Harlingen Area Chamber of Commerce.

The First Bale contest dates back to the 1800's when producers were required to deliver their first bale of the growing season to Houston for certification. In 1953, the Harlingen Cotton Committee was authorized by the Houston Stock Exchange to hold the contest in Harlingen each year.

The Harlingen Cotton Committee of the Harlingen Area Chamber of Commerce has certified the nation's first bale of cotton for the past 60 years.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate having this opportunity to honor the first bale of cotton in the nation. This annual competition continues to highlight the importance of South Texas in our country's agricultural industry.

URGING THE RELEASE OF U.S. MARINE CORPORAL ARMANDO TORRES

HON. JIM BRIDENSTINE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, the recent news of the kidnapping of a U.S. Marine Corporal Armando Torres in Mexico is an incredibly tragic story. Corporal Torres was kidnapped on May 14, 2013 while visiting his father's ranch in La Barranca, Tamaulipas, Mexico just across from the U.S. border. The Torres family believes the ranch was the target of drug cartels as transshipment for drugs. I strongly urge those holding Corporal Torres to release him immediately.

As a Navy pilot with combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, I believe that Congress must send a message to our government and Mexico's government that we do not turn our backs on our men and women in uniform. I urge the U.S. State Department to prioritize securing the release of Corporal Torres in terms of our foreign policy with Mexico. As a member of Congress, I will do everything in my power to bring attention to Corporal Torres's kidnapping.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 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. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Chair, I want to thank Representative AMASH for offering this amendment to the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for 2014. We now know that the National Security Agency (NSA) is keeping a phone log of all calls made in the U.S. This issue merits heightened congressional scrutiny. We need to strike a balance between our efforts to prevent terrorist attacks and our protection of civil liberties. The committees with jurisdiction are conducting a thorough review—as they should. I look forward to hearing their recommendations.

That said, rewriting laws—especially one that NSA Director Gen. Keith Alexander says is vital to our safety—is not within the scope of the appropriations process. I welcome further discussion about the scope and intent of the PATRIOT Act, and look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that the law is not overly broad. So though I commend Mr. AMASH for raising this issue, I must respectfully vote against his amendment.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 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. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding and wish to express my appreciation to Defense Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member VISCLOSKEY for their skillful leadership in shepherding H.R. 2397, the Defense Appropriations Act for FY2014, to the floor.

This body has no greater obligation than to ensure that our men and women in uniform, and those civilians who support them, have the resources needed to keep our country safe. I want to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for crafting a bill that keeps faith with our obligation to those who risk their lives to protect our freedoms.

Madam Chair, let me also express my appreciation to my friend and colleague, Congressman AMASH, and to Congressman CONYERS, the gentleman from Michigan and the Ranking Member of Judiciary Committee, for their good and hard work in fashioning the bipartisan amendment before us. Their work on the Amash-Conyers amendment is an example of what can be accomplished when members put aside partisanship and work across the aisle in an effort to come up with workable solutions to serious problems.

Madam Chair, the Amash-Conyers Amendment to H.R. 2397 prohibits the use of appropriated funds execute any order issued by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISA Court) that does not include the following sentence:

This Order limits the collection of any tangible things (including telephone numbers dialed, telephone numbers of incoming calls, and the duration of calls) that may be authorized to be collected pursuant to this Order to those tangible things that pertain to a person who is the subject of an investigation described in 501 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1861).

The Amash-Conyers Amendment was prompted by the recent unauthorized disclosures regarding the National Security Agency's collection from Verizon of the phone records of all of its American customers, which was authorized by the FISA Court pursuant to Section 215 of the Patriot Act.

Public reaction to the news of this massive and secret data gathering operation was swift and negative. There was justifiable concern on the part of the public and a large percentage of the Members of this body that the extent and scale of this NSA data collection operation, which exceeded by orders of magnitude anything previously authorized or contemplated, may constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy and threat to the civil liberties of American citizens.

To quell the growing controversy, the Director of National Intelligence declassified and released limited information about this program.