

Sergeant Mund served in the United States Marine Corps from August 2006 to November 2012. She was the first female assigned to serve as the senior armor-small arms repair technician for the Marine Corps Infantry Officer's Course, Quantico, Virginia.

Sergeant Mund volunteered to deploy to Iraq with Operation Enduring Freedom and was selected to serve on the Marine Corps' first Female Engagement Team. She worked directly with the Afghan population and on foot patrol. During her deployment she was assigned to the 1st Battalion 6th Marines, Charlie Company, and 2nd Battalion 6th Marines, Golf Company. She was medically retired due to injuries sustained during her tour in Afghanistan, and she is currently a full time student at the University of Colorado—Denver. She is participating in a research internship with "Canines Providing Assistance to Wounded Warriors."

Through her courageous service, Sergeant Mund charted the path for future generations of women to serve in the military. I extend my deepest appreciation to Sergeant Nora Mund for her dedication, integrity and outstanding service to the United States of America.

CONGRATULATING THE 2014 U.S.
PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 141 high school seniors across the country that have been named a part of the 50th class of U.S. Presidential Scholars as a result of their academic success, leadership, community service, and commitment to excellence.

I am particularly proud students from my District, William P. Lamb of Memphis University School and Kevin J. Sun of Collierville High School, have been selected as two of the four students from Tennessee for this prestigious honor. I commend them both for being positive role models to young people across our great state, and the country through their commitment to academic excellence and community service.

The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars selected the members of this year's Presidential Scholars class from 3,900 qualified candidates who are among the three million students expected to graduate high school this year.

Once again, congratulations to Mr. Lamb and Mr. Sun for their outstanding accomplishments. I am very proud of you both.

HONORING KENNETH J. HAMMOND

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Yeoman First Class Kenneth J. Hammond, an Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS), and an exemplary community volunteer for Food Forward, an organization dedicated to promoting

food justice and making change around hunger in our community.

Born in Ukiah, California, YN1 Hammond graduated from Temecula Valley High School and joined the United States Navy on July 16, 1996. Over the years, YN1 Hammond has had a distinguished career in the Navy. YN1 Hammond is currently serving the sailors and officers of U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIVE (NMCB 5) as the Administrative Department Leading Petty Officer. His work has earned him many accolades and awards that demonstrate his personal vigor and professional work ethic.

In addition to his honorable service in the Navy, YN1 Hammond is equally as dedicated and selfless in his community. As a Pick Leader, Neighborhood Captain, and Board Advisor for Food Forward, YN1 Hammond has volunteered over 787 hours, has picked over 40,000 pounds of fruit, and has recruited over 160 volunteers to help at various events. These accomplishments are indicative of YN1 Hammond's unwavering commitment and dedication to both his community and to the ideologies of philanthropy.

YN1 Hammond is dedicated to the mission of Food Forward and inspires others through his work. With great enthusiasm, YN1 Hammond encourages others to take part in the fight against hunger through his continuous and successful recruitment of new pick leaders.

YN1 Hammond has impacted the lives of those in our community by spearheading the "picking" events with volunteer recruitment, fundraising and building awareness of the Food Forward mission. In 2013 alone, YN1 Hammond's positive attitude and determined spirit of volunteerism has helped the Ventura County branch of Food Forward harvest over 120,000 pounds or 480,000 servings of fresh fruit that would have otherwise gone to waste to help feed our hungry neighbors.

It is with sincere appreciation that I would like to recognize YN1 Kenneth Hammond and commend him on his steadfast dedication to his country and, especially, to his community.

LT. COL. JOHN MCCARTHY, USMC,
RET.

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, Lt. Col. John J. McCarthy retired from the U.S. Marine Corps in 1975 after 29 years of outstanding service and leadership. He is the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, which was awarded to him in 1969 citing his courage, superior airmanship and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of great personal danger in Vietnam. He also was awarded the Bronze Star and 19 Air Medals. Lt. Col. McCarthy was 17 years old when he joined the U.S. Navy in 1946, subsequently earning a college degree from Temple University. Because of his long-standing interest in flying, in 1952 he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps and entered flight school. In 1964, he was deployed to Vietnam, where he flew 180 missions. He would return to Vietnam in 1968 as the commanding officer at Chu-Lai and flew another 130 combat mis-

sions. He will be honored by his fellow members of the Jesse W. Soby American Legion Post, 148 in his home County of Bucks, Pennsylvania, on Memorial Day, 2014—a ceremony he will attend in full uniform. It is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge the exemplary service of a courageous leader who has honorably served his country and set an example for others to follow.

HONORING GIRLS INCORPORATED
OF SHELBYVILLE AND SHELBY
COUNTY, INDIANA

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary achievements of Girls Incorporated of Shelbyville and Shelby County, Indiana.

This organization recently was recognized by the National Girls Incorporated organization with the 2014 Outstanding Affiliate of the Year Award, the highest honor an affiliate can receive.

The Girls Incorporated movement has been helping girls obtain the skills and knowledge needed to successfully navigate the challenges women face in life for more than 150 years. The network of local Girls Incorporated organizations serves over 136,000 girls across the United States and Canada. The dedicated professionals of Girls Incorporated lead programs ranging from money management to fitness and health. They also work to foster an interest in science, technology, engineering and math.

The first Girls Club in Shelbyville was formed in October 1971. Since then, the club has gone through a reorganization, name change and relocation. Through it all, the girls club has been an asset for the greater Shelbyville community touching the lives of thousands of area girls and their families. In 2014, Girls Inc. of Shelbyville and Shelby County was also recognized by the National Girls Incorporated organization as "An Affiliate Who Grew." This growth in membership and impact in the community is a testament to the hard work and the dedication of the organization's local leaders.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in congratulating Girls Incorporated of Shelbyville and Shelby County for their outstanding achievements and dedication to the community. I look forward to seeing what this incredible group will achieve in the future.

HONORING DR. WILLIAM
COTTINGHAM

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. William Cottingham of Rolla, Missouri, who retired on April 30th of this year after working 36 years as a physician at the Mercy Clinic Internal Medicine in Rolla.

Dr. Cottingham has tirelessly worked to improve his community and provide excellent

healthcare for nearly four decades. Throughout his career, Dr. Cottingham became known for making those around him laugh. Patients that entered the hospital sick or injured would leave with a sense of comfort and a smile. He held a deep connection with each of his patients. He was not just their doctor; he was their teacher, confidant and friend. I am confident his passion for helping others and making people laugh will come in handy during his retirement. He plans to stay in Rolla and spend more time with his wife, as well as travel to see his five grandchildren. I would like to thank Dr. Cottingham for his service to the Rolla community and wish him a long and happy retirement.

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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:

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. The bill provides critical authorities to support our men and women in uniform.

In particular, I appreciate the leadership of Readiness Chairman, Mr. ROB WITTMAN of Virginia, and the way we have worked together to address the readiness of our United States military. Our hearings this session have highlighted some serious challenges to readiness in the coming years if we do not solve the broader issue of sequestration, which I believe is achievable if we put everything on the table for discussion.

The Readiness title of the bill recommends additional funds to address particular readiness shortfalls, such as Pacific Command's prepositioned munitions; corrosion control, prevention, and mitigation; Air Force training range improvements; depot-level maintenance; operational tempo; aviation readiness; and National Guard training, among other readiness priorities.

Additionally, the bill addresses policy issues such as prepositioned stocks, crisis response elements, regionally aligned forces, ship homeport designations and overseas maintenance, readiness metrics, and the rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region, including airlift and tanker capabilities in the Pacific.

But as much as we do to enhance readiness by authorizing increased funding by some \$1.6 billion in the areas mentioned earlier, I believe this bill goes too far in cutting the operation and maintenance accounts in order to find funding for items not requested in the President's Budget in other titles of the bill.

The bill authorizes \$164.3 billion in operations and maintenance funding, which is \$1.4 billion below what the President's Budget requested. I am particularly concerned about the

\$2.5 billion in cuts from four areas: unobligated balances, civilian personnel, and contracts for facilities maintenance and for Other Services. The cuts in these areas far outstrip the \$455 million targeted reductions adjudicated by the committee staff on a bipartisan basis after careful consideration of the services' operations and maintenance budgets.

I am not a fan of using expensive contractors for functions that could, and should, have been performed by civilian personnel, contracting is a fact of life and we are nearing the end of 13 years of two wars where we were heavily dependent on contractor support for execution of those wars.

The budget request had already reduced facility maintenance to 60–70% of the stated requirement in fiscal year 2015. A further reduction of \$419 million in this bill means the military services would forego repairs and upgrades to airfield runways, taxiways, and aprons; and to mission-critical facilities and infrastructure such as electrical systems, heating and air conditioning systems, and roofs. It would mean delays in renovations, consolidations, conversions, and demolitions to more efficiently use space and reduce operations and maintenance costs; deferral of repairs and upgrades to alleviate life, health, and safety deficiencies, including fire protection systems upgrades. And it would mean postponement of repairs, replacements, or reconfigurations of gates and other installation security components.

The \$399 million cut to the Other Services account could impact the quality of life for servicemembers by reducing or eliminating food service, tuition assistance, general training, family support programs, library support, physical fitness services, laundry services, testing, general and employee training, professional credentialing for health professionals, and ROTC scholarships instructor pay and textbooks.

Unlike the \$1.4 billion in cuts to unobligated balances which are taken in an undistributed manner at the military service level, the cuts in facility maintenance and Other Services are levied in every budget sub-activity group. This means we have hit almost every readiness account in operations and maintenance, including maneuver units, force readiness operations, depot maintenance, base operations, combatant commander mission support, strategic mobility, prepositioned stocks, industrial preparedness, ROTC, specialized skill training, professional development education, training support, logistic support, ammunition management, service-wide communications, manpower management, and classified programs.

Further, I would note that contracts for Other Services includes professional services the Pentagon purchases to research, compile, and publish the reports that this committee and others require each year, including the hundreds of new reports required in this bill alone!

Because of hiring freezes, sequestration, furloughs, pay freezes, and legislative mandates, most Department of Defense components and defense agencies have been functioning at 80 percent of their authorized manpower for the past 2 to 3 years and were only starting to recover in this fiscal year. Along with the services contracts cuts, a \$315 million cut to civilian personnel funding in fiscal year 2015 makes a mockery of the Total Force Management concepts this committee adopted

and endorsed just three years ago, as defense components have told me they could not shed people fast enough and would have to undertake arbitrary reductions in force without consideration of mission requirements.

Compounding these cuts is the \$2 billion military personnel-related funding hole the Department will have to fill resulting from other actions this committee is considering today. Those funds, most likely, will come out of the operations and maintenance accounts when the Department of Defense executes the fiscal year 2015 budget.

At a time when only 50% of Air Force pilots have returned to appropriate training levels; when the Navy has been forced to propose Phased Modernization of cruisers and amphibious warships to extend their service life, when the Marine Corps is establishing crisis response task forces without programming the full funding needed to resource them, and when the Army has identified \$1.7 billion in unfunded training needs, I believe it is unwise and extraordinarily risky to fund the readiness accounts at \$1.4 billion below the President's budget request. These cuts essentially impose another level of sequestration on the operation and maintenance accounts.

As noted in a Readiness hearing this year, our top priority should be to ensure that no soldier, sailor, airman, or marine ever enters a fair fight. Our subcommittee has highlighted and documented the operations and maintenance shortfalls for the past three years and it is our duty and responsibility to ensure our men and women who serve have the necessary resources to dominate in any operational environment.

I am concerned that our bill does not address an issue that I and a number of other Members in the House of Representatives have concerns about regarding the transition of the Global Privately Owned Vehicle Contract (GPC) to a new contractor. The prior contractor performed well for the US government on the prior GPC contract. But a decision was made to change contractors to save some money, despite concerns being raised about the new contractor's ability to perform and questions about whether there were any real cost savings. I raised some of those concerns during a recent Military Personnel Subcommittee hearing, and my colleagues have also made inquiries regarding the contractor change.

Guam receives a significant shipment of privately owned vehicles, and our servicemembers rely on efficient and timely privately owned vehicle delivery to help integrate into their new units and to help their families cope with the difficulties associated with Permanent Change in Station assignments. I ask that you work with me, along with others on the Committee who have expressed similar concerns, to closely monitor and provide greater oversight on the transition to the new contractor. The new contractor assumed responsibility on May 1, and I understand some facilities were still not fully operational at that time and the contractor's logistics IT network was not fully deployed. Unfortunately, it appears that many of our concerns regarding the new contractor's ability to perform may be coming into fruition.

Going forward, I hope the Committee will monitor the transition and ensure that the best value decision was made with respect to this important contract and in support of our servicemembers and their families.