

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (S. 1356).

The agreement reached in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 was an important step towards adjusting the caps on defense and non-defense discretionary spending. It provided for more stable investments in both national security and domestic programs, and I commend President Obama and Congressional leaders for their bipartisan efforts to provide a more appropriate level of funding. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 mitigated some of the funding concerns surrounding the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (S. 1356) and made this an improved bill. However, the revisions in the bill did nothing to alleviate my concerns regarding detainees at Guantanamo Bay or excess military facilities.

S. 1356 still prevents the responsible transfer of detainees from Guantanamo Bay and the closure of the detention center. Instead, Guantanamo Bay will remain an extremist propaganda tool that undermines our national security. The closure of this facility is long overdue. S. 1356 also continues to ignore testimony from senior leaders in the Department of Defense, Department of the Air Force, and Department of the Army regarding the closure of surplus military facilities. An authorization of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) is the best way to address this problem and would save money that could be invested in other national security priorities.

While I recognize that the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 provided a measure of funding stability for our Defense leaders, S. 1356 continues to include provisions that are detrimental to our national security and undermines the safety of the women and men who put themselves at risk to defend our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (S. 1356).

IN HONOR OF CAPITOL BOOK & NEWS

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Capitol Book & News, one of Alabama's oldest independent book stores, who will be closing their doors after 65 years of business.

Founded in 1950 by Victor Lavine, Capitol Book & News has been a staple in Mont-

gomery, Alabama's community providing books and recommendations to customers. Thomas and Cheryl Upchurch, owners for the past 37 years, are known for their trusted advice and suggestions on what books to read.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to acknowledge Capitol Book & News' positive impact on Montgomery's community and to thank them for their loyal and dedicated service to their customers.

IN RECOGNITION OF ASSEMBLYWOMAN SHEILA Y. OLIVER

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend, Assemblywoman Sheila Y. Oliver. Ms. Oliver is a proud class of 1970 graduate of Weequahic High School in Newark, New Jersey. This year, she will be honored at Weequahic's 45th class reunion for her many accomplishments and contributions to her school, community, and state of New Jersey.

Ms. Oliver has served in the New Jersey General Assembly since 2004, where she represents the 34th legislative district. From January 2010 to January 2014, she served as the Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly. She was the second woman to serve as Speaker in New Jersey history, and the second African American to hold this post.

Currently, she serves in the Assembly on the Higher Education Committee, the Labor Committee, and the Human Services Committee, as its chair. She also served on the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders from 1996–1999.

Assemblywoman Oliver was one of the founders of the Newark Coalition for Low Income Housing, an organization that successfully sued the Newark Housing Authority and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development in federal court to block the demolition of all publicly subsidized low-income housing in Newark, as there was no plan in place for the construction of replacement housing for low-income Newark residents. As a result, the Newark Housing Authority was directed by a federal consent order to build one-for-one replacement housing for low-income residents.

Ms. Oliver's colleagues in political and public life honored her with a place for debating and building consensus, naming the 14th floor conference room in the LeRoy F. Smith Jr. Public Safety Building the "Sheila Y. Oliver Conference Center." It is fitting that Sheila Oliver be recognized for the historic figure that she is. She understands the human condition and understands government can play an integral role in improving the lives of all people.

Ms. Oliver's leadership abilities have consistently been recognized by her peers, and she has often been described as a resource-

ful, dependable individual who is always willing to assist when needed. She attended Lincoln University and continued her education in graduate school at Columbia University. She once told a crowd of constituents that she never set out to run for office, but her conviction that government can improve lives guided her course. Congratulations to my friend, Assemblywoman Sheila Y. Oliver, on this outstanding honor.

FAIRNESS TO VETERANS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Fairness to Veterans for Infrastructure Investment Act of 2015 (H.R. 1694).

H.R. 1694 as drafted would undermine the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program to promote women- and minority-owned small businesses and provide them with the opportunity to compete for federal highway construction contracts in an equitable manner. H.R. 1694 would force women- and minority-owned small businesses into the same pool of competition with veteran-owned small businesses to the detriment of everyone the DBE program was intended to help.

The best way to help our veteran-owned small businesses is to establish a separate and specific program to achieve the aim of ensuring veteran-owned businesses receive fair consideration for federal highway contracts. That is why I am a cosponsor of H.R. 3997, which would create a Veteran-owned Business Enterprise program within the Department of Transportation. This program would guarantee that at least 10 percent of federal highway contracts go to veteran-owned small businesses. It would maximize assistance to both veteran-owned and women- and minority-owned small businesses, and would not force competition between them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing the Fairness to Veterans for Infrastructure Investment Act of 2015 (H.R. 1694).

HONORING SISTER JOSETTE PARISI ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AS MANAGER OF SEARLES CASTLE AFTER 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Sister Josette

● 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.

Parisi on her retirement after 25 years as the manager of Searles Castle, and thank her for the outstanding work she did during her career.

Sister Josette's continuous effort to improve Searles Castle exemplifies her intelligence, positive attitude, and generous spirit, and because of her commitment, Searles Castle is now available for the public to utilize and enjoy.

Sister Josette's compassion for helping people through difficult times is exceptional, and she leaves an example of strong leadership and compassion for others to emulate in her wake.

It is with great admiration that I congratulate Sister Josette Parisi on her retirement, and wish her the best on all future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF WAYNESBORO COMMUNITY THEATRE PROJECT, INC., AND THE REOPENING OF THE WAYNESBORO THEATRE

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Waynesboro Community Theatre Project, Inc. and highlight the successful campaign to rebuild and reopen a long treasured local cinema.

Following an inspired beginning, the Waynesboro Community Theatre Project, Inc. maintained a determined campaign to raise the money necessary to renovate and reopen the Waynesboro Theatre. Thanks to its persistent efforts and generous donors, the historic theatre will again fulfill its roles as a local economic generator and a quality entertainment venue for the Waynesboro community.

Additionally, I believe this project represents a community effort in the truest sense, as many have worked together to see this effort through to completion. The theatre will reopen with impressive renovations, including new seats, an upgraded lobby and concession area, and modern sound and visual technologies. The project will provide fundamental support in keeping downtown Waynesboro vibrant and welcoming.

The Waynesboro Theatre is beloved by the community and I commend all who have put time, effort, and donations into bringing the theatre back to the public. Today I congratulate the Waynesboro Community Theatre Project, Inc. for the completion of this impressive effort to improve the Waynesboro community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present on the following roll call votes, my votes would have been:

631 (HR 1694)—NO
632 (HR 3114)—YES
633 (HR 511)—NO

HONORING BRUCE KARSTADT

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, Minneapolis is fortunate to be the home of the American Swedish Institute (ASI). It is a non-profit organization that serves as a museum and a cultural center. Bruce Karstadt has served as the President and CEO of the American Swedish Institute for the past twenty-five years. He is also the Honorary Counsel General of Sweden for the State of Minnesota.

Mr. Karstadt has helped promote trade, diplomacy, and he serves as a conduit between Minnesota and the nation of Sweden. His steadfast leadership has led to several significant and positive changes at ASI. The campus and museum have nearly doubled in size since his tenure began and it has become a favorite destination for residents and tourists to Minneapolis. He has transformed ASI into an influential organization with an inclusive atmosphere that works to involve all cultures in the Twin Cities area. Located in a very diverse neighborhood on the South side of Minneapolis, ASI teaches visitors about the past, and how early Swedish immigrants lived in Minnesota, while serving as a modern gathering place for all in our increasingly diversified community. Today, ASI focuses on the future and provides much inspiration to recent immigrants to our community.

Mr. Karstadt and his staff draw visitors to the historic Turnblad Mansion and motivate them to think about connecting the past with the bright future of Minnesota. I congratulate Mr. Karstadt on his twenty-five years of service to the American Swedish Institute, to Minnesota, our increasingly diversifying community and our visitors from Sweden and the Nordic region.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

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 \$18,660,490,153,278.25. We've added \$8,033,613,104,365.17 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK TAKAI

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, November 17, I was absent from the House due to illness. Due to my absence, I am not recorded on any legislative measures for the

day. I would like the record to reflect how I would have voted had I been present for legislative business.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on Roll Call 629, ordering the previous question on providing for consideration of H.R. 1737, the Reforming CFPB Indirect Auto Financing Guidance Act; providing for consideration of H.R. 511, the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2015.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call 630, providing for consideration of H.R. 1737, the Reforming CFPB Indirect Auto Financing Guidance Act; providing for consideration of H.R. 511, the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2015.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call 631, the Fairness to Veterans for Infrastructure Investment Act of 2015.

I would have voted "yes" on Roll Call 632, to provide funds to the Army Corps of Engineers to hire veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call 633, the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2015.

CONGRATULATING RUDY FARBER

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rudy Farber, Chairman of the Board of Community Bank and Trust in Neosho, on being awarded with the Neosho Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds for his contributions and service to the Neosho community.

In 1957, at the age of 16, Rudy Farber began working in the bookkeeping department at the Bank of Neosho. He took over as president of the bank in 1979 and in 1997 he was appointed chairman of the board. He introduced an employee stock ownership plan in 1987 and unveiled a plan to make the bank entirely employee owned in 2012. Throughout his time at Community Bank and Trust, Rudy has worked diligently to forge the bank into a safe, stable, and valuable cornerstone of the local community.

Rudy Farber has also accumulated a long list of achievements as a community leader. He has served as Chairman of the Neosho Area Chamber of Commerce Industrial Development Committee and Chairman of the Freeman Southwest Family YMCA Finance Committee. He has served as board member on Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, multiple City of Neosho and Newton County Committees and is the former president of the Neosho Rotary Club, the Neosho Area Chamber of Commerce, the Neosho Land Development and the Neosho Area Business and Industrial Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, Rudy Farber deserves this body's utmost respect for his lifelong dedication to improving the Neosho Community, and I extend to him my deepest appreciation for his impressive leadership. His efforts have not only contributed greatly to Southwest Missouri, but have made me ever-pride to serve the people of Missouri's seventh Congressional District.