

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5515) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 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. PASCRELL. Mr. Chair, I thank the Speaker for allowing a vote on my amendment, number 17, which would for the first time include blast exposure history in service records. This would drastically improve the care our service members receive when they return from theater by identifying injuries sustained from blasts on the field.

This bipartisan policy was recently recommended by the Center for a New American Security, and is supported by my co-chair of the Brain Injury Task Force, Congressman THOMAS J. ROONEY (R-FL), as well as independent researchers and brain injury advocates.

The effects of our service members' repeated exposure to blast events are largely unknown and could take years to show up. Accurate records of blast exposure, including during training, are needed to improve our understanding of blast-induced brain injury.

NDAAs in recent years have authorized funding for critical programs like DOD's Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury Research Program. Throughout the appropriations process, I hope to see continued funding for this and other brain injury programs at Defense, such as the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center and the National Intrepid Center of Excellence.

This funding, coupled with this amendment, will allow us to further understand and improve the care provided to service members who have sustained a brain injury.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to attending the graduation of my eldest son, Eli Westerman, from Yale University, I was unable to attend votes on Monday, May 21, 2018. Had I been present in the House of Representatives, I would have voted Aye on Roll Call No. 207 (H.R. 4830—SIT—REP Act); Roll Call No. 208 (H.R. 4451—Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act); and Roll Call No. 209 (H.R. 3832—Veterans Opioid Abuse Prevention).

IN RECOGNITION OF JERRY FORTE

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, for over twelve years, Jerry Forte has served the Colorado Springs area tirelessly and with great success as CEO for Colorado Springs Utilities. During his tenure, Mr. Forte oversaw production of electric, natural gas, and water services for over a half million customers in our area. In his work, he has streamlined large projects in order to save customers money and improve overall efficiency. He will retire this year, but not without leaving a lasting legacy—he has delivered reliable service and low rates to our communities.

He also operated the nearly \$1 billion utility budget with a high degree of professionalism and incredible stewardship. Community leaders like Mr. Forte are the reason our region thrives and remains one of the best places to live in the nation. As a Colorado Springs native, he understands and appreciates that.

Mr. Forte returned to his hometown of Colorado Springs after serving the communities of Sterling, Colorado and Woodland Park, Colorado. He also worked in the private sector as a consulting engineer. He managed Johnson Control's five-service utility in support of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, where he received awards for excellence in customer satisfaction and leadership excellence. He also has several publications to his credit.

Mr. Forte is dedicated to delivering safe and reliable public water and power. I'm extremely thankful for his service and commitment. Our region has been in good hands. Mr. Forte, thank you for over twelve years as CEO of Colorado Springs Utilities and decades more of service to our state. I wish him well and I pray that God will bless him in whatever he decides to do next.

RECOGNIZING JAY ROBERTS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Jay Roberts, who is retiring after thirty years of dedicated service in music education and as a community leader.

Mr. Roberts began his career in 1988 as a part-time elementary music education teacher while working at home repairing musical instruments. He began teaching full-time at Brentwood Union School District in 1990. In 1995, he entered the Elk Grove School District system, teaching music education at Harriet Eddy Middle School, and will retire as the music director for the award-winning Toby Johnson Middle School Band in Elk Grove, where he's taught since 2001.

Mr. Roberts has served admirably as an outstanding and accomplished music educator and leader in our community. He can be credited with the recognition of Toby Johnson's Middle School Jaguar Marching Band and Color Guard, an award-winning marching and jazz band. As a music education teacher, Mr. Roberts has impacted the lives of hundreds of students, giving them a sense of confidence and accomplishment. He's challenged them in a way to make them realize their potential, and the results are an award-winning middle school music program—an incredible accomplishment. In the community, he founded the Elk Grove Community Concert band, the Jay Roberts Swingtime Orchestra and he also conducts for River City Theater Company.

Mr. Roberts holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from California State University, Fullerton and completed his graduate work at California State University, Hayward.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Roberts has served our student community with admirable leadership, passion and dedication. He leaves a remarkable legacy. It is my honor to thank him for the positive impacts he's had on his students and wish him the very best for an enjoyable retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for Roll Call No. 165 (H.R. 4, FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018). Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes" on this vote.

HONORING BARKEATER CHOCOLATES ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Ms. STEFANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Barkeater Chocolates on its 10th anniversary.

In 2008, Debbie Morris decided to turn her passion for chocolate into a business. With the help of her husband, Jim, she set out to provide the Adirondacks with artisanal chocolate. The Morris's renovated an old home into a chocolate factory and retail store in the North Creek area, and have not stopped making chocolate since.

Unsatisfied with the lack of variety and quality of chocolates available in their community, the Morris's set out to provide the North Country the delicious sweets it deserves. Barkeater Chocolates proudly offers dozens of flavors of truffles, caramels, bars, bark, peanut butter cups, and cocoa. Now a thriving business,

• 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.

Barkeater Chocolates serves as a wonderful example of successful entrepreneurship in the North Country.

On behalf of New York's 21st district, I want to congratulate Barkeater Chocolates on its 10th anniversary. Barkeater Chocolates plays an important role in North Creek community life, and I look forward to watching Barkeater Chocolates continue to flourish in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL
ARTHRITIS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National Arthritis Awareness Month. Every May, we call attention to the hardships associated with arthritis, a chronic disease that results in the inflammation or swelling of one or more joints of the body. Arthritis is the number one cause of disability in the United States, and carries a total economic burden of more than \$300 billion in medical expenses and lost productivity.

During this month of recognition, it's critical we remember the more than 54 million Americans, and 300,000 children, living with arthritis. There are over 100 different forms in which this disease manifests, the most common being: osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, and psoriatic arthritis.

While arthritis limits their daily activities, people with arthritis are fighters, and take action to conquer this disease. As co-chair of the Congressional Arthritis Caucus, along with my colleague Representative ESHOO, we work together to address some of the most pressing issues facing the arthritis community today, like the high out-of-pocket costs for medication.

Increased awareness can lead to early detection and treatment, and it fosters an environment that supports people with the disease in our communities. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing National Arthritis Awareness Month.

TRIBUTE TO HARLEY GREENWALT

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Harley Greenwalt of Shenandoah, Iowa on the occasion of his 100th birthday. Harley celebrated his birthday on May 14, 2018.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Harley's life. Since his birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Harley has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-five Governors of Iowa. In his lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Harley in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish him a very happy 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Harley on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing him even more health and happiness in the years to come.

HONORING FIRST SERGEANT
RAJENDRA TONY SINGH

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor First Sergeant Rajendra Tony Singh of South Bend. His acts of heroism and sacrifice in service to our country are an inspiration to us all.

Sergeant Singh has served three combat tours in Iraq and another in Afghanistan in his 21 years in the U.S. Marine Corps. He is a true leader who loves his country and is devoted to his fellow servicemembers. His abilities and actions have earned him well-deserved recognition, including a Navy Commendation Medal with a V, a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, a Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation among many others. These decorations are a sign of his good character, dedication, and patriotism.

Sergeant Singh has always gone above and beyond to help others and make a real difference for those in need. His service to our country overseas is matched by his service to his community here at home. Sergeant Singh is a distinguished leader among his peers and a guiding light for his family. I want to thank his wife Marilyn for her incredible strength and for the support she has given to her family while her husband serves. I have no doubt their children Sabrina, Anthony, and Steven will grow up to be as driven and compassionate as their father.

Sergeant Singh's legacy and career exemplify what it means to be a Marine. His steadfast commitment to humanitarian efforts as well as to preserving our way of life has made our nation and our communities stronger. We are grateful for his continued service and selfless dedication to this country. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking First Sergeant Rajendra T. Singh for his honorable service to our country and wishing him all the best in the amazing things I'm sure lie ahead for him and his family.

ANTHONY AND ANGELA HALL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there's an old saying, "In the South there are no strangers, just friends we haven't met yet." In Texas, we call that southern hospitality. It's rare to find a Texan who isn't ready to lend a hand to those in need. Hurricane Harvey brought out the best in Texans, and the goodwill shown by Anthony and Angela Hall of Humble, Texas truly shines as bright as the lone star.

The Halls, like many in their neighborhood, sustained damage to their home from Hurricane Harvey. But like most Texans, Anthony and Angela rushed to help their neighbors and volunteered at a local shelter. One day at the shelter, the couple met a woman and her children sitting off to the side. The storm had taken everything but the clothes off their backs.

Heartbroken and determined to help, Angela told the family that she would feed them. Sure enough, she began to prepare meals for the family at home, which she then brought with her when she went to the shelter.

As Angela continued her volunteer service, she recognized that many of her neighbors were also in need of assistance, and before long she was cooking meals for the neighborhood, delivering their sustenance door-to-door.

Angela and Anthony, along with their four daughters, prepared as many as 300 plates a day for their neighbors still reeling from the effects of the hurricane, waking up before the sunrise every day and spending thousands of dollars of their own money to keep the neighborhood from going hungry.

To this day, the Halls are still providing meals to anyone in need, and are even willing to travel to ensure that none of their neighbors go hungry.

Mr. Speaker, Anthony and Angela Hall are angels in the kitchen and are redefining the depth of Texas hospitality. It is people such as the Halls that ensure that no disaster of any magnitude will ever keep the American nation down.

And that is just the way it is.

IN MEMORY, REMEMBRANCE, AND
CELEBRATION OF DR. JOSÉ
FRANCISCO PEÑA GÓMEZ

HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and commemorate Dr. José Francisco Peña Gómez on the 20th anniversary of his passing. Throughout his life, Dr. Peña Gómez was a lifelong public servant who spoke up for the marginalized and often disenfranchised Afro-Latino community from the Dominican Republic; a community and dichotomy intrinsic to all Caribbean and Latin American nations.

It cannot be understated how transcendent Dr. Peña Gómez remains in the Dominican Republic to have served as Mayor of Santo Domingo; Vice President of the International Socialist Party for the Western Hemisphere; President of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, and twice nominated for the Presidency of the Dominican Republic. But his legacy is not just limited to the Dominican Republic.

Dr. Peña Gómez spent his life campaigning for democracy, progressive public policies, free speech and national sovereignty in the Caribbean and Latin America, and greater international community. Through his global education and activism, Dr. Peña Gómez became a friend and partner with elected leaders and luminaries such as Nobel Peace Prize Winner Willy Brandt; U.S. Representative Charles B. Rangel, U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy; French President François Mitterrand;