

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,

for her exemplary humanitarian and conservation efforts and her work to build bridges of love, peace and understanding not only to the people of India, but to all nations.

Amma was born in 1953 in a small, coastal village in the South Indian state of Kerala. Drawn from a very early age to a life of service to others, Amma began her lifelong practice of trying to alleviate suffering by sharing food and clothing from her home while still a young girl. This devotion to service was not always appreciated by her family, who faced their own economic challenges and could ill afford to give away any of the little they had, but Amma persisted and soon began her practice of embracing those in need of comfort and support.

As she matured, Amma grew to understand that hugging and personal acts of kindness were not sufficient to heal our world, and she began to speak publicly on the importance of selfless service, compassion towards all beings, conservation, the importance of inter-religious harmony, and against human trafficking and slavery. She founded two important charitable organizations, Mata Amritanandamayi Math and Embracing the World, which have provided essential disaster relief, food, clean water, housing, health care and education to thousands of needy men, women and children in India and in Mexico, Costa Rica, France, Spain, Kenya, Brazil, Slovenia and Australia.

Amma is beloved by many as their guru and has a large following in my district. Her humanitarian efforts have been recognized and celebrated by, among others, the United Nations, the Parliament of World Religions, and Rotary Club International, and she has been awarded an honorary doctorate in humane letters from the State University of New York in Buffalo.

Amma continues to share her vision of peace, understanding and love through speaking programs, meditation retreats and her willingness to embrace all in need of blessing. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize Amma's selfless and compassionate devotion to all people, the work of her charities to relieve poverty and provide health care and education, her outspoken advocacy against human trafficking, and her efforts to encourage sustainable practices and protect our shared ecosystem.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

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. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chair, I am encouraged that my amendment to the National De-

fense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year passed the House of Representatives by voice vote on July 11, 2019. This important amendment requires the "Annual Report on Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China" to include an assessment of (1) China's expansion of its surveillance state; (2) Any correlation of such expansion with its oppression of its citizens and its threat to United States national security interests around the world; and (3) An overview of the extent to which such surveillance corresponds to the overall respect, or lack thereof, for human rights.

This matter is one that I have long been attuned to and concerned about, ultimately leading me to draft and introduce the "Protect American IPR Act", which is H.R. 902 this session, and seeks to stop Chinese theft of U.S. intellectual property through duties on Chinese merchandise. For this reason, I have been encouraged to see President Trump prioritizing the Chinese stealing of American intellectual property.

Mass and unabated government surveillance does not only offend individual liberties; in the hands of an authoritarian government, it poses the Orwellian threat of the government always watching, and ultimately using this ability, made possible to an unprecedented extent by modern technology, to spy on, steal from, intimidate and persecute not only those it views as "political enemies" and "threats", but anyone it deems as expedient.

This Orwellian threat is becoming a reality, perhaps nowhere more so than in China, where the government vigorously pursues a national video surveillance network. The affinity of the Chinese government to control its population in part by mass monitoring is not a new phenomenon, but advancing technology makes its prospects more frightening every day for those within and outside of the Mainland.

One internet privacy expert warns, "What China is doing here is selectively breeding its population to select against the trait of critical, independent thinking". Since China is a neighbor to many and more importantly an actor on the world stage, that erosion will not simply negatively impact the Chinese, it will spread—it arguably has already. A world with continually less critical, independent thought is a prospect to tremble at.

It is my strong belief that U.S. policy, including defense policy, should by no measure assist, intentionally or unintentionally, the growth of China's surveillance. Instead, it should discourage the expansion of the Chinese government into the rest of the world, while at the same time encouraging greater human rights for the Chinese people, including expectant mothers and Christians and other religious minorities.

I have heard from many individuals who warn against China's rapid expansion and influence into the rest of the world, including Africa and Central America, our nation's own backyard. Although the government-connected interests bring economic promise (and exploitation) to the developing world, they also bring the Chinese surveillance state with them. To counter this very real and growing threat, we need to first understand its scope, its impact for individuals in China as well as those

around world, and the extent to which it threatens the U.S. national security interests.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. MARGARET A. JONES

HON. MICHAEL F. Q. SAN NICOLAS

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2019

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Margaret A. Jones. Margaret was a longtime resident of Guam, a wife, mother, a public-spirited community leader, and a woman of business on Guam. In 1965, she was a founding member of the Guam Memorial Hospital Volunteers Association and gave her time and effort to numerous charitable and non-profit organizations. Her family business, Triple J Enterprises was founded in 1984 and has grown across the Pacific region. Margaret was born on November 5, 1937 and passed away in North Carolina on June 27, 2019, at the age of 81.

Margaret was the daughter of Early and Verna Page. Margaret was born in Willow Spring, North Carolina.

Margaret married Robert H. Jones in 1957. They raised three children and were blessed with eleven grandchildren.

In 1965, Margaret was a founding member of the Guam Memorial Hospital Volunteers Association (GMHVA), known as the Pink Ladies for the pink vests worn by their volunteers. GMHVA has raised millions of dollars for improvements to the Guam Memorial Hospital.

Margaret was active in the American Cancer Society and led Triple J Enterprises in its support for cancer research by participating annually in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and sponsoring an annual 5k run/walk event.

Margaret had been active with other non-profit organizations, including the Guam Women's Club, Harvest Baptist Church, the Miss Guam Universe Pageant, the Miss Guam World Pageant, and the Board of St. John's School.

Margaret started her career in Guam at the Marianas Travel Agency. In 1975, she joined Pan American Airlines, working as a Special Sales Representative until 1991. In 1984, Margaret cofounded Triple J Enterprises along with her husband, Robert H. Jones, and Georgia Stafford. Today, the Triple J group employs over nine hundred employees across the Micronesia region, many of whom have been with the business for over twenty years.

I am deeply saddened by the passing of Margaret A. Jones and I join the people of Guam in celebrating her life. She was a pillar of the island community, leading both in charitable and non-profit service and in business on Guam. My thoughts and prayers are with her family, loved ones, and friends.

I extend my condolences to her husband, Robert H. Jones, her children, Julie Jones Murrell, Jeff Jones, and Jay Jones, and their spouses, and her grandchildren. She will be deeply missed, and her memory will live on in the hearts of the people of Guam.