

An essential component of these efforts is the UASI grant program, which provides financial assistance to address the unique planning, operations, equipment, training, and exercise needs of high-threat, high-density urban areas.

As you know so well, the AUSI program is critical to helping our cities build and sustain capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from threats or acts of terrorism.

In my district, the Portland Urban Area has been a recipient of UASI grant funds since FY 2003. This critical funding has enhanced regional collaboration and coordination within and between responder disciplines and across jurisdictions.

The Portland Urban Area is more secure as a result, but most certainly has further to go, and must continue its partnership with the UASI program.

Problematically, Portland is no longer a recipient of UASI funding, with little notice that would have allowed proper planning for alternative methods to meet their security needs, and with little transparency as to why this is the case.

The FY 2012 program funded the top 31 highest risk urban areas in the country. And while the FY 2013 appropriations bill funds the program at a nearly equal level than the year before, unfortunately it also contains language that limits use of the UASI funds to no more than the top 25 highest risk urban areas, a cap which seems arbitrary and not based in risk or threat data.

This cap is having a significant impact. Important regional areas like Portland, Orlando, Las Vegas and New Orleans have been eliminated from FY13 funding despite being national centers of tourism and commerce.

Under no circumstances are Portland and the other affected cities any less vulnerable to terrorism than they were 12 months ago.

And in the last 12 months, the Portland Urban Area has gone from a ranking of 23 11 months ago, 29 one month ago, and 27 weeks ago. How can a city plan with such drastic changes in ranking, with little notice? Clearly the metrics used by DHS are flawed, or at the very least, are not adapted to operate within a 25-city cap.

The federal government has a responsibility to be a partner with our local communities, protecting our citizens from terrorist threats, and moderating potential impacts from natural disasters. While diminished resources are a factor for all levels of government, there should be some certainty for our communities that the federal government will be a continuing partner and when.

In the long term, I would deeply appreciate an opportunity to engage with this Committee, my Senate colleagues, and all local cities impacted, to better understand this issue, and the future of the UASI program.

And in the short term, the FY 2013 appropriations for DHS included \$188 million in discretionary homeland security grant funds. The Secretary has latitude to apply these funds to previously eliminated grant programs including the UASI program.

I would urge the Secretary to use some of this funding to the jurisdictions on that have fallen below the FY13 cap. This bridge funding would greatly assist these communities to continue their anti-terrorism coordination at some level while working to achieve sustainable funding in the years to come.

There are also common-sense reforms that can strengthen the federal-local partnership for the UASI program by, for example, extending the timeline for cities to use these grant dollars. The shifting timeline from 4, to 3, and now 2 years adds another layer of difficulty to planning and utilizing these dollars as effectively and comprehensively as possible.

I sincerely appreciate the courtesy of my colleagues for taking my concerns into consideration and I look forward to addressing this issue with you in a comprehensive and thoughtful way, something you both know how to do so very well.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 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 \$16,738,726,834,732.35. We've added \$6,111,849,785,819.27 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.

STEPHANIE SHEPHERD

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Stephanie Shepherd for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Stephanie Shepherd is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Stephanie Shepherd is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Stephanie Shepherd for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING SERGE MARSHALL DAVIS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, educating our children is one of the most important functions of a society. Preparing our children for the future is the best thing we can do for them and

for our society. Serge Marshall Davis, the principal of the Sheila Mencher School in the Bronx is a man who has taken that message to heart.

He is dedicated to improving the lives of the young people in his care by meeting the challenges of providing for them a high quality education. This includes children from many different countries speaking a variety of languages and dialects.

He instituted and maintained a variety of programs including a middle school honors program, health oriented programs, the use of teacher specialists including mentors, inter-visitations by teachers, using data to improve instruction, and middle school community service among so many others. His school even won the Bronx Middle School Poetry Slam this year and was the Ball Room Dance Grand Champions in 2010.

Under Principal Davis the school and its students have flourished through a well rounded education for the children from pre-kindergarten through the eighth grade.

Serge Marshall Davis is being honored for his dedication as principal to improving the lives of the young people in his care and for meeting the challenges of providing for them a high quality education.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ESKATON MONROE LODGE INDEPENDENT LIVING

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Eskaton Monroe Lodge as they celebrate their 40th Anniversary. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the hard-working staff, volunteers and supporters who have ensured that this fine organization is able to provide valuable senior living and social services to Sacramento's seniors.

Established in 1973 and located in the historic Land Park neighborhood of Sacramento, Eskaton Monroe Lodge was built by Eskaton, a non-profit health care organization based in Sacramento, as its first residential facility. While the buildings and property have been enhanced over the years, many of the original features and landscape have been preserved. Today, the property consists of almost one hundred apartments and continues to allow seniors to live independently and to the fullest extent possible in a comfortable and secure setting. Eskaton Monroe Lodge continues to offer a wide array of services and programs dedicated to improving the lives of Sacramento's seniors and their families.

Eskaton Monroe Lodge offers its residents a variety of services including blood pressure clinics, access to the public library's bookmobile, church services, and continuing education programs pertinent to seniors. Also offered are activities such as exercise and wellness classes, movie showings, live artistic performances, craft groups, and many more which allow for social interaction. In addition, residents have access to transportation services that can get them to doctor appointments, grocery stores, and banks, and be able to run personal errands.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize and celebrate the outstanding service of Eskaton Monroe Lodge on its 40th Anniversary. I ask all my colleagues to join me in celebrating Eskaton Monroe Lodge, its residents, staff and volunteers as they celebrate the valuable contributions Eskaton Monroe Lodge has made to supporting Sacramento's seniors.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as the Atlantic hurricane season begins, a time when many of our National Guards will be deployed to various parts of the country, I introduce a bill that would give the mayor of the District of Columbia authority over deploying the D.C. National Guard, after consultation with the Commanding General of the D.C. National Guard, with the President retaining authority on federal matters. In local emergencies, including natural disasters and civil disturbances unrelated to national or homeland security, the mayor of the District of Columbia should have the same authority that governors exercise over the National Guard in their states. Each governor, as head of state, has the authority to mobilize the National Guard to protect his or her state, just as local militia did historically.

The National Guards in the 50 states operate under dual federal and local jurisdiction. Yet only the President and the Commanding General of the D.C. National Guard currently have the authority to deploy the D.C. National Guard for local and national purposes, respectively. Today, by far the most likely need for the D.C. National Guard here would be for natural disasters, such as hurricanes and floods, and to restore order in the wake of civil disturbances. The mayor, who knows the city better than any federal official and who works closely with federal security officials, should be able to call on the D.C. National Guard for local natural disasters and civil disturbances, after consultation with the Commanding General of the D.C. National Guard. The President should be focused on national matters, including homeland security, not local D.C. matters. Homeland security authority, with respect to the D.C. National Guard, would remain the sole province of the President, along with the power to nationalize the D.C. National Guard for federal matters at will. It does no harm to give the mayor this authority for civil disturbances and natural disasters. However, it could do significant harm to leave the mayor powerless to act quickly. If it makes sense that governors would have control over the mobilization and deployment of their National Guard, it makes equal sense for the mayor of the District of Columbia, with a population the size of a small state, to have the same authority.

The mayor of the District of Columbia, as head of state, should have the authority to deploy the D.C. National Guard in instances that do not rise to the level of homeland defense activities. My bill permits the mayor to only deploy the D.C. National Guard after consultation with the Commanding General of the D.C. National Guard. The bill is another important step toward completing the transfer of full self-gov-

ernment powers to the District of Columbia. Congress began that process with the passage of the Home Rule Act of 1973, when it delegated most of its authority over District agencies to the District of Columbia. The bill follows that model.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

TAYLOR BAXLEY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Taylor Baxley for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Taylor Baxley is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Taylor Baxley is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Taylor Baxley for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF US SOUTHCOM

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate US SOUTHCOM on the 50th anniversary, today June 11th. For the past five decades this command has protected and defended the privileges, comforts and freedoms that we, as Americans, enjoy.

We are fortunate and privileged to have General John Kelly as the new Commander of United States Southern Command. His distinguished career and exemplary service to our nation is a testament to the ideals of honor, courage, and commitment. SOUTHCOM has continued to grow and thrive in South Florida with its 1,200 SOUTHCOM employees. These individuals have dedicated their lives to the service of others and truly embody the heart and spirit of America. I thank each and every one of them for their efforts as well as the good they provide throughout the hemisphere.

Today, SOUTHCOM celebrates half a century of excellence and service to the citizens of the United States. Over these years, many brave men and women in uniform have worked tirelessly to keep us safe while also promoting peace, security, and democracy throughout the Western Hemisphere. From combating international crime syndicates and drug lords, to monitoring human rights and providing humanitarian relief, SOUTHCOM has a proven track record of achievement. Its successful efforts in counter-terrorism and in

combating illicit trafficking across this hemisphere have helped to promote democracy abroad and has encouraged respect for human rights. SOUTHCOM certainly remains a beacon of strength and resilience throughout the region.

Shortly before the United States entered the Second World War, President Roosevelt established the U.S. Caribbean Defense Command with the goal of defending the Panama Canal and the surrounding area. Following the conclusion of the war, the U.S. Caribbean Defense Command was renamed the U.S. Southern Command. The new name was intended to reflect the command's changed responsibilities with an emphasis of ensuring security, stability, and prosperity throughout Central and South America, as well as the Caribbean.

SOUTHCOM encompasses six major mission areas, including humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, as well as assisting our allies in the region and while promoting military-to-military interaction. Its successful efforts in counter-terrorism and in combating illicit trafficking across this hemisphere is key to regional stability even while it continues to be a leader in medical assistance, providing quality medical care for schools and community centers. I know many individuals still remember the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, in which SOUTHCOM took the lead in humanitarian effort on the ground that undoubtedly saved thousands.

SOUTHCOM has had a tremendous impact on our local economy in South Florida and I applaud its efforts to give back to our community. Congratulations again to SOUTHCOM on its 50th anniversary. I look forward to working with General Kelly and his wonderful team in South Florida. Thank you again for all that you do.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2216, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2217, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 243, the rule providing for consideration of both H.R. 2216, the Fiscal Year 2014 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act and H.R. 2217, the Fiscal Year 2014 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act because it deems the draconian and harmful Ryan budget as law. We should be using this opportunity to pass a budget, in consultation with the Senate, which will get the economy back on the right track in this new fiscal year. I stand before you today to express my opposition to the Ryan budget and thereby my opposition to the rule that deems this budget passed.

The Ryan budget is an economic catastrophe of this Tea Party majority's choosing.