

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-spo-

ken 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.

H.R. 2596 authorizes funding to support important research, information gathering and information sharing resources for decision makers at all levels of the federal government. The funding helps to maintain and support the intelligence infrastructure and it helps to strengthen our defenses against threats from around the world. This bill provides for cutting-edge counterintelligence technical analysis, cybersecurity, it protects Americans against the use of advanced weapons, and helps to arrest nuclear and other weapon proliferation threats. The funding in this bill is also the reason we were able to kill Nasir al Wuhayshi, al Qaida's number two leader.

However, the bill also continues Republican-led efforts to lock in sequestration and, as a result, fails to authorize sufficient funds for important intelligence community priorities. Instead, the bill uses OCO funding in ways that leaders of both parties have made clear are inappropriate. Just last year, House Republicans criticized the abuse of the OCO loophole in their budget report, stating that it "undermines the integrity of the budget process." Moreover, in following the strategy of the Republican budget, this legislation begins the process of locking in sequestration for non-defense programs, which will have a devastating impact on investments critical to the nation.

We need to get back to the table to have an honest debate about our budget and renegotiate the funding caps for both defense and nondefense. Only then will we be able to provide the necessary resources for our national security needs and to ensure we keep the nation's commitments to education, research, infrastructure, and other crucial drivers of economic prosperity.

IN RECOGNITION OF NORCELL D.
HAYWOOD

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of a dear friend, Mr. Norcell D. Haywood who passed away on Monday, June 15, 2015. Mr. Haywood and I had a friendship that spanned forty years. We were introduced by another of my good friends, the late Congressman Mickey Leland who made significant contributions during his service to our country.

Norcell Haywood was a pioneer in his own right. He was among the first seven African American students to be admitted to the University of Texas at Austin in 1954, the period that preceded the protections guaranteed by the 1964 Civil Rights Act. He secured his spot by fighting against systematic discrimination and segregation. Despite the battle, he remained steadfast. He took on a gruesome 21-hour course load, fulfilled his obligations to the ROTC program and worked as a restaurant valet. His dedication and sacrifices paid off; he became the second African American to graduate from the University of Texas School of Architecture in 1960.

Upon graduation, he served as a positive role model and instructor at Prairie View A&M University's school of Engineering. He later gained employment with the City of Austin's

Planning Department. He also published a local Newspaper, "The East Side Reporter," which distributed 20,000 papers weekly in the eastern section of San Antonio.

In 1968, Norcell Haywood became the first licensed African-American Architect in San Antonio, Texas. He then founded a private architecture firm, Norcell D. Haywood & Associates (1968–71) and later in 1971, founded the firm of Haywood Jordan McCown SAT Inc. ("HJM"). He operated three offices throughout the state of Texas: San Antonio, Houston and Dallas. Under Norcell's leadership, HJM has been the recipient of the numerous prestigious Merit Design Awards. He received awards for his design of The University of Texas—Dallas's Student Union Center and numerous housing developments in Houston, Austin, Dallas and San Antonio areas, including the Texas Southern University Physical Education Building and Business Technology Building in Houston, Texas; Lincoln Magnet High School in Dallas, Texas; Alamo Dome Stadium and the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center both in San Antonio, Texas. He was the first African American to be appointed to the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners and served as Vice Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Haywood has received widespread acclaim for his exceptional accomplishments. He was chosen by President Clinton to serve as a delegate on the White House Subcommittee on Small Business in 1995. Mr. Haywood is the recipient of the 1997 Bank of America—San Antonio, Black History Chronicles Trail Blazer Award and a 1997 Texas Legislative Black Caucus Outstanding Texans at Large Honoree.

Mr. Haywood used his life experiences, especially those that molded his tenacity at the University of Texas to direct his professional pursuits and community involvement. His most passionate interests lie in early child training and development. He actively supported the YMCA, Boy's and Girl's Club of San Antonio and many other local youth organizations. He established the National Association of Minority Architecture to encourage and mentor young African-American architects and is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

IN HONOR OF MR. EDWIN D. HILL

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Edwin D. Hill on his retirement from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Mr. Hill's nearly six decades of service will have a lasting impact for generations to come. I would like to join my IBEW brothers and sisters in applauding him for this lifetime of service.

Edwin Hill is a visionary leader whose legacy can best be seen in those who have joined the realm of public service because of Ed's encouragement and support. As the first Business Agent to serve in the People's House—the U.S. House of Representatives—his influence and legacy have impressed on me personally, but it does not end there.

Ed was a pioneer and activist in his field. Mr. Hill joined IBEW in 1956 as journeyman and a wireman. By 1964, he was elected Vice

President of his local and became active in larger labor movement issues. Ed's success led the Brotherhood to elect him as president in January of 2001 and Ed easily won re-election for five consecutive terms. With his leadership, Mr. Hill laid the foundation for IBEW's future success and growth.

As President, Ed improved jobsite productivity, increased IBEW membership and oversaw an expansion of training programs. One of his many contributions was the "Code of Excellence," which streamlined union contract language. The program was so successful that it eventually became the universal code used by the electrical industry.

An innovator, Ed was always in search of new ways for members to address the changing economic environment and for IBEW to raise the working standards and overall quality of electrical construction. I join my IBEW brothers and sisters in wishing him a happy retirement and thank him, once again, for his outstanding contributions to the industry.

CELEBRATING WEST VIRGINIA'S
152ND BIRTHDAY

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate West Virginia Day, which will be celebrated on Saturday, June 20. On this special and historic day, West Virginians will join together to honor the 152nd anniversary of the founding of our great state and to recognize the history, culture, landmarks and most importantly, the people that make our state truly special.

West Virginia's Third Congressional District, which I am proud to represent, has some of the most beautiful scenery and tourism attractions found in our state, including Chief Logan State Park, Beechfork Lake, Hatfield McCoy Trails, New River Gorge, and so many more. People from all over the world travel to West Virginia to experience and enjoy all our state has to offer.

Our state has a rich culture, one that combines music, food, language and arts into a tradition that is unique to West Virginia. Glass blowing is a traditional art form that has thrived for more than a century in West Virginia and quilters make family heirlooms in the style made by their grandparents and great-grandparents, and musical instruments are passed down generation to generation.

While we are rich in natural resources and traditions, our greatest resource has always been and will continue to be our people. The people of West Virginia stand for the values of friendship, hard work and charity to others. West Virginians have a true sense of family and never hesitate to help a friend—or a stranger—in need.

West Virginia has the most hardworking and genuine people in the nation. I am proud to represent them in this House and look forward to working with them to make a better West Virginia for generations to come.