

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.

According to the DNI, the program does not allow the Government to listen in on anyone's phone calls. Nor does the information acquired include the content of any communications or the identity of any subscriber.

The DNI stated that "the only type of information acquired under the Court's order is telephony metadata, such as telephone numbers dialed and length of calls." The DNI stated that the data collection was "broad in scope because more narrow collection would limit our ability to screen for and identify terrorism-related communications. Acquiring this information allows us to make connections related to terrorist activities over time."

As a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, I have long been committed to safeguarding and protecting the constitutional rights and civil liberties of all Americans. Indeed, in 2001 I voted against the Patriot Act on the House floor because I was concerned that it did not contain sufficient protections to safeguard civil liberties, after it was rewritten from the bipartisan committee product that had strong civil liberties' protections.

I am also a charter member of the Homeland Security Committee, which is charged with the indispensable role of providing direction, guidance, and oversight to the Department of Homeland Security so that it fulfills its mission of keeping the homeland safe. So I am very familiar and sensitive to the inherent tensions between liberty and security.

I believe the questions raised by supporters of the Amash/Conyers Amendment about the NSA metadata program are legitimate, particularly the question whether there are sufficient protections for Americans' civil liberties. On the other hand, I am concerned that the amendment would also have the effect of precluding the use of section 501 to obtain an individual order for any business record (not just telephone data) about a person associated with someone who is the subject of an authorized investigation because of the defunding.

Madam Chair, striking the appropriate balance between the competing interests of national security and civil liberties requires thoughtful and careful deliberation. I believe that decisions of this scope and moment should be made in the regular legislative process where they are first vetted by the committees of jurisdiction which have the resources and expertise to examine the issues carefully, debate them fully, and to compile a legislative record that will enable the House to render a wise and informed judgment.

Because a funds limitation provision on an appropriations bill is poorly suited for this purpose, I do not support the Amash/Conyers Amendment. In contrast, I support and am an original co-sponsor of H.R. 2399, the "Limiting Internet and Blanket Electronic Review of Telecommunications and Email Act of 2013" ("LIBERT-E" Act), introduced by Congressmen CONYERS and AMASH and look forward to working with them and Chairman GOODLATTE to ensure that this legislation is considered under regular order by the Judiciary Committee.

Similarly, I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee to hold hearings, markup, and report favorably to the House H.R. 2440, the "FISA Court in the Sunshine Act of 2013," bipartisan legislation I introduced last month that will bring much needed transparency without compromising national security to the decisions, orders, and

opinions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court or "FISA Court." Specifically, my legislation, which is the House counterpart to bipartisan companion bill introduced in the Senate:

requires the Attorney General to disclose each decision, order, or opinion of a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC), allowing Americans to know how broad of a legal authority the government is claiming under the PATRIOT ACT and Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to conduct the surveillance needed to keep Americans safe;

addresses national security concerns by providing that if a decision of the FISA Court cannot be declassified without undermining national security interest, then the Attorney General shall disclose a summary of the opinion;

provides that if the Attorney General determines that even a summary of opinion would endanger national security interests, the Attorney General shall to provide a report to Congress describing the process to be implemented to declassify FISA Court opinions; and

requires the Attorney General to provide an estimate of the number of opinions that will be declassified and the number that are expected to be withheld because of national security concerns.

Madam Chair, it is critically important that legislation adopted by the House strike the proper balance between national security interests and protection of civil rights and liberties and the public's right to know. My legislation H.R. 2440, the "FISA Court in the Sunshine Act of 2013," strikes the proper balance.

More important, by considering this legislation in regular order instead of during the truncated and expedited proceeding that is a funding limitation amendment to an appropriations bill, the danger of making an incorrect decision can be avoided and the likelihood of reaching an informed and carefully calibrated decision that will enjoy the support of a majority of the Congress and the public will be increased substantially.

For these reasons, Madam Chair, I must reluctantly oppose the Amash-Conyers Amendment and urge my colleagues to do likewise.

#### STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to the partisan House Republican plan to destroy and dismantle the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Simply, this bill, H.R. 5, abandons our national commitment to equity in education for all K–12 students.

For decades, Members of Congress—on both sides of the aisle—had supported the need for targeted resources designed to help our nation's disadvantaged students and close

achievement gaps. But unfortunately, House Republicans have decided to turn their backs on our most vulnerable students in this bill. They are gutting education funding. They are removing protections for students with disabilities. They are making it easier to divert money away from poor and minority students. The Republican bill abandons the children who need us the most.

There is no doubt that the current law under No Child Left Behind is in need of serious reform. I voted against No Child Left Behind in 2001 and I know Minnesota schools, educators, and parents have had problems with it from the beginning.

Today I do stand in strong support of the Democratic alternative. It repeals the inflexible Adequate Yearly Progress requirements and replaces them with a focus on student growth and preparation. It includes policies to ensure that all students have a well-rounded education including science, the arts, and languages. It supports innovations in education with investments in educational research and technology, high-quality charter schools, and comprehensive school plans to reduce bullying and keep all students safe.

Our families, our educators, and our communities deserve K–12 education legislation that ensures all students have access to a world class education. Congress should be passing legislation that invests in our neighborhood schools, supports the development of effective teachers and principals, and helps students prepare for their future careers. I urge my colleagues to embrace real education reform by voting for the Democratic alternative and against the underlying bill.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

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. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I would like to thank my colleagues, Mr. PALAZZO and Mr. NUGENT, for their work on this important amendment.

Going forward, it is critical that we ensure our defense spending in no way disproportionately and unfairly impacts our Guard and Reserve, which this amendment would prevent.

America faces an unusual national defense crisis.

It's not that we are at risk of anyone surpassing our military might; America remains by far the most powerful nation on the planet.

The problem is that the way we invest in our military is not sustainable. The U.S. accounts for almost half of worldwide military spending, more than the next 14 countries combined.

We must find a way to maintain our strength, but spend less and smarter. This should be done by placing a greater emphasis on the role of our National Guard and Reserve to strengthen national readiness going forward.