

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2019

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2500) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Chair, I rise to support the amendment offered by Mr. MALINOWSKI. I'm horrified that the humanitarian crisis in Yemen—the worst such crisis in the world, according to the United Nations—has gone on this long.

The crisis has been exacerbated by the ongoing conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and Iranian-backed Houthi rebels. Since 2015, the Saudi-led coalition has undertaken 18,000 airstrikes, and far too many of these have killed innocent civilians. In fact, more Yemeni civilians are killed or wounded in their own homes than anywhere else.

That is why I am co-sponsoring this amendment, to prohibit the sale of all air-to-ground munitions to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates for one year. It is our obligation to make sure the United States is not enabling civilian deaths.

I thank the gentleman for his leadership in offering this amendment.

LIGHTS FOR LIBERTY VIGILS

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, as thousands take part in vigils across Oregon, the U.S., and the globe, I rise today in strong opposition to the Trump administration's inhumane detention policies. These policies and practices have led to families being ripped apart, children dying, and a shameful chapter written in our nation's history.

That's why I voted for the House-passed bill which had strong health and safety requirements for care of unaccompanied minor children, tightened restrictions on detention shelters, created accountability for contractors violating essential standards at detention shelters, and more. Instead, the Republican-controlled Senate stripped these essential reforms from the bill. Congress ultimately passed the weak and flawed Senate version.

I voted against this toothless legislation. If we don't address this crisis head-on with proper oversight standards and commitment to holding this administration accountable, nothing will change and people will continue to suffer. That is unacceptable.

Make no mistake, we can't solve the problems at our border if we don't address the reasons that so many individuals are fleeing their home countries. The Trump administration's plan to cut aid to countries like El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras will only make the situation worse, likely increasing violence and government dysfunction. Instead, we should be investing in a plan similar to the Marshall Plan after World War II to restore safety, stability, and promote economic opportunities in Central America.

We must act—now—to get serious about reforming our broken immigration system by passing bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform. This is the only course of action that will allow us to protect these vulnerable individuals while also producing real, long-term solutions to our immigration crisis.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2019

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2500) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the en bloc amendment, which includes my proposal to require the Administration to report to Congress on the status of United States military-to-military and diplomatic deconfliction channels with Iran.

This amendment is cosponsored by my colleagues JAN SCHAKOWSKY, GERRY CONNOLLY, JOHN YARMUTH, LLOYD DOGGETT, BARBARA LEE, PETER WELCH, and EARL BLUMENAUER. I thank them for their support, and I thank Chairman SMITH for his consideration.

Last month, President Trump came dangerously close to conducting a military strike on Iran in retaliation for the downing of an American surveillance drone.

During that week in June, officials from the U.S. and Iran traded public accusations before any investigation into the downing of the drone was complete.

Meanwhile, oil tankers have been attacked in the Strait of Hormuz, the Iranian regime is beginning to increasingly enrich uranium, and U.S. troops are being moved around the region.

These events demonstrate the extraordinary need for established military-to-military and diplomatic channels of communication and deconfliction to prevent miscalculation, define ambiguities, and correct misunderstandings that could otherwise lead to unintended and possibly devastating consequences.

In January 2016, such diplomatic lines of communication saved U.S. sailors on two

Navy riverine command boats that were seized by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps after entering Iranian territorial waters. Secretary of State John Kerry called Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif. Within 15 hours, the sailors were released unharmed.

Since withdrawing from the JCPOA, the Trump administration has eliminated those channels of communication. Can you imagine what would happen now should U.S. forces be captured by Iranian forces? Can you imagine the cost and consequences of military action provoked by a misunderstanding or miscalculation?

Even Department of Defense officials caution that spiraling escalations put our troops in the region at risk, and that we cannot be pulled into an unnecessary armed conflict with Iran.

This amendment would assert Congressional oversight to ensure that we have information about the status of vital military and diplomatic channels of communication that must be in place to prevent miscalculation.

I urge the adoption of this En Bloc amendment.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MENARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Mr. LaHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor a remarkable organization, the Menard County Farm Bureau. The Menard County Farm Bureau in central Illinois is a vital organization in the area that promotes agricultural prosperity. After many years of success and service, the Menard County Farm Bureau is celebrating their 100th anniversary.

The Menard County Farm Bureau was chartered on March 19, 1919, to unite farmers in the area and advocate for central Illinois agriculture collectively. Today, the members of the organization work hard to support the community and economy throughout the county.

The Menard County Farm Bureau provides a voice for farmers, promotes the development of agriculture, and educates and empowers future leaders in the industry. Additionally, Menard County Farm Bureau coordinates with other associations and agencies to promote the wellbeing and interests of its members.

Illinois has become a major economic force within the agricultural sector because of farm bureaus like Menard County that come together and enhance opportunities for farmers, their families, and the community. I extend my sincere congratulations to Menard County Farm Bureau for their outstanding accomplishments and contributions to Illinois.

● 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.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the American Association of Law Libraries' legislative advocacy program. The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), representing more than 4,100 members, is the only national association dedicated to the legal information profession and its professionals. Founded in 1906 on the belief that everyone—lawyers, judges, students, and the public—needs timely access to relevant legal information to make sound legal arguments and wise legal decisions, AALL members are problem solvers of the highest order.

In 1989, the AALL Executive Board appointed AALL members Robert L. Oakley of Georgetown University Law Library and Joanne Zich of American University Washington College of Law Library as the first Washington representatives for the Association. Since that time, AALL's advocacy efforts ranged from the creation and dissemination of government information to copyright to the privacy of library users. Its successes include ensuring permanent public access to official, authentic government information by advocating for the essential work of the Library of Congress, the Law Library of Congress, and the U.S. Government Publishing Office; contributing to the enactment of transparency laws including the E-Government Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-347) and updates to the Freedom of Information Act; and, most recently, supporting my own legislation to provide public access to Congressional Research Service reports that resulted in language included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-141) directing the Congressional Research Service to make its nonconfidential reports available to the public on the internet.

The AALL Executive Board and its members will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Association's legislative advocacy program by convening on Capitol Hill today, July 12, 2019, for AALL Day on the Hill. AALL members will meet with their elected officials about the Association's legislative priorities that include greater access to government information, access to justice, government transparency, balanced copyright laws, and privacy for library users.

I congratulate AALL on three decades of effective advocacy and wish them many more years of success.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2019

The House in Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2500) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for mili-

tary activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I rise to speak in support of Amendment No. 423 to H.R. 2500, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2020, offered by the gentleman from California, Congressman RO KHANNA.

The Khanna Amendment is simple and straightforward in its prohibition against unauthorized military force in or against Iran.

Earlier this year, the Trump Administration sent an aircraft carrier and a nuclear-powered submarine to the region in a show of force.

The Khanna Amendment would make clear and explicit that nothing in the FY2020 NDAA can be construed as congressional authorization or acquiescence regarding the use of military force against Iran.

The Framers understood that while the military does the fighting, the entire nation goes to war.

That is why the Framers lodged the power to declare war in the Congress, the branch of government closest to the people.

They knew that the decision to go to war was too important to be left to the whim of a single person, no matter how wise or well-informed he or she might be.

The President must consult with Congress and to obtain an AUMF before undertaking any military offensive against Iran.

Over the last 18 years, we have seen 3 Presidents use the 2001 Afghanistan AUMF as a blank check to engage in serious military action.

In 2016, the Congressional Research Service issued a report detailing 37 unclassified uses of this authorization in 14 countries, including for operations at Guantanamo Bay, warrantless wiretapping, and recent military action in Libya, Syria, Somalia, and Yemen.

The overly broad 2001 AUMF represents a critical deterioration of Congressional oversight, which should be repealed, rather than repeated with respect to Iran.

As our brave service members are deployed around the world in combat zones, Congress is missing in action.

As provided under the War Powers Resolution of 1973, absent a Congressional declaration of war or authorization for the use of military force, the President as Commander-in-Chief has constitutional power to engage the U.S. armed forces in hostilities only in the case of a national emergency created by an attack upon the United States, its territories or possessions, or its armed forces.

As a co-equal branch of government, it is Congress's right and responsibility to be fully consulted regarding any potential plans to conduct military operations in Iran, to assess whether such action is in the national security interest of the United States and its allies, and to withhold or grant authorization for the use of military force based on this assessment.

As we have learned from the painful and bitter experience of the past 18 years, at the initiation of hostilities, the costs in terms of blood and treasure of U.S. military interventions abroad are often underestimated and the benefits overstated.

For example, more than 6,800 American service members gave the last full measure of devotion to their country on battlefields in Afghanistan and Iraq, with hundreds of thousands more returning with physical, emotional, or psychological wounds that may never heal.

The direct economic cost of the war in Afghanistan exceeds \$1.07 trillion, including \$773 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations funds, an increase of \$243 billion to the Department of Defense base budget, and an increase of \$54.2 billion to the Veterans Administration budget to address the human costs of the military involvement in Afghanistan.

We should not repeat the mistakes of the past and my position on this issue is directly aligned with the will of the American people.

I commend my colleague, Congressman KHANNA for offering this important amendment and urge all Members to join me in voting for the amendment and restoring Congress's pre-eminent constitutional role in the decision to take the nation to war.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN “DOC” BLANCHON

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of John “Doc” Blanchon of Yarmouth, Massachusetts, a dedicated family man, soldier and teacher who lost his battle to Parkinson’s Disease.

A native of Quincy, Doc attended Bridgewater Teachers College where he excelled in athletics, playing baseball, basketball and soccer. Later, he was admitted as a member of the initial class of Bridgewater Athletic Hall of Fame. After graduating, Doc joined the U.S. Army and served his country in Korea. When he returned home he continued his education and obtained his master’s degree in School Administration from Northeastern University. He then taught Social Studies at Sharon High School and coached the school soccer team. Doc Blanchon was named Principal of Sharon High School in 1982, serving as the school’s leader until his eventual retirement in 1994.

Doc and his wife, Lorraine, eventually relocated to Cape Cod in retirement, though they spent much of their time following their passion for travel in Europe once their children finished college. Those who knew Doc knew him as a good man, full of kindness and the desire to help those others. He was a man of deep faith and devoted his life to following the practices of Christianity.

Doc passed this Father’s Day; his loss was felt deeply by his family and community. His memory and spirit will live on through his loving wife Lorraine, his two children Bonnie and Donald, and his five grandchildren as well as his legacy and devotion to his community, military and God.

RECOGNIZING HER HOLINESS MATA AMRITANANDAMAYI DEVI

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Her Holiness Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, known simply as “Amma” to her many admirers over the world,