

addition, Mr. McCormick was instrumental in the development of a funding plan for the relocation of Fire Station-5 to Fountaingrove Parkway, which is within a significant Wildland Urban Interface fire zone within the City. Mark also oversaw the implementation of a residential sprinkler ordinance as well as major improvements in public safety communications ensuring that all police and fire communications functioned in all buildings, large and small. These efforts are first hand proof that Chief McCormick's top priority was always the safety of his community.

In addition to his work as a public servant, Mark is a former President of the Santa Rosa Firefighters, IAFF Local 1401 where he served on their Executive Board for eight years. In 2003, Mark was honored by labor and management as the Santa Rosa Firefighter of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, Mark McCormick has spent more than two decades serving his country and community. It is appropriate that we honor him today for his public service and to wish him well upon his retirement.

HONORING REV. EDWARD
MULRAINE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Houses of Worship in the United States have played a major role in our communities, offering solace, support, and sustenance, both physical and moral, to all. In Mount Vernon, the Unity Baptist Tabernacle, under the guidance of the Rev. Edward Mulrine fulfills all those roles, and today we are celebrating Rev. Mulrine's tenth Pastoral Anniversary in guiding the membership of his church.

Rev. Mulrine has accomplished much in that time to help his Church, his Ministry and his Community.

He established a Men's Fellowship Choir, a Prayer Ministry, a Senior Ministry, and the Gospel Pearls. He expanded the Church's Ministry through radio station WVOV and the Internet. He instituted Women as Deacons and Unity Baptist Tabernacle saw its first Women Deacons in 2011. Unity Tabernacle now teaches Weekly Bible Study and has a Drama Ministry and a Catering Ministry.

More pragmatically Rev. Mulrine raised the funds for a new computer center which now has 14 brand new computers, installed new air conditioning in the Dining Hall, painted the sanctuary and redid the Church roof, and is paying off the \$300,000 mortgage.

Beyond his church and ministry, Rev. Mulrine has aided his community by getting pedestrian crossing light on local streets, marching against violence, and protesting cuts to Day Care and Mount Vernon Hospital. He established the Annual Church Trip and Fellowship to South Carolina, started Home Coming after Summer Break, and fought for funds for the South Street Park.

Rev. Mulrine, and all of Mount Vernon, today celebrate his tenth anniversary as Minister of the Unity Baptist Tabernacle. I am proud to join in this celebration of a man who has made a great difference in his Church, his Ministry and his Community.

IN HONOR OF LIEUTENANT NANCY
THURNAUER

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant Nancy Thurnauer who is set to retire from the Coventry Police Department at the end of December 2013. Affectionately known as Officer Nancy, she has spent the last thirty-two years serving the Town of Coventry.

Lieutenant Nancy Thurnauer began her career with the Coventry Police Department on September 14, 1981 as a dispatcher. She became a sworn officer in August 1985 and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in February of 1998. She often worked with children, and spent a number of years teaching D.A.R.E. in the Coventry School system. Frequently praised for her compassion for others, Officer Nancy was beloved by many in Coventry. She received numerous commendations and heartfelt letters of gratitude from those she had helped.

In 2008, Lieutenant Thurnauer played a crucial role in negotiating the surrender and apprehension of an armed assailant who had just committed a murder and was holding a child, refusing to surrender. Her courage and skill earned her the Department's Police Service Cross.

I ask that my colleagues join with me in honoring the career of Lieutenant Nancy Thurnauer. I wish her the best of luck with all her future endeavors. I have no doubt that she will remain an active member of her community in Coventry.

ACADIANA HIGH SCHOOL
WRECKIN' RAMS CROWNED
STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Acadiana High School Wreckin' Rams football team for recently being crowned Class 5A state champions by the Louisiana High School Athletic Association on December 14, 2013, in New Orleans. This team put on a show for the ages as it amassed a state finals rushing record of 634 yards night en route to its 77-41 win over the Parkway High Panthers in the state championship game. The 77 points by the Rams was a Class 5A record, including 42 points in the first half.

The game was a shootout with teams trading possessions frequently. Acadiana High School attributed its success to the veer offense which combined a strong offensive line with a formidable ground game. Evidenced by the fact four of the team's running backs gained over 140 yards under the bright lights of the Mercedes-Benz Superdome, the offensive scheme was a success.

This was Acadiana High School's third state championship. I'd like to congratulate Coach Ted Davidson, finals' Most Outstanding Player Edward Cormier, and the entire Wreckin'

Rams team on their victory. This team made its community proud by the way it simply dominated its competition en route to becoming state champions.

I look forward to next year's football season and wish the Wreckin' Rams team good luck in defending its crown.

BARBARA SCRIPPS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Barbara Scripps for her outstanding service to our community.

In addition to running her own accounting firm in Evergreen for over twenty years, Barbara never hesitates to take the role of the leader on multiple non-profit boards, creating a trajectory to get things done. With her participation, community boards have undergone positive, significant financial changes and growth. As current president of the Evergreen Rotary Club she is helping to implement a fundraising strategy transition. She is a long-serving board member of both Evergreen Country Day School and Mt. Evans Hospice, and she saw the Center for Arts Evergreen through its creation of a visual arts center, and continues to serve on that board. The Colorado CPA Society recognized Barbara with an award as a "CPA Making A Difference", based on her strong support for her community.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Barbara Scripps for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING SUSAN SOBEL

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Susan Sobel, the District Manager of the Yonkers Field Office of the Social Security Administration is retiring after 35 years of service to the people on the New York area.

Susan began her career in November 1977 as a claims representative trainee in the Hunts Point Field Office and in 1982, she was promoted to operations supervisor in the East Bronx Field Office. In 1988, she participated in the New York Region Staff Development Program as a field services specialist in the New York Regional Office.

Over the years, Susan held positions of increasing responsibility, including social insurance program analyst in the New York Office of the Regional Commissioner and Assistant District manager in the Yonkers Field Office. In September 2002, she received a temporary promotion to District Manager of the White Plains office and, in June 2003, she was named District Manager of the Yonkers Field office.

Throughout her career, Susan received numerous awards, including a Commissioner's

Citation team award in 2001 and Deputy Commissioner's Citations in 2004 and 2005.

She was noted for her attention to detail and her dedication to the Social Security Administration and its mission. I worked with her on several occasions and was impressed by her ability and her attention to detail. I want to personally thank her for her years of dedicated service.

Susan and her husband Ron, who is also retiring from the SSA, plan to spend time celebrating family and friendships, travelling and exploring. I wish them the very best in their retirement years.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, Section 401 creates a new category of employee called a "Further Revised Annuity Employee" and would require Further Revised Annuity Employees to contribute additional amounts into the CRSDF. It is the intent of Congress for OPM to create a new normal cost for the Further Revised Annuity Employees, and to ensure that the retirement plan not be underfunded.

Additionally, it is the intent that for the new Further Revised Annuity Employee Plan that the only determinant of whether an individual is a FERS employee or Member, as opposed to a FERS Revised Annuity Employee or FERS Further Revised Annuity Employee, is through application of the FERS Revised Annuity Employee test. And that the new Further Revised Annuity Employee test only differentiates between FERS Revised Annuity Employee coverage and new FERS Further Revised Annuity Employee coverage.

VERMILION CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CAPTURES STATE 1A CROWN

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Vermilion Catholic High School Screamin' Eagles of Abbeville for recently winning Louisiana's Class 1A state championship over the Saint Frederick Catholic High School Warriors on December 14, 2013, in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans. With a convincing 63-18 win, there was no doubt which team deserved to be crowned state champions.

The Vermilion Screamin' Eagles team capped off its perfect 10-0 season with an offensive display that kept fans on the edge of their seats. After trailing 3-0 early in the game, the Screamin' Eagles answered by scoring 42 of the next 49 points. It was too much for Saint Frederick to overcome as Vermilion continued its scoring barrage on offense and special teams while its defense refused to give the Warriors an opening.

Vermilion used a balanced attack as it passed for 269 yards while rushing for another 216 yards. Recording 16 first downs was key to establishing a new Class 1A championship record for most points in a game.

Congratulations to Coach Russell Kuhns and his team as this state championship comes on the ten year anniversary of the Class 1A crown Vermilion won in 2003.

I look forward to next year's football season and wish the Screamin' Eagles team good luck in defending its crown.

ANN DEMERS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ann Demers for her outstanding service to our community.

As a Special Needs teacher in Jefferson County Ann always gave above and beyond. Eventually becoming a school psychologist, she led training for the Second Step Curriculum and was a member of the Crisis Response Team during the Columbine High School tragedy. Ann is involved in her neighborhood, church, and family, organizing community events and service activities. She created a church community service group known as the Red Tent Ladies, and once she started on the Ralston House Board they saw exponential growth. Her spirit and dedication are truly inspiring.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ann Demers for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of final passage of the FY2014 National Defense Authorization Act. I commend Chairman McKEON, Chairman LEVIN, Ranking Member SMITH, and Ranking Member INHOFE for crafting a bipartisan bill that both strengthens the security of our nation and provides for vital programs that benefit our men and women in uniform and their civilian colleagues.

While not perfect, today's compromise legislation makes many key improvements over the Defense Authorization bill that the House voted on earlier this year. I am particularly encouraged that the final agreement we voted on today includes \$80.7 billion in funding for overseas contingency operations (OCO), which is in line with the Pentagon's request. This is an important change from the \$85.8 billion that was included in the House-passed authorization in June. Today's bill provides sufficient funds to fully meet the President's FY 2014 request for the war in Afghanistan while ensuring that the overseas contingency operations

account will not become a slush fund for unrequested defense spending.

The final agreement also eases restrictions on the ability of DoD to transfer Guantanamo detainees and takes an important step in addressing our indefinite detention policy there. In particular, I am pleased that this bill drops a provision that would have barred the use of funds to transfer prisoners to Yemen and authorizes the Pentagon to transfer detainees to other foreign countries under certain conditions. More needs to be done when addressing our indefinite detention policy, but provisions such as these represent significant progress.

I am also encouraged by the changes this bill makes with regards to how the military responds to sexual assault cases. It adopts Senate language to bar individuals from joining the military if they have been convicted of a sex-related offense; it imposes a minimum sentence of dishonorable discharge or dismissal on those found guilty; and it prohibits commanders from dismissing a court martial finding or reducing the offense level of guilty findings.

Finally, the compromise bill does make some progress on allowing the Department of Defense to execute the New START Treaty. Specifically, it allows DoD to begin planning and preparation for implementing the force structure to meet the required limits of the New START Treaty. However, it still goes too far in limiting the President's ability to fully implement the treaty and set the country's nuclear policy.

I am also disappointed that this legislation authorizes the establishment of a missile defense site on the East Coast that the Pentagon continues to say is unnecessary. This provision disregards the advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and seeks to tie the President's hands in determining military requirements in other parts of the world. This bill also contains provisions which ignore DoD recommendations and continues to fund unrequested weapons systems and military aircraft, including the M1A2 Abrams tank, the C-130 AMP, and the UH-72A Light Utility Helicopter.

Despite these reservations, this compromise legislation is a marked improvement over the bill the House passed earlier this year. It contains many important provisions that will strengthen our national security while also providing for our troops and their families.

HONORING AUDREY SMITH- JOHNSON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Audrey Smith-Johnson was born in Yonkers and attended Yonkers Public Schools, and graduated from Tefft Business School. As a high school student, she volunteered at the Yonkers YWCA and was a Candy Stripper at St Joseph Hospital. But it was while working various positions at a temp agency that she found her passion in real estate. She received her Real Estate Certificate and has been working in that field for 28 years.

But she has another calling, and that is as a member of her community. In July, 2005,