

PASSING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to commend my colleagues in the House for passing a second National Defense Authorization Act, or the NDAA.

The President's decision to veto Congress' first NDAA was nothing more than a cheap, political ploy, and it marked the first time a President vetoed the NDAA for nonpolicy reasons.

Today's NDAA authorizes funding to expand Fort Gordon to accommodate future growth, and it authorizes defense projects at the Savannah River Site, including the MOX program.

Cybersecurity is critical to the future of international warfare, and its future home in the Army is in Augusta, Georgia, at Fort Gordon. This legislation responsibly prepares Fort Gordon to house the Army Cyber Command and to protect our Nation from cyber threats in the coming years. I was happy to work with many members of the Armed Services Committee to maintain the authorization for these important programs.

Despite the President's unwarranted veto, we again fulfilled our duty to support our troops and their families, who sacrifice so much to protect our Nation.

CONGRESS MUST ACT TO STOP GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, this House will be leaving today. Members will be going back to their districts. We leave after some dramatic changes have taken place in the House.

We elected a new Speaker within the past couple of weeks. There is a new, open process we have heard about. We saw much more debate this week. These are changes that affect this institution; but there is one thing that has not changed: Members of this House will be going home this weekend without this House or our committees having had any opportunity to debate ways to stop the spread of gun violence.

We are going to return home to environments where gun violence continues to plague every corner of this country; yet we cannot even have the debate here. Not only can't we have the debate, but, since 1996, there has been a prohibition on even having a study about the effects of gun violence in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to stop putting our heads in the sand. Congress must act. We must take our responsibilities seriously to address head-on the scourge of gun violence. We can do something about it, and it is time that we do.

HONORING OUR NATION'S VETERANS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, next Wednesday, we will observe Veterans Day, which is dedicated to the brave men and women who have served in our Armed Forces.

I believe one of the most important things we can do is to instill respect and honor among our Nation's young people for our servicemen and -women. As a part of the Veterans Day activities, the elementary school students in my hometown of Howard will learn about the contributions made by our veterans both in harm's way and here at home.

While educating our young people is important, it is also essential to make sure our veterans have the services and the support that they need. This weekend, I will be speaking with a group that is actively involved in caring for our wounded vets: the Disabled American Veterans chapter, or DAV, in Warren, Pennsylvania. The DAV provides a wide range of services, from transporting the veterans to doctors' appointments to emphasizing the need for better care, both medically and for behavior health services.

November 11 is Veterans Day, but we need to strive to make sure we remember the contributions that these men and women make every day of the year.

VETERANS RECORD RECONSTRUCTION ACT

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue that touches veterans in hundreds of congressional districts across this Nation.

In 1973, a fire at a U.S. Government archives facility destroyed as many as 18 million official military records. This loss has made it incredibly difficult for many veterans to prove the details of their service, and it has even prevented some from getting the benefits that they deserve. In the year since the fire, some affected files have been painstakingly reconstructed by using unofficial pieces of information, including postmarked letters and photographs, but this process can be confusing, time consuming, and costly to the veteran.

Somehow, in 42 years, no system has been established to assist these veterans—whose files were lost by no fault of their own—in reassembling their records. We simply must do better. That is why I have introduced the Veterans Record Reconstruction Act: to establish a clear set of guidelines for reconstructing a veteran's service record when it has been damaged or destroyed.

As we commemorate Veterans Day this next week, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense, straightforward bill so that every veteran has the opportunity to receive the benefits he or she has earned.

WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON EDUCATION EXCELLENCE FOR HISPANICS

(Mr. CURBELO of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the White House Initiative on Education Excellence for Hispanics and to recognize the bright spots that have been identified in Florida's 26th Congressional District.

The initiative was established in 1990 to address educational disparities faced by Hispanic students. As part of the 25th anniversary celebration, the initiative released the Bright Spots in Hispanic Education catalog to highlight the ongoing efforts in promoting educational achievement. Recognizing these bright spots will encourage collaboration between stakeholders to promote best practices and to develop effective partnerships.

I am proud to recognize two bright spots in the district I represent. Congratulations to Florida International University's Mastery Math Lab and the STEM Transformation Institute.

The Mastery Math Lab is a high-tech, individualized approach to improving student performance in mathematics. The STEM Transformation Institute is a multidisciplinary collaboration to research and develop effective approaches to STEM education. Both of these programs have made a substantial impact to the Hispanic community in south Florida.

I am also very happy to announce other programs in the 26th District that have made commitments as part of the initiative to support educational outcomes for Latinos. These include Achieving Community Collaboration in Education and Student Success, Teach: STEM: Miami, and Experience: STEM: Miami.

PASSING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, thank you to President Obama for working with us to get a real defense authorization bill and for us to be able to fix the broken defense bill that was passed previously in this House. I was prepared to sustain the veto, but through a very instructive and positive budget resolution that we passed just last week, we have been able to plus up the defense, and we have been able to plus up nondiscretionary defense spending.

Today, I voted for the defense authorization. Included were amendments that I offered that were sustained in the conference report which require the Department of Defense to conduct outreach programs to assist the concerns of small businesses that are owned and controlled by women, veterans, and socioeconomically disadvantaged minorities.

In addition, my amendment, which provides guidance to the Secretary of Defense in identifying HBCUs and minority-serving institutions and to assist them in developing and enhancing science, technology, engineering, and math, was also kept in the bill.

Finally, my amendment, which requires the Department of Defense to evaluate commercial, off-the-shelf business systems for security, resilience, reliability, interoperability, and integration with existing interrelated systems, was also incorporated.

So, in protecting the security of the defense mechanisms, in providing opportunities for small businesses, and in working with Historically Black Colleges and minority-serving colleges, this bill is a good bill.

I, again, support the fact that we are moving the defense bill forward and that we are protecting not only our veterans, but we are protecting the men and women who serve us in the United States military.

ACTION FOR DENTAL HEALTH: DENTISTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

(Mr. SIMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of creating access to oral health care and to raise awareness for initiatives that deliver important dental services to underserved communities.

This year, more than 75 million Americans won't visit a dentist, even though nearly half of the people over 30 suffer from some form of gum disease and an estimated 25 percent of children under the age of 5 already have cavities.

It is time to take action.

That is why the American Dental Association launched Action for Dental Health: Dentists Making a Difference. This initiative is a nationwide, community-based movement that is focused on delivering care to people who are already suffering from dental disease, and on bringing dental health education and disease prevention into underserved communities.

This Sunday, the American Dental Association will transform the Walter E. Washington Convention Center into a Mission of Mercy—a 100-chair dental clinic—in order to treat 1,000 adults and children who don't receive regular dental care.

We can grow support for initiatives like these through H.R. 539, the Action for Dental Health Act, which will help

dentists and others improve the health of Americans who need it most but without requiring any additional tax dollars. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 539.

□ 1230

TRI-VALLEY YMCA

(Mr. SWALWELL of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Tri-Valley YMCA, which on November 6 will be celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Since 1965, the Tri-Valley YMCA has been strengthening the communities of Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore, and Sunol through its youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility programs. Among these is its work to promote our children's confidence and relationships, positive leadership, civic engagement, and community compassion. Through child learning centers, camp programs, Youth in Government, and family support programs, the Y is providing enriching education and life experiences for all children and teens in our community.

One of the most noteworthy commitments of the Y is that all of its programs and activities are open to everyone, regardless of the family's ability to pay. Led by Executive Director Kelly O'Lague Dulka, the Tri-Valley YMCA has also extended its community giving and distributed nearly \$1 million in household supplies last year.

Beyond personal character development, the Y has become a valuable safety net in my district, nurturing the potential of all children involved in their activities, helping people of all ages improve their health, and providing opportunities for the community to come together and support each other.

Congratulations to the staff and board of directors of the Tri-Valley YMCA for 50 years of selfless giving to our community.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the inaugural observance of National Apprenticeship Week. Across the United States, hundreds of thousands of apprenticeship programs are helping to prepare workers for today's high-skilled, in-demand jobs.

For far too long, there has been a discrepancy in what students are learning in the classroom and what employers say they need in the workplace.

Apprenticeships are key to narrowing that skills gap because they offer students a low-cost and, in many cases, a no-cost education that arms them with the knowledge and skills they need to

thrive in today's global economy. Apprentices often earn an average starting salary of \$50,000 and go on to make \$300,000 more than their nonapprenticeship peers over the course of their career.

Employers who invest in these work-based learning programs are attracting and retaining highly qualified employees. They are also seeing results in the form of increased productivity and greater innovation.

Apprenticeships can change lives, and I look forward to seeing how these valuable programs continue to strengthen America's workforce.

2015 WORLD SERIES CHAMPION, KANSAS CITY ROYALS

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2015 World Series champion, the Kansas City Royals.

Some of my fondest memories growing up come from listening to the Royals play-by-play on the radio while riding with my dad in his tractor as he plowed our family field at dusk.

This year's playoffs run was filled with many exciting moments that will inspire lifelong memories for a new generation. It was particularly exciting for my family, as my wife delivered a beautiful baby girl, Eloise Jane, just hours after the Royals' World Series victory.

Perhaps the most memorable moment for all of Kansas City was Eric Hosmer making a mad dash home to score in the 17th hour and 38th minute of the World Series, tying game five in New York, which the Royals would eventually go on to win.

Mr. Speaker, this Royals team was backed by a proud and unified Kansas City, unifying both Kansans and Missourians. And these Royals embodied the Midwestern spirit. They worked hard, played as a team, always hustled, and never gave up.

So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House of Representatives, and for the first time since 1985, I would like to say congratulations to the best team in baseball, the Kansas City Royals, and their Most Valuable Player, Salvador Perez.

ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2015, TO MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2015

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today on a motion offered pursuant to this order, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, November 9, 2015, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in House Concurrent Resolution 91, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution, and, further, that the order of the House of