

SUPPORT FOR THE BIPARTISAN
BUDGET ACT OF 2018

HON. JOHN J. FASO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 23, 2018

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.

This budget deal is a step forward that allows Congress to move on and tackle the problems Americans sent us here to solve. It includes a number of provisions that are wins for New Yorkers, including strengthening the state of our military readiness, improving care for our veterans, critical hospital investments, and providing more funding to fight the opioid crisis.

Additionally, I want to express my support for the special committees organized to propose genuine reform to the congressional budget process and another to address the funding crisis for multi-employer pension plans. For far too long, Congress has governed from funding crisis to funding crisis, inhibiting its ability to tackle our nation's most pressing problems.

This bipartisan agreement also includes fixes for several lingering health care related issues, including a two-year reauthorization of the Community Health Center Fund, a two-year elimination of the medical device tax, and an extension of the Medicare Love-Volume Hospital adjustment. This Medicare fix translates to millions of dollars for several Upstate hospitals.

Finally, I am thrilled to see my legislation improving the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program included. This program is critical in assisting older former foster youth transition to an independent life, including providing education and training vouchers. This improvement increases the age the states can provide assistance from 21 to 23.

It should also be noted that the nation faces a looming debt crisis which is not made better by this legislation. My support for the bill was overwhelmingly influenced by the critical defense funding gaps affecting military readiness. Secretary Mattis has been very persuasive in his arguments as to the impacts of the budget sequester on our troops and the need to rebuild core aspects of our national defense. I trust his judgement in this regard.

While there is still much work to be done, I applaud my colleagues for coming together to draft this bipartisan measure, and I am proud the President signed this legislation into law on February 9, 2018.

HONORING THE CAREER OF NANCY
MAZZA

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 23, 2018

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Nancy Mazza and her service to the people of North Carolina.

I've known Nancy for many years, and watched her succeed at every opportunity she was given. She got her start when she joined the National Federation of Republican Women in 1980. Since then, she has served the peo-

ple of North Carolina in many capacities, including the 6th Congressional District Vice Chair and 13th Congressional District Chair for the North Carolina Republican Party, President of the Greater Greensboro Republican Women's Club, President of the North Carolina Federation of Republican Women, Board of Directors and leadership for the National Federation of Republican Women, and North Carolina Ballot Director for Governor George W. Bush.

Over the years, Nancy has dedicated her life to helping constituents who have fallen on hard times and need help cutting through bureaucratic red tape at all levels of government. I first met Nancy back in 1996 when I was fresh out of college and she was working for Congressman Howard Coble in North Carolina's 6th District. Since that time, I've seen firsthand her commitment and passion for service, leading Congressman Coble's constituent services team for many years. After Congressman Coble retired in 2015, Nancy took her talents to Senator THOM TILLIS, where she has continued her dedicated service managing Senator TILLIS' constituent service operations for the Piedmont.

Nancy was inducted into the North Carolina Republican Party Hall of Fame in 2007 and received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine—the highest award a North Carolinian can receive—in 2016. I am extremely grateful for Nancy's service to North Carolina, and I wish her continued success in her well-deserved retirement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the career of Nancy Mazza.

HONORING RYAN HOLETS

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 23, 2018

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Albuquerque Police Officer Ryan Holets and his wife Rebecca for their act of kindness and compassion in adopting a homeless mother's opioid-addicted newborn while also supporting her recovery.

While on patrol, Ryan found a homeless woman with a companion, taking opioids in the form of heroin. He soon realized that the woman was pregnant. While talking to the woman about the harm that her actions would bring to her unborn child, she became emotional and told Ryan that she knew what she was doing was wrong.

Immediately, Ryan knew it was an opportunity for him and his wife to adopt the baby and add a new member to their family. He showed the woman a photo of his wife, Rebecca, and their four children and offered to adopt the baby.

When he shared the news with Rebecca, she immediately agreed that this was meant to happen and was a wonderful opportunity given to them by God. They did not have any hesitation to show compassion and love to this unborn child.

On October 12, 2017, the baby was born and the Holets family named her Hope. Since Hope's birth, the Holets family has continued to give support to her parents and encouraged them to seek treatment at a rehabilitation facility in Florida.

Ryan has become an incredible spokesperson for the opioid epidemic. His perspective as an officer who sees the effects of drug abuse and homelessness is key to understanding these issues and identifying solutions that are compassionate and effective.

This heart-warming act of kindness was selfless and inspiring. I wish the very best to the Holets family and health to their new addition, Hope.

IN RECOGNITION OF GEORGE G.
DODGE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 23, 2018

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge an exceptional school in my district, the George G. Dodge Intermediate School in Twinsburg, which has been recognized by the Ohio Department of Education as an Ohio School to Watch and a National Forum School. An Ohio School to Watch is a school that exceeds in academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and organizational structures and processes. Students who attend George G. Dodge Intermediate School get one of the best hands-on education experiences in the nation. The teachers and administrators go above and beyond their normal duties to educate and influence young minds to succeed academically, socially, and in their future professions. There is no greater cause than educating the minds of the future. As a father, I know the amount of trust parents put into the hands of our educators. Knowing our school districts are exceeding in efforts for our children to succeed creates a closer, more positive community for the students, parents, and all involved in the surrounding neighborhoods. George G. Dodge Intermediate School's mission is to create an environment of pride for one's education while engaging with parents, administration, and fellow students to grow in civic engagement and extracurricular activities. This recognition is all due to the hard work by George G. Dodge Intermediate School Principal Reggie Holland, his staff, Twinsburg City School District Superintendent Kathi Powers, and Twinsburg City School District School Board members Matt Cellura, Rob Felber, Mark Curtis, Tina Davis, and Angela DeFabio. The dedication and leadership of these men and women is remarkable and unmatched. I am truly proud to have such a great education system in Ohio's fourteenth district and congratulate George G. Dodge Intermediate School on this well-deserved distinction.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. BARBARA
HICKEY

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 23, 2018

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend, Mrs. Barbara Hickey, a woman who has devoted her life to improving the lives of individuals in her community.

Barbara grew up in Niagara Falls, New York, the oldest of five children, and has been politically active since high school. Marrying a soldier curtailed her opportunity to run for public office, but after twenty-seven years in the U.S. Army traveling and living overseas and across the United States, they came to the state of Georgia and became active in Republican politics. Barbara and her husband, Jim, moved to Cobb County in 2001 and reside in Mableton. Barbara and Jim have four children and four grandchildren. Among her many accomplishments, Barbara founded The Etiquette School of Atlanta, where she teaches classes and workshops to enhance personal effectiveness for adults and children. She has served as a consultant at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., the United States Department of Agriculture, and as a Master Trainer for the Army Family Team Building Program. Barbara has served her community and state tirelessly as an integral part of many organizations, such as the South Cobb Business Association, Cobb County Chamber of Commerce, the Georgia Federation of Republican Women, Cobb County Republican Women's Club, and the Cobb County Republicans, among others. On behalf of the people of Georgia's 11th Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives, I commend Barbara Hickey for her many years of outstanding, dedicated and effective service.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR GENERAL AL AYCOCK ON RECEIVING THE 2018 GREATER FAYETTEVILLE CHAMBER CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 23, 2018

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major General Al Aycock as the recipient of the 2018 Greater Fayetteville Chamber Chairman's Award.

The Chairman's Award is presented to the volunteer who has gone above and beyond in service of the Greater Fayetteville Chamber over the past year. This prestigious award is selected by the Chairman of the Chamber's Board of Directors, and is one of the highest honors a community leader can receive. Everyone who knows Maj. Gen. Aycock can attest that he's as deserving as any recipient we've ever had for this award.

Maj. Gen. Aycock served almost 40 years in the military, with 20 of those years at Fort Bragg. Assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division and Special Forces as Company Commander, Maj. Gen. Aycock excelled in developing the next generation of special warfare operators. He led the Special Forces Qualification Course, including Robin Sage, and commanded the 2nd Battalion of the 1st Special Warfare Training Group, responsible for the training of Special Operations personnel in Military Freefall, Underwater Operations, Close Quarters Combat and Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE). I thank Gen. Aycock for his service to our community and our nation. His sacrifices have not gone unnoticed by his friends and neighbors here in Fayetteville.

Maj. Gen. Aycock is deserving of this award, and I wish him success as he continues to be a wonderful community asset through his role as the Managing Partner of Ramparts Group, LLC and his volunteer service and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in celebrating Major General Al Aycock on winning the 2018 Greater Fayetteville Chamber Chairman's Award.

CONGRATULATING AND HONORING THE CITY OF CERES

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 23, 2018

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor the City of Ceres, located in the California Central Valley, on a tremendous milestone—the completion of its first centennial.

As the City of Ceres enters into its 100th year, they wish to honor and mark its history of a community working together to bring a cityhood of achievement into existence. The name "Ceres" was selected by Elma J. Carter in 1871 to honor the warehouses and granary of her grandfather; the name meaning health, beauty, fruitfulness, and wholesomeness.

Daniel Whitmore is accredited with building the City's first house in 1870 and served as the first cartographer of the land on February 20, 1875. Ceres emerged as a township in January of 1910, consequent to the formation of the Ceres Judicial District. Simultaneously, the citizens of Ceres worked to assimilate as a city in California. It was not until February 25, 1918 that the inhabitants decided to incorporate as a general law city of the State of California.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commemorating and congratulating the City of Ceres on the completion of its first centennial, and wish them a myriad to come.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH—ATTORNEY CAROLYN HOUSE STEWART

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 23, 2018

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate one of Tampa's finest civic leaders Attorney Carolyn House Stewart. During this Black History Month, we honor her timeless dedication and almost 50 year record of honorable service to our community.

A Tampa native, Attorney Stewart graduated from the University of South Florida with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Social Science Education. She continued along the road to academic success and began her impressive 39-year legal career graduating with a Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law. Attorney Stewart became the first African-American partner at Macfarlane Ferguson & McMullen, one of Florida's oldest law firms.

Throughout her career she made significant contributions to the issues of social justice and human rights, health, global poverty, economic

security, education, and environmental stewardship. She served as a member of the Florida Board of Bar Examiners for five years and practiced before the US District Courts for the Middle and Southern District of Florida, as well as the US Court of Appeals for the 11th and 5th Circuits. Attorney Stewart currently serves as the CEO of Stewart Consulting Group, Inc. and is licensed to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

Attorney Stewart is a renowned member of the prestigious Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., (AKAs), where she served as an example of their motto, "By Culture and By Merit". The AKAs are well-known for their life-long personal and professional development of each of its members and Attorney Stewart ascended to various leadership positions, including the 28th International President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Chapter President, Cluster Coordinator of the South Atlantic Region, Chairman of the International Program Committee, International Secretary, and International First Vice President. Under her leadership, AKAs have volunteered over 6 million hours of service and impacted the lives of 26 million people in communities all over the globe. She was instrumental with the AKAs Emerging Young Leaders (EYL) Program that worked with over 15 thousand middle school-aged girls to develop the "skills and talents necessary to become leaders at their respective school, within their local communities, and other venues." For her dedication to the AKAs, she has received commendations, including the Carey B. Preston International Leadership Award, Margaret Davis Bowen Award, and Soror of the Year.

Attorney Stewart has been recognized for her exceptional commitment to service through various other awards including the 2006 Florida Commission on the Status of Women "Achievement Award," the National Bar Association Presidential Award, and one of the National Bar Association's highest honors, the Gertrude E. Rush Award. In 2013, she was presented the Sadie T.M. Alexander Award from the National Association of Black Law Students. Attorney Stewart was recognized by the Trumpet Awards Foundation with the High Heels Award, and in March 2014, she was presented the Phenomenal Woman's Award from the Black Women's Expo and also received the United Negro College Fund National Alumni Legacy Award for her support on education.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I would like to take this opportunity to once again honor Attorney Carolyn House Stewart during this Black History Month for her many years of unselfish service and leadership, and for consistently being at the forefront of effective advocacy and social change throughout the Tampa Bay community.

HONORING AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY OF NEW MEXICO

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 23, 2018

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Air Force Research Laboratory of New Mexico—