

from its humble beginnings as a farm town. With its gorgeous homes, safe communities, good schools, and over 13,000 residents, it's no wonder that La Grange Park was named one of "The Best Places to Live" by CHICAGO Magazine. The village is also home to many prosperous businesses and attractions that draw visitors from other various parts of the Midwest.

La Grange Park's contributions to the 5th District of Illinois and the state in general, cannot be understated, and I am truly honored to be a part of this historic recognition. Mr. Speaker, I ask you all to join me in celebrating the Village of La Grange Park during this momentous occasion, and may they enjoy many more years of continued success.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

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:

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chair, I ask that the following exchange of letters be included in the RECORD on H.R. 2810:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, June 30, 2017.

Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House
of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THORNBERRY: I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018. This legislation contains subject matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary. However, in order to expedite floor consideration of this important legislation, the committee waives consideration of the bill.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action only with the understanding that the committee's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered.

The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment to any House-Senate conference on this legislation and requests your support if such a request is made. Finally, I would appreciate your including this letter in your committee report on this bill and in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 2810 on the House Floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC, July 5, 2017.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018. I agree that the Committee on the Judiciary

has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by forgoing a sequential referral, the Committee on the Judiciary is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,
WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, June 29, 2017.

Hon. MAC THORNBERRY,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House
of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write concerning H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018. That bill, as ordered reported, contains provisions within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Natural Resources Committee, including those affecting public lands, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Corps, and matters regarding the Freely Associated States and insular areas of the United States.

In the interest of permitting you to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this very important bill, I waive this committee's right to a sequential referral. I do so with the understanding that the Natural Resources Committee does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matter contained in the bill that fall within its Rule X jurisdiction. I also request that you urge the Speaker to name members of the Natural Resources committee to any conference committee to consider such provisions.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 2810 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you and your staff have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees, and congratulations on this significant achievement.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC, July 5, 2017.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018. I agree that the Committee on Natural Resources has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Natural Resources is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee reports on the bill.

Sincerely,
WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOV-
ERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC, June 29, 2017.

Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House
of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in matters being considered in H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018.

Our committee recognizes the importance of H.R. 2810 and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Therefore, while we have a valid claim to jurisdiction over the bill, I do not intend to request a sequential referral. This, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that nothing in this legislation or my decision to forego a sequential referral waives, reduces or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and that a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest will be included in the Committee Report and as part of the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill by the House.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform also asks that you support our request to be conferees on the provisions over which we have jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

TREY GOWDY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC, July 5, 2017.

Hon. TREY GOWDY,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Govern-
ment Reform, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018. I agree that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,
WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, July 13, 2017, I was absent from the House because I was unavoidably detained. Due to my absence, I did not record any votes on the Motion to Adjourn, first vote series, and second vote series. I would have voted "aye" on Roll Call 354, Roll Call 355, Roll Call 362, Roll Call 369, and Roll Call 371.

I would have voted "Nay" on Roll Call 353, Roll Call 356, Roll Call 357, Roll Call 358, Roll Call 359, Roll Call 360, Roll Call 361, Roll Call 363, Roll Call 364, Roll Call 365, Roll Call 366, Roll Call 367, Roll Call 368, and Roll Call 370.

RECOGNIZING THE 52ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2017

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 52nd Anniversary of the Older Americans Act, a landmark bill signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on July 14, 1965.

The Older Americans Act provides critical support services for tens of millions of senior citizens and their families.

With 10,000 Americans turning 65 every day, our country has an obligation to keep these programs strong.

Older Americans should be able to live a life of dignity and independence.

However, that promise is under attack by the Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans.

Trumpcare will hurt older Americans by gutting Medicaid by \$722 billion and allowing insurers to charge older Americans more money for less coverage, no matter their health status.

Not to be outdone, Trump's very first budget would eliminate programs like Meals on Wheels and senior employment services, forcing countless older Americans into a life of hunger and poverty.

We cannot break our promise to our seniors.

Democrats will continue to fight to protect the Older Americans Act and ensure every American can live their full life with dignity.

RECOGNITION OF FULBRIGHT GRANTEES

HON. DAVE BRAT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize four constituents who received prestigious Fulbright awards during the 2016–2017 academic year. They are, Ms. Tyra Beaman of Glen Allen, Virginia, Ms. Ellen Korcovelos of Henrico, Virginia, Mr. Colfax Phillips of Richmond, Virginia, and Ms. Eileen Wang of Glen Allen, Virginia.

These scholars will be joining alumni of the Fulbright program who have and will continue to be extraordinarily successful in their lives. Fulbright scholars go on to excel in nearly every sector of our economy, as well as serving in the highest levels of government and Congress.

According to the United States Department of State, more than 370,000 individuals from the United States and over 180 countries have participated in the Fulbright program since 1946. The Fulbright Student Program boasts that "The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is the largest U.S. exchange program offering opportunities for students and young professionals to undertake international graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and primary and secondary school teaching worldwide."

This program is a terrific way for students to gain worldwide perspectives and learn valu-

able lessons from other countries. They are also taking with them the values that made America what it is today. They will build lifelong relationships and be ambassadors for America for years to come. Congratulations.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL LARRY WYCHE

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Lieutenant General Larry Wyche, Deputy Commanding General, United States Army Materiel Command, and Senior Commander of Redstone Arsenal in my home state of Alabama, on the occasion of his retirement following more than 42 years of exemplary service to the United States Army.

Lieutenant General Wyche began his career as an enlisted soldier rising to the rank of Sergeant and he will retire with three stars. Those stars were not easy to come by. They were hard earned. Lieutenant General Wyche has been critical in transforming the manner in which Sustainment is provided to our Nation's Warfighters and he has been a champion for the health and welfare of the Organic Industrial Base—our arsenals, manufacturing depots, and ammunition plants.

Lieutenant General Wyche has shaped and led the day-to-day operations of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, a \$58 billion logistics enterprise, staffed by more than 120,000 Soldiers, Civilians, and Contractors for more than two years. The command has a presence in all 50 U.S. states and 155 countries.

As Senior Commander of Redstone Arsenal in my district, Lieutenant General Wyche was in charge of the security and well-being of the more than 70 tenants, Soldiers, Army Civilians, and Families. Under his watch, the quality of life for residents and employees alike greatly improved.

Lieutenant General Wyche's many stellar achievements are too many to recite, but they have had far reaching effects at home and abroad. As a major, he deployed with the XVIII Airborne Corps to Haiti and did his part to restore democracy to that country during Operation Uphold Democracy. His bravery and courage were also tested in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Lieutenant General Wyche began his career earning stripes and retires having earned every one of his three stars. We thank him for his leadership. On behalf of all those touched by his service, we wish Lieutenant General Wyche and his wife, Denise, and their family, good luck, good ground, and Godspeed. Army Strong.

IN HONOR OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF EASTERSEALS SOUTHERN GEORGIA

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I consider it my great honor and pleasure to extend

my sincerest congratulations to the Easterseals Southern Georgia program as it celebrates 60 years of serving individuals living with disabilities and their families. The Easterseals Southern Georgia will celebrate this significant milestone with a celebration on July 15, 2017 at the Doublegate Country Club in Albany, GA.

Easterseals Southern Georgia was brought to life by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Huie after they spent nearly eight years traveling back and forth from Atlanta with their daughter Carlton whose health was ailing. After struggling to find a facility that accommodated her daughter's needs, Mrs. Huie vowed to start a rehabilitation center in Albany to serve the disabled people of Southwest Georgia.

After nearly two years of letter writing and talking with every women's group in Albany, Mrs. Huie convinced the Junior League of Albany to take on the sponsorship and they began working toward establishing what would become the Easter Seal Guild. In 1954, the Devane Home in Albany was rented, and later purchased for use. The center officially opened on November 25, 1957 and on November 21, 1961, the Easter Seal Guild was formed, boasting 25 charter members.

However, in 1990, the Easter Seal Guild dissolved and Easterseals Southern Georgia became a direct affiliate of the National Easterseals Organization. Through the changes, the program continued to grow into a multi-faceted organization, becoming even more responsive to the needs of the region it set out to serve.

The programs for adults and children created by Easterseals Southern Georgia over the years have helped families of individuals who are amputees and those who suffer from traumatic physical and emotional injuries, developmental or intellectual disabilities, and mental illnesses by providing programs that are customized to their needs. The Easterseals Southern Georgia continues to provide these and new services to help ensure that each group's needs are met.

Beyond working to provide opportunities to adults with disabilities, Easterseals Southern Georgia opened "Megan's House" to serve families of children with disabilities. The house was so successful that the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities provided funds for a second home in Waycross, Georgia, and the U.S. Congress provided federal funds in 2009 for a third home in Valdosta, Georgia.

Since its inception in 1957, Easterseals Southern Georgia has served over 70,000 citizens in need and has aimed to ensure that those with developmental disabilities have valued roles in the community by administering training and other services that support individual choices and opportunities. Easterseals has expanded its area of outreach to underprivileged adults and children in Northern Florida and East Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District in expressing our profound gratitude to Easterseals Southern Georgia for providing citizens with disabilities the long-lasting skills needed to be outstanding members of their communities.