

Following the war, Mr. Young returned to North Carolina where he started a family and began a career at the N.C. Cooperative Extension. After 31 years with the Cooperative Extension, he retired and now works part-time for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mr. Young is a living example of the American spirit, a man who answered the call of our nation in its time of need. As one of the dwindling number of WWII veterans, his story is one that needs to be cherished and shared so that we may continue to learn from their example. Mr. Young personifies both courage and patriotism and there is no doubt that he is part of the Greatest Generation. It is my hope that Mr. Young will continue to share his story so that we will never forget the lessons of his sacrifice. I wish Mr. Young and his entire family well, and thank him for his service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the incredible legacy of Mr. Wendell Young.

RECOGNIZING WORLD KIDNEY DAY

HON. ROBIN L. KELLY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, we recognize World Kidney Day and the impact of Chronic Kidney Disease, or CKD, across the globe. In the U.S., 26 million adults have kidney disease and 1-in-3 is at risk. We have to reverse this trend.

African Americans, in particular, suffer from kidney failure at more than three times the rate of Caucasians and constitute more than 32 percent of all patients receiving dialysis for kidney failure. A study says that Hispanics develop kidney failure at a rate of 2:1 compared to Whites. Improving care earlier to stop or slow progression of the disease, and improving access to kidney transplantation for those who do experience kidney failure, are successful tools in order to assist millions of Americans impacted by CKD.

Over 675,000 Americans have irreversible kidney failure, or end-stage renal disease, and need dialysis or a kidney transplant to survive. CKD shortens life expectancy by 5–11 years and more than 95,000 people died of kidney disease last year. Those with diabetes, high blood pressure, a family history of kidney failure, aged 60 or older, or from minority populations are at the greatest risk.

In order to avoid an irreversible stage, there are two simple, quick, and inexpensive tests for chronic kidney disease. If caught early, diet, exercise, and medications can help slow or even reverse some of the damage caused by kidney disease, allowing patients a better life.

I had the opportunity to meet with kidney patients, including Leilah Sampson from Chicago, who is a volunteer with the National Kidney Foundation. When she was 19, Leilah was studying to be a nurse at the historic Tuskegee University when she discovered that she had kidney disease. It quickly progressed to kidney failure, and has since caused significant physical and mental health issues.

How many lives can be improved or saved by a simple set of tests that costs \$80 to \$140? More needs to be done in order to promote testing by physicians and reward them

for identifying and managing this chronic disease. In addition, empowering patients through education can help allow them to make informed decisions about all available treatments, further improving their lives.

As Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust, I am committed to working with Congress and stakeholders in the public health and research communities to promote strategies to fight kidney disease.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I will vote against H.R. 1301, the Fiscal Year 2017 Department of Defense (DOD) Appropriations Act.

The legislation includes several provisions that I strongly support, including giving service men and women a well-deserved raise of 2.1 percent. The bill provides much-needed funding to address traumatic brain injuries, PTSD, sexual assault and suicide prevention, and vital cancer research. It also includes funding for Ukraine and Eastern Europe security initiatives to counter Russia's heightened military provocations and annexation of Crimea.

However, H.R. 1301 funds provisions I do not support, including \$61.8 billion to the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) fund, an account which is not subject to the budgetary caps imposed on all other discretionary programs, and is used as a slush fund by the Pentagon.

Unlike every other federal agency, the DOD has been unable to complete a financial audit to inform taxpayers how the biggest bureaucracy in the federal government spends their money. In fact, a shocking report released last December exposed \$125 billion in administrative waste that the Pentagon tried to bury from being viewed by the public. I refuse to support increased bureaucratic waste at the expense of American taxpayers. A more accountable and transparent department would ensure more taxpayer money is directed towards the needs of our troops and the benefits they deserve rather than buying unnecessary weapon systems, sustaining a Cold War era military force, and giving the President a blank check to fund wars Congress hasn't authorized.

Along with bloated defense spending, the bill prohibits the closing of Guantanamo Bay, which costs more than \$100 million each year and has been used as a top recruiting tool by terrorists. Frankly, the prison at Guantanamo Bay has been a black eye for the United States. It has eroded relationships with our allies, undermined U.S. missions abroad, and put U.S. citizens and our troops at risk of retaliation in places where the Geneva Conventions are not followed.

Congress can make responsible cuts to the DOD budget without jeopardizing the safety of our troops or undermining our national security.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
CAPTAIN DALE HARRIS, JAG
CORPS, U.S. NAVY (RET)

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Dale Harris, JAGC, USN (ret), who recently retired after 23 years of combined active duty and reserve service to our nation with the United States Navy.

Captain Harris was born in Two Harbors, Minnesota and raised in nearby Duluth. After graduating first in his class at East High School in 1985, he received a Bachelor's of Mechanical Engineering degree from the University of Minnesota in 1990. He subsequently earned his J.D. from Hamline University School of Law, cum laude, in 1993 and began his Navy career.

Captain Harris served on active duty in the Navy JAG Corps from 1993–2000. He was an honors graduate of the Naval Justice School and winner of the school's trial advocacy competition. He spent three years assigned to Everett and Bremerton, Washington, serving stints both as a defense attorney and as a prosecutor, where he handled more than fifty courts-martial and forty administrative discharge boards, quickly gaining notoriety as one of the Navy's best young litigators. Captain Harris then worked as appellate defense counsel at the Navy-Marine Corps Appellate Review Activity in Washington, D.C. In that role, he filed briefs in over one hundred cases, and argued twenty-five cases before military appellate courts. Following his release from active duty in 2000, Captain Harris continued his military service in the Navy Reserve, including distinguished tours as a judge on the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals and as the Commanding Officer of the Navy and Marine Corps Appellate Review Activity support unit. Over the past 23 years, he earned a well-deserved reputation as one of the preeminent uniformed lawyers of his generation in the area of appellate litigation. For his outstanding service to our Nation, Captain Harris earned numerous personal awards, including four Meritorious Service Medals, three Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and three Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

Captain Harris returned home to northeastern Minnesota in 2000 and served the citizens of Minnesota's Eighth District as an attorney in private practice and later as an Assistant St. Louis County Attorney, where he handled state and federal civil litigation, and provided counsel for the sheriff and Arrowhead Regional Corrections. He continued his appellate work by arguing cases at the Minnesota Court of Appeals, Minnesota Supreme Court, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. Since 2010, Captain Harris has served his community as a state District Court Judge chambered in Duluth, establishing himself as a fair-minded and extremely capable jurist. The integrity, work ethic and leadership skills that were the hallmark of his military career will continue to define his ongoing public service as a judge.

I commend Captain Harris for his commitment to our country and the sacrifices he and his family made on its behalf. On the occasion

of his retirement from the United States Navy, I thank him, his wife, and their four children for their honorable service to our nation and wish them fair winds and following seas as Captain Harris concludes this portion of his distinguished legal career.

HONORING THE REVEREND MICHAEL L. COOPER-WHITE OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor my constituent, the Reverend Michael L. Cooper-White, upon the occasion of his retirement as the 12th president of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, and more than 40 years of service to the Church.

Rev. Cooper-White has served as President of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg since 2000, where he led efforts to: revise curriculum to strengthen an integrative approach to theological education; strengthen the seminary's fiscal health; and forge the pathway of the forthcoming consolidation with the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia to form the United Lutheran Seminary. Rev. Cooper-White also served in leadership positions with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries, the Washington Theological Consortium and myriad local boards. His ministry has spanned multiple continents and he's served the Church as pastor, teacher, author and engaged citizen.

Reverend Cooper-White's dedication has touched the lives of countless people and challenged all with whom he served to be the best. His legacy of service is commendable.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I commend and congratulate Reverend Michael L. Cooper-White upon his retirement after many years of service to the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg and our community.

FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on March 3, 2017, I was grateful to present a Congressional Gold Medal to Joseph Moore of Lexington, South Carolina for his service with the First Special Service Force, a U.S.—Canadian unit of volunteers, who initiated the liberation of Europe at Anzio, Italy, in January 1944.

During the presentation with his family, he presented me with an extraordinary prayer which was read by Eugene Gutierrez at the 2015 Reunion of the First Special Service Force. The following prayer was found on the body of an American soldier killed in action on the beachhead at Anzio:

Look God, I have never spoken to you. But now I want to say, "How do you do?" You see, God, they told me you didn't exist. And like a fool, I believed all this.

Last night from a shell hole, I saw your sky And figured then they had told me a lie. Had I taken time to see things you made, I'd have known they weren't calling a spade a spade.

I wonder, God, if you'd shake my hand? Somehow, I feel you will understand. Funny, I had to come to see your face. Well, I guess there isn't much more to say. But, I'm sure glad, God, I met you today. I guess the zero hour will soon be here, But I'm not afraid since I know you are near. There's the signal . . . I've got to go. I like you lots, I want you to know. Look now, this will be a horrible fight. Who knows, I may come to your house tonight.

Though I wasn't friendly to you before, I wonder, God, if you'd wait at your door? Look, I'm crying . . . me, shedding tears. I wish I had known you these many years. Well, I have to go now, God, goodbye . . . Strange, since I met you, I'm not afraid to die.

RECOGNIZING THE 29TH ANNIVERSARY OF MASSACRES AGAINST ARMENIANS IN SUMGAIT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the twenty-ninth anniversary of the pogroms against people of Armenian descent in Sumgait, Azerbaijan.

In late February of 1988 the Armenian people of Nagorno Karabakh, more commonly known by its people and descendants as Artsakh, rose up in peaceful protest to demand their right to self-determination. This courageous call for equality and human dignity was met with murderous riots beginning on February 27, 1988 which lasted for three days. Scores of Armenians were killed, hundreds were wounded, and thousands were forced to leave their homes and livelihoods behind.

Undeterred by this oppression, the Armenian community and its dedication to democratic self-determination sparked a movement that finally helped bring an end to the dictatorship of the Soviet Union. The courage demonstrated by the people of Artsakh in demanding their rights even after all of the adversity is admirable and should never be forgotten.

Sadly however, authoritarian leaders in Azerbaijan continue to this day to aggravate efforts by the Organization for Security Co-operation in Europe Minsk Group to achieve lasting peace in Artsakh and the surrounding region. On February 25, 2017, just a few days ago, the ceasefire along the line of contact was breached resulting in several casualties. This aggression is completely unacceptable and further hurts efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution to this conflict.

On behalf of the thousands of Armenian Americans living in my congressional district I ask my colleagues to stand with the people of Artsakh in remembering the lives lost during this tragic conflict. May their memory serve as a reminder for each and every one of us to continue advocating for human rights and democratic freedoms around the world.

THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on February 25 and 26, 1992, twenty-five years ago, the Armenian military forces occupied the town of Khojaly and destroyed hundreds of innocent lives. Those that weren't killed were wounded or taken hostage while their city was under siege.

Khojaly was recognized as occupied territory from 1988 until 1994 when a ceasefire was signed. The aggression and occupation by Armenian forces has been condemned by the United Nations Security Council.

More than two decades have passed since those horrific events and little attention has been paid to those killed during the attacks and the struggles of displaced person.

According to Human Rights Watch and other international observers the massacre was committed by Armenian troops, reportedly with the help of the former Soviet 366th Motor Rifle Regiment. Human Rights Watch described the Khojaly Massacre as "the largest massacre to date in the conflict" over Nagorno-Karabakh. In a 1992 report, they stated that Armenian forces and the 366th "deliberately disregarded this customary law restraint on attacks."

Every year, more and more organizations and countries recognize the terrible tragedy perpetrated against Azerbaijani citizens in Khojaly that night. Each year, we need to recognize that without constant reminders and vigilance, violence can be perpetrated against innocent people. We need to stand up and remember that it is the right of all people to co-exist peacefully without fear of brutality.

Azerbaijan has been a strong strategic partner and friend of the United States. The tragedy of Khojaly was a war crime which cannot be ignored.

Let's stand with the people of Azerbaijan as they commemorate this tragedy and urge world leaders to help bring a peaceful solution to the occupation of these lands.

RECOGNIZING NACDS RxIMPACT DAY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Ninth Annual NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill. This is a special day where we will have the chance to recognize pharmacy's many contributions to the American healthcare system.

Organized by the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS), this event will take place next week, on March 14–15, 2017. More than 400 individuals from the pharmacy community, including practicing pharmacists, pharmacy school faculty and students, state pharmacy association representatives and pharmacy company leaders, will visit us here on Capitol Hill. Advocates from 47 states will share their views with us about the importance of supporting their access agenda, legislative