

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF EMMA L. JOHNSTON, CO-FOUNDER OF PEACE, INC. AND HER TIRELESS COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING THE LIVES OF OTHERS

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Emma L. Johnston.

Ms. Johnston is a native of Syracuse, New York, and one of the founders of PEACE, Inc. (People's Equal Action and Community Effort, Inc.). On Wednesday, May 28, 2014, the Southside Family Resource Center in Syracuse, New York, will be renamed in honor of Emma Johnston.

As a single mother, Ms. Johnston was able to lift herself out of poverty with the help of her community. The kindness and ready aid of her neighbors inspired Ms. Johnston to become one of the founding members of PEACE, Inc. in 1968, when it consisted of twenty employees and three programs.

Today, PEACE, Inc. boasts fifteen programs, 400 employees, and fifty sites across New York. Its mission—helping disadvantaged individuals attain self-sufficiency—is visibly accomplished every day in Syracuse. This progress would not be possible without Ms. Johnston's pioneering work.

Thanks to Ms. Johnston's tireless years of service, PEACE now includes services ranging from Big Brother, Big Sister to Energy and Housing Services, and from Men in the Lives of Kids to tax assistance. As PEACE has grown and developed, so has the New York community—a feat for which we truly cannot thank Ms. Johnston enough.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Emma L. Johnston for her tireless work with PEACE, Inc., and to wish her the best of health and luck in all her future endeavors.

HONORING DAVE HOBSON

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Ohio National Guard and U.S. Air Force Space Command for establishing the new Hobson Cyberspace Communications Complex at the Springfield, Ohio, Air National Guard Base in honor of former U.S. Representative David Hobson.

The new facility—which houses the Ohio Air National Guard's 251st Cyber Engineering Installation Group and 269th Combat Communications Squadron—consists of nearly 32,000 square feet of administration and training

space, with an additional 15,700 square feet of supply and warehouse space for 38 full-time personnel and 174 traditional guard members.

The complex is critical to Air Force Space Command's federal mission and the Ohio National Guard's homeland security and peacetime missions supporting local, state and national response operations such as cyberspace and communications infrastructure activities, civil disturbances or natural disaster response. The advanced technological features of the complex will significantly increase the units' capacity to support critical missions for command and control of cyberspace defense missions.

As an Ohio Air National Guard veteran, former Representative Hobson learned firsthand just how much service members and their families sacrifice to serve their country. During his 18 years in Congress, Representative Hobson successfully obtained federal funding for military projects that have improved the lives and working conditions for National Guard members at home and overseas.

Mr. Speaker, it was my honor and privilege to serve alongside of Representative Hobson in the House and on the Appropriations Committee during his service. I believe that it is fitting and proper that this facility be named in his honor.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

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:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise today in reluctant opposition to H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014.

For the last 53 years, Congress has passed—and the President has signed into law—the annual Defense Authorization bill, allowing us to provide the critical resources the Armed Forces need to maintain the best military in the world. The NDAA has also allowed Congress to have an open dialogue about many of the difficult choices with which we are confronted, including the significant financial constraints that our military is operating under. While I appreciate the House Armed Services Committee's continued support of our servicemembers and our national defense, I have serious concerns with a number of misguided provisions in this year's NDAA.

This year's authorization bill authorizes \$513.4 billion in budget authority, including \$495.8 billion for the Department of Defense and \$79.4 billion in overseas contingency operations (OCO). Unfortunately, it rejects many cost saving measures recommended by the Pentagon and would eliminate more than \$50 billion in potential savings for our military over the next five years.

Of particular concern, H.R. 4435 prioritizes unrequested weapons systems and parochial interests over our military readiness. It slashes military readiness by \$1.2 billion from the President's FY15 request despite the fact that Secretary Hagel has consistently warned that if cuts to our military readiness persist, and we were confronted with an emerging threat, "the United States may not have enough ready forces to respond."

This year's NDAA also includes a provision to continue funding restrictions on the construction or modification of detention facilities in the United States to house Guantanamo detainees. I was particularly disappointed that an amendment offered by Ranking Member SMITH to provide a framework for closure of Guantanamo by the end of 2016 was rejected. As the President made clear in his State of the Union Address earlier this year, we cannot wait any longer to close down this facility.

I also share many of the other concerns that were outlined in the President's Statement of Administration Policy. This includes language that restricts the Pentagon from retiring the A-10 aircraft and a provision that authorizes \$20 million in unrequested funding in FY15 for the planning and design of a missile field on the East Coast. I also oppose sections 314, 315, 316, and 317, which would prohibit the Department of Defense from using alternative fuels and would limit the ability of our military from developing alternative energy sources that have the potential to save money and enhance our energy security.

Despite my opposition to the overall legislation, I was pleased that a bipartisan amendment offered by Representative PATRICK MURPHY and Representative MICK MULVANEY to address the migration of base budget funding into the OCO budget was adopted. We have worked together to ensure that the OCO budget is no longer used as a mechanism to circumvent budget caps. I am also encouraged that this bill builds on a number of provisions passed in last year's NDAA and continues to address the problem of sexual assault in the military. In particular, it would eliminate the so-called "good soldier defense" in court-martial proceedings, prohibiting a soldier from using good military character as a defense in a sexual assault case. These proceedings should be based on the specific evidence presented in the case.

This bill does authorize much needed funding for our men and women in uniform but ultimately it ignores the current budget landscape that our military is facing. We have to budget based on reality, instead of writing a blank check and holding onto as "much of the stuff and the training as possible" and hoping that

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

"some miracle happens and we get money next year that we don't have now," as Chairman McKEON put it earlier this month. As a result of this line of thinking, this legislation avoids making many tough choices at the expense of our military readiness. It is my hope that many of my objections to this legislation will be resolved in Conference with the Senate and that I will be able to support its final passage.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE OF MAYOR PRADEL OF
NAPERVILLE

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated public servant from the Sixth Congressional District of Illinois, Mayor A. George Pradel of Naperville. Mayor Pradel was recently presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber presents this award annually to an individual who has made significant contributions to the Naperville community through their business, service, and philanthropy.

As a resident of the city of Naperville since 1939, Mayor Pradel has a long legacy of service to the city and our country. He enlisted in the Marines in 1956 and served until 1959, at which point he joined the Naperville police force until 1995. Shortly after retiring from the Police Department, Mr. Pradel was elected mayor and has since become the longest serving mayor in Naperville history.

During his tenure as mayor, Mr. Pradel has been an exemplary leader and public servant. Nicki Anderson, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce said it best when she reflected, in presenting him with the Lifetime Achievement Award, "Mayor Pradel's love and energy for our community has never been in short supply. His vision and passion has changed our community for the better and his legacy of service before self could be our city motto. We can never fully honor all of his contributions to our community and Chamber, but we will celebrate, toast and recognize him at this community event."

Mayor Pradel has represented his community well and though his term ends in 2015, he will undoubtedly play an important role in a number of development and community projects which will continue to shape Naperville for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mayor Pradel for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award, honoring his many years of selfless service, and in wishing him all the best in his future endeavors.

99TH ANNIVERSARY OF
AZERBAIJAN'S REPUBLIC DAY

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Azerbaijan and all Az-

erbajani-Americans on the 96th anniversary of Azerbaijan's Republic Day. On this day, May 28, in 1918, Azerbaijan received its independence and formally created the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.

Over the past 23 years, Azerbaijan has grown to become a close and trusted ally of the United States in a geopolitically challenging region of the world. Situated along the Caspian Sea, with Iran on its southern border and Russia on its northern border, Azerbaijan was the first country in the region to open Caspian Sea energy resources to U.S. and European countries, playing a vital role in European energy security. This role is even more important today with tensions rising with Russia. A steadfast friend and supporter of Israel, Azerbaijan plays a vital role in Israeli energy security, providing almost 40 percent of all crude oil supplies to our closest ally in the Middle East.

Azerbaijan is a secular country, with a predominantly Muslim population, that guarantees religious freedom for all. Azerbaijan has been home for centuries to vibrant Jewish and Christian communities, acting as a role model for religious coexistence and freedom.

Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Azerbaijan has been a partner in the United States' efforts towards freedom around the globe. Azerbaijan was the first Muslim country to send troops to Iraq and has played an active role in NATO's efforts in Afghanistan, committing troops, resources and allowing use of their airspace and airports.

Although the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was first established in 1918, this initial independence was short-lived as the Soviet Union led a bitter and bloody takeover of the country in 1920. In 1991, as the Soviet Union was crumbling, Azerbaijan reestablished its independence and looked Westward to the United States for friendship and guidance.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the people of Azerbaijan on this day. I look forward to working with Azerbaijan as our nations continue to work together and build a lasting and fruitful bond.

HONORING NANCY CANAVAN
HESLOP

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor my good friend, Nancy Canavan Heslop. Her work chronicling the amazing story of her father, Naval and Marine corps aviator Colonel Desmond ("Des") E. Canavan, and his work with test piloting the remarkable military cargo aircraft, the Budd RB-1 Conestoga has been nothing short of incredible. One of her articles was recently published in American Aviation Historical Society Journal, under the title "A Story of the Budd RB-1 Conestoga."

Nancy's father, Colonel Canavan was a test pilot for many years, and also showed unparalleled courage while serving his country as a pilot during the Second World War. He was the first Marine Corps pilot to fly both America's first helicopter (Sikorsky HNS-1, BuNo 39034, March 30, 1944, and solo in BuNo 39046, November 2, 1944) and jet (Bell YP-

59-A, BuNo 10002, July 18, 1944). He was stationed at the testing facility at NAS Patuxent River, MD, where he served as the test pilot for the Budd RB-1.

Mrs. Heslop's article explains how the Budd RB-1 was plagued with many problems, and the many crashes it suffered during testing due to mechanical failures. Colonel Canavan himself was injured in one such crash. As a consequence of its poor testing, the Budd RB-1 never saw service in a combat theater during the war. However, its design led to numerous innovations that were later used in many other cargo planes.

Out of the 17 Budd RB-1s that were delivered to the Navy, only one has survived. It currently is at Pima Air & Space Museum in Tucson, Arizona, awaiting restoration.

My friend Nancy Canavan Heslop is an amazing woman, and has worked tirelessly on writing the story of the life of her father. She has written *Letters From Des: The Life of a Marine Corps Naval Aviator and Test Pilot* and is currently writing *Letters From Des: Korea*. Nancy is a truly outstanding woman; aside from her recent success she has also been published in multiple local journals. In closing, I am thrilled to congratulate my friend on her great accomplishments.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 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 \$17,490,453,119,908.90. We've added \$6,863,576,070,995.90 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING RODGER C. COLLINS

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in grateful recognition of the hard work and community service of Rodger C. Collins. Mr. Collins has served the greater good of my constituency, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, by advocating for the economic success of both families and businesses. He is a founding member of the Economic Self-Sufficiency (ES) Program. This program assists low-income families so that they may have the opportunity to leave or avoid the welfare system. ES focuses on education as the primary way to prepare low-income families to be competitive in today's workforce and has successfully graduated over 263 families with an average income of \$39,633.

Mr. Collins served the community through the Bucks County Opportunity Council, the Economic Development Advisory Board of Bucks County, the Intelligencer Editorial