

always looking out to protect our wonderful free enterprise system.

I want to particularly note that each Christmas since 1988, the holidays for many rural families in Washington have been a bit brighter—and the Legislative Building a bit more festive—since Don Brunell founded the Holiday Kids' Tree Program, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for needy families around the state and establishing the community tradition of a tree lighting each December in the state capitol.

Throughout his distinguished career, Don has maintained his strong belief in family, as evidenced by his marriage of 42 years to wife Jeri, children Jennifer, Carey, Erin, Don, Dan and Colleen and his 14 grandchildren; and Don has also remained committed to those serving in the U.S. armed forces, himself a veteran with 23 years of service in the U.S. Army, Montana and Washington Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve as a special forces, infantry and public affairs officer.

It is bittersweet to see such a distinguished career draw to a close, but I must acknowledge Don will retire from AWB in January 2014, making the legislative session that is drawing to a close in Washington state the last one with Don as president of the state's largest and oldest business association.

Future legislators and business leaders should draw inspiration from his steadfastness and dedication to the cause of freedom and free enterprise that was a constant during his long and honorable career.

THE MCCOLLUM AMENDMENT TO
THE FY14 DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS
BILL PROHIBITING FUNDS
FOR CIA LETHAL DRONE
STRIKES

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2013

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the House Appropriations Committee I offered an amendment to the fiscal year 2014 defense appropriations bill regarding lethal drone strikes. The amendment stated:

None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for weapons strikes or lethal action using unmanned aerial vehicles unless conducted by a member of the Armed Forces under the authority provided pursuant to Title 10, United States Code.

The amendment was defeated in committee on a voice vote and my request for a recorded vote was denied by the committee. It is my intention to offer this same amendment on the floor of the House in the coming weeks when the defense appropriations bill is debated by the full House.

My statement (as prepared for delivery in committee) is as follows:

Full Appropriations Committee Statement on the McCollum Amendment:

Mr. Chairman, within the classified portion of this bill hundreds of millions of dollars, perhaps billions, are appropriated for a targeted killing program operated by the Central Intelligence Agency.

The CIA operates a fleet of weaponized drones armed with laser guided Hellfire mis-

siles. They conduct lethal air strikes against targets in Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia. The program's targets are identified terrorists or they are unidentified individuals targeted and killed based on a pattern of behavior.

My amendment places sole responsibility for conducting lethal military action using weaponized drones in the hands of the Department of Defense conducted by members of the Armed Forces under the authority of Title 10 of the U.S. Code.

The CIA's use of drones to conduct surveillance and intelligence gathering in support of Defense Department lethal action continues under my amendment.

Some of our colleagues do not believe that the Pentagon is not up to the task of carrying out this responsibility. I disagree with that.

The Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) is conducting drone strikes now. The Air Force and the Army possess and operate weaponized drones. They operate within a clear chain of command and legal accountability. Lethal military operations using sophisticated weapons systems should be in the hands of the Secretary of Defense and military commanders who are accountable to Congress.

CIA strikes have been effective. Terrorists have been killed. But they are not secret. The whole world knows these are CIA strikes operating on behalf of the American people, without transparency, accountability or oversight.

In fact, CIA Director John Brennan has actually agree with this amendment. During his Senate confirmation hearing he stated, "The CIA should not be doing traditional military activities and operations."

There are costs associated with these targeted killings. Hundreds of innocent civilians have been killed. There are legal questions, human rights concerns, foreign policy implications and ultimately moral issues.

You could dismiss all of these concerns because the program is killing terrorists.

But in the near future, as armed drone technology proliferates, if we dismiss these concerns I can guarantee you that China, Iran, Russia and other nations will also dismiss these concerns when they are capable of conducting targeted killings. Why, because we are setting the example.

If we want other countries to use these technologies responsibly, then we must use them responsibly. What's at stake is our country's moral authority.

The Obama Administration is not leading on this issue of ensuring transparency, accountability and oversight. The president claims these CIA strikes are within "clear guidelines, oversight and accountability" that his administration determined all by itself—without input or even the consideration of Congress.

And Congress has done less. In fact Congress has done nothing except write a black check that allows a paramilitary force of CIA officers and civilian contractors to kill suspected terrorists and anyone else unlucky enough to be in the vicinity—including women and children—using one of the most sophisticated weapons platforms in our military arsenal.

For this Congress and this committee to passively allow the CIA to fire laser guided missiles at human targets in countries in which we are not at war without demanding oversight or accountability is a complete abdication of our sworn obligation to the Constitution and our citizens.

This is not intelligence gathering, these are military operations that should be conducted by our Armed Forces and with direct oversight by Congress.

Our country is at war with Al-Qaeda and its terrorist affiliates. I trust the members of our Armed Forces to do their job, defeat the enemy, and protect our nation. The drone strike program is a military program and Congress should demand that it be conducted within the same legal framework as any other military operation during a time of war.

McCollum statement at the close of debate on the amendment:

It is no surprise the White House opposes this amendment. The executive branch wants to maintain its CIA drone program and its target list without congressional oversight, without transparency or accountability.

It is absolutely appropriate and responsible for this committee to make the Department of Defense solely responsible for military operations using armed drone program. Doing so does not diminish our military capacity, it in fact it strengthens the program with regard to international law and accountability to Congress and the American people.

Right now the CIA is running an assassination program and the world is watching.

Soon China, Russia and Iran will have the same capability and will use the CIA's standard of killing anyone profiled as an enemy.

It is time Congress demands transparency, accountability, and oversight to a program that has killed thousands of people—including innocent civilians.

THANKING GERALD "JERRY" BENNETT
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2013

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Mr. Gerald E. Bennett for over 43 years of outstanding service to the United States House of Representatives.

Jerry is retiring this week as Chief Logistics Officer of Logistics and Support, with more than four decades of House experience. He first started working for the House of Representatives in 1969 as part of a summer employment program under the Office of the Doorkeeper. From folding Member mailings to distributing paychecks, he provided a number of important services. Over the years, he moved up the ranks, holding positions as a Maintenance Supervisor, Assistant Deputy Director, Manager, and Director of Logistics. He then served as Assistant Chief Administrative Officer and Assets, Furnishings, and Logistics Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, before becoming the Chief Logistics Officer of Logistics and Support.

Throughout his career, Jerry's thoughtfulness and positive attitude has earned him the respect and confidence of countless employees. It is not unusual to see Jerry lending a listening ear or providing sound guidance to an employee. His caring and encouraging nature is valued by this institution and its employees.

Jerry has often said that he always felt a powerful sense of purpose and a role in something deeply important. His commitment to

public service extends into his community, where he serves as a deacon in his church, uses his vacation to chaperone youth trips, and donates his time to coaching soccer. His devotion to faith and family is recognizable to all who have had the privilege to know Jerry and work beside him. He attributes much of his success to his wife, Karen, his children, and his eight grandchildren, who have always been fully supportive of his career. Jerry once claimed: "I don't come to work to work. I love what I do."

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I congratulate Jerry on his retirement and thank him for his dedication and outstanding contributions to the institution. I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

HONORING CATHY KIMBROUGH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mrs. Cathy Kimbrough.

Mrs. Kimbrough has served adults and children in numerous capacities. Some of the service areas include: reading instructor, while in Germany; General College reading instructor at Alcorn State University; and self-contained and inclusion teacher in the Attala County School District.

Mrs. Kimbrough has served her community as local president of the Attala County Association of Educators and has also served on the Board of Directors for the Boys' and Girls' Club in Kosciusko/Attala County.

Mrs. Kimbrough is a member of the following organizations: Order of the Eastern Star, National Council of Negro Women, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. She is also a member of Pleasant Hill M.B. Church, pastured by Rev. Osie C. Grays.

Mrs. Kimbrough earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Jackson State University. She was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and the Alpha Beta Alpha Library Science Fraternity.

Mrs. Kimbrough is married to Mr. Henry Kimbrough and has four children: Jerry Jr. (Erica), Essence Crystal (Theodore), Sonja Merrie', and Joyanne' Faith; six grandchildren—Deontrez Jerrick, Jersia, Kamiah, Kayla and Shytianna. She enjoys creating song lyrics, writing poetry, reading and fishing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Cathy Kimbrough for her dedication to serving others in Attala County.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2013

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote numbers 214, 215, and 216. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote number 214 and "yes" on rollcall vote numbers 215 and 216.

RECOGNIZING THE REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS OF JOSEPH CALABRESE, MD

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2013

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the outstanding accomplishments of Doctor Joseph Calabrese, professor of psychiatry at Case Western Reserve University and director of the Mood Disorders Program at University Hospitals Case Medical Center in Cleveland. Doctor Calabrese recently gained international acclaim when he was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the European Bipolar Forum at its annual meeting in Seville, Spain.

The accolades are well deserved—and I speak from personal experience—because Doctor Calabrese has taken the lead role in a major initiative that I helped launch under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Defense to study the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder on soldiers returning from combat zones. I have watched as Doctor Calabrese, working in concert with doctors at the University of Toledo, has conducted truly groundbreaking research involving combat veterans who suffer from PTSD.

As a member of the Defense Subcommittee of House Appropriations, I have long been concerned about the incidence of suicide among our combat veterans. In communities and families throughout our country, we have seen the devastating impact of PTSD. The ambitious research project by Doctor Calabrese that I have been privileged to support has studied the relationship between PTSD and suicidal ideation among members of the Ohio Army National Guard.

After completing a research fellowship at the National Institute of Mental Health, Doctor Calabrese returned to Cleveland to start the Mood Disorders Program. He also co-directs, along with Doctor Robert Finding, M.D., the NIMH-funded Bipolar Research Center in Cleveland. Doctor Calabrese has been the recipient of no fewer than five federal research grants from the NIMH. The Mood Disorders program at University Hospitals Case Medical Center was designated as a Center of Excellence under Dr. Calabrese's exceptional leadership.

Dr. Calabrese has dedicated his work to the improvement of clinical outcomes in underserved populations of bipolar disorder, including people who receive care at community health centers, children, adults, older adults, those in prison and those currently abusing alcohol or drugs. His research reflects a caring nature and true gift of service.

During the course of his career, Doctor Calabrese has published more than 300 peer-reviewed papers. He is a member of a number of scientific advisory boards and is affiliated with the American Psychiatric Association.

I am proud to support his clinical efforts and his exemplary service to the Cleveland community, our nation, and veterans everywhere. I am pleased to commend Doctor Joseph Calabrese on the occasion of his receipt of the European Bipolar Forum's Lifetime Achievement Award and thank him for his noble work.

RECOGNIZING THE SYRACUSE VA MEDICAL CENTER'S DIAMOND JUBILEE 1953-2013

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2013

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the Syracuse VA Medical Center's Diamond Jubilee.

The Syracuse VA Medical Center, Located at 800 Irving Avenue, first opened its doors on June 14th, 1953. For the past 60 years, the medical center has dedicated itself to providing superior care to veterans and their families. Part of VA Healthcare Upstate New York, the Syracuse VA Medical Center provides outpatient support to the greater Central New York area by operating community clinics in Auburn, Binghamton, Cortland, Massena, Oswego, Rome, and Watertown. The staff should be commended for their dedication and commitment to those who have served this nation.

The Syracuse VA Medical Center has been recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs as a Center of Excellence for its Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Polytrauma Programs. Additionally, the center is also the primary referral center for neurosurgery and urological renal stone treatment, which encompasses all of upstate New York and Northern Pennsylvania veterans.

On June 14, 2013, the Syracuse VA Medical Center will formally open their Spine Cord Injury & Disorder Center. This state-of-the-art center provides expanded services that our veterans deserve. The facility will serve veterans across Upstate New York who now travel to New York City or out of state to get spinal cord care. Our veterans deserve the best care this nation has to offer, and with the six-floor addition, the Syracuse VA Medical Center will continue to do just that.

To mark this special occasion, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki will be present to deliver the keynote speech for the occasion. It is truly an honor to have Secretary Shinseki present to celebrate this momentous occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the Syracuse VA Medical Center's Diamond Jubilee event, and wish the center many more years of continued growth and success in its service of the veteran community of Central New York.

HONORING DAN SPENCER FOR HIS INDUCTION INTO THE "MUM- MERS HALL OF FAME"

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2013

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dan Spencer for his immense contributions to the string band community in South Jersey. For the past forty-one years, Mr. Spencer has diligently served as an active leader and has promoted success in numerous string band and mummery associations across New Jersey.