

The \$1.6 billion is being provided to fund a two-year program with robust oversight and notification requirements to support Peshmerga, Sunni tribes, and other forces beyond the traditional Iraqi Security Forces.

The legislation also extends the McKeon Amendment, which I supported, that provides funding to train and equip moderate Syrian forces to combat ISIL.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to emphasize that nothing in the legislation before authorizing the training and equipping of Iraqi and Syrian forces by U.S. advisors to combat ISIS derives from the 2002 Iraq AUMF.

The decision to send American men and women into harm's way is the most consequential decision the Constitution vests in the President and the Congress.

For this reason, the Constitution wisely divides the responsibility of deciding when to use military force to protect the nation and its interests between the President and the Congress, the representatives of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I remain strongly opposed to the deployment of the U.S. Armed Forces inside the territorial borders of Syria without a vote of Congress explicitly authorizing such action.

Moreover, any vote regarding the authorization to use military force against Syria must be preceded by meaningful, substantive, and thoughtful dialogue and robust debate governed by a rule that affords Members of the House the opportunity to offer and debate amendments.

I must stress that before any vote is held, Members of Congress must be apprised of all facts material to the decision and have access to relevant documentation, classified and otherwise, and afforded the opportunity to meet in small groups and in secure locations with senior members of the Administration's national security team who can answer detailed and pointed questions and provide requested information.

Mr. Speaker, the war in Iraq taught this nation the importance of having accurate and reliable information when deciding whether to use military force and the painful costs in lives and treasure of acting precipitously.

We cannot and dare not repeat that mistake.

That is why it is essential that all Members of Congress have access to the relevant information and the responsible Administration officials before any vote to authorize the use of military force to defeat ISIS is scheduled.

Mr. Speaker, the health and well-being of our men and women in uniform on and off the battlefield is of critical importance.

The House version of the National Defense Authorization Act included an amendment I introduced authorizing an increase of \$10 million in breast cancer research funding and directing the Department of Defense to identify specific genetic and molecular targets and biomarkers for Triple Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC).

I am disappointed that the Jackson Lee Amendment was not included in the final

version of the legislation because my amendment would save lives that may otherwise be lost.

Mr. Speaker, breast cancer has been as brutal on women in the military as combat.

More than 800 women have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to the Army Times; 874 military women were diagnosed with breast cancer just between 2000 and 2011, and according to that same study, more are suspected.

The Jackson Lee Amendment, however, provided funding for the additional research that is desperately needed since women are joining the Armed Services in increasing numbers and serving longer, ascending to leadership.

Within increased age comes increased risk and incidence of breast cancer.

Not only is breast cancer striking relatively young military women at an alarming rate, but male service members, veterans and their dependents are at risk as well.

With a younger and generally healthier population, those in the military tend to have a lower risk for most cancers than civilians—including significantly lower colorectal, lung and cervical—but breast cancer is a different story.

Military people in general, and in some cases very specifically, are at a significantly greater risk for contracting breast cancer because life in the military can mean exposure to a witch's brew of risk factors directly linked to greater chances of getting breast cancer.

With the expansion of women in the military, it is extremely important that more funding be allocated for research for early detection, treatment, and cure of breast cancer, including TNBC.

I will continue fighting until this objective is achieved.

I strongly support the provisions in the legislation before us intended to combat the epidemic of sexual assaults in the military, including the elimination of the "good soldier defense," which is defined as a consideration of general military character toward the probability of innocence in sexual assault prosecutions.

Houston is home to one of the largest populations of military service members and their families in the nation.

There are over 200,000 veterans of military service who live and work in Houston; more than 13,000 are veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan.

Although some of a soldier's wounds are invisible to the naked eye they are still wounds that should be properly treated.

Another important component of the legislation that I strongly support is the provisions designed to increase the number of medical facilities and mental health professionals who are available to serve the active duty personnel and veterans.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me express again my appreciation to Chairman McKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for their work in crafting a Defense Authorization bill that

strives to enhance the readiness of our troops, provides for the care of our military personnel and their families, and authorizes the investments needed to keep our nation strong, safe, and respected in the world.

HONORING VICE MAYOR OF THE RIPON CITY COUNCIL, ELDEN "RED" NUTT

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the Vice Mayor of the Ripon City Council, Elden "Red" Nutt, who passed away November 21, 2014.

Elden "Red" Nutt was born on May 19, 1937 and raised in Fowler, California. He enlisted in the United States Navy in 1954 and worked as a boiler operator on the USS Hornet (CVA-12).

Red's long history of service to the community of Ripon first started in 1965 when he was hired as a Ripon police officer. Red later became a sergeant in 1972 and was appointed police chief in 1982. He served as chief until retiring in 1991.

Red was appointed to the Ripon planning commission in 2002 and first elected to the city council in 2004, serving stints as vice mayor and mayor. While on the City Council, Red served on various committees and commissions, most notably the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFco) where Red served as Board Chairman.

Notable projects completed during Red's tenure include: Main Street & Stockton Ave. Enhancements, Mistlin Softball Fields, purchase of Ripon's first bus and the start of a fixed route transit service, Stanislaus River Bike Path, Boesch and Lan Parks, City Hall & Police Department expansion, annual fireworks show made possible by community donations, Veterans Museum and memorial wall, and the Police Memorial.

Red's involvement in the community went far beyond his role on the City Council. Red served as the post commander for the American Legion Post 190 in 2004–2005, and again in 2010–2011. Red also served as the president of the Ripon Lions Club, was a two-time past president of the Ripon Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and auxiliary member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1051. Red also volunteered his time with the Friends of the Library and the Ripon Historical Society, serving as a docent at the Veterans Museum.

Red and his wife Bonnie have been married for 55 years. They have raised three children, John, Debbie, and Diane. They have six grandchildren and one great grandchild. After retirement, Red enjoyed spending time with

his wife traveling the country in their RV and collecting antiques.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the life of Ripon City Council Vice Mayor Elden "Red" Nutt and all of his admirable contributions to the safety and betterment of his community.

HONORING MR. HASTING BULLOCK

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a courageous and remarkable veteran, Mr. Hasting Bullock.

Mr. Hasting Bullock was born on August 8, 1920 in Yazoo City to the late Elnora Young, and the late Thomas Bullock. They later moved to Pickens, Mississippi where he was reared.

Mr. Hasting Bullock later met his wife of 70 years, the late Elmira Howard, and to this union they had 12 children. He joined the U.S. Army in 1942 and served as a 740 Air crafter for 3 years.

He was stationed at New Ginning, and fought in World War II. After departing from the military he began his farming career from 1946–1983. He retired from his farming career and began to work as a local barber. He is now 94 years old and a widower still residing in Pickens, Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Hasting Bullock for his time and dedication to serving our country and others.

HONORING REGINALD N. "REGGIE" TODD

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reginald N. "Reggie" Todd, who is retiring at the end of this year, after his distinguished and illustrious career spanning more than thirty-eight years representing and advocating for the interests of local governments before the Legislative and Executive Branches of government in Washington, D.C. I wish to extend to Mr. Todd, currently the Chief Legislative Representative for the County of Los Angeles, my appreciation for the decades of dedicated service that he has given to Los Angeles County and the nation.

Mr. Todd has served as the Chief Legislative Representative for the County of Los Angeles for the past sixteen and a half years, leading and coordinating a team of legislative advocates who have been working tirelessly on behalf of the over 10 million people who live in Los Angeles County. My office has worked closely with Mr. Todd and his team on a broad variety of federal issues having an impact on Los Angeles County including appropriations, health care, social services, community development, public safety, transportation and infrastructure, and municipal services. He has advanced the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' federal legislative agenda with great skill, intelligence, and accomplishment.

Prior to establishing the Los Angeles County Washington Office, Mr. Todd served as Legislative Director of the National Association of Counties (NACo), implementing a broad array of coalition-building around NACo's legislative priorities. Before joining NACo, Mr. Todd served as the Chief Executive Officer of the National Community Development Association, the Legislative Counsel at the National League of Cities, and the Washington Activities Coordinator for the National Association of Regional Councils.

Mr. Todd was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. A veteran, he served in the United States Air Force at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, NATO. He received a B.A. in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland-College Park. He has been married to his wife, Saralee S. Todd, for 36 years and has two children, Dr. Elizabeth Todd Breland and Jonathan E Todd, and a son-in-law, Alex Breland. Mr. Todd also is a very proud, first-time grandfather of Natalie Juanita Breland.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and Los Angeles County, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for Mr. Todd's contributions throughout his remarkable career. With our sincere best wishes, we congratulate him upon his retirement from public service.

HONORING TRAVIS WOOD

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Travis Wood, a devoted husband, loving father and proud New Mexican.

While born a Texan, Travis was raised as a New Mexican. In 1912, Travis was born near the small town of Wellington, Texas; three short years later, his family traveled to New Mexico, where he would devote a lifetime of service to a community he loved dearly.

Travis was a man of great integrity. He grew up enduring the extremely difficult hand-to-mouth existence as a member of a homestead family. Along with the hard times, however, came many lessons that would serve him throughout his life. At the onset of World War II, Travis enlisted in the United States Navy as a motor machinist first class on the Navy sub-chaser SC 1354, often referred to as the "Splinter Fleet". The Splinter Fleet was detailed to Omaha Beach on D-Day and Travis would later be awarded the bronze star for his courage and valor.

In 1952, following the war, Travis and his wife Clara moved the family to Roy, New Mexico, where Travis accepted a job as a rural letter carrier. Anyone who knew Travis will tell you that his commitment to his country and the State of New Mexico was unwavering. He became an icon in his community as a tireless public figure, serving several terms as Mayor of the Village of Roy, on the Roy School Board, the ENMR Tele-communications Board and the Eastern Plains Council of Governments (COG). In addition, he was an avid member in the Roy Lions Club, the American Legion, the Roy and Springer Masonic Lodges, and a board member of St. Paul's Methodist Church/United Church of Roy.

Travis was always searching for ways to stimulate the economy in his cherished community. For his lasting and effective contributions, his fellow citizens honored his name with the Travis Wood Senior Center. But Travis's most treasured triumph was a private one: building a family. He passionately loved his son Gary Wood, daughter Cheryl Wood Scott, and his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Gentle, patient, compassionate, loving and selfless—Travis was a helper to many and a friend to all. Travis demonstrates the impact that one individual can have on an entire community and his warmth was felt by all those who knew him. Today, Travis is not with us, but his legacy and lessons will endure in all those he touched. May the memory of Travis live on in our hearts.

HONORING AIRMAN FIRST CLASS LAWRENCE DAVID FRIAR

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a courageous and remarkable veteran, Retired Airman First Class Lawrence David Friar.

Lawrence Friar is a strong believer in the value of family land and property ownership. It is through this belief that prompted him to return to his native home in Lexington, Mississippi in 1972 from Compton, California where he was reared. He was born in Lexington, Mississippi April 20, 1940, but moved out West with his family not long after that.

He returned to his home state to look after his families' land, because so many boundaries and lines were being moved and timber being cut from his property that he had to come home to watch over things for his other siblings. Born to the late Mack Friar and Lettie Wright Friar, Holmes County, Mississippi natives, there were four boys and six girls. He has been a faithful citizen of the Second Congressional District ever since his return in 1972.

Protecting land is nothing new for Friar for he is a proud American Veteran who protected and served his country in the United States Air force from 1958 until 1962.

He joined the military immediately after high school in Compton. "When I joined the service, the Vietnamese Conflict has started, and it was still going on when I left the service," he said. Friar had temporary duty in the War Zone, in which they would leave Hawaii and go to the war and work the jets that needed repairing, and then they would return to Hawaii, where he was stationed.

During his tour of duty in the U.S. Air force, Friar earned and retired with the rank of (E4) Airman First Class.

The Retired Airman First Class Lawrence Friar says "Most importantly, it taught me patience and how to get along with people," he said about his most memorable experience about serving in the U.S. Air force.

Today, one will find this retired U.S. Air force veteran home in Lexington, Mississippi as a local leisurely farmer doing some gardening and planting; what people in the south call "truck patches." He hopes to return to