

2015 enacted level and \$35 million more than the House bill.

\$300 million for flooding disasters that occurred in calendar year 2015.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that Title III of Division O of the Omnibus keeps faith with the first responders who risked their lives and sacrificed their health in aid of the fellow human beings who were trapped or perished in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

Specifically, Title III of Division O includes the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act which reauthorizes the World Trade Center Health Program through 2090, establishing annual caps for funding for the first 10 years, then increasing the caps to account for inflation in future years and allowing the funding to carry over if necessary.

Mr. Speaker, as I stated, this bill is not perfect, but on balance it is a significant improvement over the spending bills considered in the House last year.

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SPANKY'S RIVER STREET KICKS OFF 40TH YEAR IN BUSINESS

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**HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 18, 2015*

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to join my friend, Ansley Williams, in celebrating the 40th year of business at Spanky's River Street in Savannah, Georgia.

Spanky's River Street, home of the original chicken finger, began 40 years ago with a dream hatched by brothers Dusty and Alben Yarbrough and Ansley Williams, all natives of Thomaston, Georgia. They opened the original Spanky's restaurant in December 1976 with the idea of selling half-pound burgers and pizza.

Culinary history was made when Alben insisted on having a chicken sandwich on the menu. The only problem was the bird was bigger than the bun. To get it to fit, the edges had to be trimmed off. Alben took the trimmings, tossed them in a special seasoned breading, and fried it up to a golden delicious treat. Right then and there, the original chicken finger was born.

Spanky's River Street kicked off its 40th year in business with a celebration on December 16th to acknowledge and honor employees and patrons, past and present. With a staff as friendly as the happy hour and a history wider than the Savannah River, Spanky's has been a favorite dining spot for locals and visitors alike.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to recognize Ansley and the Spanky's family for all their hard work and dedication to Savannah's restaurant community. Congratulations on your 40th year of business.

RECOGNIZING THE EL PASO COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE OFFICE

**HON. BETO O'ROURKE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 18, 2015*

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today in recognition of the El Paso County Veterans Assistance Office for their efforts in supporting veterans and their dependents and survivors in my district of El Paso, Texas. The Veterans Assistance Office works with veterans and their families to overcome obstacles that may be preventing them from getting the benefits they need and have earned.

The El Paso County Veterans Assistance Office is certified through the Texas Veterans Commission and provides information to our Veterans regarding their eligibility for state and federal benefits. The office assists the veteran and their family through every step of the paperwork process—from researching eligibility requirements to verifying that the claims are filed correctly. The knowledgeable staff led by Mr. Michael Flores works diligently to stay informed on the latest legislation and newest policy in order to best advise veterans and their families.

The Veterans Assistance Office is involved with many local veteran service organizations and is a recognized voice in our area, regularly seen advocating for veterans and raising awareness for veteran issues at different meetings and events in El Paso.

The El Paso County Veterans Assistance Office is deserving of recognition for their continuous support of our veterans. The office takes the time to explain and walk veterans through the process from start to finish, ensuring that they are not forgotten. I am proud of the work that the El Paso County Veterans Assistance Office does to help veterans.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 18, 2015*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes from Tuesday, December 15, 2015 through Thursday, December 17, 2015, because I was sitting shiva with my family in accordance with Jewish law following the death of my mother Jean Deutch on Friday, December 11, 2015. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

On Roll Call 694, I would have voted yea. (H. Res. 536)

On Roll Call 695, I would have voted yea. (H.R. 2820)

On Roll Call 696, I would have voted yea. (H.R. 4246)

On Roll Call 697, I would have voted yea. (S. 1090)

On Roll Call 698, I would have voted yea. (H.R. 2297)

On Roll Call 699, I would have voted yea. (H.R. 3750)

On Roll Call 700, I would have voted yea. (H.R. 4239)

On Roll Call 701, I would have voted no. (H. Res. 566, On ordering the previous question)

On Roll Call 702, I would have voted no. (H. Res. 566)

On Roll Call 703, I would have voted yea. (H.R. 2029, amendment 3b)

On Roll Call 704, I would have voted yea. (On approving the Journal)

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 18, 2015*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, on December 16, 2015, I missed two recorded votes due to a previously scheduled meeting. I would like to reflect how I would have voted if I were present:

On Roll Call Number 700, I would have voted YEA in support of H.R. 4239, the Tracking Foreign Fighters in Terrorist Safe Havens Act.

On Roll Call Number 699, I would have voted YEA in support of H.R. 3750, the First Responders Passport Act of 2015.

These two pieces of legislation will strengthen our national security and deservedly recognize first responders who aid a foreign country following a natural disaster.

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TRIBUTE TO ALVIN BERNARD STEWART

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**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 18, 2015*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mourn the loss of my dear friend, Al Stewart. Al was a giant of a man with a heart of pure gold. He was the person everyone in his community came to when they needed a helping hand. He never turned anyone away in their hour of need. He was a friend to everyone and a true pillar of our community.

Al Stewart was deeply committed to the safety and security of his fellow citizens. He bravely served his country in our Army during the Korean Conflict. He also served in the Philadelphia Police Department for 25 years, including 5 years in the Gang Control Division.

His commitment to our citizens did not end when he left the Police Department. He moved to the Board of Revision of Taxes where he was dedicated to ensuring that our seniors and citizens of modest means were not unfairly taxed.

Mr. Speaker, Al Stewart honorably served the people of Northwest Philadelphia as a community leader and as their City Councilman. But, his greatest service was as a husband and a father. He deeply loved his late wife Ojetta and was devoted to his children Alinda, Shellyn, and Dwayne.

Al leaves a great legacy behind as he goes on to his reward. Those of us who knew him are better off for that privilege. So, I ask all of my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring him today.

RECOGNIZING NOVANT HEALTH FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO NORTHERN VIRGINIA

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 18, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Novant Health for their commitment to the health and well-being of Northern Virginia residents.

Novant Health is an integrated network of hospitals, outpatient centers, and physician practices spanning four states and servicing more than 4 million patients annually including many in Northern Virginia. The Metropolitan area houses two of Novant Health's fourteen health care centers: Novant Health Prince William Medical Center located in Manassas and Novant Health Haymarket Medical Center. Other regional facilities include Novant Health Cancer Center, two surgery centers, Novant Wound Care & Hyperbaric Medicine, and Novant Health Breast Center.

In 2013, Novant Health provided more than \$21 million in charity care and services in Northern Virginia. Novant Health is one of the top 25 integrated health systems in the United States and was named a top 50 "Best Places for Diverse & Women Managers to Work" by Diversity MBA Magazine.

Showcasing its commitment to active community engagement, Novant Health reaches beyond the walls of its many health facilities. Novant Health actively seeks out community health outreach efforts as part of the patient-oriented delivery model.

One time-tested initiative is as the Hylton Presents Season Sponsor since the inaugural 2010–2011 season, as well as the namesake of the Novant Health Rehearsal Room. In addition to philanthropic support, Novant Health regularly hosts community and physician events at the Hylton Center as a continued supporter of the center and Northern Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Novant Health as the 5th Hylton Center for Performing Arts Anniversary Gala honoree for its commitment to improving the health of Northern Virginia, one person at a time.

IN TRIBUTE TO SHARON ADAMS

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 18, 2015*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sharon Adams, a mentor, community leader, and administrator. She is the Founder and Director of Programs for Walnut Way Conservation Corp and after 15 years of service transitions from her position on December 21, 2015.

Sharon Adams moved back to Milwaukee in 1997 from New York and found the once-vibrant Lindsay Heights neighborhood where she grew up lined with boarded-up houses, trash-filled lots, gangs, prostitution and drugs. This spurred her and her neighbors to organize Walnut Way, a grassroots association whose motto is to "Reclaim, Restore, and Repurpose". The organization's headquarters is

a former drug den and 100 year old structure that has been restored and transformed into the community's nerve center.

Ms. Adams and Walnut Way pushed for the revitalization of North Avenue and the Lindsay Heights Community. The blight is now gone, replaced by restored and newly built houses, rain and vegetable gardens and fruit orchards, youth trained in urban agriculture, a bee aviary to harvest and sell honey, a tree nursery to expand the canopy, and work with police to improve safety. They run an award winning business called Blue Skies that employs youth and others from the community for their landscaping operation.

Sharon has capped off her remarkable urban renewal effort with the completion of The Innovations and Wellness Commons. The Commons will serve nearly 8000 residents living in and surrounding the Lindsay Heights neighborhood. Funds for this venture include significant dollars from federal, state and local governments, the Zilber Family Foundation, and many others. Nearly 30 jobs were created for low income workers by this project. The Commons include Outpost Natural Foods Coop that operates four large organic grocery stores in the Milwaukee area, the Juice Kitchen, a business operated by experienced entrepreneurs specializing in vegetarian meals all sited in a setting that allows for holistic approaches to healthy living such as healing circles, fitness classes and meditation. This economically distressed area is no longer a food desert but a haven providing an environment for healthy living and jobs.

This is Sharon Adams' second retirement, she left the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee in 2008 as Director of Service Learning to head Walnut Way. She helped create other neighborhood organizations, including the Lindsay Heights Neighborhood Health Alliance to reduce health disparities and the Lindsay Heights Neighborhood Quality of Life Plan, part of the Zilber Neighborhood Initiative, a \$50 million program to revive low-income Milwaukee neighborhoods in 10 years.

Sharon Adams is also the Wisconsin 2010 Social Innovation Prize Award Winner, an award given to an individual over age 50 who addresses critical social problems. The prize includes \$5,000, as well as, another \$5000 to be designated by the winner to an organization.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Ms. Sharon Adams who leaves a legacy of advocacy and compassion. She is a true trailblazer who has labored to attract investment and lead the Lindsay Heights Neighborhood to prosperity and good health. The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District, the State of Wisconsin and the nation have benefited tremendously from her dedicated service. I am honored for these reasons to pay tribute to Ms. Sharon Adams.

THE RETIREMENT OF DR. WILLIAM "BRIT" KIRWAN

**HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 18, 2015*

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and to congratulate Dr. William "Brit" Kirwan on his well-deserved retirement. Dr.

Kirwan served for 12 years as the chancellor of the University System of Maryland, and I know that his principled character and educational capability will be sorely missed.

It has been my pleasure to work with him over the years in his capacity as chancellor of the University System, but long before becoming chancellor, Dr. Kirwan first taught mathematics over at the University's College Park campus. After turns as department chair and provost at College Park, as president he had a direct hand in designing the framework for the University System of Maryland itself.

Dr. Kirwan's expertise on higher education helped the University System grow to be one of the largest and most respected educational institutions in the country. Students and educators have thrived under his leadership and the surrounding Maryland community has benefited from having such a capable and qualified university in its midst.

In fact, Dr. Kirwan's expertise is recognized by so many that, in the fall of 2013, he was asked to serve as co-chair of the Senate's Task Force on Federal Regulation of Higher Education. The resulting report provided clear suggestions aimed at helping colleges and universities to prioritize improving the quality of education and readying their students for the demands of the 21st century.

I want to thank Dr. Kirwan for his committed and passionate service to the University System—his legacy will live on in the accomplished faculty and students whom he served so well. Thank you Brit, and we wish you the best in your retirement.

A DAY IN HONOR OF BENJAMIN EARL KING

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 18, 2015*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life, legacy, and work of Benjamin Earl King; who was a Singer, Record Producer and Composer of some of America's greatest soul music and hit songs such as "Stand By Me" & "Spanish Harlem." He is a legendary and well known musician. He has had many accomplishments throughout his entire life. Mr. King was also extremely active in his charitable foundation, the Stand By Me Foundation, which helps to provide education to deserving youths. On Thursday, December 10th, 2015, at Harlem's historic Interchurch Center at The Riverside Church; The Office of Congressman CHARLES B. RANGEL, Voza Rivers/New Heritage Theatre Group, The Interchurch Center & Harlem Music Fest In Partnership With Community Works presents "Celebrating the Music of Ben E. King," to memorialize Ben E. King's contributions to the Harlem community and beyond.

The celebration featured musical guest performances by Rhythm & Blues Legends Chuck Jackson, Maxine Brown, Beverly Crosby, Wild Women featuring (Maxine Brown, Beverly Crosby & Sherryl Marshall) and Soul Vocalist Joe Coleman. The evening culminated in a very special musical performance by Al Orlo, who served as Ben E. King's Lead Guitarist for 25 years and his Musical Director from 1996–2015.

From the groundbreaking orchestrated productions of the Drifters to his own solo hits,