

twenty years as the Senior Pastor at the First Baptist Church of Milton. Dr. Spencer tirelessly served the Lord and communities all along the Gulf Coast, and his leadership will be deeply missed.

Dr. Spencer was born in Senatobia, Mississippi and graduated from Senatobia High School in 1965. He earned his Bachelor of Arts from William Carey University in 1969, his Master of Divinity from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1973, and his Doctor of Ministry from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1979. Over the last 45 years, Dr. Spencer has served throughout the Southeastern United States, including North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida, with his wife of 46 years, Connie, at his side.

Dr. Spencer answered the call in 1996 for what would be his final assignment. After 16 years of service at the First Baptist Church of Long Beach, Mississippi, the First Baptist Church of Milton welcomed Dr. Spencer as pastor. In addition to being known for his love for preaching and his ability to capture his congregation through storytelling, Dr. Spencer played a major part in inspiring his congregation to give back to the local community. Under his leadership, the church grew both spiritually and physically. Countless individuals in Northwest Florida and overseas have been touched by the passion and service of First Baptist Church of Milton. The dedication of its people is evidenced by the eight churches they helped establish in Santa Rosa County, Florida, and the churches and foster homes they built and renovated as part of their mission trips.

In addition to his seminary work, Dr. Spencer has served on the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, as a trustee for William Carey College, and as an adjunct professor at the William Carey campus in Gulfport, Mississippi. In 2007, Dr. Spencer was also elected to the State Board of Missions as a representative of Santa Rosa County, where he served until 2013.

While Dr. Spencer's time as pastor has officially come to a close, he understands that God's work is never done, and in addition to spending time with his family, pursuing his love of writing, music, wood-working, and golf, Dr. Spencer hopes to continue playing a role in the success of the Church.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Dr. Spencer for his dedication and service to Northwest Florida. My wife Vicki and I wish him and Connie, their two sons, and two grandchildren all the best as they embark on this next journey in their lives. May the Spirit of the Lord continue to bless the Spencer family and the congregation of the First Baptist Church of Milton.

**MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2017**

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 4974) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise today in reluctant opposition to H.R. 4974, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017 (MilCon). MilCon funds military construction projects for the Department of Defense and health care and other important services for the country's veterans at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This is a vital piece of legislation that we must get right so that our veterans get the benefits they earned and deserve and that our military has the facilities they need. Unfortunately, the bill has a major shortcoming—it cuts \$1.5 billion below the President's request for the VA, including more than \$1.2 billion from the Veterans Health Administration. The VA serves over forty-three million Americans a year and over a billion dollar in cuts will make it harder for the VA to provide for our veterans. It is for this reason I cannot support the bill.

Over the years, the VA has faced a number of challenges. The VA faced funding shortfalls and was unprepared to meet the demands of a new generation of returning veterans. Access to quality health care and veterans' benefits has been an ongoing challenge for the VA, highlighted by the claims backlog and by veterans waiting long periods for health care appointments. However, these challenges are made more difficult to overcome when Congress provides insufficient funds to the VA or shuts down the government, as it did in 2013—which led to furloughs at the VA. Many of my constituents are active duty or veterans who receive services through the VA and they deserve a fully funded VA that can quickly and accurately manage their claims.

We simply must do better. As the Ranking Member on the House Budget Committee I proposed budgets that reversed sequestration for not just defense programs, but also for nondefense programs because they include important priorities like veterans' health care. I also proposed extending advance appropriations for all of VA's discretionary programs so that veterans' programs are insulated from the possibility of future government shutdowns. I am going to continue to fight to ensure that the VA gets the resources it needs to provide for the nation's veterans and I am hopeful that more funding will be provided to the VA when this bill returns from conference.

**COMMEMORATING TERENCE J.
O'SULLIVAN**

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember an extraordinary advocate for workers of all kinds, Mr. Terence J. O'Sullivan.

Terence dedicated his life to advocating on behalf of workers and, more important, negotiating collective bargaining agreements that helped workers earn pay to support their families, good benefits, and the opportunity for advancement and better lives. He was the Gen-

eral Secretary-Treasurer of the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA), one of the most diverse and effective unions representing public service employees.

Terence dedicated his life to fighting for workers' rights and for social and economic justice. He chose this path because of the strong working tradition that grew out of his Irish heritage and a dedication to assisting those in need, which he found as a man of deep faith. Following in his stead, his son Terry continues as the General President of LIUNA, continuing his father's strong leadership tradition and example for the American labor movement.

Terence was a positive force in the lives of thousands, if not millions, of workers across the nation through his advocacy and the positive changes he supported. Terence recently passed away in the 11th District of Virginia in what would have been his 86th year. Although he will be greatly missed, his legacy will endure through those he touched, those he helped, and the societal changes he championed.

**40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
AMERICAN FOLKLIFE CENTER
AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2016

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the important work of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress in its 40th anniversary year. The American Folklife Center was created by Congress in 1976 to "preserve and present American folklife" through research, documentation, archival preservation, reference service, live performance, exhibitions, publications, and training. The Center collects and preserves living traditional culture and makes its valuable resources available to researchers and the general public in a celebration of American culture.

Many of my colleagues are familiar with the work of the American Folklife Center because of the Veterans History Project, created with unanimous, bipartisan support in 2000. In this model oral history project—now the largest oral history project in America—volunteers across the country are recording interviews and collecting diaries, photographs, letters, and scrapbooks about veterans' wartime experiences, from WWI to the present day. The growing collection tells the personal stories of more than 100,000 veterans and enables current and future generations of Americans to understand their sacrifices.

A similar Congressional initiative through the American Folklife Center is the Civil Rights History Project, concluding this year. The Folklife Center partnered with the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture on a project to record the experiences and memories of heroes across the country who participated in the historic struggles to secure freedom, equality and full citizenship for African Americans.

The American Folklife Center's archive is the largest of its kind in the world, preserving the cultural practices of American families,

ethnicities, religions, occupations and other groups and historical material from every state in the union. The collection contains more than 6,000 recordings of American Indian songs, chants, and prayers first recorded on wax cylinders dating as far back as 1890, and uses digital technology to preserve and ensure tribal access to this material.

During its forty-year history, the American Folklife Center has worked closely with state and local folklife programs, local scholars, and cultural institutions, and has engaged the general public to provide expertise on preservation, archiving and public programming, enabling diverse ways to understand our history and cultural heritage.

These projects and collections are just a sampling of the important work done in the Folklife Center by its wonderful staff to preserve and present American folklife and cultural history. I commend the good work of the American Folklife Center, and offer congratulations on forty years of service to this nation.

HONORING ANETTE L. HARRIS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2016

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Anette Harris, an exceptional philanthropist and civic leader who is being recognized by the Junior League of San Francisco for her lifelong commitment to volunteerism and community leadership. I have had the great privilege to work with Anette over the last decade and to call her a close friend.

Anette has dedicated her life and career to improving the lives of others. While she had been the principal and owner of Loupé & Associates, a public relations firm in San Francisco, for 20 years, Anette has always made it a priority to serve organizations advocating for education, equality, health and the arts. Her broad range of interests is a reflection of her giant heart and mind.

Anette is a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Public Radio Foundation based in Washington, DC. She serves on NARAL's Power of Choice Leadership Council in San Francisco. In 2000, she was the first African-American elected to the Junior League of San Francisco in its 90 year history. Today she serves as its president and just last year received its Sustainer of the Year Award. Anette also is the co-chair of San Francisco Achievers Advisory Council, a program dedicated to the educational successes of the University of Dallas, and now is an advisor to the new College of Podiatric Medicine of Western University. She is the president of the San Francisco Symphony Marine League, the Women's Political Fund, a nonpartisan group supporting female candidates, the vice president of the San Francisco Black Chamber of Commerce and Alumnae Resources, a career search group, and a board member of the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library.

You may wonder how one person has the energy to do all these jobs, but Anette does and then some. Until recently, she also served for over ten years on the Board of Governors of the San Francisco Symphony. She has been instrumental in many fundraising efforts to address breast cancer, HIV, arthritis and lit-

eracy for some of the most respected organizations and foundations.

The roots of Anette's passion and support of women's health, education and business and the arts go back to her parents who were married for 53 years. Her father, Edwin Lee, played many instruments and is in the Houston Museum of Jazz and Blues Musicians. He also taught her invaluable lessons about business and entrepreneurship. Anette's mom, Florence Harris, was the inspiration for her deep involvement in education. A full time homemaker with a creole heritage, Anette's mom believed that education didn't just occur in the classroom, but at home.

Born and raised in Houston, Texas, Anette earned her BA from the University of Dallas and her Master's at Boston College. She immediately landed a job at Holy Cross where she was instrumental in admitting the first class of women to the formerly all-male college. She later attended the Executive Program in Strategy & Organization at the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University.

Anette moved to San Francisco in 1976 and worked as the Director of Admissions and Public Relations at the California College of Podiatric Medicine. Three years later she married Marc Loupé her partner in life and business. In the rare moments when they are not working, Anette and Marc share an interest in wine, a hobby they began while dating. Anette also enjoys gardening and landscaping.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Anette Harris for her countless contributions to our community. She is an extraordinary leader, mentor and role model who never tires in her efforts to make the world a better place.

CELEBRATING THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2016

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the founding of the Ukrainian National Museum in 1952 by three displaced scholars, Olexa Hankewych, Julian Kamenetsky, and Orest Horodysky.

The Ukrainian National Museum is dedicated to the collection of documents, presentation and exhibition of artifacts sharing Ukrainian culture and heritage. Its collection consists of more than 100,000 museum archives related to the history and legacy of Ukraine and Chicago's Ukrainian community, and 10,000 artifacts related to traditional folk and fine arts.

Today, the Ukrainian National Museum is highlighted as one of the finest achievements of the Ukrainian American community in the U.S. It features an important part of Chicago's history and is a respected institution for Ukrainian Americans throughout the United States.

The Ukrainian National Museum occupies a vital place in the cultural world of the Ukrainian Diaspora in America. It is visited and appreciated by people of many ethnic backgrounds coming from all over the world.

A main reason the Ukrainian National Museum is such an impressive institution is due

to the hard work of many devoted individuals, one of whom is Jaroslaw J. Hankewych, son of one of UNM's founders, Olexa Hankewych. Mr. Jaroslaw J. Hankewych served on the Museum Executive Board for over 40 years, and from 2000 to 2014, served as President of the Ukrainian National Museum.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating Jaroslaw Hankewych's work and accomplishments, and also the many contributions of the Ukrainian American community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 222 I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 199TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 199th Infantry Brigade unit of Fort Benning for their accomplishments in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam war. The 50th anniversary of the activation of this courageous and noble unit is on June 1, 2016.

The 199th Infantry Brigade, also known as the Redcatchers, was reactivated on June 1, 1966 at Fort Benning, Georgia as the only "separate" and "light" infantry brigade to serve in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam war. It also became the first integrated combat command in the history of the United States Army when Frederic E. Davison was named Brigade Commander on September 1, 1968. He went on to become the first African American to be promoted to Major General in the Army and commanded the 8th Infantry Division and the Military District of Washington. General Davison was the first African American to command a combat brigade, a division, and the Military District of Washington, in addition to being the first African American to attend and graduate from the Army War College. The members of 199th Infantry Brigade were truly groundbreaking in the way they helped to integrate the U.S. Army.

The Redcatchers were a distinguished and honorable brigade that received many merits. The brigade earned several unit awards including the Presidential Unit Citation, Valorous Unit Award, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, and the Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal. Four members of the brigade were awarded the Medal of Honor, including Captain Angelo J. Liteky, a battalion chaplain, for his actions in saving the lives of wounded soldiers. Brigade General William R. Bond was the only commanding general killed in ground combat in the Vietnam War.

The 199th Infantry Brigade was disbanded in 1970 but on June 27, 2007, the 11th Infantry Regiment was redesignated as the 199th