

Thrash was a role model and community leader, he served in the Georgia Municipal and Cobb Municipal associations, and his service to the National League of Cities Council on Youth, Education, and Families, Thrash was named Citizen of the Year by the Northwest Cobb Area Council of the Chamber of Commerce and the Kennesaw Business Association.

His colleagues and friends will always remember Thrash as someone who loved public service and was particularly passionate about creating programs for young people to thrive in the community. He is credited as being the driving force behind an after-school recreational program for at-risk teens, and for the development of Cantrell Park.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to William E. Thrash's wife Suzie, his daughter Mandy, and sons Robbie and Billy during these most difficult of times. It saddens me to know that the world is missing an honorable and dedicated man, but I am humbled to know that he is now in a better place.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

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. POSEY. Mr. Chair, I'm pleased to rise today in support of my bipartisan bill, the Deployed Troops Support Act, which has been accepted as an Amendment to H.R. 1960, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014.

I would like to thank House Armed Services Committee Chairman MCKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for their support in helping this important Amendment to move forward. I would also like to thank the cosponsors of H.R. 1756, the Deployed Troops Support Act for their support: FREDERICA WILSON of Florida, DENNIS ROSS of Florida, LOUIS GOHMERT of Texas, WILLIAM ENYART of Illinois, CHRISTOPHER GIBSON of New York, KERRY BENTIVOLIO of Mississippi, DONNA CHRISTENSEN of the U.S. Virgin Islands, LARRY BUCHSON of Indiana, and DEREK KILMER of Washington.

Mr. Chairman, when our soldiers are deployed to defend our Nation, many patriotic Americans show their support for our brave men and women in uniform by putting together care packages. This Amendment simply allows the Department of Defense to transport, on a space available basis, goods supplied by nonprofit organizations to members of the Armed Services who are deployed overseas.

This Amendment gives veterans' nonprofits and other private charitable organizations that support our troops the same consideration that organizations are already given for transporting humanitarian goods to foreign nationals overseas. In this Amendment, we extend

the same courtesy for our own troops that we have granted to foreigners under the "Denton Program" since 1985.

We also ensure that the Secretary has the authority to determine that there is a legitimate need for the goods being shipped, that supplies are suitable for distribution, and that adequate arrangements have been made for distribution.

This legislative idea was brought to my attention by veterans in my congressional district, specifically AVET Project in Brevard County. I especially commend Garren and Kim Cone and the members of AVET for their service to our Nation and their support for our soldiers. Again, thanks to everyone involved for helping to advance this common sense Amendment.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

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. CONNOLLY. Madam Chair, I am pleased to offer this bipartisan amendment on behalf of my fellow co-chairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus: Reps. DIAZ-BALART, CARTER, and SIRE. We also have two other notable cosponsors: Rep. GINGREY, the former co-chair of the Caucus, and Rep. GRANGER. Our amendment would affirm the United States' longstanding economic and defensive partnership with Taiwan, which dates back to the 1940s.

This amendment reflects the same language adopted by voice vote in the House during consideration of the FY13 National Defense Authorization Act. In the 112th Congress, 181 Members of the House of Representatives sent a letter to the Administration citing the "critical" need for the United States "to sell the government of Taiwan all the F-16 C/D [aircraft] it requires." The letter urged the Administration to "move quickly" on this matter and cited the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 (TRA) as the statutory basis for such a sale.

The Administration's announcement to sell only a retrofit package for Taiwan's older fighter jets disappointed Taiwan's supporters. After all, U.S. policy with regard to the defensive capabilities of Taiwan is clearly outlined in the TRA, which states it is the policy of the U.S. "to provide Taiwan with arms of a defensive character."

Moreover, three joint communiqués between the U.S. and the People's Republic of China (PRC), and the "Six Assurances" to Taipei offered by President Reagan, add additional context to the U.S.-Taiwan relationship. The defensive weapons provision in the TRA has been an irritant in the relationship with Beijing, but this provision is necessary for Taiwan's defense.

It should be no surprise that advocates for Taipei's defensive needs continue to push for

the sale of the 66 F-16 C/D planes. It is important that U.S. obligations to provide for Taiwan's defenses—codified in and by the TRA—be dictated by our assessments of Taiwan's needs and not by the threat, implied or otherwise, of Taiwan's big neighbor. Beyond this defense relationship, the United States has strong economic ties with Taiwan. In 2010 total U.S. trade with Taiwan was \$61.9 billion, making it the 9th largest U.S. trading partner.

I encourage my colleagues to vote for this bipartisan amendment directing the President to sell 66 F-16 C/D aircraft to Taiwan.

HONORING SAL CASTRO

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, Sal Castro (October 25, 1933–April 15, 2013) was a Mexican-American educator and activist. He was most well-known for his role in the student walkouts at East Los Angeles high schools in 1968. With Sal's assistance and guidance, the students protested against unequal conditions in the Los Angeles Unified School District schools.

Long after he retired from teaching, Sal continued his lectures that shared his experiences and the importance of education, particularly in Mexican American communities. After a seven month battle with cancer, Sal Castro passed away in his sleep on April 15, 2013.

A funeral mass was celebrated for Sal at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles on April 25, 2013. In tribute to Mr. Castro's life efforts, I would like to submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the eulogy honoring him which was delivered by Mario T. Garcia, Professor of Chicano Studies and History at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

EULOGY FOR: SAL CASTRO

Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels

Los Angeles, CA, April 25, 2013

About fifteen years ago, I invited Sal Castro to speak to my Chicano History class at UC Santa Barbara. My students and I were enthralled with the power of his voice, the humanity that he projected, and that wonderful humor. I knew then that I had to write his story. That story testifies to Sal's place in history and it is an honored place.

Very few of us have the opportunity to make history that affects others' lives. Sal Castro did that. He did that by first of all dedicating his career to being a teacher. There is nothing Sal would not do for his students. He did this for four decades and touched the lives of countless young people.

Sal made history by the inspirational and courageous leadership that he provided his kids as he called them in the 1968 Blowouts or walkouts in the East Los Angeles schools the largest high school student strike in American history. I do not believe that the Blowouts would have occurred without Sal's leadership. He put his career and perhaps even his life on the line for the students in this movement. He didn't do it because he personally wanted publicity or rewards. He did it because of the injustices of an educational system that for decades had denied Mexican American students a quality education and an opportunity to go to college. Sal Castro took on the entire educational establishment because they did not care about his kids.

He knew that real change does not come from on top from the elite but from the bottom, from the people. In 1968 it was senior and junior high school students who through Sal came to recognize that they were not the problem nor were their parents the problem for their lack of educational achievement. Sal helped open their eyes that it was the schools, too many teachers, too many principals, and too many members of the board of education who were the problem. Sal taught them that there was no "Mexican problem" but instead a racist problem as it affected the schools and the Mexican American community. Because of Sal, the students—the Blowout generation as Sal called them—empowered themselves. They were not going to accept anything now but a good education so that they could advance as far as their personal talents would take them. Sal knew he had achieved this change in consciousness as he saw hundreds of students walk out of Lincoln High School and Roosevelt High School and Garfield High School and Wilson High School, and Belmont High School and other high schools in other parts of Los Angeles. He knew that it would never be the same and he was right. With tears in his eyes and pride in his very being many years later he said of that day in 1968:

"As the bell rang, out they went, out into the streets. With their heads held high, with dignity. It was beautiful to be a Chicano that day."

In that first week of March, 1968 with thousands of high school students on strike, the students, the college students who helped, the brown berets who provided defense, and Sal made history. They brought the educational establishment to its knees. They showed what Chicano power meant.

Various reforms followed but they were never enough and still not enough even today. But Sal and the students showed that week that major social change can only happen when the people themselves realize that only they can make the changes that will improve their lives. This was the lesson of the Blowouts and the lessons of the Chicano movement. It was the lesson that Sal as a teacher taught that generation and continues to teach us today and in the future.

Sal Castro was first and foremost a teacher but as a teacher he made history not only through the Blowouts but by year after year producing students who would dedicate their lives in whatever profession they pursued to go out and fulfill the legacy of his blowout kids—to change the world. Sal never rested on his laurels. There were still too many kids that he needed to reach and which he did not only in his classes but through his unselfish work in inspiring new generations of future Chicano/Latino leaders by his Chicano Youth Leadership Conference.

Sal Castro is a giant in Chicano history and also needs to be recognized as a giant in American history. He showed us that real education is different from schooling. Schooling produces students who accept the status quo and never ask "why?" Education produces students who not only ask "why" but act on their question.

I personally will miss a colleague, a fellow teacher, and a dear friend. I will miss him coming to my classes as he did for many years never asking for compensation but always with the same passion wanting to share his story with students. I often joked that if Sal couldn't show up I could give Sal's talk because I had heard it so often. And now I will give that talk by myself but I also rededicate myself today to his mission in life and will teach others about Sal Castro and his place in history.

The last question I asked Sal is how do you wish to be remembered. He simply said: "I want my tombstone to read—Sal Castro a

teacher" and he added in concluding his story and he is saying this to us today:

"Que Dios les Bendiga y que La Virgen Morena les proteja."

SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of efforts to fight sexual assault in the military. Sexual assault and rape are violent and horrific crimes, and they must be treated as serious offense, not—as Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS of Georgia has suggested—as a byproduct of "hormones."

According to Pentagon estimates, last year, over 70 service women and men were sexually assaulted every single day. The Department of Defense estimates that 26,000 sexual assaults occurred last year, an increase from the estimated 19,300 assaults in 2010. Yet only a fraction of those crimes are referred to courts martial.

We face an epidemic of sexual assault in the military. Because of a culture of intimidation and retaliation against victims, coupled with the low rate of prosecution and punishment, the vast majority of these crimes go unreported. In some instances, the victim seeks help but opts not to file a formal complaint.

The men and women of the armed services risk their lives to defend our country. Our military is built on the values of trust, discipline, and respect.

Despite growing discussion and awareness of the fact that sexual assault has become entrenched in our military culture, we've seen limited progress toward a solution. That's why I am proud to support provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that make progress toward combating military sexual assault. As currently written, the NDAA strips commanders of their ability to dismiss court martial convictions for serious offenders, and it prohibits commanders from reducing guilty findings for serious offenses. The NDAA requires that servicemembers found guilty of rape or sexual assault be punitively discharged from the military.

Among other provisions, the Defense Authorization bill we're considering today also lays out the rights of victims. It allows them to apply for a permanent change of station or unit transfer, ensuring they are not forced to continue to serve next to their assaulter.

However, I believe we need to go further. I am a cosponsor of Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER's legislation H.R. 1593, the Sexual Assault Training Oversight and Prevention (STOP) Act. The STOP Act would take the reporting, oversight, investigation and victim care of sexual assaults out of the hands of the military's normal chain of command and place jurisdiction in the newly-created, autonomous Sexual Assault Oversight and Response Office comprised of civilian and military experts.

In addition to the STOP Act, Congresswoman SPEIER has introduced an amendment—which I am proud to cosponsor—to the Defense Authorization bill taking the decision-making of whether to prosecute out of the chain of command and give discretion to trained prosecutors.

Mr. Speaker, service women and men who survive sexual violence should not have to choose between their careers and justice. They should not be afraid to report crimes perpetrated against them, and they should not face intimidation when seeking treatment and other services. I strongly believe we need to take action now to fundamentally change the way sexual assault is handled in the military by passing legislation to prevent and punish sexual assault and rape.

IN CELEBRATION OF JUNETEENTH IN MACON, GEORGIA

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a longstanding tradition in Macon, Georgia, the 21st Annual Juneteenth Freedom Festival. Georgia Juneteenth Week spans from June 8, 2013 to June 15, 2013, culminating in the Juneteenth Freedom Festival on Saturday, June 15, 2013 from noon to sundown at Historic Tattnell Square Park in Macon, Georgia.

On June 19, 1865 in Galveston, Texas, two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, Union Troops seized control of the area and declared all slaves free. Since then, Juneteenth has been nationally and internationally observed as Emancipation Day and the end of slavery in the United States for those who did not receive the news that the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President Lincoln on January 1, 1863 until June, 1865.

Whether it is a day, week, or month-long celebration, Juneteenth brings people of all walks of life together for remembrance of a dark period in our Nation's history, to rejoice at how far we have come as a society, and to reflect upon how far we have yet to go.

For the past 21 years, Torchlight Academy, Inc. and Kwanzaa Cultural Access Center have partnered to organize the Juneteenth celebrations in Macon, Georgia. The Juneteenth Freedom Festival has been one of the most innovative, vibrant and enjoyable displays of Afro-centric art, talent and culture in Middle Georgia. With agricultural education exhibits; live jazz, soul and hip hop music; modern and African dance; delicious food; live history exhibits; children's games; and storytelling, this partnership has fostered the spirit of community that is so deeply anchored in our ancestral roots.

Macon's oldest continuous African-American community-based festival, the Juneteenth celebrations and annual Freedom Festival unite Middle Georgians to honor the struggle, sacrifice and success of our ancestors.

This year's local Juneteenth festivities included a "Salute to Freedom" 5k Run/Walk for Health and Peace, the Pleasant Hill Neighborhood Reunion, Heritage Discovery Walk, Macon Black Heritage Tours, and the Real Talk Hip Hop Summit of Youth Awareness and Responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in saluting Mr. George A. Fadil Muhammad, Torchlight Academy, Inc., Kwanzaa Cultural Access Center, the residents of Macon, Georgia and the surrounding communities as