

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3354) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Chair, as the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Parkinson's Disease and a member of the Congressional Multiple Sclerosis Caucus, I'm proud of the collective work of the 114th Congress in enacting 21st Century Cures—a bipartisan undertaking to help our healthcare innovation infrastructure thrive and deliver more hope for all patients.

Personally, I have family members who have suffered with Parkinson's—I witness this debilitating disease through them. It's hard to watch. Few things in America are truly universal—diseases, sadly, are one of those things.

Currently, we do not have accurate information about how many people are living with neurological diseases like Parkinson's and Multiple Sclerosis, geographic location, or even basic attributes like gender, ethnicity, etc. Lack of accurate information slows critical research while erecting new and reinforcing existing barriers to health care services that these vulnerable patients need.

21st Century Cures addressed this issue by statutorily developing the necessary infrastructure to collect data on neurological diseases so key health stakeholders could better understand the patient population, facilitate research, and proactively plan for health care needs—saving lives while controlling costs. This infrastructure is the National Neurological Conditions Surveillance System.

Information provided by the National Neurological Conditions Surveillance System will provide a foundation for understanding factors, such as clusters of diagnoses in certain geographic regions, variances in the number of men and women diagnosed with neurological diseases, and differences in health care practices among patients. Unfortunately, funds were not appropriated to formally establish this database at CDC.

Mr. Chair, I understand that we must practice fiscal discipline and exercise fiscal constraint. I understand difficult decisions must be made in this appropriation bill. I understand the fiscal environment in which we now find ourselves due to our low budget caps here in the House. However, as the budget caps are higher in the Senate, I ask that should the measure we are considering be put before a conference committee, that funding be made available for the National Neurological Condi-

tions Surveillance System so that we can realize the mission of 21st Century Cures—to accelerate medical product development and bring new innovations and advances to patients who need them faster and more efficiently. I hope you will work with me to find funding for this critical system for patients.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
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AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3354) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of Amendment No. 66, offered by Representative JAYAPAL, to strike the \$535 million increase for ICE enforcement and instead add \$30 million to ICE's Office of the Inspector General and \$10 million to DHS's Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. This additional oversight funding would support investigations of sexual assault in immigration detention as mandated by the Prison Rape Elimination Act.

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed in 2003 as a result of a remarkable bipartisan effort led by Congressman Frank Wolf and myself in the House and Senators Jeff Sessions and Ted Kennedy in the Senate.

Ten years after passage of PREA, in 2014, DHS finalized regulations to comply with PREA. This year, 2017, is the first in which DHS is instituting those regulations by auditing its facilities for compliance.

We must aid DHS in its efforts to investigate and prevent sexual abuse. According to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) at DHS, during the two-year period from May 2014 to July 2016, it received over 1,000 complaints from detainees reporting sexual abuse or assault. The Office of Inspector General investigated only 24 of those complaints—that is 2.4 percent of the total complaints that were made by detained immigrants.

Immigrant detainees also face barriers to reaching the Inspector General's telephone hotline for reporting abuse, because, according to a 2013 report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO), approximately 14 percent of calls placed to that hotline did not go through because, for example, the call was not answered.

This Amendment is an essential step to giving DHS resources to comply with PREA and protect immigrants from sexual abuse and assault in detention facilities.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
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ACT, 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3354) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of an amendment I've offered to provide the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) an additional \$9 million. The purpose of this amendment is to enable the agency to focus on connected and automated vehicles by expanding its workforce to validate the safety of these transformative vehicles, defining new testing protocols as the technology advances, and to better collaborate with industry, and state and local governments to conduct adequate oversight of their deployment on our roads.

Connected and automated vehicles are a rapidly emerging technology with the potential to improve safety and mobility, decrease congestion, and increase the overall efficiency of our nation's transportation network. But along with this progress comes a number of pressing policy challenges. The federal government can, and must, play a role in maximizing the societal benefits of these technologies.

In a time when the technology that enables automated vehicles is rapidly advancing, I firmly believe that we must continue to promote U.S. leadership in this industry, with the goal of full deployment of automated vehicles on our roads and highways. Policies that balance consumer protection while facilitating innovation will ultimately benefit our manufacturing and transportation industries and their workers.

As Co-Chair of the Unmanned Systems Caucus, I have been holding periodic roundtables around the country on connected and autonomous transportation policy for the past two years. I have listened to experts from O.E.M.s, tier 1 suppliers, information technology companies, transportation planners, and tech start-ups.

Part of this interest is from my background as an engineer, and my work as the Ranking Member of the House Science Committee's Research Subcommittee. Last Congress, I introduced the Future TRIP Act to promote automated vehicle research. Key provisions of that bill passed into law in the FAST Act.

NHTSA has done an admirable job of working with the industry in developing policy guidance while allowing enough flexibility to promote innovation for an industry that is constantly evolving. It is exactly this kind of consensus-based incremental change that will

● 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.

their safety on the road. NHTSA needs the ability to review and process vehicle exemptions, conduct testing, and review safety standards.

Earlier today, we passed H.R. 3388, the SELF DRIVE Act, which expanded NHTSA's authorities in this area. That bill is an important step toward defining the federal government's role in regulating automated vehicles. The bill supports the testing and deployment of automated vehicles through the waiver process, preempts a patchwork of differing state and local regulations to provide certainty to industry and vehicle operators, and ensures consumer confidence by improving safety standards.

My amendment provides the initial financial resources needed to carry out the directives authorized in the SELF DRIVE Act, and subsequently appropriates the resources to give NHTSA the ability to examine these ongoing challenges.

I appreciate the support of Chairman DIAZ-BALART, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

RECOGNIZING SENIOR DETECTIVE
ARLENE CURRIER

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Senior Detective Arlene Currier for nearly a decade and a half of serving and protecting the community in Salinas, California.

Detective Currier obtained a law enforcement certificate from Gavilan College in Gilroy, California, and continued her education at Evergreen Valley College and San Jose City College. In 2003, she transitioned from a career in sales and marketing to a position in the Salinas Police Department's Patrol Division. Patrolling assigned areas in the city of Salinas, she embraced her role as both an enforcer of the law and as a leader in her community. Officer Currier investigated criminal activity with efficiency, provided assistance and first aid, and fostered a strong relationship with residents. In 2005, as a Field Training Officer, she instructed new recruits in proper procedure, and helped the Salinas Police Department maintain its standard of excellence.

As of 2007, Officer Currier became a robbery and homicide detective. In this capacity, she took an active part in nearly every aspect of law enforcement—from the crime scene to the courtroom. Detective Currier also served on the board of directors of the Filipino-American Law Enforcement Officers Association, an organization dedicated to promoting, "fraternal relationships and cultural awareness among all law enforcement personnel and the communities [they] serve."

I stand with the City of Salinas, and the entirety of California's 20th District, in expressing our gratitude for Arlene Currier's many years of meritorious service. I wish her well in her retirement and future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY SERGEANT (SGT) MATTHEW LEE INGRAM

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Sergeant (SGT) Matthew Lee Ingram who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on August 21, 2009, during Operation Enduring Freedom. SGT Ingram was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle in Kunar Province, Afghanistan. The blast occurred while his unit was under small arms fire from enemy forces. SGT Ingram was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado.

SGT Ingram grew up in eastern Mississippi, where he attended Newton High School. He played wide receiver on the school's football team. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2003 and completed his basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Following basic training, SGT Ingram was assigned to South Korea, where he spent 10 months before his entire brigade was deployed to Iraq from 2004 until 2005. In 2006, SGT Ingram married his wife, Holly, while stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado. They had one daughter, Chloe. That same year, SGT Ingram deployed to Iraq for a second tour. In May 2009, SGT Ingram deployed to Afghanistan.

Mississippi lawmakers recognized SGT Ingram for his service and sacrifice. The Resolution was adopted by the Senate and the House during the 2010 regular session. It states that, "SGT Ingram was a loving father, husband and son who is counted among America's heroes, committed to our nation's safety and security." It further states that, "Mississippians understand the costs of conflict because we have paid them in the past."

SGT Ingram's earned the Purple Heart, Army Commendation medal, Army Achievement medal, two Army Good Conduct medals, National Defense Service medal, Korea Defense Service medal, Afghanistan Campaign medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary medal, Global War on Terrorism Service medal, and the Combat Infantry Badge.

In 2009, Representative GREGG HARPER (R-MS) introduced a bill to name the United States Post Office at 7464 Highway 503, Hickory, Mississippi in SGT Ingram's honor. H.R. 4139, the "Matthew L. Ingram Post Office" Designation Act, passed by unanimous consent in the House and the Senate and was signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2010.

SGT Ingram is survived by his wife, Holly; his daughter, Chloe; his parents, James and Patricia Ingram; and his older brother, Jamie.

SGT Ingram's commitment to protect America will always be remembered.

CELEBRATING THE ANNUAL SARATOGA COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING SENIOR PICNIC

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Annual Saratoga County Office for the Aging Senior Picnic.

Since its inception, the Saratoga County Office for the Aging Senior Picnic has brought our community together to celebrate our senior citizens. The Senior Picnic features food and entertainment for people of all ages, highlighting the Office's year-round work for Saratoga County seniors. As with many of the Office's programs, the Senior Picnic depends on the dedication and tireless efforts of volunteers from our community.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to thank the Saratoga County Office for the Aging for its vital service to our seniors. The Office provides programs and information to help our seniors in key areas like healthcare, employment, and legal services. We are grateful to the Office for their continuing commitment to our elderly population, and wish them all the best on their Annual Senior Picnic.

RECOGNIZING U.S. ARMY MASTER SERGEANT JOHN DORVAL MINATRA

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, there are no greater heroes than our veterans and active military. In worldwide campaigns, they courageously and selflessly serve and protect our nation from foreign and domestic threats. Their efforts have never failed us.

Today, I would like to recognize and honor U.S. Army Master Sergeant John Dorval Minatra for his extraordinary heroism and exceptional valor in operations during Indo China, Korea, and Vietnam warfare. In the Republic of Vietnam, he was cited several times for valor in combat with U.S. and Vietnamese awards—most notably the Purple Heart, Distinguished Service Cross, and three Bronze Stars. For his Ranger spirit in three voluntary tours of duty, three assignments training the Vietnamese Battalion with the Mountain Ranger Committee, service as Ranger Advisor to the Vietnamese Airborne Battalion, and third voluntary tour with the IV Corps HQ, he received the Ranger Hall of Fame medallion—a validation of "Rangers Lead the Way."

MSG Minatra's tactical knowledge, initiative, high standards, and unwavering desire to train and produce the best possible warrior made him an inspirational model for Rangers. His ability to rally and direct soldiers under fire, while wounded, reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

Leadership is not as it appears, but as it performs. We join his children Barry, Larry and Melissa, nine grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren in gratitude for his guidance, heroism, and devotion through 20 years of military service.