

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2019

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3351) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes:

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3351, the fiscal year 2020 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act.

Let me begin by thanking Chairman QUIGLEY and Chairwoman LOWEY for their leadership on this important bill. I would also like to recognize their staff for reaching out and listening our concerns and priorities in this bill.

The Federal Government shutdown, changes to the tax code, and difficulty accessing experts increases IRS casework in many District Offices, including my own. As the chair of the Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee, I believe it is critically important that Congress restore desperately needed funding for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

For many years, the National Taxpayer Advocate underscored the necessity of providing the agency with the resources, staff, and tools it needs in order to improve taxpayer services. Although Congress needs to restore the agency's funding to at least \$12.3 billion, I believe that this bill finally moves the agency in the right direction.

I would also like to reiterate my appreciation for the Appropriations Committee's support when the House considered the Taxpayer First Act. As you know the Taxpayer First Act, which the House and Senate adopted earlier this year, is the most important improvement to taxpayer services in a generation. We worked hard to correct misinformation that our bill would tie the hands of the IRS and hurt taxpayers' options. During a time when there is so much tension and rush to judgment, our coalition remained thoughtful and fair.

As you know, Mr. Chair, the Taxpayer First Act resulted from years of bipartisan hearings, roundtables, and a public comment period on the draft bill. This legislation authorizes \$30 million dollars in matching grants for the popular Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, which helps low and moderate-income taxpayers complete and file their taxes. The Taxpayer First Act also protects certain low-income taxpayers from the private debt collection program, and authorizes desperately needed new initiatives to protect and serve taxpayers, who are victims of identity theft. I hope that this bipartisan, bicameral bill will become public law in the near future.

In closing, I would also like to recognize the Chairman's hard work to remove problematic policy riders from the FY20 House bill. I know that it was not easy, and I thank him and his staff for taking the time to consider our concerns. I offer my strong support and commitment to continue working with the Chairman and the Subcommittee so that this critical agency receives the funding and guidance so that the IRS may provide the highest quality, timely and secure taxpayer experience.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH WORLD TAMIL CONFERENCE

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 28, 2019

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the International Association of Tamil Research, the Federation of Tamil Sangams of North America, and the Chicago Tamil Sangam on the occasion of the 10th World Tamil Conference, commencing on July 4, 2019 in Schaumburg, Illinois.

Since the first World Tamil Conference in 1966, various cities around the world have hosted this important gathering of scholars and the Tamil community. The oldest sangam in the United States, Chicago Tamil Sangam is honored to observe its Golden Jubilee 50th Anniversary in concert with the four-day World Tamil Conference, its important scholarly presentations on Tamil language and history, and its celebration of the rich heritage of Tamil culture and art.

This year's research conference theme is "New Historicist, Scientific and Comparative Study of the Antiquity of the Tamils, Tamil Language, Literature, Culture and Civilization." In addition to this scholarly focus, the World Tamil Conference will feature a host of cultural programs, the International Conference Seminar on Tamil Studies, a Global Tamil Entrepreneurs meeting, and a festive parade and banquet. Above all, the conference is a celebration of the vibrant Tamil community and preserves and shares the rich history and culture of Tamil people worldwide.

The 2019 World Tamil Conference also will recognize the passing of the late Dr. V.C. Kulandaivasamy, former Vice Chancellor of Anna University and Vice Chairman of the International Association of Tamil Research. In addition to his outstanding contributions to the science of hydrology, Dr. Kulandaivasamy was instrumental in bringing the International Association of Tamil Research conference to the United States, and was honored for his contributions to science, engineering and education by the nation of India with the prestigious national Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awards.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the World Tamil Conference and the Chicago Tamil Sangam, International Association of Tamil Research, and Federation of Tamil

Sangams of North America for their tireless efforts to bring together proud Tamils from around the world, for their commitment to preserving one of the world's oldest languages and civilizations, and for their many years of service to the Tamil diaspora in the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 28, 2019

Mr. KINZINGER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present to cast votes on the afternoon of June 27. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 426; YEA on Roll Call No. 427; NAY on Roll Call No. 428; YEA on Roll Call No. 429; and YEA on Roll Call No. 430.

CONGRATULATING THE VANDERBILT BASEBALL TEAM

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 28, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate and celebrate the accomplishments of the Vanderbilt Baseball Team and their College World Series Championship victory. Vanderbilt University won the College World Series on Wednesday, June 26, 2019 for the second time in school history. I also want to commend head coach Tim Corbin for leading the team to a record-setting 59 victories this season. They showed tremendous perseverance through the season, but most especially when they came back once again in Game 3 to beat Michigan 8–2 and clinch the Championship. The team's season was also saved by a remarkable pitching effort, led by Kumar Rocker, who pitched a no-hitter against Duke during the Super Regional. The Commodores represented Vanderbilt University and the state of Tennessee with distinction and did so while remembering their fallen teammate, Donny Everett. As the Vanderbilt fight song states: "if vict'ry's won, when battle's done, Then Vandy's name will rise in fame; Dynamite; Dynamite." I'd like to once again congratulate the 2019 Vanderbilt Baseball team for their College World Series Championship and dynamite season.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 28, 2019

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, June 27, 2019, I was unable to be

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

on the House floor and missed roll call votes No. 426 “Adoption of H. Res. 466—The rule providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 3401—Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Humanitarian Assistance and Security at the Southern Border Act, 2019,” No. 427 “Republican Motion to Recommit on H.R. 2722,” No. 428 “Passage of H.R. 2722—Securing America’s Federal Elections Act,” No. 429 “Concurring in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3401—Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Humanitarian Assistance and Security at the Southern Border Act, 2019,” No. 430 “Approval of the Journal.” Had I been present, I would have voted “YES, YES, NO, YES, YES,” respectively.

RECOGNIZING RONA FALLS’ CONTRIBUTIONS TO MUNDY MILL LEARNING ACADEMY

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 28, 2019

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Rona Falls for her contributions to Mundy Mill Learning Academy.

Earlier this month, Falls was one of six parents statewide who were honored by the Georgia Department of Education and the Georgia Parent Teacher Association for their outstanding leadership in creating a foundation of support for student achievement and success. Falls was nominated by Mundy Mill’s principal, Crystal Brown, for her steadfast commitment to Mundy Mill Learning Academy.

Her time spent volunteering and working at her daughter’s school is particularly commendable considering she moved to Gainesville from the Philippines only two years ago. After Rona, her daughter Lizzy, and her husband Eric, a Gainesville native, moved to Gainesville, she began volunteering at Mundy Mill in hopes of getting involved in the community. Two years later, Falls has served on Mundy Mill’s School Governance Council, on the Gainesville City School System’s Technology Committee, as a Girl Scout troop leader, and as vice president of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA). This coming year, Falls will serve as PTA president.

Parents should make every effort they can to be involved in their child’s education. Falls has gone above and beyond by not only being active in her daughter’s educational experience, but by working to enhance the learning experience of every child at Mundy Mill Learning Academy.

On behalf of the people of Gainesville and the educators and parents at Mundy Mill Learning Academy, I would like to thank Mrs. Falls for her commitment to our students and congratulate her on being honored with the Georgia Parent Leadership Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL L. “BUDDY” CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 28, 2019

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during yesterday’s

final vote series. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on Roll Call No. 429, and “nay” on Roll Call No. 430.

HONORING SETH D. APPLETON

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 28, 2019

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Senator ROY BLUNT, Congressman SAM GRAVES, Congressman BILLY LONG, Congressman JASON SMITH, Congresswoman ANN WAGNER, Congresswoman VICKY HARTZLER, and Congressman WILLIAM LACY CLAY to congratulate Seth Daniel Appleton on his confirmation to the position of Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

While working for two Members of our delegation, myself and Representative SAM GRAVES, Seth showed an exceptional ability of working across the aisle to achieve bipartisan policy solutions. As a legislative staffer he managed numerous policy areas including housing, banking, defense and agriculture. He excelled in his duties, eventually rising to the position of Chief of Staff in my office.

It was in this role that Seth truly showed his ability to excel in housing policy. Working for the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance and with fellow Missouri Congressman EMANUEL CLEAVER as the Ranking Member, they coauthored the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act, which unanimously passed the House and Senate and was signed into law in 2016. Seth was a key part of the passage of this bill, advising me every step of the way.

Madam Speaker, we are pleased that the U.S. Senate has confirmed Seth to be Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research. Housing issues are not only of vital importance to our home state of Missouri, but to the Nation as a whole, and we have no doubt that Seth will find great success in this distinguished role.

HONORING SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBAL CHIEF BEVERLY COOK, SUB-CHIEF KENNETH JOCK, CHIEF JUDGE CARRIE GARROW AND TRAFFIC COURT JUDGE LOIS TERRANCE ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR SWEARING IN CEREMONY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 28, 2019

Ms. STEFANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe to honor Tribal Chief Beverly Cook, Sub-Chief Kenneth Jock, Chief Judge Carrie Garrow, and Traffic Court Judge Lois Terrance on the occasion of their swearing in ceremony.

The Saint Regis Tribe originally settled in the area in the mid-1750s. The settlement, named Akwesasne, sits on the United States and Canadian border along the Saint Lawrence River.

I have been honored to work with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe during my time in Congress to advance causes of mutual interest. Whether it be honoring veterans of World War II or discussing investments in the Saint Regis community, the Tribe’s leadership have been important partners. On behalf of New York’s 21st Congressional District, I want to congratulate Chief Beverly Cook, Sub-Chief Kenneth Jock, Chief Judge Carrie Garrow, and Traffic Court Judge Lois Terrance on their successful elections. I look forward to our continued cooperation and their future achievements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. GREGORY STEUBE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 28, 2019

Mr. STEUBE. Madam Speaker, I missed the following votes due to a family obligation. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 426; YEA on Roll Call No. 427; NAY on Roll Call No. 428; YEA on Roll Call No. 429; and NAY on Roll Call No. 430.

RECOGNIZING MRS. MARGARET AYERS ON HER 75TH WORK ANNIVERSARY

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 28, 2019

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Margaret Ayers of Lavonia, Georgia, who recently celebrated her 75th work anniversary with Northeast Georgia Bank.

Since 1944, Margaret has fully devoted herself to serving the citizens of Lavonia through her work at Northeast Georgia Bank and her involvement in countless community organizations. She has long been recognized by the community for her work ethic, civic mindedness and her deep personal commitment to the welfare of the citizens of Lavonia.

Putting her organizational skills, leadership talents and keen sense of vision to work, Margaret has been actively involved in the Lavonia Chamber of Commerce, Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, Lavonia Lions Club, Lavonia Hospital Authority, Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, Department of Family and Children’s Services, A Greater Lavonia Community, Inc., Power of Hope, Lavonia Housing Authority, Friends of Lavonia Carnegie Library, Franklin County Habitat for Humanity, Order of the Eastern Star and Lavonia UDC.

In addition to serving as a dedicated member of the community, Margaret was a beloved wife to the late Mayor Herman Ayers. Together they served the City of Lavonia for over two decades.

On behalf of the people of the Ninth District of Georgia, I want to congratulate Margaret on this remarkable accomplishment and thank her for her steadfast commitment to our community.