

There are some bright spots in this bill that I worked very hard to secure and am pleased to see them included. One is a critical two-year extension and expansion of the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program. Without action in the NDAA, the U.S. would have left our Afghan allies in the lurch, without any path to safety in the U.S., as promised to them in exchange for their service to protect our men and women in uniform.

Also included is an amendment I offered to the NDAA in March that will require the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office to issue a report, on a regular basis, that forecasts the long-term estimated cost of the United States' nuclear weapons arsenal. The initial report that my amendment codified found that the Pentagon underestimated projected costs by \$150 billion. The United States is scheduled to spend at least one-half to two-thirds of a trillion dollars over the next 10 years on our nuclear forces and related programs. This spending, adjusting for inflation, is higher than at the height of the Cold War. Transparency and nonpartisan oversight strengthens our democracy and promotes greater efficiency and effectiveness in government, especially in monitoring government spending.

It is unfortunate that this Defense Authorization is another missed opportunity to have the debate the American public deserves, and to set our military on a sustainable path.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE
OF RUFINO BAUTISTA, JR.

HON. GLORIA NEGRETE MCLEOD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Rufino Bautista, Jr. served as a Senior Field Representative in California's 35th Congressional District, which includes the communities of Bloomington, Chino, Fontana, Montclair, Ontario, Rialto in San Bernardino County, and the city of Pomona in Los Angeles County.

Mr. Rufino Bautista, Jr. provided constituent services to the people of the 35th Congressional District during my tenure in both the California State Legislature and now as Member of Congress.

As a senior member of my staff, having served for 10 years in the district, Mr. Rufino Bautista, Jr. helped establish the internship program in my office, and mentored many high school and college interns as well as new staff members who were eager to learn about policy and government and serve the constituents of the 35th district.

Mr. Rufino Bautista, Jr. was active in promoting increased community participation in the electoral process by helping to register nearly 20,000 new voters in the 35th Congressional District and its surrounding communities.

A native of Rowland Heights, California, Mr. Rufino Bautista, Jr. attended Bishop Amat High School and went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Having served previously as an aide to the Los Angeles City Council, Mr. Rufino Bautista,

Jr. has served the people of California at the local, state, and federal levels of government and moves forward with a wealth of experience in government service and community organizing.

Let it be known Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Rufino Bautista, Jr. be commended for his exemplary service on behalf of the Members of Congress of the United States, and extended sincere best wishes for every success in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 1, 2014, I was unavoidably detained due to business in my district. Had I been present on the House floor, I would have voted "aye" on roll call No. 532, H.R. 5629, the Strengthening Domestic Nuclear Security Act of 2014. I would have voted "aye" on roll call No. 533, H.R. 3438, the National Laboratories Mean National Security Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF SACRAMENTO
CITY COUNCILMAN STEVE COHN

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sacramento City Councilman Steve Cohn as he retires after twenty years of serving the community of Sacramento. As Councilman Cohn's family, friends, and colleagues gather to celebrate his career and his outstanding accomplishments, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring him, as he has contributed so much to the Sacramento region.

Councilman Cohn earned a bachelor's degree at Yale University, spent time as a Fulbright Scholar in France and graduated magna cum laude from the University of San Diego's law school. Professionally, Councilman Cohn was a leading lawyer at the California Energy Commission and the Sacramento Municipal Utility District.

In 1994, Councilman was elected to the Sacramento City Council. Councilman Cohn's many accomplishments for the Sacramento region include expanding the regional transit and intercity rail service from Sacramento to the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. He led efforts to modernize Sacramento's historic Downtown train station and has been committed to ensuring the Sacramento region has a strong public transportation system. Councilman Cohn's efforts on the City Council also improved public safety, ensured economic growth, and increased the region's level of flood protection. I have enjoyed working closely with Councilman Cohn, as he has been a true partner on a number of critical issues. Every park in his district has been renovated and families enjoy the annual Pops in the Park

summer concert series that Councilman Cohn founded. Recognizing his accomplishments and leadership, Councilman Cohn has received numerous civic awards for his outstanding leadership.

As part of his regional responsibilities, Councilman Cohn has served as Chair of the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Vice Chair of the Sacramento Metro Air Quality Management District and the San Joaquin (Rail Corridor) Joint Powers Authority (JPA), and Co-Chair of the Downtown/Riverfront Streetcar Policy Steering Committee. He has also served on the Boards of Sacramento Regional Transit, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, Sacramento Library Authority, City Council Law & Legislation Committee, Sacramento County Regional Sanitation District and Sacramento Regional Human Rights/Fair Housing Commission.

Mr. Speaker, as Councilman Cohn's wife Catherine, family, friends, and colleagues gather to recognize him for his many years of public service, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and recognizing him for his many years of exemplary service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF
BRET KNAPP

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like take a brief moment to recognize the life, service and dedication of Mr. Bret Knapp. After a life of public service in our national laboratories, Bret passed away a few weeks ago at the too-early age of 56. This exceptional man spent 33 years working within our nuclear weapons laboratories, and leaves a lasting legacy of exceptional leadership, technical depth and—most notably—open, honest and straightforward communication.

An engineer by training, Bret thrived at the two "physics" labs often dominated by physicists and scientists. During 26 years at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), Bret led programs in all manner of defense and nuclear technologies and contributed to efforts that dealt with all phases of nuclear weapons research, development, sustainment, certification, and dismantlement. Bret's broad experience and technical horsepower enabled him to dig into the details of any program and his direct and straightforward manner was always seeking solutions.

Bret received multiple awards for excellence from the National Nuclear Security Administration during the course of his career, and in 2006 was asked to move to LLNL's sister laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), to help lead its nuclear weapons program. In November 2013, Bret was selected to serve as the Acting Director of Lawrence Livermore. Under his leadership, both LANL and LLNL carried out their critical but often-unheralded nuclear security missions for the nation.

My condolences, and that of the nation, go to his family as well as his professional family at the national labs. Bret will be missed, but his contributions to our country will endure.

RECOGNIZING ST. PAUL UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Paul United Methodist Church in my home state of Texas. After enriching the Dallas community for more than a century, St. Paul United Methodist Church has been recognized as a Texas Historic Landmark. The historical recognition of this church and its congregation in the Dallas community is an honor long overdue.

As a proud public servant of the thirtieth Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to see this tribute bestowed upon St. Paul United Methodist Church. With a rich history deeply rooted in education, dating back to the early periods of the Emancipation Proclamation, St. Paul served as one of only a few schools open to African American children during this turbulent time.

For well over a century, St. Paul United Methodist Church has been a pillar in the faith community of Dallas, answering the call to serve District 30 constituents through fellowship, ministry, and safe haven. I am honored to represent St. Paul and its congregation in the U.S. House of Representatives. I deeply value this historic landmark, and I congratulate St. Paul United Methodist Church on this outstanding honor.

In honor of its numerous years of service, ministry, and leadership, I encourage my fellow colleagues and state legislatures to recognize the value in the deeply enriching culture of historic landmarks such as St. Paul United Methodist Church. Through their tireless efforts to serve their surrounding communities, they will provide enrichment for years to come.

HONORING RON BADGER

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, throughout the Hoosier state, many small towns and cities take pride in their locally owned businesses. These small shops often have storied pasts and are unique for their high quality services and homey appeal. It is businesses like these that are the backbone of Indiana's economy.

One such business is Badger's Shoe Repair located on East Main Street in New Albany, Indiana. Currently owned and operated by Ron Badger, Badger's Shoe Repair has been providing high quality shoe and leather service repair since its opening by Ron's father, Morgan Badger, in 1940. There is much history in this store, finding its start during a time of shoe rationing in World War II. Many small shoe repair stores have come and gone since that time yet Badger's has remained a staple of the community.

For nearly 75 years, customers from all around the region have come to Badger's for not only its fine craftsmanship but also for the outstanding customer service. Each customer receives the highest quality of care and serv-

ice while Ron also offers that unique Hoosier hospitality.

Ron Badger took over the family business in 1974 when his father retired after 34 years. At the age of 35, Ron gave up his career in clerical work to become his own boss and take over his father's store. Ron has stayed true to the old ways of shoe repair, using the same techniques and equipment that his father did. This high-quality work and personal attention to detail has attracted some elite clientele, including boots used at the world-famous Churchill Downs.

Unfortunately, Badger's Shoe Repair will be closing on December 31st of this year for the last time. After many years of hard work, Ron Badger has announced his retirement. I would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge Ron for his unique contribution to the Hoosier community.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Ron Badger on all his wonderful accomplishments. His family owned store's success serves as a shining example for many small business owners throughout Indiana and the rest of the country. I know that his family and community are proud that he kept Badger's Shoe Repair open and successful for so many years. His hard work and Hoosier charm will surely be missed in the New Albany community.

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, recently a very special event took place in my District in East Tennessee.

For three days in September, Medal of Honor recipients were honored at the Medal of Honor Convention in Knoxville.

The Medal of Honor is the highest award that can be given to military personnel. Recipients must meet a very high standard of "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his or her life above and beyond the call of duty."

There are less than 100 living recipients of this award—an elite club of brave soldiers unmatched anywhere. The word hero is used way too frequently these days, but this was a gathering to honor true American heroes.

A few months ago, I attended a reception at the East Tennessee Historical Society and planned to attend some of the events over the Medal of Honor Convention weekend. Unfortunately, my son Zane ended up in the hospital for 5 days, and I spent most of the weekend at the hospital or helping to care for my 18-month-old grandson.

It was a great honor for this convention to be hosted in East Tennessee. My state has a deep history of military service and is very patriotic.

Tennessee is known as the "Volunteer State" because of the high number of volunteer soldiers during the War of 1812 and the Mexican-American War.

It is also home to Alvin York, who is thought to be one of the most famous Medal of Honor recipients.

Medal of Honor recipient Gen. George Gillespie of Kingston, Tennessee, actually redesigned the Army medal, and many of our Na-

tion's first Medal of Honor recipients are buried in Tennessee.

Joe Thompson and convention co-chair Chris Coyne worked for three years to bring this event to Knoxville. It could not have happened without their dedication, creativity and patriotism.

Dozens of Medal of Honor recipients were honored during the convention, including Supreme Court Justice Samuel Anthony Alito, Jr. and retired Col. Jack Jacobs, now an NBC News military analyst, who declared Knoxville "to be the most beautiful place in the country."

Mr. Speaker, this convention was a great honor for East Tennessee and a testament to the patriotism and spirit of my District. I call this convention's success to the attention of my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD, and I hope everyone takes a moment to honor these soldiers whose sacrifice for our freedom can never be repaid.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

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 \$17,994,739,178,153.43. We've added \$7,367,862,129,240.35 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

FORECLOSURE PROTECTION FOR
MILITARY SERVICEMEMBERS
LEGISLATION

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, as our economy continues to recover, some military servicemembers, particularly those leaving active duty, are facing financial challenges, such as find new employment, among other things. Additionally, a slow recovering real-estate market in some areas of the country can make it difficult for military members to sell their homes or purchase new ones upon receiving new orders.

That's why I'm introducing legislation today, with the gentleman from Washington, Mr. DENNY HECK, to provide a one year extension of foreclosure protection for military servicemembers leaving active duty. In 2012, Congress extended the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act protection against foreclosure for military personnel from three months to a year post-military service to help give servicemembers time to get on their feet financially and avoid the stress of potentially losing their home. These financial challenges still exist for many service members, particularly those re-acclimating to civilian life after serving abroad.

Extending this one-year protection from foreclosure time frame for an additional one-