

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE BATTLE OF OKINAWA— TYPHOON OF STEEL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, “America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand.” These words were spoken by President Harry S. Truman after World War II. Our courageous sailors and soldiers defended freedom and liberty on two fronts. In the Pacific, they fought on the beaches, ultimately leading to the surrender of the Japanese. Saipan, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa were the names of some of the island hopping invasion sites. Those of the Greatest Generation proved that when the peace of our nation is threatened, our people will stand up and fight. Tom Morgan is just one of those patriots in the Greatest Generation who answered the call to fight for our great nation.

When World War II began, Tom was just 21 years old. He answered his country’s call to duty and joined the U.S. Marines. He fought in all three Pacific battles: Guadalcanal, Saipan, and Okinawa. He contracted malaria on his first tour in 1942 at Guadalcanal. That didn’t stop him. In the summer of 1944, he fought in the Battle of Saipan. On July 8, 1944, the stars and stripes were raised in victory over Saipan, and Tom survived his second major battle. Less than a year later, Tom was sent to fight in the Battle of Okinawa, or the Typhoon of Steel as it was called because of intense shelling and gunfire. On that Easter morning, 1945, Tom and his fellow Marines were on board a transport ship eating breakfast in the mess hall when an enemy kamikaze plane hit their ship. Water began filling up in the mess hall, and Tom thought he was going to meet his maker. However, the man above had different plans for Tom. The hatch flew open, and Tom was able to escape. Tom and his fellow Marines sailed on to Okinawa where they stormed the beaches in the final island battle of the Pacific. The bloodiest battle yet was the largest amphibious invasion of World War II: over 60,000 soldiers invaded the island. Tom was one of them in the battle that thundered on for 82 days.

Japanese General Ushijima Mitsuru and his soldiers had created a series of defense lines across the island which provided them with a strong resistance against our soldiers. The Japanese Army staked most of their defenses at Shuri Castle. The Tenth Army battled for nearly two months, inch by inch, hill by hill, to take Shuri Castle.

The Marines seized the Capitol, Naha, and then the Japanese retreated to the southern tip of the island where many surrendered or committed suicide. The generals on both sides died in the course of battle: General Simon Buckner by a sniper and General Ushijima Mitsuru by suicide. On June 22, 1945, the

United States flag was raised in victory over Okinawa. Our soldiers would not have experienced land victory, if not for our sailor’s water victory over Japanese kamikaze aircraft.

One of my favorite battleships, the USS *Texas*, participated in the invasion of Okinawa. She provided initial support, gunfire support, and fended off aerial assaults for nearly two months. Suicide plane attacks by the Japanese army and navy were relentless against our navy fleet. The gunfire at Okinawa was the most extensive in history, 26 ships were sunk and 164 damaged. The Mighty *T* survived; she was an integral part of the Okinawa victory.

Some today forget the feats of these warriors of World War II. Some never came home. American casualties were the highest experienced in any campaign against the Japanese. More than 49,000 American casualties occurred, including 12,000 deaths. They were great Americans and we should always remember them.

My friend Tom’s story is not over; he survived his third battle at Okinawa. He remained in the Marines until 1946 and continued his service in the Reserves. He even served three months in the Korean War. At 96 years young, Tom is the oldest active lawman in the State of Texas.

President Ronald Reagan best summed up soldiers like Tom when he said, “Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference. The Marines don’t have that problem.”

And that’s just the way it is.

DUNK CITY

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Florida Gulf Coast University with their return into March Madness for a second year in a row. The Eagles scored a big win against the No. 3 seed North Florida on Sunday. This is the third NCAA Tournament appearance for the Eagles since 2013.

I applaud the Florida Gulf Coast Eagles and Head Coach Dooley for their victory. There is a reason why FCGU is known as Dunk City—now go shut down more shot clocks.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I was attending a family funeral in Ohio on March 2, and was absent from the House floor during that day’s five roll call votes on H.R. 1004.

Had I been present, I would have voted against both Jackson Lee amendments, in favor of the Farenthold amendment, against the motion to recommit, and in favor of final passage.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1301, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2017.

Although this bill should have been finished five months ago, I appreciate and respect the bicameral and bipartisan collaboration which ultimately made this bill possible. For years I have advocated for and helped secure funding in the NDAA for Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs). I am therefore delighted to see that the final bill provides \$33,572,000 for HBCUs, a \$10 million increase over President Obama’s budget request. The funds made available through a competitive grant program will be used to improve research initiatives and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education at HBCUs.

My home state of Georgia hosts countless servicemen and women, who are our military’s most important asset. These servicemembers are located on multiple military bases across Georgia, including but not limited to Fort Benning (home to over 120,000 active duty personnel and other personnel), Dobbins Air Reserve Base (through which more than 14,000 flight operations take place every year), Fort Stewart (home to the 3rd Infantry Division), and Kings Bay Submarine Base (home to the Ballistic Missile nuclear submarines of the US Navy Atlantic Fleet and which plays a key role in our strategic nuclear triad). These and other bases across Georgia are essential to our national security and I’ve long argued that there should be no additional Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) rounds for Dobbins and other military bases in my home state. I am grateful to see that the new bill prohibits funding to propose, plan for, or execute a new BRAC round.

This bill will also benefit Georgia’s industry. The F-35 Lightning II program provides the US Air Force (USAF), US Navy (USN), US Marine Corps (USMC), and a multitude of key allies with an affordable, fifth generation, stealth strike-fighter. The F-35 program also supports, directly and indirectly, countless of high-skilled jobs across Georgia, including hundreds of jobs at the Marietta plant in Cobb County, Georgia. Last year I supported the FY2017 budget request and urged procuring at a minimum an additional five F-35As and two F-35Cs. Such investments, in my view, are critical to restoring the budget cuts and the

● 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.

previously planned production ramp rate. I am delighted that this bill appropriates \$11 billion (an estimated \$1 billion more than requested) for the procurement of 74 new F-35 planes, including 48 F-35s for the USAF, 18 F-35Bs for the USMC, and eight F-35As for the USN. This bill also provides funding for research and development and modifications to existing aircraft. This will help the United States to continue decreasing aircraft flyaway costs and to field capabilities necessary to meet global threats in the 21st century.

Marietta is well-known for being the place where the C-130 Hercules was first designed. Since the C-130 was first produced in Georgia in 1956 it has become our military's primary cargo and personnel transport plane. Over the past six decades more than 2,500 C-130s have been sold in the United States and 60 countries. Various variants of the C-130s are used for many types of missions, including airlift support, Arctic ice resupply, medical missions, firefighting, natural disaster relief missions, and humanitarian relief missions in the United States and abroad. One such variant, the C-130J, is the most modern military tactical transport plane in service today, and is used by the USAF, USMC, US Coast Guard (USCG), and 16 international customers. Last year I recommended for the procurement of three additional G-130Js, one USCG HC-130J to continue USCG fleet recapitalization, and supported language directing the USAF to develop a C-130J recapitalization plan for the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve. This bill appropriates \$1.3 billion for 17 C, KC, HC and MC-130J aircraft consistent with my recommendations, supporting jobs and industry in Georgia and contributing to our country's security.

Last year I also supported continued funding for the AH-64 Apache Helicopter and UH-60M Black Hawk Helicopter programs, both of which are important to Georgia's industry. It is great to see that this bill makes \$1.1 billion (\$330 million above the budget request) for 72 new UH-60M multiuse Black Hawks for the Army and National Guard. The bill also provides over \$1 billion of funding for new Apache attack helicopters and upgrades to 52 existing aircraft. The upgrades will include modifications that will protect against friendly-fire incidents, thereby protecting servicemembers that operate these world-class helicopters.

The 116th Air Control Wing, a unit of Georgia's Air National Guard which is stationed at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, is the only Air National Guard unit that operates the E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS). Last year this Georgia-based unit contributed personnel and resources to assist with debris clearance in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. JSTARS are essential for this Georgia-based unit and last year I supported funding recapitalization of the program. I am delighted to see that this bill, in line with the budget request, makes \$128,019,000 available for the next generation of JSTARS.

This bill also makes funding available for nationwide defense programs that are critical to our national security. For example, following Russia's annexation of Crimea in March 2014, the FY2015 Defense Authorization prohibited using the Russian-built RD-180 rocket engine except when a waiver is granted on the basis of national security or cost considerations.

Russia's interference in our elections in 2016 only increases the importance of decreasing our dependence on that country, especially when it involves issues critical to our national security. It is great to see that this bill appropriates \$1.3 billion for the US Air Force's Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle (EELV) program, which will help us retire the use of Russian-made engines as quickly as possible.

Last year I also supported President Obama's budget request for a variety of defense programs including the C-5 Galaxy Modernization, CH-53K Heavy Lift Replacement, Combat Rescue Helicopter Program, F-22 Raptor, F-35 Lightning II (Joint Strike Fighter), MH-60R/S Naval Hawk Helicopter Programs, Advanced Pilot Training, and UH-1N Replacement Programs. By and large, this bill funds these programs at or close to the amount in the previous President's budget request.

Mr. Speaker, having previously served on the House Armed Services' Committee and for years pushed for greater investment in HBCUs, I am delighted to see that this bill provides a much higher number than was included in the budget request. I believe that this funding will be well-used and will yield high returns on our investment. I am delighted that military bases in Georgia, which are critical to our national security, are immune from closure, and that this bill continues to provide funding for servicemembers who are based in and programs produced in Georgia, both of which contribute to making our armed forces first-class.

IN RECOGNITION OF PATROLMAN MILAN BARBER, INDUCTEE TO THE NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIAL

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrolman Milan Barber of the Minersville, Pennsylvania Police Department. Patrolman Barber will be formally inducted to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. on May 13 at the 29th Annual Candlelight Vigil during National Police Week.

A veteran of World War II, Milan served in the Navy before becoming a law enforcement officer. Patrolman Barber served the borough of Minersville in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. His watch ended on Friday, June 19, 1970 after he suffered a fatal heart attack while on duty. Patrolman Barber and another officer attempted to apprehend an individual suspected of committing theft of a vehicle. The two officers struggled to contain the suspect as he resisted arrest. During the altercation, Patrolman Barber collapsed abruptly. The subject fled the scene while the other officer tended to Patrolman Barber. The suspect was eventually taken into custody and charged with manslaughter, larceny, and resisting arrest. Patrolman Barber was survived by his wife and four children.

The loss of Patrolman Milan Barber was a great tragedy for the people of Minersville. His sacrifice and the sacrifice of all fallen police officers will not be forgotten. Our nation owes

a great debt of gratitude to brave individuals like Patrolman Barber for protecting our communities. May he be remembered by all whose lives he touched and made better as he rests in peace.

HONORING VAIL TOWN MANAGER STAN ZEMLER

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to recognize Mr. Stan Zemler of Vail, Colorado who is leaving local government after having served the public for over thirty years in the State of Colorado.

Mr. Zemler has served the Town of Vail as Town Manager for the past thirteen years, the City of Boulder as Acting and Deputy City Manager, the Boulder Urban Renewal Authority as Executive Director, as well as the Boulder Chamber of Commerce as CEO, with a career that has produced positive impacts for both residents and visitors of Colorado.

Zemler's leadership is about community partnering and consensus building, an approach that has helped foster public and private relationships in an effort to achieve the best outcomes for the communities he served, including such partnering for the Billion Dollar Economic Renewal effort in Vail, the completion of numerous public safety infrastructure improvements, and the launch of numerous environmental and forest health initiatives.

During his tenure serving local governments, Zemler has worked with various agencies, including both the federal and state government branches, and closely with the U.S. Forest Service and the Colorado Department of Transportation. The collaborative work has enhanced Vail's local community, international guest services and amenities and strengthened its economic position as a sustainable international resort. The outcomes have included federal legislation and cost sharing with the USFS in protecting forest lands surrounding the Vail Valley as well as the implementation of the Interstate 70 Vail Underpass Project, a federal-state-municipal-cost-shared project, which benefits many guests and residents of Vail.

Zemler's longstanding commitment to the State of Colorado is represented by his efforts to showcase and protect its natural and beautiful environment and balance that with an economy that supports tourism and recreation in the Rocky Mountains. His support of the Congressional legislation that expanded recreational uses on forest service lands has allowed for the debut of Epic Discovery on Vail Mountain, an offering of enhanced recreational opportunities. And the Vail community's support of an initiative that was developed because of Vail's surrounding public lands was used as the inspiration for declaration of Colorado Public Lands Day to be celebrated on the third Saturday in May. This acknowledged day recognizes the significant contributions that national, state and local public lands within Colorado make to wildlife, recreation, the economy, and to Coloradans' quality of life.

Zemler has also been very active and influential in his roles serving both the 1-70 Coalition and Colorado Association of Ski Towns,