

they come together to celebrate Juneteenth. This spirited celebration is an annual reminder of the valiant souls of our Nation's history to whom we owe so much. Let us also use this occasion to reflect upon ourselves and how we can each lead a life that honors the sacrifice of our ancestors.

# RECOGNIZING DIEGO ARENCÓN ON FATHER'S DAY

**HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. Father's Day is a time for families to come together, a time to honor the role of fathers in our lives, and a time to count our blessings. But for many Americans, this Sunday will be the first Father's Day where they won't be able to hug their dad tight. And for fathers who have lost a child in the past year, this will be the first Father's Day where they can't look into their son's or daughter's eyes and tell them how much joy they bring them every day.

This Father's Day, I would like to honor one of my constituents, Diego Arencón, who has sadly lost both his father and his son in the past year. A dedicated public servant, Diego is a member of the Albuquerque Fire Department and is President of the Albuquerque Area Fire Fighters, IAFF Local 244. He has selflessly risked his life to keep the residents of Albuquerque safe. He is an effective advocate for his fellow firefighters, an accomplished jazz drummer, and I'm proud to be counted among those who call Diego a friend.

Diego and his continued commitment to his wife, Lupe, and to his surviving children, Santiago, Loliana and Diego, is an inspiration to all who know him.

In early January of this year, Diego's father, Jose "Pelete" Arencón, passed away. A prominent gypsy flamenco singer, Jose was known for his compelling voice. He began singing as a child, and became a professional singer as a teenager. Born in Spain, he moved to Albuquerque with his wife in 1975, bringing the traditional roots of flamenco to the Duke City.

Diego's son, Nikolas Ventura-Arencón, was only 14 when he tragically passed away the day before Thanksgiving last year. Even at his young age, Nikolas had ambitions to serve his community and his country just like his father. Nikolas was a member of the Los Alamos High School ROTC and had dreams of attending the New Mexico Military Institute to become a Marine. He also wanted to follow in his father's footsteps by becoming a firefighter. Within their ranks, New Mexico firefighters say Nikolas Ventura-Arencón was "one of us."

# DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2013 H.R. 2217

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Department of Home-

land Security Appropriations Act of 2013 (H.R. 2217).

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, we passed a bipartisan Homeland Security appropriations bill. I believe, that legislation would have passed the House by an overwhelming margin.

Unfortunately, an amendment offered by Representative STEVE KING of Iowa was added to the bill on the floor; it is a poison pill for any member who cares about advancing comprehensive immigration reform. The King amendment terminates specific Obama Administration policies on immigration, including deferred action for childhood arrivals, supporting prosecutor discretion for victims of crimes, and prioritizing the deportation of violent criminals. The King amendment was adopted in a highly partisan vote of 224–201, with 221 Republicans voting for this anti-immigrant measure.

Specifically, the King amendment would mean that young people, who were brought here as children by their parents and grew up in America, will face deportation from the country they consider their own. It means victims of domestic abuse and human trafficking could face deportation for reporting their abusers.

Prioritizing public safety is only common sense. Immigration officials should be focused on deporting dangerous individuals, not working families or victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. Denying law enforcement officials the ability to use their discretion is not only a foolish and ineffective method of directing our resources, but inhumane.

I strongly support the Obama Administration policies that the King amendment eliminates. As a co-sponsor of the DREAM Act in the 111th and 112th Congress, I am appalled that House Republicans would support eliminating this policy and forcing these young people to live with the fear of being deported. Dreamers want and deserve the chance to earn American citizenship so they can fully contribute to the country they have always viewed as their own.

The King amendment will have a chilling effect on the movement for comprehensive immigration reform. The Senate is making real progress in negotiations, but this anti-immigrant amendment suggests that House Republicans have no interest in the real reform needed to fix our broken immigration system.

# OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 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 \$16,738,708,293,971.53. We've added \$6,111,831,245,058.45 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.

# NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETO O'ROURKE**

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. O'ROURKE. Mr. Chair, the Federal Government is facing some of the most complex challenges in our Nation's history and dealing with serious budget constraints. In order to do more with less, it is critical that we have a first class Federal workforce. The government must make the proper investments in its employees and take the steps necessary to recruit, retain, and develop its talent.

The media often focuses on what goes wrong in government, but today I want to take a moment to recognize the important work of the more than 800,000 Department of Defense of Defense (DoD) civil servants who provide essential services to help keep our country safe. DoD civilians are partners in our national defense and integral to the success of DoD military operations.

I represent Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas and to echo the words of Former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta when he visited the installation, "let me be clear—Fort Bliss is the premier post in America." The critical role this post plays in our national defense is supported by more than 11,000 full-time civilian employees. We live in a world where the threats to our freedoms are diverse and we must ensure that our civilian workforce is up to the task of protecting the American people. To succeed in carrying out the complex tasks of the Department, Congress must enable all these employees to excel in their jobs. We must compensate them commensurate with their responsibilities; provide them with a quality of work life that fosters long-term growth; and work to ensure that labor-management relationships remain strong.

This year Congress debated multiple amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 that aimed to weaken the civilian workforce at DoD. These amendments would greatly expand the A–76 process and direct the Department to contract out any function not considered to be "inherently governmental"—regardless of policy, risk, or cost to DoD. The Congress outlawed the use of the A–76 process during the Bush Administration after the finding by DoD Inspector General that it was biased against federal employees, and by the Government Accountability Office that the costs of associated with the process often exceeded estimated savings. Additionally, in testimony before the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, DoD Comptroller Robert Hale acknowledged that contractors are twice as expensive as civilian employees stating that "if you're going to have a job over a long period of time . . . it's probably cheaper to have a civilian government employee to do it." For these reasons, I voted against these amendments.

As the Nation's largest employer, I believe that the federal government has a responsibility to lead by example to be a model employer. This is especially true for the Department of Defense. Since being elected to Congress, I have met and worked with many civilian employees at DoD and am inspired by their dedication. Our military and country are stronger because of them, and I will continue to support efforts that strengthen our federal workforce.

THE HOMELAND SECURITY  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF FY2014

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 14, 2013*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2217, the FY14 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. I appreciate the bipartisan effort put into crafting H.R. 2217 and commend the members of the Appropriations Committee for encouraging a collaborative and open process. It's unfortunate that at the last minute an anti-immigration amendment offered by Representative STEVE KING of Iowa upset the delicate bipartisan balance established in the bill.

Recent events emphasize the importance of ensuring the availability of the resources our country needs to address national emergencies. The tornadoes in Oklahoma, the bombings at the Boston Marathon, forest fires in California and Colorado are just a few examples of why funding for homeland security should always be considered a national priority. This bill provides resources to address these and other critical needs by directing funding to protect the country's transportation infrastructure and cybernetworks, and equally important, to our first responders who help to protect our communities and who play a vital role in helping keep the nation safe and secure. In total, the bill appropriates \$38.9 billion for the Department in FY 2014 for these and other critical national priorities.

While I support the level of funding set for Homeland Security in this bill, I strongly oppose the funding levels set in the Republican budget plan for other key priorities. For example, the Republican budget recklessly cuts the category of funding for our kids' education and medical research by 20 percent below the sequester level. Consequently, I strongly support the President's position that the funding levels for Homeland Security must ultimately be considered in the context of an overall agreement on the budget. Unfortunately, our Republican colleagues in the House and Senate continue to refuse to convene a conference to negotiate a budget agreement.

Additionally, I share the President's concern about the bill's failure to fund the request for the Department of Homeland Security headquarters consolidation project, which will only delay the project further; the bill's failure to fully fund the request for new Customs and Borders Protection officers; and the bill's continued funding of the unnecessary 287 (g) program when the Secure Communities program is a more efficient and cost-effective alternative.

In that same vein, this year I again opposed the anti-immigration amendment offered by

Representative KING that prohibits the use of funds in the bill from being used to implement the so called "Morton Memos." These memos were written by ICE Director Morton and provide a plan to deploy ICE resources to the most cost effective priorities and provide guidance to ensure that limited resources are focused on criminals and other individuals who pose a genuine threat to national security or public safety. I am disappointed that the House chose to again include this provision and it is for that reason that I will oppose this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC  
SERVICE OF MARC JOHNSON

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 14, 2013*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marcus Johnson as he prepares to retire from his position as Superintendent of the Sanger Unified School District. Marc will be leaving after more than 35 years in public education in the Central Valley.

As Superintendent of Sanger Unified, Marc transformed some of California's lowest performing schools into some of our best. The education reforms that he spearheaded are now considered a model for schools across the country. Marc's dedication and commitment to improving education standards in the Central Valley have been nationally recognized including by the American Association of Student Administrators who named him the 2011 National Superintendent of the Year.

A California native, Marc lives in the small community of Reedley, where at age four he moved with his parents and where his wife of 37 years, Penni, taught at Thomas Law Reed Elementary, before retiring last year. He is a graduate of Reedley Community College, California State University, Fresno and Fresno Pacific University, where he received his Masters in Education. Marc began his career in education at American Union Elementary, where he taught for 16 years and later served as the district's superintendent and principal. In 1999, Marc was named the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources for the Sanger Unified School District, before assuming the role of Superintendent of the district in the fall of 2003.

When Marc took over as Superintendent, Sanger Unified was struggling. A year into his tenure, the district was designated for program improvement by the State of California. Under Marc's leadership and guidance, Sanger Unified implemented education reforms including adopting the professional learning community model focused on student learning, high quality instruction, and teacher collaboration. Within two years Sanger Unified exited program improvement status and its schools have since gone on to win many accolades and awards. Recently, Sanger Unified became only the second school district in the country to have every one of its middle schools named to the Department of Education's prestigious "Schools to Watch" list.

Although Marc is retiring as Superintendent of Sanger Unified, he will continue the fight to improve education standards in the Central Valley as the interim co-director of the John D.

Welty Center for Educational Policy and Leadership. In addition, Marc is retiring to spend much needed time with his wife, his three children, and his four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished educational leadership of Mr. Marc Johnson. The work he has done for the Sanger Unified School District will have a lasting impact on our children in Fresno County and in the entire State of California.

RECOGNIZING FALLEN OWEGO  
FIREFIGHTER CAPTAIN MATT  
PORCARI

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 14, 2013*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize fallen Owego Firefighter Captain Matt Porcari. Captain Porcari belonged to the Owego Fire Department for 18 years before his tragic death while actively responding to a mutual aid fire call in Newark Valley, New York. He was 34 years old and leaves behind a wife Christina, two children and three step-children.

Captain Porcari was a dedicated volunteer in the department who began his service at age 16, serving as a mentor and friend to newer members. His caring nature extended beyond the Owego community, demonstrated by his assistance to the Long Beach Fire Station following Hurricane Sandy and by his efforts to organize a trip to pay tribute to the fallen firefighters in Webster, New York. In addition, Captain Porcari led the Croton Hose Company #3 in the Central New York Hose Racing Championships and was a member of the youngest team to win a CNY Championship in 1995.

Captain Porcari's legacy was honored this June at the Owego Fallen Firefighters Memorial Golf Tournament, which was held in honor of Captain Porcari and other fallen Owego firefighters. The monies raised at the tournament will support scholarships for Owego Free Academy's graduating seniors pursuing careers as first responders. Additional monies will go to the development and maintenance of an Owego Fire Department training facility.

Today we honor Matt Porcari's sacrifice. Let us remember every day the price paid by true heroes such as Matt.

INTRODUCTION OF THE YOUTH  
JOBS ACT

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 14, 2013*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Youth Jobs Act.

We are facing a jobs crisis in this country, and even our youth are not exempt from its effects. Five years after the Great Recession hit, 27 million workers are either unemployed or underemployed—roughly one out of every six U.S. workers. This is completely unacceptable.

Even worse though, is the impact this crisis is leaving on the next generation of workers.