

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1790,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). I would like to start by thanking Chairman SMITH, Ranking Member THORNBERRY, and the House Armed Services Committee staff who have worked tirelessly throughout this past year to get us to this point. It's a good bill and I encourage my colleagues to support the conference report.

As the Chairman of the Readiness Subcommittee, I worked closely with members on and off the committee to ensure the bill addressed three priority areas affecting our military.

First, the bill includes a number of bipartisan provisions aimed at addressing problems associated with the management and oversight of military family housing. The bill does the following:

Requires the military services to establish a tenants' bill of rights for residents of privatized military family housing;

Requires the Department to establish a standardized assessment tool to be used in evaluating military housing for certain risks, including lead and mold;

Prohibits the use of non-disclosure agreements as a condition of moving out of military housing;

Authorizes additional funding to ensure installation housing offices are properly staffed; and

Provides for a temporary direct hiring authority for government housing personnel to increase oversight of private contractors.

Second, the bill authorizes additional funding and includes bipartisan provisions to mitigate contaminated drinking water for households and agriculture resulting from fluorinated compounds around military installations:

Bans DOD use of fire fighting agents containing PFAS by 2024;

Requires DOD to ensure that when disposing of AFFF and supplies used to remediate PFAS contamination, it does so in a manner that is safe and does not create further pollution;

Bans the use of PFAS chemicals in the packaging of the meals (MREs) our service members eat when deployed in combat areas and for training;

Closes a loophole in the DOD Environmental clean-up accounts that was keeping the National Guard from being able to access these funds to address PFOS and PFOA contamination;

Authorizes DOD to provide alternative water to farmers effected by PFAS contaminated agricultural water;

Bans the use fire fighting agents containing PFAS for training;

Bans the uncontrolled release of fire fighting agents containing PFAS for any purpose other than putting out fires;

Addresses DOD's refusal to acknowledge State-promulgated drinking water standards by requiring their use when they are more stringent than federal standards; and

Requires the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey to establish a performance standard for detecting PFAS and then conduct nationwide sampling to determine the extent of PFAS contamination and then report to Congress the results.

Third, the bill contains a number of provisions to increase military installation resiliency efforts to ensure better planning to assess vulnerabilities and facility codes to mitigate the risk future natural and man-made disasters:

Requires DoD develop installation master plans that assess current climate vulnerabilities and plan for mitigating the risks to installations from extreme weather events, mean sea level fluctuation, wildfires, flooding, and other changes in environmental conditions using projections from recognized governmental and scientific entities.

Limits DoD's ability to spend planning and design funds until it initiates the process of amending the building standards for military construction (Unified Facility Criteria) to ensure that building practices and standards promote energy, climate, and cyber resilience at military installations.

Requires all proposals for military construction projects to consider potential long-term changes in environmental conditions, and increasingly frequent extreme weather events, as well as, industry best-practices to withstand extreme weather events.

Requires DoD to report on the feasibility of transitioning installation planning from 100-year floodplain data to a forward-looking predictive model that takes into account the impacts of sea-level rise.

Establishes a pilot authority for the Department of Defense to carry out military construction projects, with prior congressional notification, that enhance military installation resiliency, mission assurance, support mission critical functions, and address known vulnerabilities.

Authorizes an additional \$133 million for military construction projects under the Department's Energy Resiliency and Conservation Investment Program.

Directs the Secretary of Defense to conduct a black start exercise at three major military installations to ensure installation resiliency in the case of a total power outage.

I'm proud of the funding authorized by, and legislative provisions included within the Readiness Subcommittee's jurisdiction. The bill authorizes \$261.6 billion in operation & maintenance funding to support training, maintenance, and military operations; \$11.8 billion for MILCON, family housing, and BRAC; and \$4.1 billion in emergency authorization for MILCON for recovery of military installations damaged by natural disasters. The conference report also provides twelve weeks of paid parental leave for all federal employees.

I'm also pleased this NDAA includes a 3.1 percent pay raise for our troops and includes key provisions of my bill, H.R. 2617, the Occupational and Environmental Transparency Health Act, which will require DoD to input any Occupational Environmental Health hazards exposure into servicemembers' records while deployed, so it is tracked throughout their career and into veteran status.

Additionally, this year's NDAA funds important priorities at Travis and Beale Air Force Bases in my district. The military construction projects authorized in this bill will support the new KC-46 mission at Travis Air Force Base

and will improve resilience and power supply at Beale Air Force Base, enabling it to continue to support intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) and multi-domain operations.

While there are many positive outcomes, I am disappointed that the prohibition of funding for the deployment of new, low-yield nuclear warheads for submarines did not survive the conference process, and am also disappointed in the omission of critical provisions that were in the House-passed bill to reform border deployment and ensure funding for our military is spent wisely and as Congress intended, and not on an unnecessary border wall, such as the following:

Preventing the President from diverting Defense funding to pay for an unnecessary border wall;

Prohibiting funding for the construction of a wall, barrier, or fence along the southern land border;

Amending the emergency construction authority (10 USC 2808) to limit the total cost of military construction projects undertaken during a national emergency to \$500 million, with a further limit of \$100 million for construction projects within the United States; and

Prohibiting reprogramming of funds into the counter drug account, which has been used by the Administration to do construction along the southern land border.

Overall, I am proud of the Readiness Subcommittee's contribution to this year's bill and would like to thank the Readiness staff, Brian Garrett, Jeanine Womble, Melanie Harris, Brian Greer, John Muller, Dave Sienicki, Megan Handle, and Sean Falvey, and my personal staff, Betsy Thompson and Dan Naske, for their tireless work. Dan will be departing the Hill after next week, and I would like to personally thank him for his hard work and sharing his expertise with us this past year. He has been an invaluable member of my staff and we will miss him dearly.

This bill helps advance our military's near-term readiness goals and drives the Department to plan for and take action against long-term threats, and with that, I urge my colleagues to support the FY20 NDAA.

HONORING MICHAEL DAVID SPADARO'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE NEW YORK STATE POLICE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Ms. STEFANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael David Spadaro's 25 years of dedicated service to the New York State Police.

Michael David Spadaro joined the State Police in 1994 and since then has served the State of New York with honor and distinction. Throughout our community, professionals in law enforcement, like Trooper Spadaro, dedicate their careers and risk their lives each day to keep us safe. Whether it be patrolling the highways connecting our towns, supporting local law enforcement, preventing terrorism, or responding to natural disasters, the New York State Police get it done. That is in no small part due to the dedication of Troopers like Michael David Spadaro. On behalf of New York's

21st Congressional District, I would like to thank him for his dedicated and unwavering commitment to public service. As Trooper Spadaro closes this chapter of his life, I have the utmost confidence that he will continue to admirably serve the community and I wish him the very best in all future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS E.
TAYLOR, P.E.

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas E. Taylor as he retires after 30 years as Executive Director for the Upper Trinity Regional Water District (UTRWD). Over the course of his career, he planned, directed, advanced and ultimately delivered UTRWD as a critical regional water supply system for the majority of the UTRWD member cities and other customers across Denton County.

Mr. Taylor graduated with honors from the University of Arkansas with a degree in civil engineering. After graduation, he joined the City of Dallas as an entry-level engineer and rose through the ranks to become the youngest department head at the city, serving as head of three different departments. As Director of Dallas Water Utilities from 1980 to 1986, he managed retail services for Dallas, plus wholesale water and wastewater services for 25 other cities. He was also responsible for adding two new water supply reservoirs to the system.

Subsequently, Mr. Taylor helmed the Steering Committee to create a Master Plan for the future regional water supply needs of communities in the Denton County area. The plan included securing legislative approval for a new county-wide wholesale utility special district. Supported by many entities, the Upper Trinity Regional Water District was approved by the Texas Legislature June 16, 1989.

Over the past 30 years as Executive Director, Taylor has effectively led the development and growth of UTRWD in meeting the needs of more than 25 participating communities. He recruited and developed a top-notch staff to accomplish UTRWD's mission to acquire raw water supplies, implement strategies for treatment, delivery, reclamation and reuse of water resources. Under his leadership, the organization navigated the necessary permitting challenges to initiate permitting and construction of Lake Ralph Hall reservoir that will provide one of the first new water supply lakes necessary to continue support for the fast-growing communities composing the North Texas region.

Taylor has been honored as one of the "Top Ten Public Works Leaders in North America" by the American Works Association. Also, for his concerted efforts and expertise to improve the profession of utilities, he was recognized by the American Water Works Association with the William T. "Doc" Ballard Award.

Much of the economic growth and quality of life enjoyed by the communities in Denton County and North Texas would have been impossible without Tom Taylor's ambition, vision and work ethic. It is my honor to recognize Mr. Thomas E. Taylor's commitment as a public

servant and the legacy he leaves in the form of UTRWD's important role in Texas' incredible economic growth and prosperity.

HONORING BARNEGAT VFW POST
10092

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. KIM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Barnegat, New Jersey Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 10092, which recently received a National Outstanding Community Service Award for their efforts supporting the veterans' community in Ocean County.

Over the last several years, the Barnegat VFW Post 10092 has dedicated itself to being an active leader in supporting the veterans, families and students of Barnegat, and Ocean County community as a whole. Post 10092 offers two scholarships for Barnegat High School students, and coordinates two essay contests, the Patriots Pen and the Voice of Democracy, directed towards high school students from the area. In 2017, the Post began to offer a police, fire and EMS recognition awards program for Barnegat, a Junior ROTC recognition awards program for the local high school, as well as a Christmas in Camouflage program with the elementary schools. These programs have succeeded in honoring those who serve and have engaged the community with the important work the VFW does every day.

Recently, the Barnegat VFW Post found that their neighbors lacked a VFW chapter and so could not engage in the same VFW programs that Barnegat residents had. Just this past year, Post 10092 expanded their programs to include Stafford Township schools and Southern Regional High School. Through this expansion, the Barnegat Post has lived up to the VFW's legacy of service to communities across our nation.

I'd like to thank the Barnegat VFW Post 10092 for their years of service to the veterans and their families, and to our schools in Ocean County. I am proud to fight in Congress for the needs of our veterans and servicemembers, and am proud to work alongside distinguished colleagues like the men and women of the VFW Post in Barnegat.

HONORING SPECIAL AGENT TONY
ANGELI ON HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT
ADMINISTRATION

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Special Agent Anthony "Tony" E. Angeli on his retirement from the Drug Enforcement Administration.

This past year, Tony served on my Judiciary Committee staff as a detailee from the DEA. In total, Tony has served as a detailee for nine years in this body and in the U.S. Senate.

Both my staff and I have found Tony to be a diligent and knowledgeable asset to the

Committee. In his capacity as a detailee, Tony has played an integral role in shaping public policy concerning illegal narcotics. This includes his important role in combatting the opioid crisis currently gripping our nation.

A former prosecutor, Tony previously prosecuted child abuse cases and juvenile crimes, and argued multiple appellate cases. He shifted from his career as a prosecutor by entering the DEA, eventually serving in multiple capacities in the Miami Field Division and at DEA Headquarters. In Miami, he investigated complex international drug conspiracy cases and followed up his experience as a line agent by entering management as a supervisory special agent overseeing large-scale drug investigations. Tony then moved into intelligence work, where he worked with U.S. and foreign intelligence agencies to further DEA's mission. He also became an experienced trainer by teaching law enforcement courses to the U.S. State Department at the International Law Enforcement Academies.

Tony's experience on Capitol Hill is something that sets him apart from nearly all federal law enforcement agents. He contributed to the development of our nation's drug policy by serving on both the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, a rare professional combination for anyone. His law enforcement expertise made him a go-to expert for other staff and members of Congress. The country has been well-served by having a public servant like Tony offering his knowledge and skills for an such extended and valuable time in Congress.

I thank Tony for his service to our country, and I wish him all the best as he transitions into a new, well-deserved, and exciting phase of his life.

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF
DARIEN, ILLINOIS' 50TH BIRTHDAY

HON. SEAN CASTEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th birthday of the city of Darien, Illinois.

On December 13th, 1969 the communities of Marion Hills, Brookhaven, Farmingdale and Hinsbrook united to incorporate as the city Darien. Today, Darien is known as "A Nice Place to Live," which perfectly describes this city.

The area was initially inhabited by the Potowatami and Ottawa Native Americans with the surrounding waterways serving as their trade routes. The farming communities of Cass and Lace were established along a stagecoach line in the early 1800s. An inn, tavern and post office served 15 stagecoaches that transited the area. Today, Darien continues to serve as a transportation center with easy access to the commuter train line, as well as Interstates 55, 355 and 294.

The six square mile town is home to approximately 6500 families. Darien is a vibrant, growing community dedicated to its citizens. The Indian Prairie Public Library has grown from a volunteer-operated bookmobile to a state-of-the-art facility that is a center for learning and community activities. The Park District Sportsplex includes three National Hockey League sized ice rinks as well as an