EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECIPIENTS OF THE 2015 CONGRESSIONAL AWARDS

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Awards recognize four avenues of individual growth—community service, physical fitness, exploration, and personal development—and how the fulfillment of these goals forms balanced and promising young citizens.

In their pursuit of these goals, recipients of the Congressional Awards have gained new skills and greater confidence. For many, these projects will be the cornerstone for future endeavors, further enriching their lives and encouraging others to follow their lead.

The recipients of the 2015 Congressional Awards set the finest example and demonstrate dedication to improving their communities and the Nation as a whole.

Gabriela Abadia, Lincoln Abbott, Biraspati Adhikari, Radhika Adhikari, Seth Alicea, Naomi Allen, Michael Alvaro, Maria Alverio, Julie Ambo, Griffin Armstorff, Kobi Axelrod, Atalie Bale, Zoe Barbeau, J. Aaren Barge, Mackenzie Batten, Hunter Benkoski, Rajat Bhageria, Jamuna Bista, Michael Boyson, Olivia Brophy, Camden Brown, Rachel Bugge, Ryan Buraus, William Buster, Mary Ann Cahoon.

Victoria Cannon, Matthew Cha, Wing Kay Joyce Chan, Corbin Chance, Jacob Chasan, Michael Cheng, Emily Chiles, Alexander Cho, Daniel Cho, Justin Cho, Bogeun Choi, Noah Choi, Siri Choragudi, Joshua Chung, Daniel Cieply, Melody Colliatie, Brandon Colling, Matthew Connell, Patrick Connell, James Cook, Virginia Cook, Phillip Costello, Hannah Crane, Kamila Czachorowski, John Dadouris, Juhi Dalal.

Maria Dattolo, Nolan Dexter-Brown, Nielsen Dias, Randell Doane, Rupa Dulal, Maxwell Durtschi, Caroline Dutzi, Casey Eble, Edison Elder, Michael Epperly, Michaela Fallon, James Fantin, Nicole Farese, Carianna Farrell, Frank Faverzani, Lesli Fernandez.

Catherine Fisher, Bri Flaherty, Christina Flear, Alie Fordyce, Samuel Fordyce, Abbie Foster, Michael Frye, J. Parker Garrison, Jeremy Geiger, Tristana Giunta, Kyle Goggio, Alec Gonzales, Adan Gonzalez, Katherine Grabowsky, Matthew Grillo, Alana Gross, James Grubbs.

Felix Guo, Devika Gurung, Emma Hall, Matthew Halloran, Jacob (Jungwoo) Han, Robert Hapke, Katrina Hayes-Macaluso, Charlotte Heffelmire, Danielle Heins, Josh Heisey, Jordan Helfand, Jocelyn Hernandez, Noah Hicks, Matthew Higgs, Joseph Hinton, Joanna Hong, Ellen Ingwerson, Michael Ivkov, Avinash Iyer, Catherine Jessen, KeeGan Johnson.

Brister Jones, Jonathan Jow, Raghav Kalra, George Kanellitsas, Aaron Kang, Arjun Kapoor, Serhat Kariparduc, Karna Karki, Karishma Kashyap, Robynn-Emmanuelle Katzeff, Justin Kawaguchi, Sabrine Keane, Juliana Kemenosh, Reber Kennedy, Taylor Kennington, Arbab Khalid, Christopher Kim, Lucia Kim, Yoorhim Kim, Sara Knighton, Juliana Kochis.

Sarah Kopsa, Nikki Kothari, Isaac Kuo, Sam Kuster, Michelle Laker, Basanta Lamichhane, Taylor Lane, Jennifer Lang, Holly Laws, Jeff Lee, Ji Hye Lee, Sophia Lee, Shanley Lenart, Chester Leung, Brittany Levy, Erin Lewis, Jessica Li, Emilie Liu, Abigail Lockhart, Savannah Logan, Shivani Lokre.

Harrison Teague Loughman, Amanda Lu, Morgan Ludwig, Ferdinand Luhur, Tess Luman, Mason Magee, Jonathan Mak, Jordan Marino, Zachary Maxwell, Kailey McCormick, Gabriel McDonald, Hugh McGinley, Grace McGowan, Laura Mediorreal, Samuel Meyerson, Alexander Mietchen, Amrita Mojumdar, Emma Moon, Andrew Morgan, Olivia Morton, Taylor Murphy.

Nicole Nam, Michael Negraru, Kevin Ng, Jennifer Nicholas, Kirsten Norton, Jessica Ocampo, John Wesley Orton, Fernando Osornio, Zachary Panton, Ni Em Par, Eli Parker, Mili Patel, Brandon Paul, Avani Pavuluri, Henry Pawelczyk, John Peruzzi, John Peters, Marianna Pizzato, Rishi Prasad, Samantha Price, Jessica Pritchard.

Anne-Marie Prochaska, Rebecca Pulley, Stephanie Quinton, Morgan Redford, Casey Riggs, Micheal Riggs, Jose Andres Rocha, Anna Rogers, Ashley Royce, Ashley Ryan, Sabrina Saintil, Marisa Salvador, Suhani Sanghavi, Tara Santora, Aakanksha Saxena, Michael Schaja, Jericho Schroeder, Lauren Seckar, David Seo, Dae han Seong, Supreet Shah.

Jeremy Shockley, Ki Wan Sim, Samantha Singer, Austin Smith, Chelsea Smith, Dorothy Smith, Hunter Smith, Shelbi Smolak, Mollie Somers, Arjun Sridhar, Shimona Srivastava, Cassandra Steele, Annalise Stevenson, Rachel Stogner, Kyle Sukley, Thomas Sych, Kavya Tangella, Emma Taylor-Brill, Seth Taylor-Brill, Gopinath Thangada, Kabita Thapa.

Jacob Thiemann, Brooke Tobias, Vincent Tran, Mary Turney, Nihar Varanasi, Robert Vaughn, Ellie Vigurie, Samuel Vilchez, Patrick Vin, Stephen Waldrep, Samuel Walker, Merran Waller, Christopher Warburton, Lorne Wasserman, Tiffani Webb, Jaynie Welsh, Jessica Williams, Jessica Wilson, Rachel Wilson, Lyssa Winslow, Jacqueline Wong.

Jared Wong, Daniel Yang, Karen Yang, Nicolas Yang, Jonathan Ye, Joshua Yoo, Seung-Hee Yoo, GiHyeon Yoon, Daniel Yoon, Michael Youn, Nick Zamora, Andrew Zehner, Cameron Zetterlund, Sophie Zhang, Bradley Zhu.

HONORING SABRINA SAINTIL FOR RECEIVING THE 2015 CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOLD MEDAL

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young leader from Northeast Florida who has been selected as a winner of the 2015 Congressional Gold Medal Award. Sabrina Saintil has shown incredible dedication in completing the rigorous challenges that the Gold Medal demands. She has set and achieved goals in volunteer public service, personal development, physical fitness, and exploration. Ms. Saintil and her comrade, Jessica Ocampo, are the first two Gold Medal recipients from my district, and I could not be more proud to recognize both of them.

Ms. Saintil is a recent graduate from Fletcher High School who is planning on attending the University of South Florida to study international business in the fall. This promising young woman took on and directed the after school program at the Beaches Habitat Education Department. She has shown incredible passion, not only in her pursuit of education, but also in her work to better the greater Jacksonville community.

As a part of the exploration requirement for the Award, Ms. Saintil planned and went on a historical journey that began in Savannah, Georgia. From there, she ventured through the historic downtown section of the city and proceeded to Koinonia Farms, the birthplace of Habitat for Humanity. She then travelled to President Jimmy Carter's home in Plains, Georgia, followed by a trip to Global Village, a model village containing various types of homes built in Habitat for Humanity communities worldwide. Her last stop on the historical exploration was the Kingsley Plantation back in Jacksonville.

I am so proud of what this young woman has accomplished. When I look at all that she has done, I am not worried about the future of this great nation, for we will surely have great people to lead it. I would also like to take this time to recognize Kathy Christensen from Habitat for Humanity, who served as Ms. Ocampo's and Ms. Saintil's adult advisor and has been essential to the success of this program in Jacksonville. Thank you, Ms. Christensen, for all that you do and for your constant assistance and support.

I first met Ms. Saintil back in 2012, and since then she has grown both as an individual and as member of the Jacksonville community. I could not be happier with Ms. Saintil's success in receiving the Congressional Gold Medal Award, as it stands as proof of a culmination of years of hard work and sacrifice. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating this young leader of Northeast Florida.

HONORING ROBERT L. AYERS ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved leader in the Merced community, Robert L. Ayers on his 90th birthday. Bob was born in New York's most populous borough, Brooklyn, on June 14, 1925.

During his youth. Robert and his family lived in different parts of New York but eventually

settled in the town of Bellmore, Long Island. Growing up during the Great Depression his family was faced with daily struggles, despite the economic hardships, Robert continued to strive towards a better future.

On June 19, 1942, at the young age of seventeen, Robert left his hometown of Bellmore with the goal of enlisting in the Navy. As part of the Navy Squadron VPB–33, he was stationed in South America and also the South Pacific where his active duties involved chasing submarines, air sea rescue, and sinking enemy ships. In February of 1945, Robert returned to the states and was stationed at NAS, Jacksonville, Florida.

Shortly after his return, Bob was released from the Navy and immediately joined the Marine Corps. He spent two years as a Marine and then resigned to pursue service in the Army Air Corps where he gained experience from all over the world. Not only did he heroically fight in the Korean War but also his perseverance continued throughout the Vietnam War.

Upon returning to the homeland. Robert met his wife Yvonne and they were married on January 19, 1946. After bravely serving his country for twenty-eight years, Robert retired from the Air Force on July 31, 1970 and he and his wife moved to Merced, California.

For two years Robert sold insurance and then decided to try his luck in the title and escrow business at First Merced Title Co. Transamerica Title Company bought the company in March 1977 and by July, he was named the branch manager where he remained until 1985. It was then he decided to become a business owner when he purchased the company and formed TransCounty Title Co. After numerous years in the business, Bob made the decision to retire in 2010, turning the operation over to his daughter Peg, who is now the president. TransCounty Title Co. remains the only locally owned title company in Merced County.

In addition to being a business owner, Bob was a dynamic member of the Merced community. He was actively involved in Kiwanis and served on the capital campaign for Mercy Medical Center. Also, he has been an active contributor to the Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce and both higher education facilities, UC Merced and Merced College.

During their nearly 70 years of marriage, Robert and Yvonne welcomed three children, sons Robert Jr. and John Ayers and daughter Peg Larson. Both sons followed in their father's footsteps by serving their country. Robert Jr. is a retired Lieutenant Colonel from the U.S. Army and a retired correctional warden of several California State prisons. Their son John pursued a career in medicine and served as a medic in the United States Navy. Currently, he works in the surgery center at Marin General Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Robert Ayers for his unwavering leadership, and recognizing his accomplishments and contributions to this nation. As Bob celebrates his 90th birthday, he serves as an example of excellence to those in our community.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2596) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, today I will vote against H.R. 2596, the Intelligence Authorization Act for FY2016, because this bill continues the expansion of our intelligence community and includes harmful policy riders that will only serve to make America less safe, not more.

While large portions of the intelligence budget are classified, publicly available estimates are as high as $80 billion a year. That's in addition to the more than $580 billion we're set to spend on defense in the next 12 months. If today's bill moves forward, funding will again rise by nearly $6 billion. Worse, it would do so by sidestepping Congressionally-imposed budget caps, while continuing to enforce these arbitrary rules for critical domestic programs, from education to medical research.

Efforts by the majority to undercut our president's ability to conduct foreign policy are nothing new, but for the first time this bill would put in place additional barriers to finally closing Guantanamo Bay, a recruiting tool available to terrorists so long as its doors remain open. It would also limit the types of information our intelligence community can share with our allies, a level of discretion best left to the President himself.

There are over 4.5 million federal employees and contractors with access to secret information, which is larger than the entire population of Los Angeles. I am concerned that the amount of information being reviewed by the intelligence community and number of people involved may actually be making us less safe.

Today's bill is a missed opportunity to re-evaluate methods of domestic surveillance, the growing size of the intelligence bureaucracy, and ending programs, like Guantanamo Bay, that only harm our national security, not help it.

HONORING WILLIAM WALTER HOWARD

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 8, William Walter Howard passed away in Johnson City, Tennessee, at the age of 87. Bill was one of the finest men I have ever known, and I knew him from my teenage years until his passing.

Bill was very accurately described in his obituary as being the ''epitome of sweetness,'' and he certainly was. He was a kind, soft-spoken man, and I never knew anyone who said anything but good things about Bill Howard.

He was married for 67 years to his wife Carolyn, who passed away just a short time ago. He was a devoted husband and father and loved God, family, and country.

He was proud of his service in the Navy and was very patriotic. He sometimes gave me conservative tapes and expressed similar views in our conversations. He worked very hard for me in several of my campaigns and had great concern about the direction of this Nation.

He was a successful banking and savings and loan executive and also did accounting work in the hotel-motel industry. He served the community through the Kiwanis club and also had me speak at the church where he was a Deacon.

Bill Howard was a great man, successful as a husband, father, businessman, community and church leader, and political activist. This country is a better place and many, many people are better because of the life Bill led and the example he set.

This Nation needs more people like Bill Howard. He was quite simply, a good man, and I will miss him greatly.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 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 $18,152,717,537,302.13. We've added $7,525,840,488,389.05 to our debt in 6 years. This is over $7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2596) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise to express my opposition to H.R. 2596, the Intelligence Authorization Act of 2016. Though I have always appreciated the bipartisan spirit in which the Intelligence Committee members work to craft the annual authorization bill, and I acknowledge the many vital programs the bill support, I disagree with the way H.R. 2596 uses Overseas Contingency Operations funding and how it prevents the closure of the detainment facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. For those reasons, I cannot vote for the bill.