

partnering countries at the unit level where the mission is executed.

America's strategic challenges, including a pivot to the Pacific region that has more than 70 countries and more than 100 regional and national languages, will generate additional requirements for language and put additional strain on the current capacity for skilled foreign language analysts, Foreign Area Officers, military intelligence personnel, and attachés. We must meet the demand and respond proactively.

Madam Chair, again, I am appreciative of the committee's support of foreign language capability and cultural understanding in the military and look forward to working with them in the future to ensure our military is resourced to meet the strategic demands of the future.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1960) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Chair, I am here to ask that you support my amendment requesting the Secretary of the Army to review and provide a report on the Medal of Honor nomination of Captain William L. Albracht of Moline, Illinois.

Many, including the Vietnam Veterans of America, strongly believe that after reviewing all of the documentation that the Silver Star is not commensurate with Captain Albracht's actions during the five days of the siege of Firebase Kate in South Vietnam.

It is the belief that the Army performed a cursory review of the nomination, given the length of time between Captain Albracht's heroic actions and his initial Medal of Honor nomination.

Forty-three years ago, Captain Albracht, then a 21-year-old Green Beret, was in charge of a U.S. military evacuation at Firebase Kate.

Captain Albracht's strong leadership, calm under extreme duress, and care for countless other soldiers was exemplary. He was responsible for saving 150 lives.

Outnumbered 40-to-1 and vulnerable, conditions grew more dire. Albracht took shrapnel to the arm. The wound easily could have landed him aboard one of the last medevac helicopters that dared approach Firebase Kate.

But he chose to stay.

He led these 150 men off the base, despite being wounded, surrounded and constantly targeted by the enemy. After long nights, Captain Albracht's escape plan worked.

After arriving safely at a nearby outpost, word came that there would be a ceremony to honor their heroic actions. A helicopter was

sent to pick up Captain Albracht, despite poor flying conditions that had grounded many other aircraft.

Upon arrival of the helicopter, Captain Albracht noted that there were several wounded soldiers who could not be airlifted due to weather conditions. He told the aircrew of his helicopter to get the men to a hospital. Giving up his seat caused him to miss the ceremony. His actions went unrecognized for four decades.

Others under Captain Albracht's command and guidance were awarded Silver Stars for their actions that day. However, Captain Albracht was not recognized for leading his soldiers to safety through the dense Vietnamese jungle while repeatedly facing extreme enemy fire.

Many believe that every man at Firebase Kate would have died if not for Captain Albracht. There was no one else capable of calling in an airstrike and no one there capable of inspiring these men to follow him into that jungle.

This is why I am requesting that the Army review and provide a report on why Captain Albracht's heroic actions and Medal of Honor nomination was downgraded two levels.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION OF THE AGA KHAN FOUNDATION'S CHICAGO PARTNERSHIP GOLF OUTING

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) an outstanding charitable endeavor that helps battle poverty across the globe, and I am proud that AKF will hold its 2013 Chicago Partnership Golf Outing in Illinois's Tenth District.

In total, nearly 1.4 billion people live in extreme poverty. As our world continues to evolve, develop and grow more interconnected, this reality becomes ever more evident, increasingly more unacceptable. The AKF, through remarkable global programs and incredible individual generosity, fights to empower people in every corner of the planet.

As the global upheaval of the last few years continues, it is imperative that we remain engaged with the world and actively lead in trying to improve it. Times of change offer the chance to alter the course of history, and the AKF is not pulling back from this moment, but rather is embracing it.

Every dollar raised for the Chicago Partnership Golf Outing goes directly to AKF charitable projects, with no money toward administrative costs. This steadfast commitment to its founding ideals has led the AKF to the forefront of the fight against poverty.

Recently, the AKF launched an initiative to empower the war-torn people of Mali. Its dedication to working in some of the most dangerous, devastated regions of the world is both noble and inspiring. For those who need its services most, the AKF has been willing and able to step up and make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor this special organization, and I wish them great success now and in the future.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1960) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Chair, I rise today to thank Chairman McKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for their hard work on this important legislation, and to speak in support of my amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act.

My amendment is very simple and straightforward—it would prohibit the Department of Defense from using taxpayer funds to provide additional or upgraded recreational facilities for detainees at U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

I cannot help but remember that the federal government wasted \$750,000 last year to build a recreational soccer field in Guantanamo Bay for detainees. I thought it was a ridiculous idea then, and I think it is a ridiculous idea now.

At a time when we have an out-of-control backlog of Veterans claims pending a decision—taxpayer funding was wasted building a soccer field for terrorists?

At a time when the President's Administration is proposing to drastically raise TRICARE fees on service members and their families—\$750,000 were spent to improve the recreational facilities for terrorist detainees?

At a time when we can't give seniors a fair cost-of-living increase in benefits?

Or at a time when families across the country are making tough cutbacks in their own budgets, we're building soccer fields in Cuba?

Guantanamo Bay is a detention facility for terrorists captured on the battlefield or apprehended actively planning to do harm to Americans.

As such, Guantanamo Bay should not be a place of comfort; rather, it should house the world's most dangerous terrorists in a humane way, providing only the bare essentials.

Our Founding Fathers made it clear that the federal government has no higher duty than to "provide for the common defense."

Rather than balancing the budget on the backs of our military, Department of Defense employees, seniors, and families, Congress should prevent wasteful projects like this—period.

Once again, I want to thank the Chair and Ranking Member for their work on this legislation, and encourage my colleagues to join me in passing this fiscally responsible amendment to ensure taxpayer's funds are not used to construct or upgrade recreational facilities for terrorist detainees.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1960) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment (#63), to the National Defense Authorization Act, which would require the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps to provide free Internet access for servicemembers serving in a combat zone.

This amendment comes as a response to several servicemembers from our district who, while serving in Afghanistan and Iraq, found the distribution and pricing of recreational Internet usage for servicemembers to be unequal and exorbitant.

For the vast majority of our nation's servicemembers serving overseas, the Internet has become the best means to communicate with spouses, children, parents, and other loved ones. It is the key link to staying connected with home and provides a much needed boost in morale for our nation's warriors who have had to endure multiple tours of duty in some of the most difficult terrain in the world.

It is imperative that as the people's elected representatives, we make sure that this important service is provided to those who have answered the call of duty and are putting their lives in harm's way at the lowest cost for our servicemembers.

For situations in which the local security environment does not allow for recreational Internet usage, this amendment provides for a temporary waiver.

I ask for my colleagues to stand with our servicemembers and their families and vote in support of my amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLOTTE AND BILL WINKKY

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charlotte and Bill Winkky as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Married June 23, 1963, Charlotte and Bill have spent the majority of their lives residing in Horseheads, New York. Their devotion to each other and to their community is truly commendable.

Charlotte, a German immigrant, came to the United States with her mother after World War II. She lived in Newburgh, New York before attending the State University of New York, Cortland, where she met her husband Bill. They have been together ever since.

Both Charlotte and Bill served as public school teachers for the Horseheads Central School District for over 30 years. Bill also

coached football, wrestling, swimming, and track at Horseheads. Although the couple has retired from teaching, they continue to give back to their community. Charlotte plays an active role in the American Cancer Society, and she and her husband contribute to several other non-profit organizations, including the YWCA and Tanglewood Nature Center. Bill currently serves as the Supervisor for the Town of Veteran.

Charlotte and Bill Winkky have set an admirable record of devotion to each other, their family, and their community. I am honored to congratulate Charlotte and Bill on their milestone of 50 years together and it is only proper that they be officially recognized here today.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1960) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

GENERAL LEAVE STATEMENT

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Chair, I submit the following exchange of letters.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION,
AND THE WORKFORCE,

Washington, DC, June 7, 2013.

Hon. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to confirm our mutual understanding with respect to H.R. 1960, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014. Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Education and the Workforce with regard to H.R. 1960 on those matters within the committee's jurisdiction.

In the interest of expediting the House's consideration of H.R. 1960, the Committee on Education and the Workforce will forgo further consideration of this bill. However, I do so only with the understanding that this procedural route will not be construed to prejudice my committee's jurisdictional interest and prerogatives on this bill or any other similar legislation and will not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to my committee in the future.

I respectfully request your support for the appointment of outside conferees from the Committee on Education and the Workforce should this bill or a similar bill be considered in a conference with the Senate. I also request that you include our exchange of letters on this matter in the Committee Report on H.R. 1960 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

JOHN KLINE,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 7, 2013.

Hon. JOHN KLINE

Chairman, House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN KLINE: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1960, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014. I agree that the Committee on Education and the Workforce has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Education and the Workforce is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON,
Chairman.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, June 7, 2013.

Hon. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON,

Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN McKEON: I write concerning H.R. 1960, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014." I wanted to notify you that the Committee on Energy and Commerce will forgo action on H.R. 1960 so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

This is done with the understanding that the Committee's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered. In addition, the Committee reserves the right to seek conferees on H.R. 1960 and requests your support when such a request is made.

I would appreciate your response confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 1960 and ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 7, 2013.

Hon. FRED UPTON,

Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1960, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014. I agree that the Committee on Energy and Commerce has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Energy and Commerce is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON,
Chairman.

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE,
June 7, 2013.

Hon. BUCK McKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In recognition of the importance of expediting the passage of H.R. 1960, the "National Defense Authorization