

of H.R. 5015, the Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act. I would have voted "aye" on roll call No. 602, H.R. 6427, the Creating Financial Prosperity for Businesses and Investors Act, and "aye" on roll call No. 603, S. 1635, Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017.

HONORING SERGEANT BRENTON GARRICK

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Brenton Garrick, whom I have named a 2016 Public Safety Hero of the Year for Solano County in California's 5th Congressional District. This award is given to exceptional members of our community who perform beyond their duty as a public servant.

Sergeant Garrick is a 25 year Veteran of the Vallejo Police Department, and was appointed to be the community engagement officer last year. His work is instrumental to the Vallejo Police Department's successful community policing efforts, demonstrating extreme care and decisive leadership when appropriate.

As a community engagement officer, Sergeant Garrick has made communication with the residents of Vallejo a top priority for the department. He regularly meets with students and parents at schools, staffs events such as Late Night Basketball, and hosts Coffee with the Cops and the annual Department open house. His work helps Vallejo Police officers connect with the people they work for and builds trust between law enforcement and citizens in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Sergeant Garrick for his dedication to our community's safety. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that I honor him here today.

THWARTING GOVERNMENT WASTE AND REPRIORITIZING AMERICAN TAXPAYER DOLLARS

HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the concerning \$125 billion in bureaucratic waste brought to light by the Washington Post this week.

This article came on the heels of two major votes last week in the House of Representatives: an additional \$4.8 billion in funding to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the authorization of \$611.2 billion for the Department of Defense. Considering these measures back-to-back leads me to put them in context with each other.

On the one hand, Congress has allocated hundreds of billions of dollars to fund a military that is larger than the next seven country's combined, including China, Saudi Arabia, Russia, the United Kingdom, India, France, and Japan. On the other hand, we are providing a helpful, but relatively minute, sum of money to increase lifesaving medical research, educate

our nation's youth, and support our first responders.

To then discover that the Pentagon has identified at least \$125 billion in waste further underscores our nation's misguided priorities. If just ten percent of the self-identified waste were redirected to the NIH, new cures could be found and lives could be saved. In this year's Defense Authorization, \$1.5 billion is spent to upgrade an aircraft carrier that the U.S. Navy had asked to retire. Why not reprioritize that money to improve veterans' healthcare or expand access to education?

This gratuitous spending must stop. The American taxpayer deserves to know that their hard-earned dollars are going toward promoting American values and being reinvested in their wellbeing. It's not just the programs that I highlight that deserve a higher priority—it's Medicare and Medicaid, it's Social Security, it's social safety net programs—the list goes on and on. Until we press the Pentagon to undergo a rigorous audit, I cannot and will not support bloated spending at the Defense Department. The American people deserve more transparency and accountability.

Dwight D. Eisenhower shared my fears and concerns. Our 34th President, a five-star general in the United States Army during World War II, and Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in Europe once said, "[i]n the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists, and will persist."

TRIBUTE TO GALEN ZUMBACH

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Galen Zumbach of Creston, Iowa, for being inducted into the Creston High School Hall of Fame.

Galen came to Creston High School in 1977 as the agriculture education instructor and Future Farmers of America advisor. He taught at Creston High School for 33 years. Under his direction, Creston FFA students participated in more than 100 activities each year. The local FFA chapter has been considered one of the nation's best throughout Galen's teaching career and has been named Iowa Supreme Chapter 13 times. During his tenure, Creston High School FFA was the only chapter in the nation to win five National Chapter Award competitions.

Over his 33 year career at Creston High School, Galen stood on the stage as 209 students received their State FFA degrees, with 56 earning American FFA degrees. Under his leadership, 22 members held offices at the state or national level of FFA. Even with such success, Galen's dedication to his students didn't stop at FFA—he also coached high school football during a majority of his time at the school.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Galen for this outstanding achievements and his unwavering commitment to improving the lives of his students. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join

me in congratulating Galen and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LINDA McMAHON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, President-elect Donald Trump selected Linda McMahon of Greenwich, Connecticut, to head the Small Business Administration where she will continue to make a difference with vision to create opportunities and jobs.

President-elect Trump announced, "Linda has a tremendous background and is widely recognized as one of the country's top female executives advising businesses around the world . . . Linda is going to be a phenomenal leader and champion for small businesses and unleash America's entrepreneurial spirit across the country."

The Hartford Courant reported, "The mother of two and grandmother of six, McMahon is a fiscally conservative Republican who embraces the party's small-government ethos. In her two runs for Senate, she campaigned on a promise to bring fresh energy, a businesswoman's savvy and an outsider's common-sense approach to Washington."

I believe that Linda McMahon will be a passionate advocate for small businesses and further facilitate a climate of job creation in this country. I look forward to working with Ms. McMahon to create jobs and expand opportunity for all Americans. The citizens of Connecticut are being recognized for their entrepreneurial expertise.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

HONORING OFFICER LUIS PANIAGUA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Luis Paniagua, whom I have named a 2016 Public Safety Hero of the Year for Napa County in California's 5th Congressional District. This award is given to exceptional members of our community who perform beyond their duty as a public servant.

A native of Santa Rosa, California, Officer Paniagua graduated from Santa Rosa Junior College with an Associate's Degree in Administrative Justice before joining the Calistoga Police Department. Additionally, Officer Paniagua works with third grade students through the Read Aloud Partners program.

Officer Paniagua showed outstanding leadership and bravery during a robbery incident this year. Despite his relatively short tenure, Officer Paniagua reacted quickly and bravely to stop two armed suspects from fleeing the robbery of an armored car. He even managed

to arrest one of the men without drawing his weapon, and the other suspect was apprehended shortly thereafter. Officer Paniagua's quick thinking under pressure helped the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office arrest the two suspects, and his example of bravery and decisiveness should inspire all of our public servants.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Officer Paniagua for his dedication to our community's safety. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that I honor him here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I missed a vote during a vote series on September 28, 2016. Had my vote been recorded for Roll Call 572, final passage on H.R. 5303, the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, I would have voted Yes.

TRIBUTE TO THE MOUNT HOPE
MOSQUE—ISLAMIC SUNNA WAI
JAMAA

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor the Mt. Hope Mosque for their many years of selfless and compassionate service to all of our community's residents.

The masjid was founded by a group of Guyanese Muslims led by Imam Shameem Ali on the Grand Concourse in the early part of the 1980s. It was the second such institution in the whole of the Bronx. Due to the need for a larger space in 1985 it was moved to its present location, 24 Mount Hope Place. Once at its present location, a residential area, it drew the attention of Muslims in the neighborhood who had no place to go for prayers. In the spirit of the unity of Islam, the doors of the masjid were opened to all, including non-Muslims. In doing so, the ethnicity of the members became so diverse that it was dubbed—The United Nations Mosque.

The Ameer or leader of the masjid, Mr. Abdallah Cromwell is a Trinidadian, who runs the "His People Halal Restaurant" down the block from the masjid. The first imam of the masjid is Imam Shameem Ali from Guyana, who recently retired and passed his mantle to his young and energetic deputy, Imam Issah

Lamin Yusuf, who is from Ghana. Imam Issah Lamin Yusuf's deputy is Imam Hameed Fofana from the Gambia. Imam Issah and his deputies lead the congregants in their daily prayers and also run a daily after-school and weekend programs to educate children of the congregation in religious knowledge.

The mosque has a Boys' and Cubs' Scout Troop, who have been invited to many places in the city and the state. Recently, they were invited to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and the Scouts' Creed at the last general meeting of the New York State leadership committee.

There are programs to educate the congregants on good citizenship and civic responsibilities. Every Friday after congregational prayers there is enough food for all. During the holy month of Ramadan there is enough food for everyone who comes to break their fast. From 1989 until 2000 the mosque ran a food pantry for the neighborhood's needy.

Another uniqueness of this masjid is its plurality of ethnicities. Its congregants are from—Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Mount Hope Masjid was founded to serve the religious and social needs of some Guyanese, but it grew to serve a diverse group of people with the same needs. It still serves the same purpose and it will continue to do so for a long time, Insha-Allah.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Mt. Hope Mosque for their consistently remarkable dedication to public service.