

and imparts on its students the value of the applied of agriculture science and technology, entrepreneurship, and rural communities.

I am proud to honor their dedication to education, innovation, and preservation in Nebraska's dynamic agriculture industry.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall no. 428, I was unavoidably detained at a personal doctor's appointment. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

ROBERT PELTON

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the remarkable career and outstanding community involvement of a great Texan, devoted public servant and my good friend, Robert Pelton. It is an honor for me to recognize Robert, not only for his numerous professional accomplishments and many contributions to our Houston community and the great state of Texas, but also for his service to our country.

Robert and I met many years ago while I was working in the Harris County District Attorney's Office as a prosecutor. Our friendship may have seemed unlikely as Robert, a criminal defense attorney, was more often than not defending the people I was prosecuting. Even though we were on opposing sides, there was a mutual admiration among us that to this day, has not wavered. I am grateful to call Robert a friend.

Robert's humble nature comes from his small town roots and strong patriotic upbringing in Abilene, Texas. As a child growing up in West Texas, Robert had a passion for reading. The books Robert read made Texas history come alive and his fascination with Texas legends and lawyers took root. He began to notice how folks less fortunate were mistreated and taken advantage of in his small town. So, at the young age of 14, he made up his mind to become a great lawyer, like the heroes he read about in his books. Robert still likes classic old west movies about good guys and outlaws.

His West Texas roots taught him that his word was his bond. He lives by that character trait.

Like many honorable men, Robert wanted to serve our nation and enlisted with the Texas Army National Guard. He trained as a combat infantryman, a job that is not for the weak of heart, with the 36th Infantry Division. After honorably serving from 1966 to 1972, Robert was discharged with the rank of Sergeant (E-5). Still determined to become a lawyer, Robert enrolled with South Texas College of Law after graduating from McMurry College in Abilene. During law school, he served as Chief Prosecutor of the Honor Court and as a Justice on the Honor Court. And the rest is history.

During his internship with the famous attorney Jim Skelton, Robert worked on a case where Mr. Skelton represented David Owen Brooks—a defendant in the largest mass murder case in the United States at the time. After helping with this case, Robert realized that his calling was to defend those accused of crimes.

Since May 1975, Robert has represented numerous people during his legal career. Of all of his clients, a highlight in Robert's legal career was representing the late Marvin Zindler, as his personal lawyer for over 30 years. Marvin Zindler was known for his consumer reporting—on ABC News on channel 13—one of the first in the business to do so—letting the unsuspecting public in on the down and dirty dealings of local businesses throughout Southeast Texas. Marvin was a fighter for the little man and defended those who were swindled or scammed—seeking retribution the best way he knew how, with a bright light, an all-seeing camera lens, and a television audience. It makes sense that Robert represented this local legend.

Robert's extensive knowledge of the justice system and his incredible work ethic earned the respect of his colleagues in the law profession. Over 50 of Robert's felony criminal cases have resulted in no-bills due to the Grand Jury Defense presentations that his team worked on. In 2012, he helped prove a wrong man had been arrested, which resulted in another capital murder case being dismissed. The impact of Robert's work is far reaching.

Over his career, Robert has maintained a strong focus on ethics and has received numerous accolades. He is the Founder and Chairman of the Ethics Committee for the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and the Harris County Criminal Lawyers Association. In 2011, he recognized a need for criminal defense attorneys to have access to an ethics hotline and urged the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association to create one. In addition, Robert has been named by H-Texas Magazine as one of Houston's Best Criminal Defense Lawyers each year from 2004 to 2010 and as well as one of Houston's "Top Lawyers for the People" each year from 2004 to 2010. In 2012 and 2013, Robert received the President's Award from the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association in recognition of his excellent work during those years. In addition to these honors, Robert has recently been named by the College of the State Bar of Texas as the recipient of the Jim D. Bowmer Professionalism Award for 2012. This high honor is awarded annually to an outstanding College member based on achievement or contribution to professionalism. Robert continues to contribute to the legal profession by authoring monthly columns in *The Defender* and *The Voice for Defense Magazines*. He also serves on the faculty of the Center for American and International Law.

In addition, there are books written about several of his high profile cases, including *Ashes to Ashes* and another book about Pam Perillo, who was eight hours away from execution, but because of a writ hearing in Federal Court that Robert filed, her life was spared. Several of his well-known cases, were documented on national TV specials: "Women on Death Row" and "Caught on Camera".

As a former prosecutor and then judge, I know how consuming this career can be. But, I also know how meaningful and rewarding it

can be. Robert's innovation, determination and compassion for helping others makes him one of the best attorneys in the nation. I am truly blessed to consider him one of my dearest friends and am honored to give him the recognition that he deserves.

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF SEPI RICHARDSON

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sepi Richardson who is retiring after 15 years of service on the Brisbane City Council, including two terms as mayor. Sepi may be leaving the council, but her spirit and impact on our city and community will be felt for many years to come.

As mayor, Sepi was very involved in all aspects of planning and policy-level decisions while always looking after the financial health and welfare of the city. She oversaw the remodeling of the community center, the community park and playground, Brisbane's marina, the skate park, the teen center and the Mission Blue Performing Art Center. She also dedicated much of her time and energy to preserving open space and to creating recreational and public spaces that benefit everyone in the community, such as the community garden, the swimming pool, school fields, Bayshore bike lane, the community meeting room in City Hall and the farmer's market. Sepi has been a tireless advocate for seniors and children. Under her leadership, Brisbane built the Senior Sunrise Room and senior housing.

Sepi is a familiar face to most Brisbane residents having served on about 20 county boards and commissions. She was a board member on the Airport Community Roundtable and the Association of Governments (C/CAG) and a chair or vice chair on four committees within those associations. In those capacities she was a leader on issues such as revenue and taxation, employee compensation, benefit administration, transportation, energy efficiency, sustainability, emergency preparedness and education.

In addition to her county and region-wide accomplishments, Sepi has left her mark on the city of Brisbane. She served on the Finance/Labor Negotiations, Public Information/Technology, Planning, Parks and Recreation, Open Space and Ecology committees, was a liaison to the Chamber of Commerce and worked on education and arts funding and recognition.

To understand how one person can be involved and effective in so many aspects of public service, you must know Sepi. Her energy, enthusiasm and dedication are endless. She loves her community and never hesitates to serve others.

Sepi was born as the first of six siblings in Tehran, Iran. She came to the United States in 1972. From 1975 to 1979 she went to Germany where she earned her BA in Business Management from the University of Maryland on its Germany campus. She received her Master's Degree in Educational Counseling and Psychology from California State University San Bernardino.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor an outstanding public servant and friend. Sepi Richardson will be missed and appreciated for all the lasting contributions she has made to the residents of Brisbane and beyond.

THE DEATH OF GEORGIA STATE
REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM
QUINCY MURPHY

HON. JOHN BARROW

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge with sadness the passing of Representative William Quincy Murphy. Mr. Murphy served Augusta, Georgia, for 11 years in the Georgia State House of Representative.

He was a lifelong public servant, a true statesman, and a good friend.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Dianne, his son Quincy III, and his daughter Jennifer Murphy Morgan.

THE TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH
ACCELERATING NATIONAL SECUR-
ITY AND FUTURE ECONOMIC
RESILIENCY (TRANSFER) ACT OF
2013

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Technology and Research Accelerating National Security and Future Economic Resiliency Act of 2013—or the TRANSFER Act, and yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of this legislation. It is a good bill that represents a bi-partisan effort to accelerate the transfer of technology from our universities and federal laboratories to the market—creating jobs from federally funded research.

The federal government has strategically invested in R&D with the confidence derived from decades of results that it will yield back a return in the public good that betters the lives of Americans. We cannot minimize the role R&D has played in the prosperity of the United States and we must continue these critical investments.

The next great idea with applications in advanced energy, aeronautics, life sciences, and defense technologies could be sitting on a shelf, and this bill will help the academic community and start-ups to bridge the gap between an innovative idea and a commercially viable technology.

One of the ways this bill helps bridge that gap is by supporting translational research activities such as proof of concept. It will also help to bridge the gap by providing advice, mentoring, and entrepreneurial education to our scientists and engineers. As one would expect, most of our researchers do not have the project management and technology and business development expertise needed to run a business and exposure to this type of expertise is important to creating a successful company.

We need to build innovation ecosystems that sustain long-term and mutually beneficial collaborations between the public and private sectors. Just as we are seeking to commercialize innovative ideas, we have to be willing to take innovative approaches to accelerate technology transfer of federally funded research. As the title of this bill states, accelerating technology transfer and research are key to sustaining our national security and future economic vitality.

This is a good bipartisan bill that should assist universities, research institutions, and national labs help turn R&D into successful, profitable, and sustainable small businesses.

I urge my colleagues to support the TRANSFER Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall no. 433 I was unavoidably in a meeting off the Hill at the White House with the President. Had I been present, I would have voted “no”.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for votes on Tuesday, July 30. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall vote 419, “yea” on rollcall vote 420, and “nay” on rollcall vote 421, “nay” on rollcall vote 422, “yea” on rollcall vote 423, “yea” on rollcall vote 424, and “yea” on rollcall vote 425.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2014, H.R. 2397

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, although the legislation before us today is far from perfect, I rise in support of its passage. The Fiscal Year 2014 Defense Appropriations Act (H.R. 2397) will ensure that our brave men and women in uniform have the resources they need to keep our country safe and secure. The bill also provides funding to support the U.S. industrial base. Lastly, H.R. 2397 includes important provisions to assist our troops and their families, including a pay-raise of 1.8 percent, and strengthens the health care services available to all our service members.

As a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, I have worked diligently this past year to ensure funding for members of the U.S. Military, preserve our military readiness, and target wasteful Pentagon programs. While I am in favor of the un-

derlying legislation, I am deeply disappointed that nearly all of the mandated across-the-board cuts were shifted to other parts of our Federal budget, leaving the Pentagon relatively unscathed. In fact, the bill provides more funding than originally requested in the President's budget proposal, which further demonstrates the House Republicans' misplaced budget priorities.

Mr. Speaker, I am serious about confronting the fiscal crisis facing America. Being an Appropriator, I take seriously my job of eliminating unnecessary spending and ineffective programs in every appropriations bill within every federal agency—including the Pentagon. This year's process was unlike past budgeting years. The House Appropriations Committee operated under the unreasonable constraints of the funding allocations imposed by House Republicans, which needlessly starve the discretionary budget. These allocations force Congress to make reckless trade-offs between adequately funding the Pentagon and providing sufficient funding for the rest of our Federal government. This is not only economically harmful, but also an irresponsible way to operate as a legislative body.

The exponential growth of the Pentagon Budget since 2001 is due primarily to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Now that the Iraq War has ended and as we withdraw our combat troops from Afghanistan next year, it is time to significantly reduce the size of the Pentagon budget in a responsible way. During consideration of this bill, I voted in favor of numerous common-sense amendments aimed at saving the government hundreds of billions of dollars. With my support, the House passed two separate amendments that reduced the Afghanistan Security and Afghanistan Infrastructure funds by nearly a half a billion dollars. In addition, I voted in favor of an amendment offered by Congressman VAN HOLLEN, which reduces the Pentagon's war funding account by \$3.5 billion over the next year.

We also debated and voted on important amendments related to national security and civil liberties. The most notable of these being measures to curb the National Security Agency's (NSA) blanket collection of Americans' telephone records. Since the Patriot Act originally passed under former President George W. Bush, Congress has regularly reauthorized it without subjecting the NSA and other government agencies to proper oversight. This enabled the NSA to abuse two of its provisions, Sections 702 and 215, by using them to justify unwarranted surveillance of law-abiding U.S. citizens both domestically and abroad. This is simply unacceptable. Congress has an obligation to conduct strong oversight of our national security policies and when necessary, take corrective action through the legislative process.

That is why I welcomed the floor debate and supported the “Amash-Conyers” amendment, which aimed to restrict the NSA's ability to collect bulk telecommunications records pursuant to Section 215 of the Patriot Act. Furthermore, it would have imposed stricter, more robust judicial oversight of the Federal government's surveillance programs. Even though the amendment narrowly failed by a vote of 205–217, its strong bipartisan support sends a clear message to the White House that Congress is ready and willing to implement much needed reforms. It is absolutely essential that