

"All the power resides in the children. I don't think it's my drawing at all," she said.

FULBRIGHT PROGRAM GRANTEES

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2017

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize several outstanding individuals from my district who have received prestigious Fulbright awards during this past academic year. They are Cristaly Carrion, Debra Darnell, Emilio Feijoo, Joy Hazell and Mark Simpson.

Established by Congress in 1946, the Fulbright Program attempts to forge relations between Americans and emerging leaders around the globe through international education exchange. Each year, over 3,000 U.S. students and professionals in a myriad of disciplines are offered merit-based Fulbright grants to lecture, study, and conduct research all over the world. Alumni of the Fulbright Program have gone on to achieve distinction in science, the arts, business, and several other fields.

The five grantees from my constituency traveled to a diverse array of host countries—Cristaly to Spain, Debra to Peru, Emilio to the United Kingdom, Joy to Dominica, and Mark to Rwanda. Under the Fulbright Program, they worked with a wide range of partners and gained valuable skills and expertise that will serve them well in any endeavors they may wish to pursue. The relationships they formed will help build a foundation of trust on which the U.S. may advance global peace and security.

I congratulate Cristaly, Debra, Emilio, Joy and Mark on their outstanding honors, and wish them the best of luck as they continue toward their academic and professional aspirations.

HONORING MR. DAVID SMITH

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2017

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. David Smith for his nearly 50 years of service as a Professor of Music at Western Connecticut State University and for his community leadership in Danbury, Connecticut. Mr. Smith retired this year from his role at WCSU, and I thank him for his long commitment to encouraging students and their passion for music.

Percussion has been David's life work. As a student of music, David excelled in both his undergraduate and master's degree studies. He then began working as a Professor of Music at WCSU in 1970, and David demonstrated a remarkable ability to connect with and inspire thousands of students. His excellence in teaching and dedication to helping students was widely recognized, and he received Connecticut's Higher Education Music Educator of the Year Award in 1995 and WCSU's Teacher Excellence Awards in 2010. David touched the lives of countless students,

and his legacy in musical education at WCSU and in our state will be remembered for generations.

In addition to his career as a professor, David also worked as a percussionist in several orchestras, including the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, the Ives Symphony Orchestra, the Bridgeport Symphony, and the Ridgefield Orchestra.

Mr. Speaker, David Smith committed his career to teaching and public service, and his devotion to his students, his work, and his community will have lasting impacts. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor Mr. David Smith here today. I offer my best wishes for a well-deserved and restful retirement.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2810) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 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. ESHOO. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of Amendment No. 18, and I'm proud to be a cosponsor of it.

The amendment authorizes \$15 million for an innovative program known as Hacking for Defense. I'm proud this was originally piloted at Stanford University in my Congressional District and has since expanded to six other colleges and universities around the country.

Hacking for Defense offers our country's best and brightest students the opportunity to work directly with our nation's military to identify our most urgent national security threats.

Students design innovative solutions using a lean-startup model that can quickly lead to the procurement of new technologies that solve real-world problems facing our military and the warfighter.

Hacking for Defense integrates entrepreneurship with public service and helps the federal government become more flexible and less bureaucratic in its approach to problem solving, something Congress has long sought to foster.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan amendment.

GEORGE TAKACS

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2017

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of George Takacs, a student at Gulf Coast High School in Naples, who recently committed to play football at the University of Notre Dame. By signing his commitment, George fulfilled a lifelong dream to attend the University he has admired throughout his life.

Selected as an Army All-American, George has proven his dedication to the sport and achieving his goals. He will be on the field with some of the finest athletes in the country, while pursuing his academic goals with some of the finest scholars in the world.

I congratulate George on his perseverance and look forward to seeing what he will accomplish in South Bend over the course of his collegiate career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2017

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes yesterday due to my participation in a health care listening session in Lexington, Kentucky, with Vice President Mike Pence. As vice chair of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee, this was another great opportunity for me to hear firsthand from Kentucky's small business owners about their experiences providing health insurance for their employees. Had I been present, I would have voted on Roll Call No. 345, Yea; Roll Call No. 346, Yea; Roll Call No. 347, Yea; Roll Call No. 348, Aye; Roll Call No. 349, Yea; Roll Call No. 350, No; Roll Call No. 351, No; Roll Call No. 352, Aye.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2810) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 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. SINEMA. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Sinema-Fitzpatrick-Budd amendment to H.R. 2810, the Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act.

I thank Chairman Thornberry and Ranking Member Smith for their support of our amendment and for including it in the en bloc package.

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) continues to represent a clear threat to the security of the United States and our allies, and to stability in the Middle East.

While ISIL has lost significant territory over the last six months, the terrorist organization continues to oppress and murder civilians in Syria and Iraq and spread its message of violence and hate across the globe.

ISIL's perverted orthodoxy and efforts to support and inspire attacks in the United States and elsewhere are direct threats to our security and safety.

We must do all we can to accelerate ISIL's destruction.

Our bipartisan amendment ensures that the Report on the United States Strategy in Syria

required by the underlying bill includes a description of amounts and sources of ISIL financing and our efforts to disrupt this financing as part of the broader US strategy in Syria.

Financing is the lifeblood of any organization.

Denying revenue streams from oil, from stolen currency, and from extortion, has helped in the fight against ISIL.

Less money means fewer weapons, fewer fighters, and fewer resources to support those fighters, but the fight is far from over and ISIL has already demonstrated its ability to adapt and evolve.

As ISIL loses territory in Iraq and Syria, it looks abroad to inspire and support terrorist attacks in other countries around the world.

We must choke off its sources of revenue. We must deny its access to resources that fund operations in Syria, Iraq, and abroad.

Our amendment ensures we stay focused on financing, and we do it in a way that supports our broader military and counter-terrorism strategies.

As we have seen, effectively integrating smart counter threat finance enhances our overall strategy in Syria and Iraq and can prevent ISIL support for attacks in the US, in Europe and elsewhere.

Ultimately, it will accelerate the fall of ISIL and keep Americans safe.

I thank my colleagues Congressman FITZPATRICK and Congressman BUDD for offering this amendment with me.

Again, I thank Chairman THORNBERRY and Ranking Member SMITH for their support and for their continued bipartisan leadership in support of our country's national security.

RECOGNIZING THE 49TH CITI OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the Citi Open Tennis Tournament, taking place July 29 through August 6, 2017, in Rock Creek Park, and in recognizing these dates as "Tennis Week in the District of Columbia." All are invited to attend the 49th edition of this Washington tennis tradition, a cultural, economic and community staple in the region.

The tournament, now known as the Citi Open Tennis Tournament, was founded in 1969 by tennis legend and Hall of Famer Donald Dell, along with business partner John Harris, and with the support of Arthur Ashe, the first African-American to win both the U.S. Open and Wimbledon. Ashe declared he would participate in the inaugural tournament under two conditions: the tournament would take place in a naturally integrated neighborhood, and it would be played on public land where all people could come together, enjoy the sport and share the experience. Today, the tournament remains at its original location on 16th & Kennedy Streets NW., in Rock Creek Park.

In 1972, Donald Dell gifted the tournament to the Washington Tennis & Education Foundation (then called the Washington Area Ten-

nis Patrons), a nonprofit organization supporting local education causes.

The Citi Open Tennis Tournament draws the best players in the world, making D.C. a global tennis destination. The tournament is also seen on television in over 180 countries. A recent economic impact study found that the estimated total gross impact of the Citi Open on the regional economy is more than \$28.2 million. The tournament is the only Association of Tennis Professionals 500-level event in the United States, and it is one of only four professional tennis tournaments combining men's and women's events. It is also recognized as an International level tournament by the Women's Tennis Association. As the tournament returns to the District this year, the city and our office will be working with residents of the neighborhood to ensure that measures are taken to mitigate traffic in the area and that the beautiful residential neighborhood of the tournament's location is undisturbed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing "Tennis Week in the District of Columbia" for the Citi Open Tennis Tournament, as well as the Washington Tennis & Education Foundation for their efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2017

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, my vote was recorded as Yea on Roll Call No. 350. My intention was to vote Nay on Roll Call No. 350.

GRACE JONES RETIREMENT

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2017

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues the good work of Grace Jones, who is retiring on July 14th as the executive director for the past 31 years of Couleecap. The people, families, and communities of western Wisconsin are better off as a result of her work and leadership.

As a community action agency, Couleecap serves low-income people and families in Vernon, La Crosse, Crawford, and Monroe counties, with programs that help people with housing, including home ownership and rehabilitation; weatherization and other energy efficiency measures; employment and training; transportation; food and clothing; and drug use prevention. However, under Grace's leadership, Couleecap continues to evolve with the needs of the community. Many people attribute Couleecap's success to Grace's ability to recognize and understand the needs and the challenges of the people that she and the agency serves.

Trained as a teacher, Grace began her work with Couleecap as a specialist working with at-risk youngsters. "As a teacher, I tried to instill in very student the hope and belief that they could achieve their dreams with hard work and persistence," Grace told the La Crosse Tribune. With her work at Couleecap, she has

been able to help people grow, better themselves, and improve countless lives and families along the way.

Over the years, Grace has received a number of awards for her work. While appreciative of the attention, she has never forgotten the reason for her work, telling the La Crosse Tribune, "At Couleecap, we are so glad that we can help families with encouragement, hope and the tools that they need." She continues, "we prefer to believe we live in a land of great opportunity equally available to everyone. This is not true. Discrimination and poverty still exist—and too many people have talents that are quickly buried under poverty's crushing weight. For these talents to flourish, there must be equal opportunity for all."

I thank Grace Jones for her work at Couleecap. Her work has made a real and lasting impression to the people and communities she served.

RECOGNIZING MARK ZAMBON

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2017

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize someone who has made a lasting impact in my Congressional District and the community.

Two years ago, Mark Zambon joined my office as part of the Wounded Warrior Fellowship program through the House of Representatives. He will be leaving my San Diego office in July of 2017.

While he was my primary liaison with our veterans community, Mark also served as a community representative to neighborhoods and managed a number of issues critical to my district. Mark always has a "can do" attitude. If you needed something yesterday, you got it yesterday.

Mark marvelously represented Mission Hills, El Cajon, Mission Valley, University Heights, and Uptown.

His passion and work with the Veterans and Active Duty communities in San Diego has not gone unnoticed by my constituents. In the closing days of his service to the 53rd, communities have been honoring and thanking him for his work.

Mark hails from Marquette, Michigan. After graduating from Marquette Senior High School, he enlisted in the Marine Corps. Mark deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan with six combat tours and two Purple Hearts. Serving as an explosive ordnance disposal technician in Afghanistan, he lost both legs from an explosion during a mission in Sangin, a town in Afghanistan's Helmand province.

Despite this, it's not uncommon to find Mark scaling up a rock face or racing cars. In fact, Mount Kilimanjaro was a recent conquest.

When he is not going the extra mile to help veterans in the 53rd Congressional District, Mark is probably traveling, tracking down a quality craft brewery, or hanging with his cat Frankly.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot say enough about how Mark has taken on the role of providing support for his fellow warriors injured in the line of duty and honoring those who have given their lives in defense of our country.

I am proud to recognize Mark and thank him for all of his outstanding contributions to our