

for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 226, nays 183, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 378]

YEAS—226

Abraham	Fortenberry	Marchant
Aderholt	Fox	Marshall
Allen	Frelinghuysen	Massie
Amash	Gaetz	Mast
Amodel	Gallagher	McCarthy
Arrington	Garrett	McCaul
Babin	Gianforte	McClintock
Bacon	Gibbs	McHenry
Banks (IN)	Goodlatte	McKinley
Barletta	Gosar	McMorris
Barr	Gowdy	Rodgers
Barton	Granger	McSally
Bergman	Graves (GA)	Meadows
Biggs	Graves (LA)	Messer
Bilirakis	Graves (MO)	Mitchell
Bishop (MI)	Green, Gene	Mooleenaar
Bishop (UT)	Griffith	Mooney (WV)
Brady (TX)	Grothman	Mullin
Brat	Guthrie	Newhouse
Brooks (AL)	Handel	Noem
Brooks (IN)	Harper	Norman
Buchanan	Harris	Nunes
Buck	Hartzler	Olson
Bucshon	Hensarling	Palazzo
Budd	Herrera Beutler	Palmer
Burgess	Hice, Jody B.	Paulsen
Byrne	Higgins (LA)	Pearce
Calvert	Hill	Perry
Carter (GA)	Holding	Pittenger
Carter (TX)	Hollingsworth	Poe (TX)
Chabot	Huizenga	Poliquin
Cheney	Hultgren	Posey
Cloud	Hunter	Ratcliffe
Coffman	Hurd	Reed
Cole	Issa	Reichert
Collins (GA)	Jenkins (KS)	Renacci
Collins (NY)	Jenkins (WV)	Rice (SC)
Comer	Johnson (LA)	Roby
Comstock	Johnson (OH)	Roe (TN)
Conaway	Johnson, Sam	Rogers (AL)
Cook	Jordan	Rogers (KY)
Costello (PA)	Joyce (OH)	Rohrabacher
Cramer	Katko	Rooney, Francis
Crawford	Kelly (MS)	Rooney, Thomas
Culberson	Kelly (PA)	J.
Curbelo (FL)	King (IA)	Ros-Lehtinen
Curtis	King (NY)	Roskam
Davidson	Kinzinger	Ross
Denham	Knight	Rothfus
DeSantis	Kustoff (TN)	Rouzer
DesJarlais	LaHood	Royce (CA)
Diaz-Balart	LaMalfa	Russell
Donovan	Lamborn	Rutherford
Duffy	Lance	Sanford
Duncan (SC)	Latta	Scalise
Duncan (TN)	Lesko	Schweikert
Dunn	Lewis (MN)	Scott, Austin
Emmer	LoBiondo	Sensenbrenner
Estes (KS)	Long	Sessions
Faso	Loudermilk	Shimkus
Ferguson	Love	Shuster
Fitzpatrick	Lucas	Simpson
Fleischmann	Luetkemeyer	Smith (MO)
Flores	MacArthur	Smith (NE)

Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smucker
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Trott

Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)

Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Zeldin

NAYS—183

Adams
Aguilar
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capuano
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Crist
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutsch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Engel
Eshoo
Españal
Esty (CT)
Evans
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge

NOT VOTING—19

Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
Ellison

Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Gottheimer
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hastings
Heck
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kihuen
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebbeck
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham,
M.
Luján, Ben Ray
Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler

Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Halleran
O'Rourke
Pallone
Panetta
Pascarelli
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Richmond
Rosen
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Smith (WA)
Soto
Suozy
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 5515, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1027, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 5515) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1027, the conference report is considered read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of July 25, 2018, at page H7202.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

□ 1030

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on the conference report to accompany H.R. 5515.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, first, I want to express my appreciation to the ranking member of the Armed Services Committee, Mr. SMITH, not only for his work on this conference, but also for his work throughout the process of bringing this bill to fruition. However strongly he and I may disagree on some particular issues, it is always clear that he seeks, first and foremost, to do the right thing for our military personnel and our country's national security, and I very much appreciate the opportunity to work with him.

Second, I want to thank all the members of the conference committee and of the House Armed Services Committee. Each of them has contributed to this final product, although I suspect none of them is pleased with everything that is or is not in it.

It is the result of a negotiation between House and Senate Members with a variety of interests. Taken as a whole, however, I think all Members who participated, whether in committee, in conference, or here on the floor, can be proud of the result.

□ 1025

Ms. WILSON of Florida changed her vote from "yea" to "nay."

Ms. CHENEY and Mr. MACARTHUR changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Third, I want to thank our staff, both committee staff and personal staff. They worked long and hard to get this done and get it done earlier than we have in many years. I especially want to thank the committee staff director Jen Stewart, as well Paul Arcangeli and my personal chief of staff, Josh Martin, for all of their work.

Mr. Speaker, next, I want to express particular appreciation to a group of folks who often do not get publicly recognized in order to do this conference report and do it on the timeframe we have had available. Those working in legislative counsel have had to work extraordinarily hard, and I am grateful to each of them. Some of those in legislative counsel who have worked on this product include Hadley Ross, Sherry Chriss, Tony Sciascia, Noah Wofsy, Ken Cox, Brendan Gallagher, and Mat Eckstein. There are others who will be named shortly.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Rules Committee and that staff for helping us work through a procedural issue in the last couple of days.

Mr. Speaker, this bill takes a major step forward in rebuilding our military, reforming the Pentagon, and better preparing this country to deal with the national security challenges that lay before us.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

The Chair will remind visitors and guests to keep their voices down.

The gentleman from Texas is recognized.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, this bill continues to make readiness a key focus, for if we send our men and women out on missions, then they deserve to have the best equipment, the best training, and the best support that this country can provide.

It advances implementation of the new National Defense Strategy, so we can be better prepared against threats from peer or near-peer adversaries, such as Russia and China. In fact, there are many, many provisions in this bill, Mr. Speaker, directly related to countering the aggressive actions we have seen from each of those countries.

One section of this conference report is the first update to our foreign investment laws in many years. I commend Chairman HENSARLING, Chairman ROYCE, and, of course, Speaker RYAN for negotiating a strong CFIUS bill, which helps protect our Nation's security.

This conference report also prohibits the Federal Government from buying products or services from Chinese telecommunications companies, such as ZTE and Huawei. And, importantly, it prohibits the Federal Government from doing business with any company that buys their products or services.

A more complete summary of the provisions has been provided to all Members, but the top priority of this bill and of our committee remains the men and women who volunteer to serve

our Nation in the military. This bill authorizes the largest pay increase in 9 years. It provides additional assistance for spouses seeking employment; it makes transition assistance more tailored to the individual; and it prohibits the closure of military healthcare facilities; all of that and more focused on our people, who are our most valuable asset.

Mr. Speaker, speaking of patriotic Americans serving our country, one provision on which the House receded to the Senate was the title of the bill. We happily agreed to name this legislation after Senator JOHN MCCAIN, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. We do so not just because of his current position but in recognition and in tribute to a lifetime of patriotic service to our Nation.

Navy pilot, prisoner of war, Member of the House, Member of the Senate, Presidential nominee, whatever his job, whatever his role, JOHN MCCAIN has carried it out with passion and intensity and with a love for our country that knows no bounds. History will find Senator JOHN MCCAIN to be one of the giants of our time.

While battling cancer at home in Arizona, he has helped guide this year's NDAA throughout the process. Now, that does not mean that he agrees with every one of the outcomes in this conference report. I know from firsthand experience that he can be a fierce advocate and a tough negotiator.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself an additional 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, Senator INHOFE has done a great job on Senator MCCAIN's behalf, and this conference report bears Senator MCCAIN's unmistakable stamp. He has, once again, made a strong, positive difference for the men and women in uniform and for the national security of the United States of America.

We certainly wish him and his family the best in his current fight. We thank him, and we attempt to honor him and his outstanding record of service to our Nation with this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman for his leadership of the committee. Our committee is committed to completing this process every year, and I think it is a great example of how the legislative process should work. It is bipartisan; it follows regular order; and the chairman deserves a great deal of credit for making sure that both of those things happened.

He has been very inclusive of all the members of the committee, Democrats and Republicans, and also all the Members of this House who have had interest in what goes into this bill to make sure that we have the strongest possible national security policy.

I really appreciate his leadership, but I also share with him the gratitude

that we have for our staff and the incredible hard work that they do to pull this process together. As the chairman mentioned, this is the soonest we have completed the NDAA—knock on wood, assuming we complete it—in my entire time in Congress. That took a lot of people doing a lot of work, Members and staff alike.

The chairman mentioned some of the legislative counsel staff. These are the people who when at the absolute last minute we decide, oh, we prefer it done this way, they are the ones who have to go back in and rewrite the entire thing and redo the entire thing at all hours of the night. They do a spectacular job and are frequently unrecognized.

The chairman mentioned some of them. I want to mention the rest: Mark Synnes, Hank Savage, I am going to do my best on this name—Kalyani Parthasarathy, Tom Cassidy, Casey Ebner, and Paul Kubicki. These folks do an amazing job for our country and for the men and women in the military. I really appreciate their tireless work and the outstanding product they produce for us each year.

I agree with the chairman that we have a very strong bill this year. I also agree with the chairman that if any one of us were to write it, we would write it differently. There are things we would like to see in that were left out and things that are in that we prefer were not. But that is the nature of the legislative process. It is a compromise, an effort to work together to hopefully come up with a good product, and I think that is what we did this time.

The chairman mentioned a number of the highlights.

I am particularly focused on the fact that we do have language in this bill to take a look at the issue of civilian casualties as a result of some of our military action throughout the world, to get a better read on exactly what is happening and how we can minimize those.

There is also language for a review of exactly what our military is doing in Yemen, to make sure that it complies with the law and complies with the interests of the United States.

I am also pleased that, once again, we were able to avoid putting any environmental riders into this bill.

Also, I agree with the chairman that this bill really shores up our ability to contend with the adversaries that most threaten us.

On Russia, we have the largest increase in the European defense initiative that we have had in a defense bill. We also shore up our support for Ukraine and the rest of our NATO allies by reaffirming our commitment to NATO and our commitment to defending them from any Russian aggression.

Where China is concerned, as the chairman mentioned, we have very strict restrictions on ZTE and also on Huawei and other Chinese companies to make sure they can't do business

with the U.S. Government or with companies that do business with the U.S. Government.

I do want to address one issue that I heard brought up during the rule. I think there is a popular misunderstanding that somehow our bill is responsible for the deal that led ZTE back into the U.S. market. That is not true. The President of the United States decided to undo what he had done previously, blocking ZTE from doing any business in the U.S., and basically fined them \$1 billion. ZTE is paying \$1 billion to get out from under the effective death penalty and be allowed back into the U.S. market.

For our bill to have undone that, as the Senate bill did, it would have required us to cut \$1 billion in mandatory spending. Now, I don't agree necessarily with the Parliamentarian's ruling there, that the \$1 billion that ZTE paid is something that we should have had to offset if we undid the deal. But we have to live by the law. This is also mandatory spending, so if we were going to get rid of the ZTE deal and get rid of that \$1 billion, we would have literally had to cut retirement healthcare for the men and women who served in the military. I don't think that is something that anyone on this floor would have been willing to do.

So this bill does step up to confront our adversaries in Russia and China. I also think it reflects the values, as I mentioned, of dealing with the civilian casualty issue and trying to get a bead on what is going on with Yemen. And it reflects a reasonable compromise between the House and the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to close by echoing the words of our chairman in being grateful that this bill is named after Senator McCain. I knew Senator McCain before I even got into politics, just as a prominent national figure, a war hero, and someone to be greatly admired. It is one of the great honors of my career that I have had the privilege to work with him on the Armed Services Committee process over the course of the last 5 years as ranking member.

JOHN MCCAIN is as tough, smart, and committed to this country as anyone you will ever find. It is truly fitting that this bill is named after him. He will be remembered as one of the great heroes of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), who is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Readiness.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to support the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act.

Appropriately named after an American hero, the conference report contains policy and funding initiatives that provide our military with the resources necessary to restore readiness and rebuild combat capability. Chair-

man MAC THORNBERRY has been very successful, with leadership, to expedite this critical legislation in record time.

As Readiness Subcommittee chairman, I appreciate that the conference report authorizes additional funding for training, spare parts, equipment, and weapons systems maintenance.

The conference report also focuses on aviation readiness by increasing flying hours, funding for spare parts, and establishing a commission to examine the tragic rise in military aviation accidents.

Both the House and Senate bills address Navy surface forces improvements in response to last year's collisions and tragic loss of 17 lives on the Fitzgerald and McCain. I appreciate the conference report because it contains a range of provisions that improves the operation of surface fleets.

The conference report provides critical funding for Fort Jackson and continues construction of the mixed oxide fuel fabrication facility at the Savannah River site to protect the environment in South Carolina and Georgia.

It also supports our strongest ally in the Middle East, Israel, by establishing defense partnerships to counter Iran's terrorist activities.

In conclusion, I want to thank Chairman THORNBERRY again for his success with his dedicated, professional staff. I also appreciate the Readiness Subcommittee's distinguished ranking member, MADELEINE BORDALLO of Guam, for her contributions to this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support the bill.

□ 1045

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN), the ranking member on the Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee. I want to particularly thank him for his leadership on climate change and alternative energy. He has done a great job of inserting those issues in this bill. I appreciate that leadership.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking Chairman THORNBERRY, Ranking Member SMITH, Chairman MCCAIN, Ranking Member REED, Senator INHOFE, and their staff for their tireless work in producing this conference report.

I am especially pleased that this conference report is named after Senator JOHN MCCAIN, a true American hero. Thank you for your service, Senator, and Godspeed.

It was an honor to serve as a conferee throughout this process and to be a part of this undertaking in support of our Armed Forces.

While no bill is perfect, there is much to be proud of in this conference report. We are giving our troops a much-deserved pay raise, taking critical steps to counter Russian aggression

and resist Chinese coercive influence, and continuing to ensure the Department of Defense is prepared to mitigate the risks posed by climate change.

We are also increasing funding for the Virginia- and Columbia-class submarine programs, which are made in my home State of Rhode Island, and protect our Nation and our allies and create thousands of jobs back home.

As ranking member of the Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee, it has been a pleasure to work with Chairwoman ELISE STEFANIK.

I am particularly glad we are making strong investments in our cyber personnel and capabilities, providing increased support for our Special Operations Forces and their families, and increasing funding for key programs to maintain our technological superiority, such as railgun development, directed energy prototyping, and unmanned vehicles.

The threats we face as a nation are diverse and challenging. There are no easy answers for how the United States will continue to promote stability and the rules-based international order.

But I believe that this bipartisan work of the House and Senate Armed Services Committee, and this bill in particular, will improve our national security and help keep our country and our servicemembers safe.

Lastly, I want to thank Kathryn Mitchell on my personal staff, who serves as my MLA. She is leaving for South Korea to be with her husband, who is serving in the United States Army.

Job well done, Kathryn, and thank you.

For those reasons and more, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this conference report.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER), the distinguished chair of the Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by thanking Chairman THORNBERRY for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor.

I strongly support H.R. 5515, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, the 58th consecutive NDAA passed by Congress.

I also want to thank our leadership—Speaker RYAN, KEVIN MCCARTHY, STEVE SCALISE, and PATRICK MCHENRY—for their contribution to this bill being a contribution to readiness. This is about increasing the top line, increasing national defense spending, and increasing support for our men and women in uniform. I want to thank them for their leadership in accomplishing that.

I have the privilege of serving as the chairman of the Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee, and I would like to recognize our subcommittee ranking member, Ms. NIKI TSONGAS. I want to thank NIKI for her support on the subcommittee and as co-chair of the Military Sexual Assault Prevention Caucus.

Throughout her tenure in Congress, NIKI has worked in a solidly bipartisan fashion to support our warfighters, improve the readiness of our military, and help our servicemembers eliminate sexual assault in uniform. She is leaving behind a strong legacy of accomplishments.

Within our subcommittee's jurisdiction, this bill recommends authorization for over \$97 billion in modernization funding that is necessary to regain our advantage against peer competitors.

This bill recognizes the importance of the fifth-generation strike fighter and supports the President's budget request for 77 Joint Strike Fighters. It also authorizes the Department to procure an additional F-35 aircraft if funds become available through cost savings and program efficiencies.

The bill includes several oversight provisions to combat the physiological episodes occurring in military aircraft. We now require the Department to certify that all new aircraft will have the latest technology to keep our pilots healthy and safe.

In the bill, Congress reiterates the importance of the Air Force's JSTARS program. For more than 25 years, the aircraft has provided our warfighters command, control, and surveillance of ground battle. JSTARS have flown over 130,000 combat hours and will be an integral piece of the Air Force's arsenal for years to come.

For the seventh consecutive year, this bill addresses sexual assault.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER).

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all members of the conference committee for their record-breaking work on this National Defense Authorization Act. This bill supports the national security, so I am pleased to support it.

I would particularly like to thank my good friend, Chairman ROGERS, for his bipartisan leadership of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee.

In addition to authorizing core missions of our nuclear forces to provide a strong deterrent, this defense authorization bill mandates an independent study on increasing the decision time before the President can use nuclear weapons; allows negotiations for extending the New START treaty to maintain binding limits on the number of strategic weapons that Russia can deploy; drops a provision that would have all but separated the Nuclear Security Administration from the Department of Energy, in direct contradiction of expert recommendations; and allows the Department of Energy to continue terminating the failed and unaffordable MOX boondoggle.

The bill supports effective missile defense efforts, including pressing for near-term solutions such as boost-phase missile defense using kinetic

interceptors, increases accountability of the acquisition of expensive interceptors, and, of course, supports U.S.-Israeli missile defense.

Finally, I strongly commend Chairman ROGERS' leadership in strengthening our ability to defend our assets in space against increasing threats.

The bill creates a sub-unified command for space and continues oversight of warfighting readiness, presses for a more rapid and agile acquisition process, and mandates a plan for improving our space capabilities.

I look forward to continuing to work with Chairman ROGERS and others toward establishment of a true space corps or space force. I urge support for this bill.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS), the chair of the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5515, the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019.

This report authorizes additional funding for nuclear modernization efforts. We make good on promises to improve defense-related infrastructure. It authorizes full funding for a low-yield nuclear warhead. It also postures the United States to credibly address the threat posed by Chinese and Russian strategic nuclear weapons in the future.

On missile defense, the conference report includes policy support and funding for space-based sensing, boost-phase intercept, hypersonics, and directed energy efforts.

Regarding national security space reform, this conference report establishes a sub-unified command for space. It tasks the Department with developing an alternative acquisition for national security space, and it directs the Department to deliver a space warfighting policy and readiness plan. These steps begin taking us down a path toward implementing President Trump's directive to establish a space force.

Finally, it also includes significant reforms as to how the DOD calculates work at our Nation's depots in an effort to modernize and streamline that process to better support both the depots and the warfighters who depend on them.

In conclusion, I want to thank the subcommittee's distinguished ranking member, JIM COOPER. He has been a great partner in this endeavor. I also thank Chairman THORNBERRY and Ranking Member SMITH for their leadership in fashioning this outstanding bill.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO).

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank Chairman THORNBERRY and commend Ranking Member SMITH for their hard work in bringing this bill to

the floor. It has been an honor to be a member of this bipartisan committee. I also want to recognize my chairman of the Readiness Subcommittee, JOE WILSON of South Carolina, for his invaluable assistance.

The conference agreement authorizes \$247.2 billion in operations and maintenance funding between the base and overseas contingency accounts. This includes increases in readiness-enabling accounts to support depot-level maintenance, parts and spares, training, and facilities sustainment, restoration, and modernization.

The agreement also addresses readiness challenges of the surface Navy following the four incidents that occurred in the Pacific last year.

With respect to military aviation, the agreement establishes a National Commission on Military Aviation Safety that will assess the causes of recent aviation mishaps and make changes for training, maintenance personnel, and policies related to safety.

The FY19 NDAA also begins to address challenges with DOD's facilities and infrastructure by authorizing appropriations of \$11.3 billion for military construction and family housing. This includes authorization for 38 additional military construction projects from the services' unfunded priorities list.

I am also grateful to the conference for including provisions important to Guam.

First, the H-2B workforce provision allows us to fully implement the marine relocation from Okinawa, which is vital to the security of the Indo-Pacific region. This is an important step toward stabilizing Guam's workforce crisis, and I hope to continue working on further legislation needed for civilian relief.

Also, on the Navy's net negative commitment to Guam, the bill improves transparency by establishing a publicly accessible list of Navy property expected to be transferred to the Government of Guam.

The bill supports the ship repair industry on Guam and in the U.S. The bill authorizes \$32 million for the Navy to restore a dry dock capability and prohibits the Navy from redeveloping the former ship repair facility on Guam for any purpose other than to support depot-level ship maintenance.

I continue to stress that it is imperative for the Navy to maintain a depot-level ship repair capability on sovereign U.S. soil in the western Pacific.

I close by extending my gratitude again to the chairman and the ranking member and to my colleagues and the professional staff and all who participated in producing the conference agreement. I encourage my colleagues to support it.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN), the chair of the Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud of this conference report and the

items included in it. I want to thank Chairman THORNBERRY and Ranking Member SMITH for their leadership in pushing this across the finish line.

In my subcommittee, we authorized an additional three battle force ships, including the next Ford-class aircraft carrier.

We have also kept an eye on the future and prioritized funding for the B-21 Raider bomber program and the Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine, programs that are essential for our national security and comprise two parts of our Nation's nuclear triad.

While we still have work to do, I think that this conference report does a good job of continuing to build off of last year's progress.

Some have questioned whether a Member of Congress can be both a fiscal hawk and a defense hawk. I am convinced that a Member can be both. For example, we have also authorized long-term contracts for ships, aircraft, and weapons. With these contracts, in addition to the accelerated procurement of the next Ford-class aircraft carrier, we understand the Navy can save almost \$3 billion. These savings are significant.

While I am proud that this may be the first time in more than two decades that an NDAA will be enacted before the start of the fiscal year, we still have work to do to secure funding for this bill.

Specifically, I believe there is no more debilitating action that Congress can perform than delaying an accompanying Defense Appropriations bill. The House has passed ours, but we need our colleagues in the Senate to do the same during their time in D.C. in August. If we lose this rare opportunity to pass a Defense Appropriations bill before the end of the fiscal year, we will once again be holding our military hostage for other domestic priorities.

I was thrilled to see Speaker RYAN continue to lead on this issue when he indicated yesterday: "We really just want to get the military funded on time, on budget, on schedule this year, and that's the primary concern."

We need to get back to basics, perform our constitutional duty, and let our servicemembers know that we have their backs while they are serving on the front lines, that we are dedicated to their service, and that we will take care of their families until they return.

Let's pass this defense authorization bill and turn to getting the Defense Appropriations bill done on time.

□ 1100

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the 2019 John McCain Defense Authorization bill.

First, I would like to extend my congratulations to Chairman THORNBERRY and Ranking Member SMITH for their steady, bipartisan leadership as this

bill was crafted—the 58th consecutive year in a row that Congress has produced an NDAA, a testament to their superb legislating and the constructive dialogue that results from following regular order.

I also want to salute the hard work of my colleague ROB WITTMAN, at the helm of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, and our professional staff—Phil MacNaughton, Dave Sienicki, and Bruce Johnson—for their talent, expertise, and follow-through for all our members.

Our subcommittee mark accelerates the timeline toward achieving a Navy fleet of 355 ships, the size needed to meet global requirements according to the Navy's 2016 force structure assessment.

Our work authorizes funding for 13 battle force ships, three more than President Trump's request. In particular, at a time when rising adversaries are recapitalizing or expanding their undersea fleets, this year's NDAA provides \$7.6 billion for the Virginia-class program and nearly \$4 billion for the Columbia-class development and advance procurement.

The bill authorizes two Virginia-class attack submarines in 2019 and requires the next Block V Virginia contract currently under negotiation to include priced options for additional third submarines in years 2022 and '23. This provision will maintain the option for the next Congress to take advantage of industrial-base capacity that the Navy last February told us is available to increase submarine construction in the future.

Tragically, 2017 was a very difficult year for the U.S. Navy. Our country lost 17 sailors in the fatal collisions involving the USS *Fitzgerald* and the USS *John McCain*.

This bill directs the Navy to assess the checks and balances in its chain of command so operational demands are appropriately balanced with ship training, certification, and maintenance. It limits to 10 years the period in which ships may be forward deployed and requires that ship readiness inspections be conducted on a no-notice basis, with results made available for the public to see.

These changes are critical. We owe it to our sailors, and we can't afford to have our naval assets out of commission with so much at stake as competitors seek to counter time-honored norms, such as the right to transit international waters freely.

Mr. Speaker, the important provisions of this bill showcase what we in Congress can accomplish when we collectively choose to work with our colleagues across the aisle and trust the committee process to produce a fair and balanced result.

Even more impressive is the fact that passage of this NDAA is the earliest it has come in 20 years. This defies the constant narrative of a dysfunctional Congress. Again, I commend the skillful leadership of Mr. THORNBERRY and

Mr. SMITH, as well as Senators McCAIN and REED across the Capitol, in helping shepherd this legislation to the point where it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge all Members to vote for passage of this measure.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER), distinguished chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the conference report for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, and I thank Chairman THORNBERRY, Ranking Member SMITH, all the conferees, and the committee staff for their dedicated, hard work on this important piece of legislation.

This bipartisan bill provides our troops the equipment, resources, and training they so desperately need. It authorizes a 2.6 percent pay increase for our troops, authorizes 24 additional F-18 Super Hornets, invests in A-10 modifications, fully funds the B-21 bomber program, and funds various bomber modernization programs to ensure our current bomber fleet remains operational until the B-21 comes online.

I am delighted that this bill includes a provision that raises the Air National Guard control grade cap to ensure that the ANG is properly resourced. The lack of control grades severely restricts the ANG's ability to recruit full-time officers separating from Active Duty in the Air Force, many of whom are much-needed pilots. Raising this cap will help fill these needed slots.

The bill also includes a vital provision that prohibits Federal agencies from purchasing certain Chinese-made telecommunications and video surveillance equipment.

The Chinese Government is using every avenue at its disposal to target the United States, including expanding the role of Chinese companies in the U.S. domestic communications and public safety sectors. This provision takes a necessary step to protect the U.S. government from significant vulnerabilities.

These are just a few of the examples of hundreds of provisions included in this bill that invest in our troops and combat attempts by our adversaries to undermine and threaten the United States.

Once again, I would like to thank Chairman THORNBERRY for his leadership. This is the earliest that we have voted on the NDAA conference report in decades, and I strongly believe it is because of Chairman THORNBERRY's dedication to our military.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of this bipartisan bill, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS). I note she is retiring from

Congress this year, and I really appreciate her tremendous service on the Armed Services Committee and to this body.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member SMITH for his always knowledgeable and articulate leadership. I have appreciated it very much as I have served on this committee.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my privilege to serve as the ranking member of the Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee, alongside my colleague and friend, Chairman MIKE TURNER of Ohio. I, once again, thank Mr. TURNER for the spirit of bipartisanship and collegiality he has shown over the years on this subcommittee and on the many other issues on which we have worked closely, including addressing the scourge of sexual assault in the military.

Among many important provisions, this year's bill includes measures aimed at providing increased oversight over key naval aircraft and makes crucial investments in research and development aimed at better protecting the men and women we send into harm's way.

This is the last NDAA that I will have the privilege of helping craft. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve on the House Armed Services Committee for the last 11 years, a committee that has such a proud tradition of bipartisan cooperation and, as such, is a model for the country during these challenging times.

I commend the committee, under the leadership of Chairman THORNBERRY and Ranking Member SMITH, and the many members of the professional staff for their work in managing such an important and complex piece of legislation in such a timely manner.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the conference report, so aptly named for the heroic Senator JOHN MCCAIN.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK), distinguished chair of the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities.

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan bill and the accompanying conference report for the FY19 National Defense Authorization Act.

As the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, I am proud of our oversight and legislative initiatives this year, which have included:

Strengthening our cyber warfare capabilities and policies.

Energizing our science and technology enterprise.

Enabling our special operations forces around the globe.

Providing resources and authorities to counterterrorism and unconventional warfare threats.

And advancing programs and activities that counter the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

The bill before the House incorporates three broad subcommittee themes:

First, this bill takes seriously the cyber threats from our adversaries towards this Nation, which is why the bill strengthens our whole-of-government cybersecurity posture by improving coordination and partnering between the DOD and DHS to prevent and respond to cyberattacks against our critical infrastructure.

It also affirms and clarifies cyberspace, cyber warfare, and cyber deterrence policy to combat malicious cyber activities from adversaries like China, Russia, and North Korea, who are targeting the United States. We also require the DOD to provide congressional notification of cybersecurity breaches and the loss of controlled information from cleared defense contractors.

Second, we build upon previous NDAs by advancing prototyping and testing of directed-energy weapons and hypersonic vehicles and by accelerating these technologies by authorizing an additional \$285 million.

Third, the bill places emphasis on policy and programs to advance AI, machine learning, quantum sciences, and other critical national security technologies. We also establish a National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence to conduct a thorough review of the wide-ranging military applications of this decisive technology.

Additionally, this bill authorizes the largest pay raise for our troops in 9 years. It helps improve employment opportunities for military spouses and increases transparency in the military healthcare system.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill and vote "yes."

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS).

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman THORNBERRY and Ranking Member SMITH and the professional and personal staff for all of their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, this year's NDAA is multifaceted, and it is complex. It contains many good things for our servicemembers, but it also contains areas of concern.

I support this year's NDAA's new reforms designed to restore the readiness, capability, and capacity of a force that has been asked to do too much with too little. The conference report contains a number of policy items focused on servicemembers' quality of life in a wide range of areas, including healthcare for disabled veterans, care for servicemembers' children, mental health services, sexual assault prevention, maternity leave, and retention of women in the military.

This bill also contains language acknowledging the critical role women play in the security of their country. It contains provisions ensuring that Afghan and Syrian women are not overlooked as a critical component in conflict resolution.

I would also like to reiterate an area of concern. Developing new low-yield nuclear weapons when we currently

have more nuclear weapons than we can ever possibly use is not just a waste of money; it also lowers the threshold required before a nuclear conflict begins. A nuclear weapon is a nuclear weapon, no matter what its size. Any nuclear use would fundamentally change the rules of the game.

We do not follow the dangerous and reckless Russian doctrine of escalate to deescalate. We shouldn't mirror their reckless strategy. What do we hope to gain strategically by proliferating low-yield weapons?

Mr. Speaker, this is a strong bipartisan bill which will help our Nation protect itself in a changing world. I recommend a "yes" vote.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR), a distinguished subcommittee chair from the Committee on Financial Services.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of major reforms included in the National Defense Authorization Act conference report regarding the Committee on Foreign Investments in the United States and export controls.

I thank the chairman of the Armed Services Committee for his excellent leadership in addressing the readiness crisis and giving our men and women in uniform the tools they need to defend our freedoms.

The House Financial Services Committee held four hearings on CFIUS reform, inviting a diverse set of witnesses that ranged from government officials who currently serve on CFIUS to members of the defense, intelligence, and business communities.

We also held numerous briefings and meetings with experts, equally diverse as those who testified before the committee, on the threat that China and other adversaries pose to the national security of the United States.

In the end, I am pleased to see we have a bipartisan, bicameral product that reflects the work and views of these experts.

Specifically, these critical reforms counteract the surge in malign foreign investment from China that threatens our national security by enhancing the review process of transactions where our enemies could steal technologies and infrastructure critical to the defense of our country.

The gaps that we have closed in security that China and other adversaries have circumvented from CFIUS review include noncontrolling investments, joint ventures, and acquisition of real estate near sensitive military sites.

At the same time, these reforms ensure that America's doors remain open to benign foreign direct investment that in 2016 added \$894 billion to the value of the U.S. economy and that support 6.8 million workers today in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman PITTENGER, Senator CORNYN, Congressman HECK, Chairman HENSARLING, Chairman THORNBERRY,

Chairman CRAPO, Ranking Member WATERS, and House and Senate leadership for their dedication to getting these much-needed reforms done in a bipartisan way. And I encourage my colleagues to support the underlying bill, the NDAA conference report.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY).

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for the conference report for the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019.

This bipartisan piece of legislation is crucial for our Nation's armed services, and it is an honor and privilege to be selected again to serve as a conferee.

□ 1115

We have over 15 major military installations in Texas, and NDAA funds key defense and scientific research industries throughout the State, and especially for the constituents that I serve in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. This bill ensures our military is supported with the research they need to complete their missions and face the national security challenges at home and abroad.

This is a crucial time for Democrats and Republicans to find ways to work together for solutions that will ensure the safety of the United States and our allies—now, really, more so today than ever before.

This bill will make great strides in achieving that mission. This bill provides the highest pay increase for our troops in a decade, funds innovation in emerging technologies that will increase aviation readiness, and requires the DOD establish a pilot program to maximize opioid safety in the military health system by monitoring controlled substances for servicemembers.

It is also a great point of pride in Texas that we supply some of the best military and defense readiness equipment for our armed services. Many of the Nation's F-35 Joint Strike Fighters are built in Fort Worth, and Lockheed Martin is one of the metroplex's largest employers. I will continue to fight tirelessly for additional funding for F-35s to ensure that our Armed Forces have the most advanced jet fighters in the world.

Democrats have also succeeded in taking out funding for the wall, which I think was very important in this bill. I was disappointed about taxpayer dollars being spent to fund a very extravagant military parade that I don't think that we need. I think it shows authoritarianism. However, this bill funding makes great progress in improving our military readiness and continues to demonstrate America's resilience and strength.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER), a leader on CFIUS reform.

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his exemplary leadership on behalf of our military

and in defense of our country. We are deeply grateful for him.

Mr. Speaker, I say today how pleased and grateful I am that our Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act is being included in the NDAA bill. To that end, I thank Chairman HENSARLING, Ranking Member WATERS, Heath Tarbert with the Treasury Department, Clark Fonda, my chief, so many people, ANDY BARR, who contributed to this process to make sure that we are in a position of strength.

For over 2 years, I have led these efforts to prevent Chinese and other adversarial nation-states from acquiring our sophisticated technology in our military. This bill, this Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act, was the result of countless meetings throughout our assembly, as well as throughout this district, of talking to multiple people in the industry, as well as our intelligence community and defense, to make sure that we had done the job to allow adequate oversight for these investments.

FIRRMA will broaden the jurisdiction of CFIUS in several key areas, including minority noncontrolling investments and certain real estate transactions close to national security sites. FIRRMA strengthens our export control laws and creates an inter-agency review to cover overseas joint ventures. Overall, this bill closes several key loopholes in the CFIUS process.

Today, I do believe that the passage of the NDAA and FIRRMA legislation will help improve national security and combat aggressive Chinese efforts to secure our technology.

I thank all who participated in this process, and I commend this bill to our Congress to pass.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MURPHY), who is a member of the Armed Services Committee and also served on the conference committee this term.

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as a former DOD employee, I know our men and women in uniform must have the authorities and resources to get the job done. They must be well equipped in order to deter and defeat adversaries. That is why I strongly urge my colleagues to pass the National Defense Authorization Act.

I thank Chairman THORNBERRY and Ranking Member SMITH for their leadership on this bipartisan bill. As a member of the Armed Services Committee and of the conference committee that reconciled the House and Senate versions of the bill, I am honored to have played a role in crafting this final product.

We must fight for our servicemembers as hard as they have fought for us. We must give them the tools they need to succeed not only on the battlefield, but also once they leave the service.

Our military produces remarkably talented and well-trained individuals, but too many of these warriors strug-

gle to transition to the civilian world. That is why I am so pleased that the core of my bill, the BATTLE for Servicemembers Act, was included in the NDAA. This provision improves DOD's Transition Assistance Program, which helps departing servicemembers prepare for life after the military.

Specifically, my provision ensures departing servicemembers take a specialized 2-day course to prepare them to attend college, learn a trade, or start a small business. These targeted courses are optional under current law, and, as a result, few servicemembers can take advantage of them. I am hopeful my provision will lead to increased participation in these courses so that more men and women in our military will be prepared to make a successful transition to civilian life.

I am also proud the NDAA includes the full text of my bill to modernize SBA's microloan program, which provides small-dollar loans to aspiring and existing entrepreneurs, including veteran entrepreneurs.

I urge my colleagues on both sides to support this bill.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I inform the Chair that at this point I have no additional speakers other than myself to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy in permitting me to speak on this bill.

I am pleased that this bill is being named after Senator MCCAIN. It has been my privilege to work with him in one particular area: dealing with the people who worked with us in Afghanistan and Iraq on special immigrant visas.

Along with the late Senator Kennedy, over the last 10 years, we worked to try and help these people who put their lives on the line to help our forces as guides, as interpreters, who are now being left to the tender mercies of people with long memories, like the Taliban and al-Qaida. Their lives are at risk, as are their family members'. We still have 17,000 applicants who want to have these visas to come to the United States to safety.

I am disappointed that we have been unable to have the funding for additional visa allocations. I appreciate that due to an accounting convention, this would be at the expense of other important things that are being fought for.

But I would hope that we are able to focus on what the costs would have been to us if we didn't have those people helping us in Afghanistan and Iraq. It would have been far more expensive. And like you, I have met with people whose lives were saved because they put themselves at risk, and we are leaving them behind.

My friend, Kirk Johnson, wrote a book: "To Be a Friend Is Fatal: The

Fight to Save the Iraqis America Left Behind.” And for these people, being a friend of the United States is fatal. Their lives are at risk every day.

I hope, as this process goes forward, we can either deal with the accounting convention or try and find some money to rescue these people.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oregon for his comments because this is an issue we wrestle with in conference committee every year. We should be getting visas to those people who helped us out.

For some reason, it is a mandatory score in terms of what it costs; and as I mentioned on the other issue, we struggle to find mandatory money. But rest assured, this is a priority that we will continue to fight for because I know how important this issue is, and I thank the gentleman for raising that.

On the bill itself, let me say I intend to support the defense bill. I haven't always supported the defense bill. It is part of a collaborative process. We worked together and tried to generate a good piece of legislation, and I think, on balance, we did that this year.

Number one, when you start with the top-line number, the budget agreement that we got earlier this year for FY18 and FY19 helped a great deal because it put in place clear top-line numbers for defense and for the rest of discretionary spending. And that has been the battle.

Let me just say clearly that ever since the Budget Control Act was passed in 2011—and I know they have reasons for why that was passed—the military and the rest of our discretionary budget has had to live under, I think it is, three or four government shutdowns, multiple threatened government shutdowns, continuing resolutions, and, in general, complete uncertainty on how much money they were going to have from one month to the next.

This is a horrible way to run the government. We need to come up with a fiscal policy that sets clearly what we are going to spend on discretionary spending and gets it done as close to October 1 as possible.

This has a devastating impact on our military's ability to be prepared to defend this Nation, to be prepared to fight the fights that we ask them to fight.

It is worth noting, it also has a devastating impact on all other aspects of the discretionary budget: on infrastructure, education, just to name a couple. So getting back to regular order on fiscal policy is enormously important.

I will also note—and I chose not to belabor the point this year, though I have talked about it in the past—that the Budget Control Act alone is not the

problem. We do need to get rid of the Budget Control Act because it is a terrible way to budget and govern, but even once we do that, we still have a \$22 trillion debt.

We just passed another massive tax cut, and when you project out where our budget is going to be, we are looking at trillion-dollar deficits for as far as the eye can see and the largest debt that we have ever had as a nation, even as a percentage of GDP.

The most important thing that we can do to give a guarantee of predictability to the men and women who serve in the military is to address the fiscal issues that we face as a nation. If we honestly address those issues, we are going to have a devil of a time paying for everything in the military that I know some on this floor would like.

So we need to get to a consistent fiscal policy if we are going to have the dependability that I know the chairman wants, that I know everybody in this committee wants going forward; and if we don't do that, that uncertainty is going to continue going forward.

Let me just say that to get the proper fiscal policy is going to require us to honestly assess the problems we face. And I will say just one more quick word about that before returning back to the bill.

Earlier this year, or earlier this session, we passed, as I mentioned, a significant tax cut. We passed a significant increase in spending. I think the tax cut was roughly \$2 trillion. The increase in spending was \$500 billion. And then the very next week, we put on the floor a constitutional amendment to balance the budget.

There were 134 Members of this body who voted for the tax cut, for the spending increase, and for the constitutional amendment to balance the budget. That doesn't make any sense. That doesn't add up. That is pure politics because, by and large, people want to see their taxes cut and they want to see their favorite programs increased and they would like to have a balanced budget. So we tried to do all three and wind up in a horribly inconsistent position.

I would urge all of us to continue to work to get to some fiscal policy that makes sense because the result of a fiscal policy that doesn't add up is budgetary uncertainty for the discretionary budget, the largest portion of which is the Department of Defense.

This bill does the very important job of setting defense policy for this country, and most important in all of that is it makes sure that the men and women who fight and serve in our military have the training and the equipment they need to carry out the missions that we give them.

Now, again, going forward, we have big challenges. We have never faced a more complex threat environment. We face Russia and China and Iran and North Korea and terrorist organizations spread out all over the globe. It is

incredibly complicated and difficult, and it is going to be very expensive, unless we make some smart choices. So we are going to have a tough time meeting the budgetary requirements that we have, no matter what.

But in this bill, I think we addressed all those issues, and I think we addressed them very well and in a bipartisan fashion. As I mentioned in my opening remarks, we do work with our allies to confront the challenges in Russia and China, which are critically important to us going forward.

We also, thanks to the chairman's leadership, continue our effort at acquisition reform, because one thing is for sure: Given the budget reality that I just described, no matter what, we are going to need to make sure that every dollar we spend at the Pentagon is well spent. Acquisition reform is one of the keys to getting us to that point, to more efficiently spending our money.

I want to close by thanking the chairman, thanking Senator MCCAIN, Senator INHOFE, who was also a big part of the process this year, and Senator REED, and all the members of the Armed Services Committee and their staff.

Once again, I want to reiterate, in this committee, we do legislation the way it is supposed to be done: bipartisan and under regular order. This place can work. The legislative process can work.

We had a very long markup in the Armed Services Committee in which we considered a lot of issues, debated them, had votes, then we went to the floor, then we went to conference committee, and we produced what I think is an excellent product for the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the conference report and again thank the chairman for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1130

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remainder of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express my appreciation to all of the Members who came to speak on the conference report today. Yet, I have the feeling we have only begun to scratch the surface of all of the issues that are addressed in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, this is a big bill. It is about 1,800 pages big. About 200 pages of that is the CFIUS reform, led by the Financial Services Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee, but there is a lot that is in this bill. The distinguished ranking member just talked a bit about reform.

This bill eliminates a number of requirements that Congress had put on the Department of Defense in previous years. It streamlines some decision-making. It begins to put in some sort of comprehensible order all of the laws related to acquisition. It requires that there be savings of overhead expenses of a number of DOD agencies that have

not been addressed before. I could go on and on.

There was a Secretary of Defense who wrote a book a few years ago, who complained about this bill, who said that it is too much that Congress is doing to tell us what to do.

Yet, I would remind all of us, Mr. Speaker, that the Constitution puts that exact responsibility on our shoulders. It says that it is Congress' job to raise and support, provide and maintain, and make the rules and regulations for military forces of the United States.

This is the bill by which we carry out that responsibility. It is our job to do it. And this bill is the product, as you have heard, of Members of both sides of the aisle throughout the process.

There have been, approximately, 1,005 amendments that have been proposed at some point in this process: subcommittee, full committee, floor consideration, and then on to conference. About an equal number of them were Republicans and Democrats.

We have come together, as we have for each of the past 57 years, to exercise our constitutional responsibilities on behalf of the men and women who risk their lives to protect us.

I would certainly join with the ranking member and other Members, who have said: Now, in order to get the full benefit of this, we need to have an appropriations bill that matches, on time, before the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, over the course of this debate today, you have heard a lot of thanks. It is appropriate because, obviously, it takes a lot of work, by a lot of people, to put together an 1,800-page bill and try to think through the consequences of what it means for us, what it means for our servicemembers, and what it means for our allies around the world.

It truly is a team effort, a bipartisan team effort. And I believe the reason that is so, the reason it has passed every year, and has been signed into law every year for the past 57 years, is because of the men and women, of whom we are so proud, who risk their lives to protect us and our freedom. They continue to be at the forefront of our thoughts. It is on their behalf, and for their benefit, that we bring this conference report, urge its adoption, and appreciate their service to the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the Conference Report on the National Defense Authorization Act for 2019. I support the NDAA legislation and will vote for its adoption on the House Floor today, but I have serious reservations about how the Speaker's protocol on outside conferees was implemented for the conference on this bill. As a response to this problem, I chose not to sign the conference report.

The Speaker's protocol is not new, but it has become increasingly problematic for the Foreign Affairs Committee, on which I serve as the Ranking Member. Every year, the

NDAA includes more than a hundred provisions that affect the jurisdiction of our committee. I take our responsibilities to review and negotiate these provisions extremely seriously. Unfortunately, under the Speaker's protocol, we are not appointed as outside conferees on provisions the Speaker or parliamentarians consider to be minor.

I understand the motivation behind this protocol. The conference process has to operate efficiently. However, many provisions that are deemed minor under the protocol are in fact far from minor. They extend major programs or mandate congressional oversight of critical issues. The Foreign Affairs Committee brings an important perspective that is distinct from the perspective of the Armed Services Committee, and we should have a formal role in all provisions under our jurisdiction.

If the committee of jurisdiction on foreign policy matters is not allowed to have conferees on important areas of the bill, then our only alternative is to claim sequential jurisdiction over the committee-reported NDAA and act on it prior to House consideration.

I want to thank Ranking Member SMITH, and his staff, for working closely with us during the conference this year. They included us fully in the process, and we are deeply grateful for this cooperation. But we need to ensure we are not just consulted, but also named as outside conferees on the entire range of provisions that fall into our jurisdiction. I strongly support the goals of the National Defense Authorization Act, and I look forward to working with the Speaker and the Office of the Parliamentarian next year to ensure that the Foreign Affairs Committee is a full participant.

Mr. DEFazio. Mr. Speaker, today, I will vote against the Conference Report for H.R. 5515, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019.

The legislation includes several provisions that I strongly support, including giving servicemen and women a well-deserved raise of 2.6 percent. Those who serve in uniform have made extraordinary sacrifices for our country and have earned and deserve a pay raise. It also includes \$6.3 billion, the largest amount ever, for the European Deterrence Initiative to help protect Eastern Europe from further Russian aggression.

Despite these important initiatives, I have strong concerns with a number of provisions included in the Conference Report. This legislation authorizes more than \$708 billion, including \$69 billion to the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) fund, an account which is not counted in the budget and is not paid for. It adds to the deficit and is used as a slush fund by the Pentagon.

Unlike every other federal agency, the Department of Defense (DOD) has yet to complete a financial audit; taxpayers deserve to know how the biggest bureaucracy in the federal government spends their money. In fact, a shocking report released in December 2016 exposed \$125 billion in waste that the Pentagon tried to hide from the public.

I refuse to support increased bureaucratic waste at the expense of American taxpayers and our men and women in uniform. A more accountable and transparent department would ensure taxpayer dollars are directed towards the needs of our troops and the benefits they deserve, rather than buying unnecessary weapon systems and giving the president a blank check to fund wars Congress hasn't authorized.

I have always advocated for maintaining Congress's constitutionally-confirmed prerogative to declare war under the War Powers Act and limiting the President's authority to engage in armed conflict without the consent of Congress. I strongly oppose the NDAA's continued authorization of spending for wars that are not congressionally approved. The Pentagon uses the 2001 Authorization of Use of Military Force (AUMF) to continue to justify the 17 years our troops have been fighting in the Middle East. President Trump has sent troops to Syria, Yemen, and elsewhere without seeking a new AUMF, a violation of the War Powers Act.

Additionally, the bill prohibits the closing of Guantanamo Bay, which costs more than \$100 million each year to house 41 prisoners and has been used as a top recruiting tool by terrorists. The prison at Guantanamo Bay has been a black eye for the United States, has eroded relationships with our allies, undermined U.S. missions abroad, and put U.S. citizens and our troops at risk of retaliation.

Congress can make responsible cuts to our defense budget without jeopardizing the safety of our troops or undermining our national security. Fiscal responsibility and accountability at the Pentagon would allow for funds to be better spent supporting the basic needs of our troops, meeting our obligations to veterans of past wars, and ensuring our true defense needs are prioritized.

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5515, the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019. I wish to thank Chairman THORNBERRY, Ranking Member SMITH, Chairman MCCAIN, Senator INHOFE, and Ranking Member REED for their leadership throughout the conferencing of this bill. The bill contains a number of significant policy and funding initiatives that continue our commitment to maintaining military personnel and family readiness.

To that end, this bill:

Increases end strength across the Services and reserve components allowing the military services to increase mission readiness while reducing strain on service members and their families;

Extends pay and bonuses for service members in high demand fields, providing the military services with necessary tools to attract and retain critical talent;

Improves the Transition Assistance Program to ensure that service members who are leaving the military receive training and resources tailored to their post-military career plans;

Requires a comprehensive review of wounded warrior care and mental health care services, ensuring the highest possible quality of care to those who have sacrificed for our nation;

The bill also continues to provide oversight of critical issues, including additional protections for victims of sexual harassment, improvements to the Department of Defense's process for reporting crimes to the FBI database, and the establishment of a Department of Defense prescription drug monitoring program to share information with state drug monitoring programs.

In conclusion, I want to thank my fellow conferees for their contributions to this truly bipartisan conference report, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the 2019 National Defense

Authorization Act due to its importance to our national security. However, I do have significant concern over a last minute change to the bill that stripped funding for an important recapitalization program for the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS).

When the House passed this legislation, in a very bi-partisan manner, it included \$623 million to continue the JSTARS Recapitalization program. This program was aimed to continue a vital combat capability for our ground forces as a battle management command and control asset. However, during the conference these funds were eliminated from the bill.

Although this legislation provides for significant improvement to our national security, including pay raises for servicemembers, modernization efforts for equipment, cybersecurity enhancements, and many benefits for our military families, amongst other notable improvements, the absence of this capability is worrisome.

The 116th Air Control Wing based at Robins Air Force Base, the “Eyes of the Night,” executes the JSTARS mission, and has been doing so continuously since 9/11. Our combatant commanders rely heavily on JSTARS, and for nearly 20 years, this capability has been consistently utilized in support of our ground forces.

Although I am pleased with the recent announcement that the Air Force will be making Robins Air Force Base the home for the Advanced Battle-Management System (ABMS), this capability is years off. Stripping funding for recapitalization will put current combat control capabilities at risk, potentially for over a decade. JSTARS is of significant importance to our ground forces and this decision will have significant repercussions.

To reiterate, this bill does ensure we are completing our Constitutional responsibility to “Raise an Army.” However, I will continue to act with my oversight capabilities to ensure JSTARS remains available to our combat soldiers until the Air Force employs a solution that can be employed for our servicemembers whom desperately need this capability.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the conference report to H.R. 5515, which is the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act.

This bill authorizes more than \$708 billion in defense spending. Yet we know that there is at least \$150 billion in waste, fraud, and abuse currently over at the Pentagon. Now we are giving them more money. Shame on us.

This is an already out-of-control, bloated Pentagon budget.

Mr. Speaker, it would also increase funding to \$69 billion for wars that Congress has never debated or voted on. Once again, my Republican colleagues have used off-the-books spending gimmicks to further expand the bloated Pentagon budget.

Enough is enough, Mr. Speaker. Instead of writing blank checks to the Pentagon, Congress needs to live up to its constitutional obligation to debate matters of war and peace. I offered an amendment to sunset the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force after 8 months of enactment during the regular debate of this bill. Congress would have 8 months to debate and vote on a new AUMF before the repeal. Eight months is plenty of time.

Mr. Speaker, we passed the 2001 AUMF within 3 days, mind you.

Unfortunately, Republicans refused to allow my bipartisan amendment on the Floor.

When in the world will this body have the backbone to debate the costs and consequences of these wars? Our brave troops deserve better.

We need to do our job.

I am pleased, though, that some of my amendments—which are very important amendments—were included in the conference report. They include clarifying that nothing in this bill can be construed as authorizing force against North Korea—that is the use of military force.

Also, we included reporting requirements for auditing the Pentagon. We need the Pentagon audited so that taxpayers will really begin to know where their hard-earned tax dollars are going and what weapons systems they are contributing to in terms of the building of weapons systems which probably will never be used, a report and update on the United States-Kabul compact, and also overseas contingency operations reporting requirements.

Can you believe we are spending all this money on a slush fund through OCO, and we don't know what is going on with that account?

The underlying bill is still a disgrace.

In conclusion, I just want to reiterate that authorizing wars with no end, no debate, and no vote is unconstitutional, and it is wrong.

I call on Speaker RYAN to bring forth an authorization because every step of the way, we are trying in a bipartisan fashion to do this, and it is the Speaker's call. He should do that so that we can debate and vote up or down on these wars.

So, this final bill should not be passed just based on the amount of money that we are giving to the Pentagon to do more than ensure our national security and fight terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a no vote and reject this shameful bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1027, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the conference report.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 359, nays 54, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 379]

YEAS—359

Abraham	Bishop (GA)	Calvert	Johnson (LA)	Poe (TX)
Adams	Bishop (MI)	Carbajal	Johnson (OH)	Poliquin
Aderholt	Bishop (UT)	Cárdenas	Johnson, E. B.	Posey
Aguilar	Blunt Rochester	Carson (IN)	Johnson, Sam	Price (NC)
Allen	Boyle, Brendan	Carter (GA)	Jordan	Quigley
Amodei	F.	Carter (TX)	Joyce (OH)	Ratcliffe
Arrington	Brady (PA)	Cartwright	Kaptur	Reed
Babin	Brady (TX)	Castor (FL)	Katko	Reichert
Bacon	Brat	Castro (TX)	Keating	Renacci
Banks (IN)	Brooks (AL)	Chabot	Kelly (IL)	Rice (NY)
Barletta	Brooks (IN)	Cheney	Kelly (MS)	Rice (SC)
Barr	Brown (MD)	Cicilline	Kelly (PA)	Richmond
Barragán	Brownley (CA)	Clay	Kihuen	Roby
Barton	Buchanan	Cleaver	Kilmer	Roe (TN)
Beatty	Bucshon	Cloud	Kind	Rogers (AL)
Bera	Budd	Clyburn	King (IA)	Rogers (KY)
Bergman	Burgess	Coffman	King (NY)	Rohrabacher
Beyer	Bustos	Cole	Kinzing	Rooney, Francis
Biggs	Butterfield	Collins (GA)	Knight	Rooney, Thomas
Billirakis	Byrne	Collins (NY)	Krishnamoorthi	J.
			Kuster (NH)	Ros-Lehtinen
			Kustoff (TN)	Rosen
			LaHood	Roskam
			LaMalfa	Ross
			Lamb	Rothfus
			Lamborn	Rouzer
			Lance	Roybal-Allard
			Langevin	Royce (CA)
			Larsen (WA)	Ruiz
			Larson (CT)	Ruppersberger
			Latta	Russell
			Lawrence	Rutherford
			Lawson (FL)	Ryan (OH)
			Lesko	Sánchez
			Levin	Sanford
			Lewis (MN)	Sarbanes
			Lieu, Ted	Scalise
			Lipinski	Schiff
			LoBiondo	Schneider
			Loeb sack	Schrader
			Long	Schweikert
			Loudermilk	Scott (VA)
			Love	Scott, Austin
			Lowey	Scott, David
			Lucas	Sensenbrenner
			Luetkemeyer	Sessions
			Lujan Grisham,	Sewell (AL)
			M.	Shea-Porter
			Luján, Ben Ray	Sherman
			Lynch	Shimkus
			MacArthur	Shuster
			Maloney, Sean	Simpson
			Marchant	Sinema
			Marshall	Sires
			Mast	Smith (MO)
			McCarthy	Smith (NE)
			McCaul	Smith (NJ)
			McClintock	Smith (TX)
			McEachin	Smith (WA)
			McHenry	Smucker
			McKinley	Soto
			McMorris	Stefanik
			Rodgers	Stewart
			McNerney	Stivers
			McSally	Suozzi
			Meadows	Taylor
			Meeks	Tenney
			Meng	Thompson (MS)
			Messer	Thompson (PA)
			Mitchell	Thornberry
			Moolenaar	Tipton
			Mooney (WV)	Titus
			Moore	Tonko
			Moulton	Torres
			Mullin	Trott
			Murphy (FL)	Tsongas
			Neal	Turner
			Newhouse	Upton
			Noem	Valadao
			Norcross	Vargas
			Norman	Veasey
			Nunes	Vela
			O'Halleran	Visclosky
			O'Rourke	Wagner
			Higgins (NY)	Walberg
			Hill	Walden
			Himes	Walker
			Holding	Walorski
			Hollingsworth	Walters, Mimi
			Hoyer	Wasserman
			Hudson	Schultz
			Huizenga	Waters, Maxine
			Hultgren	Weber (TX)
			Hunter	Webster (FL)
			Hurd	Wenstrup
			Issa	Westerman
			Jackson Lee	Williams
			Jenkins (KS)	Wilson (FL)
			Jenkins (WV)	Wilson (SC)

Wittman
Womack
Woodall

Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)

Young (IA)
Zeldin

FAIR TRADE

(Mr. MITCHELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that, for too long, many countries have taken advantage of our country's patience and open trade practices. Our country must achieve fair trade.

I understand and support going after bad actors like China, who engage in notoriously unfair trade practices and steal intellectual property. It appears progress is being made with the European Union with yesterday's announcement. While achieving this, we need to protect our domestic industries and producers.

I have heard concerns from farmers and manufacturers back home in Michigan who are being threatened by retaliatory tariffs from our trading partners. Growth for American agriculture lies in export markets. Domestic manufacturers often have complex supply chains, and sometimes imported materials are their only option.

My constituents support holding unfair trading partners accountable. They just ask for support and protection while we achieve fair trade for all Americans.

giving. In front of his mother's house in Waterford there is a sign that reads: "Fly free with the angels."

Mr. Speaker, I know that I join with all of Connecticut and the whole House in offering our thoughts and prayers to Staff Sergeant Grotjan's wife, Taylor; his mother, Laura; his father, Randy; his seven brothers and sisters; family; and friends, and pray that he will "fly free with the angels."

RECOGNIZING THE 7/20 MEMORIAL FOR THE AURORA THEATRE SHOOTING

(Mr. COFFMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the installation of the 7/20 Memorial in the city of Aurora. This memorial is dedicated to those who lost their lives, the wounded, and the countless families impacted by the theater shooting tragedy.

On July 20th, 2012, 13 members of our community were killed and 70 more were injured when a lone gunman senselessly opened fire in a crowded movie theater. This crime devastated our community, the families who lost loved ones, as well as those who suffered lifelong injuries.

On July 27, 2018, the city of Aurora is dedicating a memorial designed by the world renowned artist, Douwe Blumberg. Mr. Blumberg's piece is titled: Ascentiate. The sculpture displays 83 cranes outstretched in flight to represent the victims of the shooting. Thirteen clear cranes in the middle of the garden represent those who lost their lives.

This memorial is designed to provide comfort for those in need. Let us all remember this tragedy by recognizing the 7/20 Memorial and the memorial foundation for commemorating the victims and their families.

CELEBRATING THE 28th ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 28th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. In 1990, the bipartisan effort to identify disability rights as civil rights became the foundation for reducing discrimination for the disability community.

The enactment the ADA was a groundbreaking acknowledgment that people with disabilities deserve the dignity of full participation and integration into daily life. It eliminated countless physical and societal barriers, and it increased access to education, employment, housing, and transportation. Yet, as we remember this historic day and look back on all that we have accomplished, let us recognize that there is so much more to be done.

NAYS—54

Amash
Bass
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Buck
Capuano
Chu, Judy
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cohen
DeFazio
DeGette
DeSaulnier
Duncan (TN)
Eshoo
Espallat
Gabbard
Gomez
Griffith

Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Huffman
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Lee
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Maloney
Carolyn B.
Massie
Matsui
McCollum
McGovern

Nadler
Napolitano
Nolan
Pallone
Pocan
Polis
Raskin
Rush
Schakowsky
Serrano
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Velázquez
Watson Coleman
Welch
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—15

Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Davis, Danny

Davis, Rodney
Ellison
Gohmert
Hanabusa
Jones

Labrador
Marino
Rokita
Speier
Walz

□ 1210

Ms. FUDGE changed her vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4645. An act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of East Rosebud Creek in Carbon County, Montana, as components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIANFORTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 134

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 134, the Home Foreclosure Reduction Act, a bill originally introduced by Representative Conyers of Michigan, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

□ 1215

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF AIR FORCE STAFF SERGEANT JAMES GROTTJAN

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of one of our Nation's brave servicemembers, Air Force Staff Sergeant James Grotjan, who lost his life in an accident while in the line of duty in the United Arab Emirates earlier this month. His untimely passing while supporting our Nation's mission to defeat ISIS in Iraq and Syria is a reminder of the risks our brave servicemen and -women place themselves in each and every day to protect our country.

Staff Sergeant Grotjan, who went by Tyler, followed his father's footsteps into military service. After graduating from Bacon Academy in Colchester, Connecticut, Tyler joined the Air Force and eventually joined the 4th Civil Engineer Squadron at Johnson Air Force Base in North Carolina.

His father recently said that Tyler's military service made him "the proudest father on the planet." It takes a special kind of person to join the military. These are the kind people who write a blank check for their life to protect the country, and he was that guy. He absolutely loved the military.

This Saturday his family and friends in southeastern Connecticut will pause for a few hours to lay Staff Sergeant Grotjan to rest and reflect on his life of