

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4909) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Chair, I oppose Sec. 1094 of this bill.

The language included in the underlying bill is dangerously vague, and allows contractors, or any entity that receives federal funds, to discriminate based on the faulty guise of religious exemption.

Since “religious corporation” is undefined by the bill or by courts, this provision applies too broadly.

Let’s be clear—a “religious corporation” could range from a religious institution like a church to a corporation with a religious CEO.

Therefore, any vaguely religious organization or corporation receiving federal funds could legally discriminate against LGBT Americans if they feel like hiring them violates their religious beliefs.

A corporation with a religious CEO could decide not to hire, or to fire, LGBT people. A religious university could fire employees with no religious job requirement, such as a scientist or custodial worker, simply because they are LGBT.

Tax-payer dollars should not be used to fund discrimination.

Last year, I offered an amendment to the Transportation Appropriations Bill that affirmed President Obama’s executive order prohibiting federal contractors from discriminating based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

My amendment passed with a near supermajority, including 60 Republicans.

I believe all of my colleagues can agree on these two things—the federal government should not infringe on religious freedom, nor should we do business with groups that discriminate.

No American should be fired, denied a job or a place to live because of who they are or who they love.

I urge my colleagues to stand on the side of equality and against discrimination and oppose this provision.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4909) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment to H.R. 4909, the Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act offered by Mr. CALVERT. This amendment requires the Department of Defense to report on the structure and size of its civilian and contractor workforce. This reporting requirement is a continuation of misguided assaults on the federal workforce which delivers capabilities needed to build back readiness and support operations. Furthermore, it adds an unneeded layer of bureaucracy with redundant reporting requirements. The information called for in this provision is already provided in eight separate statutes and this additional burden is unjustifiable.

Not only is the report duplicative and unnecessary, the “findings” section is littered with misinformation and subjective clauses. It is yet another transparent attempt to attack civilian and contracted personnel, who have borne a disproportionate share of the fiscal burden levied on the Department of Defense. The first “finding” states in no uncertain terms that the civilian workforce has reduced the Department’s capabilities, a statement that is maliciously inaccurate. Civilian personnel provide a cost-effective workforce and contribute unique capabilities to our national security at home and abroad, particularly in key areas such as intelligence and cyber operations.

For these reasons I am strongly opposed, as is the Department of Defense, to the inclusion of the reporting requirement and hope to work with my colleagues in conference to address this biased and unnecessarily punitive amendment.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

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. 4909) to authorize

appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer a bipartisan amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. I am proud to have my colleagues, Representatives SAM JOHNSON of Texas and DAN LIPINSKI of Illinois, supporting this amendment. Our amendment seeks to expand access to on-the-job training programs for service members transitioning out of the military. Specifically, the amendment directs the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to study the success of the relatively new Department of Defense (DOD) program known as Job Training, Employment Skills Training, Apprenticeships, and Internships, or JTEST–AI, which is an initiative pursuant to DOD Instruction No. 1322.29. The amendment also requires the Undersecretary to issue guidance to unit commanders encouraging them to allow more service members separating from the armed forces to participate in a JTEST–AI initiative—provided, of course, that unit readiness is not impaired.

One particular initiative formed pursuant to JTEST–AI is the SkillBridge Initiative. Although SkillBridge and all other JTEST–AI initiatives are still nascent, they are already showing promising results. According to preliminary DOD statistics, more than 4,500 service members have successfully participated in SkillBridge training; there are approximately 40 programs currently in operation; and almost all graduates have received jobs as a result of participation in these initiatives. In fact, 18 SkillBridge training programs have a hiring rate of 100 percent of graduates, and another 8 programs have a hiring rate of more than 85 percent.

Organizations participating in these programs span every sector of the workforce. Sponsoring entities include private companies, labor unions, and even government agencies. These programs are popular with transitioning service members, and currently there are more applications from service members than can be accommodated. Our amendment simply seeks to have DOD conduct a comprehensive study so that the initiatives may be improved and access may be expanded, as appropriate.

Our outgoing service members have skill sets that are unique but that can easily be honed and adapted to a certain field or application if given access to on-the-job training. Given the sacrifices our women and men in uniform have made for us all, we should strive to make their transition to civilian life as smooth and successful as possible.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan amendment designed to help our transitioning service members gain meaningful employment.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING FLORENCE SHUTSY-REYNOLDS AND THE WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the service of Florence Shutsy-Reynolds, who served her country with great honor and distinction in World War II as a member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs). The WASPs stepped up and answered the call of duty at a time when their country needed them most, with no expectation of praise or recognition.

When the U.S. military needed more male pilots, these women signed up to fly noncombat missions so that their male counterparts could be deployed in combat. Florence Shutsy-Reynolds was one of these brave women who stood up to serve her country.

When she was still in grade school in Dunbar, Pennsylvania, she told her parents she wanted to learn how to fly. Her parents laughed at the time, but in 1941, Shutsy-Reynolds became the first woman to earn her pilot's license at the local Connellsville airport. Not yet old enough to meet the minimum age requirement of 21, she wrote letter after letter to the director of the WASPs until the age requirement was lowered to 18 and she was permitted to apply. She then took the military oath, endured six rigorous months of training, and flew aircraft that were damaged in the war, at times pieces of her planes falling off mid-flight. These brave women flew more than 60 million miles, trained male pilots for combat, test piloted aircraft, and 38 gave the ultimate sacrifice to our country, perishing in the line of duty.

After the war ended, Shutsy-Reynolds remained committed to her comrades by helping lead the charge for WASP members to receive veteran status, and later, a Congressional Gold Medal. She also assisted with designing the WASP flag, which has 38 stars in memory of the 38 women who died serving our country.

Ms. Shutsy-Reynolds has never stopped advocating for the respect she and her fellow WASPs are due for their critical role in the war effort. Even to this day, at 92 years of age, Shutsy-Reynolds is still fighting for recognition and military benefits for the WASPs.

Mr. Speaker, Florence Shutsy-Reynolds and the Women Airforce Service Pilots truly lived in the wind and sand, with their eyes on the stars, and I thank them for their service to our country.

CELEBRATING THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF GRAYSON'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the leaders of The Commercial Bank of Grayson on 125 years of financial service to the people of Carter County and the surrounding area.

The Commercial Bank of Grayson began business in early 1891, filling a void as Grayson had no financial institution. On May 1, 1891, the bank's first available statement of condition showed total assets of over \$15,000. The need for the bank and its acceptance by the community was demonstrated by its early success. The first cash dividend was paid to stockholders in 1894. Since that date, a cash dividend has been paid every year. No additional stock has ever been sold; increases have come through retained earnings.

Twenty-six local citizens invested in the original capital stock of the bank. Dr. John Wilson Strother was the principal stockholder and became the chairman of the bank's first Board of Directors and the bank's first president. He was also an active physician, farmer and lay preacher. Dr. Strother served as bank president until his death on January 8, 1935. Today, his great-great-grandson, Mark Strother serves as the bank's president and chief executive officer. This fifth-generation banker and his executive team works with a staff of 70 professionals whose top priority remains the same as it was in 1891—quality service for their customers and communities.

Since the bank began business during the term of Benjamin Harrison, it has served its customers continuously. The doors of The Commercial Bank have remained open through recessions, money panics, and the Great Depression. The Commercial Bank has continued to provide its customers with a wide array of financial services. Times have changed and so have the products desired by, and made available to, customers. The Commercial Bank has remained at the forefront of the financial industry's modernization in order to better serve current customers and attract new ones. Today, the bank remains independent and locally-owned, as well as being Grayson's second oldest business.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the spirit of entrepreneurship, partnership, and achieving the American Dream. For 125 years, The Commercial Bank of Grayson has created jobs and supported local businesses in their effort to help make Carter County a better place to live. I commend the vision of the founders and those who continue to support the mission of this institution and their dedication to serve the people of Eastern Kentucky and the Appalachian region.

CHRISTIAN LIEHR

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Christian Liehr for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Christian Liehr is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Christian Liehr is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Christian Liehr for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOHN LAZARSKY UPON RECEIVING LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP WITH THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 473

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Mr. John Lazarsky for receiving lifetime membership after his 50 years of involvement with the American Legion Post 473 in Freeland, Pennsylvania. The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 and has continually worked to advance core principles aimed at promoting the well-being of current and former service members, the communities in which they reside, and the next generation of patriotic Americans. John has time and again exemplified this spirit, and after 50 years of dedicated engagement, has become an integral part of Post 473's commitment to the service members, veterans, and civilians in my district.

After graduating from Freeland High School where he excelled as a two-sport athlete in basketball and baseball, John was drafted into the U.S. Army. John was stationed in Germany from 1964 to 1966, and upon his return to Pennsylvania, he joined Post 473. Having served at various levels within his local post, John knows firsthand the impact that the American Legion can have for service members and veterans. A strong sense of obligation to community, state, and nation are the underpinnings of all legionnaires, and John's service has provided innumerable contributions at each of these levels.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize Mr. John Lazarsky upon receiving lifetime membership in the American Legion Post 473 after 50 years of selfless engagement. The American Legion's success depends on active participation in the post and volunteerism in the community, both of which have been embodied by John's dedication to Post 473. I wish him all the best as he continues to work on behalf of all legionnaires and their communities.

STATEMENT RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAP SERVICES

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 50th anniversary of CAP Services. For fifty years CAP Services has valiantly fought on the front lines of the war on poverty by empowering individuals to become economically and emotionally self-sustainable. To empower individuals, CAP Services has offered a rich variety of programs designed to