

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2250) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in reluctant support of H.R. 2250, a bill to fund the operations of the U.S. House of Representatives for 2016 and for other purposes.

In these times of needed fiscal discipline, everyone must do their part. We are bound by funding caps and, though the president has put forward a blueprint to address sequestration, the Republican leadership has chosen to disregard the plan. As a result, appropriators have produced a bill that makes deep cuts to agencies and programs that support the legislative branch when compared to the president's request.

H.R. 2250 provides a total of \$3.341 billion for vital House and House affiliated functions as well as for greater Congressional operations. This is a reduction from the president's request of \$200 million. Within the total available funding, \$492.2 million is provided for the Architect of the Capitol which oversees maintenance and repairs of House and Senate office buildings in addition to many other important buildings in the Congressional complex. Excluding Senate items, this is an \$84 million reduction in funding for maintenance of the Capitol Visitor Center, the Capitol Grounds, the Library of Congress and the U.S. Botanical Garden. \$591.4 million is provided in the bill to fund Library of Congress (LOC) operations. In addition to being the repository of the nation's print and recorded media, the LOC serves as the research arm of Congress, helping to inform the legislative debate on Capitol Hill. This bill cuts its funding by \$33 million below the president's request. The bill also reduces funding for the Government Accountability Office (GAO). The GAO functions as the "congressional watchdog" by investigating how federal agencies spend American taxpayer dollars. This bill funds GAO at \$522 million, which is \$31 million less than the president's request. H.R. 2250 does increase funding for the Capitol Police when compared to enacted funding levels, but the increase is actually a \$10 million cut when compared to the president's request.

I believe spending taxpayer dollars carefully should always be a priority of Congress, and seeking ways to reduce government spending should also be a priority. There are funding reductions in the bill that I support, including the pay freeze for Members of Congress. But the American people expect us to make wise cuts. They don't want us cutting for the sake of cutting—especially when vital services may be impacted. The president's budget contained a strategy to address sequestration that would have made many of these cuts unnecessary. I regret that my Republican colleagues chose to ignore it.

HONORING COAST GUARD CAPTAIN
SAMUEL DUKE WALKER**HON. BRADLEY BYRNE**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of a great American and my dear friend, Coast Guard Captain Samuel Duke Walker.

Captain Walker has served as Commander of Coast Guard Sector Mobile since July of 2013. Before coming to Southwest Alabama, he served as Chief of Response for the Eighth Coast Guard District, where he also served as the Federal On-Scene Coordinator for the Deepwater Horizon Spill of National Significance Response.

Captain Walker graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Officer Candidate School in 1987. He is a graduate of Rhode Island College with a degree in Electronic Design, and he also holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of South Alabama's South of Business.

During his time with the Coast Guard, Captain Walker has earned many accolades. Captain Walker was promoted to the rank of Captain on July 1, 2008, and he served as President of the Class of 2009 at the National War College. His decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Coast Guard Commendation Medal, Coast Guard Achievement Medal, and Combat Action Ribbon.

Captain Walker has been a leader in the Coast Guard, but he has also been a leader in the local community. Captain Walker has called Mobile home for much of his life, and he is a 2001 graduate and Class President of Leadership Mobile. During a recent boating tragedy in Mobile Bay, Captain Walker acted as a steady leader and reassuring voice to members of the community. It is safe to say that Captain Walker has truly become a member of the Southwest Alabama community.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Captain Walker, his wife, and their three children for their dedicated service to the United States Coast Guard, the Gulf Coast, and the entire nation.

So on behalf of the people of Alabama's First Congressional District, I want to wish Captain Walker all the best in his retirement. We will miss his service to the Coast Guard, but I am happy to know Captain Walker will continue to call Mobile home.

RECOGNIZING THE MARIPOSA
COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL GRIZZLY
BAND FOR ITS ACHIEVEMENTS
AND COMMITMENT TO VET-
ERANS**HON. TOM McCLINTOCK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise in recognition of the Mariposa County High School Grizzly Band, which will be performing in the upcoming National Memorial Day Parade.

The Mariposa Grizzly Band brings much pride to a small rural community in the Sierra

Foothills; it serves this community by supporting American veterans at every possible opportunity. This commitment has led the band to perform patriotic music at every Memorial Day service conducted by the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6042.

Its participation in this year's Memorial Day Parade is not the first time the Grizzly Band has travelled across the country to showcase its talent. The band's impressive reputation afforded it the opportunity to perform in New York City for the 92nd Annual Veterans Day Parade.

During this school year alone, the Grizzly Band has received first-place recognition for its performance at four separate events. It is no wonder the Grizzlies are so beloved in the foothills—their talents have won a total of thirty-seven first-place awards in the last decade.

Furthermore, the band was the recipient of the GRAMMY Foundation's Signature Schools Enterprise Award. This growing list of accomplishments is evidence of the hard work and dedication of these young men and women.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to welcome the Mariposa County High School Grizzly Band to Washington, DC, and I look forward to hearing of both their future accomplishments and their support of our local veteran community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2014-15
DUBUQUE FIGHTING SAINTS
SEASON**HON. ROD BLUM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I want to congratulate the Dubuque Fighting Saints of the United States Hockey League (USHL) on their successful 2014-2015 season.

The Fighting Saints, led by head coach and general manager Matt Shaw, finished the regular season 36-19-5, resulting in 3rd place in the Eastern Conference and earning them a berth in the playoffs. Goalie Jacob Nehama posted the second lowest GAA in the USHL for the season at 2.31 and forward Brett Boening completed the season in the top 10 in the league for goals scored with 28 for the year.

The Fighting Saints won the "Cowbell Cup," winning the head to head matchups among the three teams in eastern Iowa, finishing one game ahead of the Waterloo Blackhawks and two games ahead of the Cedar Rapids Rough-Riders.

The impact of the team extends outside the arena and into the greater Dubuque community. Through the "Live Like a Saint" initiative with Two by Two Character Development, the Saints visit local schools and teach empathy, kindness, respect, responsibility, teamwork, and the importance of physical education to young people.

I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to the 2014-15 Dubuque Fighting Saints on their successful season and thank them for their charity work in the Dubuque community.

I look forward to cheering them on next year to a championship.

CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF
EXCEPTIONAL MEDICAL CARE**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank OakBend Medical Center for providing quality healthcare for Fort Bend County for 65 years.

OakBend Medical Center is the largest full service healthcare facility in Fort Bend County. As Fort Bend County continues to grow, medical centers like this provide easy access to professional care. With the traffic congestion we experience as our region continues to grow, easy access to critical care is essential.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, thank you again to OakBend Medical Center for 65 years of service to the Fort Bend community. We look forward to many more years of exceptional medical care.

FOSTER YOUTH SHADOW DAY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk a little bit about foster care. As many of my colleagues are aware, today is Foster Youth Shadow Day and this morning I had the pleasure of meeting with Dawna—a foster youth who spent 7 years in the foster care system of my home state of Washington.

Fortunately for Dawna, she was adopted when aged out of care. But for many foster kids this is not the case. In 2013, over 23,000 kids aged out without finding a forever family. And, even the kids that do find their forever families are often mistreated and even abused while in the system. Dawna was overprescribed psychotropic medications and forced unnecessarily into an adolescent psychiatric hospital. Her story is not the only one like it. When I was Chairman of the Human Resources Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee we held a hearing on this very issue and heard many other similar stories. This is a tragedy and it is unacceptable.

We can do more to help our youth in foster care, they are our responsibility and we cannot let them down. I will continue to fight to provide youth in the foster system the best possible care, and to help them find forever families, and I urge the rest of this Congress to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO ISAAC JOE

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Isaac C. Joe on the occasion of his upcoming 100th birthday. As a soldier, educator, and civic leader, Mr. Joe has devoted his life to public service, and I join many in his community in wishing him a happy birthday.

Born on June 24, 1915, Mr. Joe grew up in Thomastown, South Carolina, a small town in Lee County. As an African American in the Jim Crow South, he had to walk five miles each way to a school that was only open seven months of the year, while the white schools remained in session for nine. He persevered to work his way through Morris College, from which he graduated in 1940. Mr. Joe has been dedicated to his alma mater ever since, donating 83 acres of land to the college in 2013.

Mr. Joe began his teaching career in Lee County immediately after college. But after just one year in the classroom, he put his teaching career on hold to serve in the United States Army. He was in basic training when Pearl Harbor was bombed and rose to the rank of Master Sergeant, working at regimental headquarters. Although Mr. Joe's six years in the Army took him away from his students, he put his teaching skills to good use, teaching some of his fellow soldiers how to read, write, and sign their names so that they could collect their paychecks.

In 1954, seven years after Mr. Joe returned to the classroom, the United States Supreme Court issued its Brown v. Board of Education decision outlawing segregation in public schools. Inspired by this decision, Mr. Joe returned to school himself, earning his master's degree from South Carolina State College in 1956. He returned to the Lee County school system in 1957 as principal of the newly built Mount Pleasant High School in Elliott, where he served until his retirement in 1977.

Mr. Joe's community involvement has continued in the decades since his retirement. In 1980, he was elected to a term in the South Carolina House of Representatives, serving from 1981 to 1983. He is an active member of St. Mark's Baptist Church in Bishopville where he has held various leadership roles and spearheaded numerous committees and projects.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in wishing Mr. Joe a very happy 100th birthday. It is a remarkable milestone befitting a remarkable man. I wish him good health and Godspeed.

HONORING DR. MARGARET "PEG" BURKE LEE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Margaret "Peg" Burke Lee for her distinct service to the people of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois and Oakton Community College. Dr. Lee will be retiring in June of this year, and I would like to congratulate her on 30 years of commitment to our community.

Since Dr. Lee became vice president of academic affairs at Oakton Community College in 1985, her achievements have captured national recognition for the College while serving 450,000 residents in 16 municipalities—including a salute by The New York Times recognizing Oakton as one of the top 10 community colleges in the nation. Dr. Lee's commitment and contributions to education and Oakton are immeasurable. She has been rec-

ognized by college staff members and community members as a relationship builder inside and outside of the college community, a legacy she is proud to share.

Dr. Lee was named one of the "Most Powerful and Influential Women of Illinois" by the National Diversity Council in 2012. In March 2011, Holy Family Medical Center honored her with its second annual C.A.R.E.S. Award for exemplifying Resurrection Health Care's Core Values: compassion, accountability, respect, excellence and service.

Dr. Lee has contributed to multiple educational events across the world, including in China, Netherlands, Thailand, and Spain. She was part of a diplomatic delegation to India where she traveled with Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Karen Hughes and five other college and University presidents to build bridges to American higher education through meetings with government, university, and business leaders. In addition, Dr. Lee is the author of several monographs on global education in community colleges and the critical role of language learning in developing cultural competence.

Dr. Lee holds a doctorate and a master's degree in English language and literature from the University of Chicago, where she was a Ford Foundation Fellow in the Humanities and a Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Scholar in Women's Studies. At the age of 17, she spent 8 years as a nun, a perspective and experience that she brought to her role as a college administrator. She has always taught with compassion and enthusiasm throughout her career to help those most in need. Dr. Lee is known to go above and beyond to improve the quality of life in the community and she has touched the lives of many people through her commitment to providing innovative educational programs at the college.

In January, the Margaret Burke Lee Science and Health Careers Center opened on Oakton Community College's Des Plaines campus. It is home to Oakton's anatomy and physiology, biology, chemistry, earth science, medical laboratory technology, nursing, physics, and physical therapy assistant programs. Dr. Lee's legacy will continue at Oakton not only through this new facility, but through the fabric of Oakton Community College. After she announced her retirement, dozens of posts were made on Facebook demonstrating how much she is loved by the people she mentored over the past 30 years.

I want to sincerely congratulate Dr. Lee for everything she has accomplished at Oakton Community College and for the people of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois. Your legacy will live on and will never be forgotten. May you enjoy this new chapter in your life including additional time you can spend with your nine children and 14 grandchildren.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING MARINE SERGEANT WARD MARK JOHNSON IV

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marine Sergeant Ward Mark Johnson IV, a fallen hero who died while on a mission