

Washington State and to create a summer meals program for children who experience food insecurity when not in school. She also showed transformative leadership through her involvement with the Western Regional Anti-Hunger Consortium, a coalition of 10 western states that collaborate on anti-hunger initiatives. She led the coalition's efforts to secure over \$6 billion in funding for the national Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). She also helped to create a system that assisted local farmers at community farmers markets to sell affordable fresh fruits and vegetables in areas that previously lacked affordable access.

Linda has been recognized for her extraordinary efforts numerous times, including being named National Child Advocate of the Year in 1997 by Voices for America's Children. She is acknowledged by her colleagues as having been an unwavering and powerful champion for families that experience food insecurity.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate Linda Stone on her retirement and recognize her tremendous impact in the fight to end hunger, the work she has done in Washington State and beyond.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR ADRIAN FOSTER

#### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 18, 2015*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Major Adrian Foster of the United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. Major Foster will soon transition from his current assignment as an Army Congressional Liaison in the House of Representatives to the 759th Military Police Battalion at Fort Carson, Colorado.

Adrian enlisted in the United States Army in 1997 and received his commission through Arizona State University ROTC in 2003. Throughout his Army career, Adrian has served in numerous tactical, leadership, and staff assignments as a Military Police Officer. Adrian served as a Platoon Leader in the 978th Military Police Company, commanded both the 16th and 72nd Military Police Detachments, and served as the Provost Marshal Operations Officer at Fort Bliss, Texas, where he was responsible for daily law enforcement, military working dog operations, inter-agency collaboration and installation security. Adrian's other previous assignments include Battalion Police Transition Team Chief, Battalion Assistant Operations Officer, and Battalion Operations Officer. In support of contingency operations, Adrian has deployed twice to Iraq for a cumulative total of 24 months.

In 2012, Adrian was selected for the highly competitive Army Congressional Fellowship Program. As part of this program, Adrian was first assigned as an Army Congressional Fellow in the office of former Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Chairman MIKE ROGERS (R-MI). As if that task wasn't daunting enough, Adrian also earned a Masters in Legislative Affairs from the George Washington University that year.

Adrian was then assigned to serve in the House Army Congressional Liaison office for the remainder of his Fellowship Program.

Army Congressional Liaison Officers provide Members and staff insight and understanding of Army policies, actions, operations, and requirements. Their first-hand knowledge of military needs, culture, and tradition is a tremendous benefit to Congressional offices. His service in the House of Representatives has proven invaluable to both the Department of Defense and Congress. Adrian utilized this experience and knowledge to assist Members, staff, and notably, the Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa—which I currently chair—where I had the privilege and honor to interact with him on numerous occasions.

During Major Foster's distinguished service to this Nation, he has earned awards and decorations including: the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Air Assault Badge, Combat Action Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge. In addition to his civilian education, Adrian is a graduate of the Military Police Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, and the Command and General Staff College.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work closely with Major Foster over the last few years of his decorated career. He is truly a testament to the seven core values of the Army: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. On behalf of a grateful Nation, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of Major Adrian Foster, his wife Tamara, and their daughters, Brenna Simone and Sienna Marie. I wish them the very best as they continue to dedicate their lives in the service of our Nation as they move on to the next chapter of their lives together. We will miss them.

#### COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

#### HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2015*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, Section 310(b) of H.R. 4188, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, requires the Coast Guard to prepare a Port Access Route Study for Nantucket Sound. The study would include the area subject to a lease for the Cape Wind Project. That lease is the subject of pending litigation that challenges, among other claims, the Coast Guard's terms and conditions under section 414 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 for failing to protect navigational safety. It is important that we do not interfere in this litigation, and section 310(b) does not make any presuppositions about the validity of the Coast Guard's actions under section 414. In addition, section 310(b) does not make any presuppositions about the validity of the lease for that Project. It is for the court to decide whether the Coast Guard properly set the terms and conditions for that project in accordance with section 414, and the Department of the Interior imposed proper conditions on the lease.

Section 310(b) is needed because, when the Atlantic Coast PARS began, Nantucket Sound had been excluded. The PARS must review how any project in Nantucket Sound would impact the navigational safety of current marine transportation and vessel activities. The Coast Guard is also directed to review existing regulations to improve navigation safety. The goal of the report is to identify the impact to the current and future navigational activities and how to avoid unsafe operating requirements on vessels, and revise existing regulations to improve navigational safety in Nantucket Sound.

#### SUPPORT FUNDING FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

#### HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 18, 2015*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, on December 7, 2015, I, along with 60 of my colleagues, sent a letter to the House Appropriations Committee urging robust funding for the accounts that support the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), an international organization tasked with verifying that states comply with their commitments under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and other non-proliferation agreements.

Whether or not Members of Congress supported the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, we have a foremost responsibility to the continued security of the United States and our allies. Funding the organization that is tasked with monitoring and verifying Iran's nuclear activities is essential to that security. As such, I submit the following letter from the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation.

DECEMBER 17, 2015.

Withholding Funding from the IAEA is Ill-Advised and Dangerous.

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: As individuals who have dedicated our professional lives to national security and nuclear non-proliferation, we strongly urge that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) receive full funding to monitor Iran's compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

The United States, its international negotiating partners, and Iran continue to move towards full implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which will restrict and monitor Iran's nuclear activity in exchange for relief from economic sanctions related to its nuclear program. The nuclear watchdog organization, the IAEA, is responsible for verifying that Iran is in compliance with the agreement through an unprecedented system of intrusive inspections and safeguards.

IAEA monitoring is essential for deterring and detecting illicit nuclear behavior by Iran; without adequate funding, the international community cannot responsibly verify that Iran's nuclear program remains peaceful and in-line with its commitments. According to Director General Yukiya Amano, the IAEA requires an additional \$10.6 million per year to undertake this task. This additional funding will pay for new inspectors, the installation and maintenance of safeguard and verification technology, and other monitoring activities that exceed the surveillance normally conducted by the IAEA.

Unfortunately, some key members of Congress advocate blocking any U.S. contribution to these additional funds. On December 3, Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT) introduced House Resolution 553, supported by several House committee chairs, urging that additional funding be blocked unless the IAEA releases confidential documents between it and Iran.

Release of these documents would violate the confidentiality of the IAEA, which has been universally regarded as necessary to ensure the cooperation of countries with inspection and verification agreements. Though the resolution is not legally binding, it sets a dangerous precedent for future legislation.

It is difficult to understand why Members of Congress would block verification of Iran's nuclear activities. Such a self-defeating move would only increase the potential for Iran to hide violations of the agreement by reducing the likelihood of detection.

We strongly urge Congress to ensure that the IAEA receives full funding to effectively monitor Iran's implementation of and compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Doing so will make the United States, its allies, and the world safer.

Sincerely,

Hans Blix, Director General Emeritus, IAEA; Maj. General Roger R. Blunt, USA (Ret.); Amb. Kenneth C. Brill (ret), Former ambassador to the IAEA, Founding Director of the U.S. National Counterproliferation Center; Matthew Bunn, Professor, Managing the Atom Project, Belfer Center, Harvard University; Brig. Gen. Stephen A. Cheney, USMC (Ret.); Charles D. Ferguson, Ph.D., President, Federation of American Scientists, Former Naval Nuclear Officer; Trevor Findlay, Associate, Managing the Atom Project, Belfer Center, Harvard University; Brig. Gen. Evelyn "Pat" Foote, USA (Ret.); Lt. Gen. Robert Gard, USA (Ret.), Chairman Emeritus, Center for Arms Control & Non-Proliferation; Richard L. Garwin, Contributor to design and test of nuclear weapons, IBM Fellow Emeritus; Amb. Thomas Graham Jr. (ret.), Chairman, Lightbridge Corp.; Lt. Gen. Arlen D. Jameson, USAF (Ret.); Brig. Gen. John H. Johns, USA (Ret.), Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, National Defense University.

David Kay, Former IAEA Chief Weapons Inspector in Iraq (after first Gulf War); Lt. Gen. Claudia J. Kennedy, USA (Ret.); Daryl G. Kimball, Executive Director, Arms Control Association; Maj. Gen. Frederick H. Lawson, USA (Ret.); Edward P. Levine, Ph.D., Retired senior professional staff member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Jeffrey Lewis, Director of the East Asia Nonproliferation Program, Center for Nonproliferation Studies; Martin Mallin, Executive Director, Managing the Atom Project, Belfer Center, Harvard University; Laura Rockwood, Executive Director, Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, Former Section Head, IAEA; Joan Rohlfing, President and COO, Nuclear Threat Initiative; Andrew K. Semmel, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Policy; Lt. Gen. James M. Thompson, USA (Ret.), Vice Chair, Boise, ID Committee on Foreign Relations; Jim Walsh, Ph.D., Security Studies Program, MIT; Honorable Andy Weber, Former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs.

## MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 17, 2015*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, House Democrats did not include the excise tax when we approved the House version of ACA—it was added later by the Senate. I expressed concern about the impact of this provision from day one, and have worked to raise awareness of the problem. I am pleased with the provision in the budget calling for a two-year delay and voted for the Omnibus bill with this provision.

When it comes to reigning in health care cost growth, Democrats don't take a back seat to anybody. Indeed, that is one of the main aims of the healthcare law—one that has already had significant success.

But this excise tax will shift costs to employers, who, in turn, will shift more costs to employees, who will not make up for these costs with increased wages.

We need to use this two year delay to address this excise tax completely. In our continued efforts to control health costs, we must not harm consumers in the process and must continue to support working families.

## A DAY IN HONOR OF JANET LANGHART COHEN

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 18, 2015*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Emmy nominated journalist, author and playwright Janet Langhart Cohen's one-act play, "Anne & Emmett." On October 23, 2015, at the MIST Harlem Cultural Center, I joined with the New Heritage Theatre Group, the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce and MIST Harlem to welcome playwright Janet Langhart Cohen to the Village of Harlem, where she presented the one-act play "Anne & Emmett," directed by Thomas W. Jones II. The play, "Anne and Emmett," focuses on an imaginary conversation between Anne Frank and Emmett Till, who were victims of religious intolerance and racial hatred. That evening, "Anne and Emmett" was filmed by The New Heritage Group under the supervision of celebrated director/producer and former Chair of Columbia University's Graduate Film Program, Professor Jamal Joseph.

The presentation of "Anne and Emmett" was made possible by RARIA (Race and Reconciliation in America), a not for profit organization co-founded by Janet Langhart Cohen, New York City Police Commissioner William J. Bratton and the New York City Police Academy. First premiered in 2009 at the United States Holocaust Museum, "Anne & Emmett," was conceived by Janet Langhart Cohen. The plays two main characters were Emmett Till, a 14-year-old boy whose brutal murder in Mississippi sixty years ago which sparked the modern civil rights movement; and the young

Holocaust victim Anne Frank, a Jewish girl who had to go into hiding during World War Two to avoid the Nazis and after almost two years in hiding she was discovered and deported to Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp where she died. The play has received rave reviews during performances in Washington, DC, Indianapolis and Chicago.

Mrs. Cohen is passionate about ensuring Emmett Till's story is never forgotten; which she does daringly throughout the play. It has been presented to dignitaries, students, Supreme Court justices, and now, the NYPD and its recent classes of recruits. Her commitment and understanding of how vital Emmett Till's story is to our nation was heralded by the Till family last spring when they honored Mrs. Cohen with the "Women of Courage" award established to honor the memory of Emmett's mother, Mamie Till Mobley. Additionally, in 2014 Mrs. Cohen led the way to have a tree planted in memory of Emmett Till, at the United States Capitol.

To understand why she produced the play, one needs to learn where she came from. Janet Langhart Cohen grew up in segregated housing in Indianapolis, where the Indiana Ku Klux Klan rose to prominence in the early 1920s. Janet went on to attend Crispus Attucks High School and later moved to New York City, where she began her career in television. Her television career included stints at NBC, America Alive with Bruce Jenner, AM New York on ABC, WPIX-TV Channel 11, 9 Broadcast Plaza on WOR-TV and Entertainment Tonight. Mrs. Cohen has had the privilege of interviewing such luminaries as President Jimmy Carter, Margaret Thatcher, Rosa Parks, Mel Gibson, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Denzel Washington, Dan Rather, Oprah Winfrey, Whoopi Goldberg, Barbara Walters and Larry King, as well as David Duke former head of the Ku Klux Klan.

Janet married William S. Cohen, who at the time served as Secretary of Defense, under President William Jefferson Clinton, and became known as "First Lady of the Pentagon" due to her active and visible public role at the Defense Department. Mrs. Cohen spurred several initiatives aimed at morale and well-being of military and civilian employees at the Pentagon; which included the Military Family Forum, the Pentagon Pops concert series, the Secretary of Defense Annual Holiday Tour, and her own series of interviews on Pentagon TV, Special Assignment. She was given a volunteer position as "First Lady of the USO" and helped recruit celebrities and civilians to work with the United Service Organizations. Her many awards and honors include Hadasah Woman of the Year and The Zachary and Elizabeth Award for Distinguished Civilian Humanitarian Service for her work on behalf of members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families. In President Bill Clinton's last State of the Union Address, he praised Mrs. Cohen for her enormous contribution to the welfare and morale of our men and women in uniform and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I joined with the New Heritage Theatre Group, the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, MIST Harlem and the Village of Harlem to dedicate Friday, October 23, 2015 in honor of Janet Langhart Cohen for her lifelong commitment to ending racial and religious intolerance and hatred in our Nation. I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognition of this great unheralded American, Janet Langhart Cohen.