

amendment eliminates \$3.5 billion of the excess funds. It provides sufficient funds to fully meet the President's FY 2014 request for the war in Afghanistan and other overseas contingences, as well as an additional \$1.5 billion to address any shortfalls in Guard and Reserve Equipment Modernization.

I am also pleased that this legislation fully funds the Sexual Assault and Prevention Office (SAPRO) at \$156.5 million and includes a new provision establishing dismissal or dishonorable discharge as a minimum mandatory sentence for individuals subject to a Uniformed Code of Military Justice court-martial. In addition, I strongly support an amendment that Rep. SPEIER introduced—and which was adopted—that provides increased funding to train investigators to properly investigate sexual assault related offenses.

I also support Rep. BONAMICI's amendment in support of preserving the 34 C-23 Sherpa aircraft operated by the Army National Guard. These aircraft are vital to the Maryland National Guard and I am pleased that this amendment was adopted. I also strongly support the provision that fully funds the request of \$220.3 million for Iron Dome and includes \$173 million above the request of \$95.8 million for the Israeli Cooperative Missile Defense Programs.

Lastly, I support the amendment which would require the Executive Branch to receive Congressional approval before taking any military action in Syria. This reinforces the role of Congress in making decisions that would put our men and women in the Armed Forces at risk.

With regards to Congressman AMASH's amendment, I have submitted a separate statement for the record to address that vote.

While I voted for this defense bill, I do so with reservations. This bill deprives deserving employees of the Department of Defense of a modest cost-of-living adjustment by denying them of a 1 percent COLA proposed by the Administration. It is unreasonable to ask federal employees, who have already disproportionately sacrificed for deficit reduction, to bear the burden again.

This legislation also includes a misguided provision which would continue funding restrictions that prohibit the construction or modification of a detention facility in the United States to house Guantanamo detainees, and would constrain DoD's ability to transfer Guantanamo detainees, including those who have already been designated for transfer to other countries. Unfortunately, Representative MORAN's amendment to lift the prohibition on using funds to transfer or release any individual detained at Guantanamo Bay was rejected. This legislation also contains provisions which ignore DoD recommendations and blocks the Administration's ability to retire aging and unnecessary military aircraft, including the C-130 AMP, when less expensive options are readily available.

While I support the funding level contained in the Defense Appropriations bill, I strongly oppose the overall House Republican Budget. That budget would dramatically cut our investments in education, scientific research, infrastructure, Head Start, Meals on Wheels, and programs to provide and supply for the most vulnerable. I strongly support President Obama's position that we will not boost defense spending at the expense of the other investments needed to support economic

growth. After all, our national security is directly tied to the strength of our economy and putting Americans back to work.

For these reasons, I support President Obama's threat to veto final passage of this legislation unless it "passes the Congress in the context of an overall budget framework that supports our recovery and enables sufficient investments in education, infrastructure, innovation and national security for our economy to compete in the future." However, it is my hope that these issues will be resolved in conference with the Senate and that I will be able to support its final passage.

STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS VAN HOLLEN REGARDING CONGRESSMAN AMASH'S AMENDMENT H. AMDT. 413 TO THE FY14 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT (H.R. 2397)

We must protect the privacy and civil liberties of all Americans. While we must ensure that our nation has the necessary and appropriate tools to protect itself, we must also ensure that those tools do not undermine the very liberties we seek to protect. I have always been a staunch defender of the 4th Amendment, and have long opposed the broad language in Section 215 of the so-called PATRIOT Act (along with the similarly broad language in Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act). In fact, I voted against the reauthorization of Section 215 in 2011 and Section 702 in 2012. I am pleased that others are now joining the conversation in seeking to amend and improve these sections.

I voted against the Amash amendment because I did not believe that it was the most comprehensive and effective way to address this important issue. I have opposed Section 215 because the "tangible items" authority and the "relevance" standard are overly broad and subject to potential abuse. These definitions need to be narrowed. Also problematic is the fact that recipients of Section 215 orders are required to wait a year before challenging a nondisclosure order. Additionally, I oppose the provision that allows the government to use secret evidence to oppose judicial challenges to a Section 215 order. Finally, when Congress reauthorized this section in 2005, it made permanent the authorization for the use of National Security Letters (NSLs), which are surveillance tools used to obtain certain types of communications and financial records. I opposed this measure, and have advocated for amendments that would reintroduce sunsets (i.e. established dates upon which these authorities expire so we can hold agencies accountable) for NSLs and require Inspector General audits on the use of NSLs and other "tangible item" orders. The use of these orders should also be publically reported to increase transparency and oversight.

I am interested in reforming Section 215 and its legislative language in a manner that addresses all of these issues, creating a workable solution that can serve as a foundation for our national security efforts while upholding the 4th Amendment protections in the Constitution for this and future administrations. Unfortunately, the Amash amendment did not address any of these important issues. Rather, it focused on a narrow issue that has been the subject of much misinformation. I worry that this piecemeal approach to amending this law could both hamper our national security efforts in the near-term while creating inconsistent policies in the long-term because of laws enacted at different periods of time on different legislative vehicles (such as an appropriations bill). I am also concerned about unintended consequences; for example, under the Amash

amendment, the FBI would have been unable to obtain an individual order for records from an associate of someone under investigation for terrorism activities. This is an example of the policy implications that can arise when complex issues are addressed in a hasty, non-deliberative process.

My biggest concern since the disclosure of particular aspects of these programs by Edward Snowden has been with respect to the standards in place that control how and when the government can request access to the content of Americans' communications. I asked pointed questions on this issue at recent intelligence briefings on these programs and I am confident that any access to the content of communications within a program authorized under Section 215 does require an individualized warrant from a judge. These warrants are not issued unless the government has shown probable cause that the identified individual is an agent of a foreign power or a potential terrorist.

I will continue my efforts to improve Section 215 (along with the other problematic sections of the PATRIOT Act and FISA). We must introduce more accountability, transparency, and checks and balances into these laws. That is why I am a co-sponsor of the Ending Secret Law Act (H.R. 2475) and the Presidential Appointment of FISA Court Judges Act (H.R. 2671). These bills would make important reforms to the FISA Court by shining a light on the secretive rulings it issues that significantly construct or interpret the law, along with ensuring that the judges who sit on that court are appointed by the President and subject to a public confirmation process in the Senate (currently, they are only chosen by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court). There should be no institution in our country with the power to create secret laws.

Finally, I am pleased that the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board finally has a confirmed Chairman (David Medine) and has announced plans to release a report on the legality of the NSA FISA programs and their impact on civil liberties. We pushed for the creation of this Board to serve as a crucial check to the government's authority with respect to these activities. I had been discouraged by the lack of operational progress of this Board since its establishment by Congress in 2004, and it is my hope that this Board will now begin to more forcefully exercise its oversight role (through its access to classified documents and FISA Court opinions).

As a Member of Congress who opposed the reauthorization of Section 215 of the so-called PATRIOT Act, I will continue to press for comprehensive changes to this and other provisions. However, we must do so in a way that addresses the real problems with these programs, and in a manner that doesn't have unintended consequences that could unnecessarily compromise our abilities to prevent terrorist attacks on Americans.

HONORING THE CEREALINE
MANUFACTURING CO.

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cerealine Manufacturing Co.,

the newest addition to the roster of the Indiana Historical Bureau's state historical marker series.

The Cerealine Manufacturing Company, founded in 1880, was an early producer of corn flakes and grew to prominence as the railroads opened national markets to Midwest producers. Founded in Columbus, Indiana, the Cerealine Manufacturing Co. produced up to 12,000 bushels of product daily, creating a corn flake that was the precursor to the famous cold breakfast cereal. The state historical marker honoring the company will be placed at the site of the original mill building, currently restored and serving as offices for Cummins, Inc.

I want to thank the Indiana Historical Bureau for its continued leadership in recognizing and commemorating significant individuals, organizations, places, and events in Indiana history. These roadside markers are familiar to all Hoosiers and visitors who pass through the State. With over 500 state historical markers in place, the Indiana Historical Bureau impresses on Hoosiers across the State the importance of our history and the promise of our future.

I ask the 6th Congressional District to join me in thanking the Indiana Historical Bureau for recognizing and publicly marking our shared history and the heritage of the Cerealine Manufacturing Company in Columbus, Indiana.

HONORING WILLIE B. NELSON, DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND EXALTED RULER FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, IMPROVED BENEVOLENT PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS OF THE WORLD

HON. WILLIAM L. ENYART

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Willie B. Nelson, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Southern District of Illinois and Exalted Ruler of Hercules Lodge #90 in East St. Louis, of the Improved Benevolent Protective Order (I.B.P.O.) of Elks of the World.

Willie B. Nelson has been a pioneer who helped break down racial barriers in the local banking community. He worked as a custodian at the former Illini Federal Savings and Loan Association in East St. Louis at a time when management positions were not available to African-Americans. While working for the financial institution, which would later become Associated Bank, Nelson went to school at nights and took a number of financial training and internship programs. His determination and stellar performance succeeded in his appointment as Branch Manager for the bank. He would retire as Branch Manager after serving Associated Bank for 43 years.

In addition to his professional career, Willie B. Nelson has dedicated his life to service and leadership within his community. Since being initiated into the I.B.P.O. Elks of World in 1955, he has served in virtually every leadership position for that organization, including two times as Exalted Ruler, first from 1975 through 1990 and again from 2007 to the

present. In addition to serving as District Deputy Director for the Southern District of Illinois, he also served for 15 consecutive years as State Director of the Illinois/Wisconsin States Association.

Willie B. Nelson has served in a leadership capacity on many other community organizations. He has served as President of the East St. Louis Chamber of Commerce, the Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois, Target 2000, the Katherine Dunham Museum and the Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation. He has also served as a Commissioner on the Board of the Illinois Housing Department. His leadership service extends to his church as well where he serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Interim Finance Director for the Greater Faith Christian Church in Centerville, Illinois.

Willie B. Nelson has been a devoted family man as well. His wife and two of his children have gone on to their heavenly reward but he is still blessed with the presence of his loving daughter, Lavonda Nelson, along with numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of community service of Willie B. Nelson and wishing him the very best in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF RALPH PETTY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ralph Petty as he retires from 38 years with the U.S. Postal Service. As his family, friends, and colleagues gather to celebrate his illustrious career, I ask my colleagues to join me in tribute to Mr. Petty's many years of service.

After honorably serving his nation in the Vietnam War, Ralph began a long career with the Postal Service as a letter carrier. He would later rise to become the spokesman and customer relations coordinator for the Postal Service in Sacramento, where he has constantly engaged the public, furthering access and understanding of the postal services available to area residents and businesses. Ralph has a widespread reputation for incredible customer service, and is a well-beloved member of the Postal Service staff, even earning the nickname "Mr. Stamp". His good nature and excellent work ethic have made him an invaluable asset to Sacramento area residents, including my staff and me, and his service will be sorely missed.

Ralph has left his mark of the Postal Service in California and our Nation. He was instrumental in the creation of the Breast Cancer Stamp that has raised over \$75 million for breast cancer awareness, and has been recognized by the Postal Service's leadership with the "Benjamin Award" for spreading postal services and products. Ralph was also a key proponent of the Santa Letter Program, which brings joy to countless needy children, and created a time capsule in 1993 that marked 150 years of mail delivery to Sacramento.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to Mr. Ralph Petty, who has served our Nation and community for so long. His diligent work

has greatly contributed to the Sacramento region and he has helped to ensure that the Postal Service products are at the forefront of the public's mind. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this man whose community mindedness and service have been such an asset to Sacramento and our Nation.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 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 \$16,738,084,158,233.57. We've added \$6,111,207,109,320.49 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on July 30, 2013, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for rollcall vote No. 424. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING KYLE WILLIAM MILLSAP

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle William Millsap. Kyle is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 138, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kyle has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 32 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Kyle has earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, become an Ordeal Member of the Order of the Arrow, and led his troop as the Patrol Leader. Kyle has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Kyle leveled the ground, installed a border ring and placed rubber mulch within the ring for the Joella Conrad Memorial Playground at Heartland Church in Blue Springs, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kyle William Millsap for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.